

City of Cooper City, "Someplace Green" Sustainability Plan

Respectfully recommended by the Green Advisory Board May 2022



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Introduction:

Cooper City was founded as a "green" community in 1959 and through the decades community leaders and policy makers have continued to foster this philosophy. Because of the progressive thinking of founder and developer, Morris Cooper, early homeowners were attracted to the City, then tucked into the far reaches of Broward County, by lushly landscaped entrances, a well-manicured main street, one of the County's most beautiful golf courses and the promise that this land would forever remain green open space for the benefit of future generations.

During Cooper City's early development years, leaders and community activists shared a vision of a low density, bedroom community with tree lined streets, passive recreation for all, well planned neighborhoods, and quality schools – the identity which today makes Cooper City stand out in a harsh and highly urbanized County. Almost three decades ago, the City led efforts to plant trees along public streets and boasted one of the first Swale Tree Planning Programs in the County. With many trees grown in the City's own volunteer run tree nursery, the City held Great Tree Giveaways. At the same time, Cooper City spearheaded State efforts to designated Anne Kolb Tree Path along Griffin Road and coordinated planting 150 trees in her memory. Additionally, Cooper City leaders adopted some of the most stringent landscape and tree protection ordinances in the County and approved land use and zoning codes that considered the environment in future development. In the end, Cooper City set aside more open space from development than almost any other city in Broward County. It was here that the City's reputation as Someplace Special was born.

Today, as the City approaches build out, policy makers and planners are working to ensure that the last of the City's developments reflects the high standards of the past with today's "green" conservation planning initiatives and with the goal of achieving environmental and economic sustainability. Setting aside over 30 acres of wetland in Monterra and West Flamingo Park originally slated for development and preserving this natural resource for future residents will stand as testament to the City's commitment to the environment and quality of life.

The **Cooper City – "Someplace Green" Sustainability Plan**, a "Green Print for the final stages of build out and future redevelopment, represents a milestone in the City's efforts to ensure the sustainability of this community. The Green Print provides a "Toolbox for Tomorrow," as Cooper city leaders grapple with the challenges of a changing climate, a call for energy efficiency and conservation, and the need for long term economic sustainability.

All actions called for in the Cooper City - "Someplace Green" Sustainability Plan are achievable, if not today, tomorrow.

Current Green Accomplishments

Cooper City has been establishing a green history for many years. Cooper City is a member of the Broward League of Cities and supports the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact. Cooper City works closely with Broward County Public Schools to support environmental education, and NatureScape Broward to create sustainable landscapes that conserve water and create wildlife habitat.

In addition to being a "Tree City USA" since 1982, Cooper City won a prestigious Broward County Emerald Award for the native landscaping installed along Griffin Road from Pine Island to Flamingo Roads. The Commission has sponsored Broward County's Water Matters days and in 2010 implemented a Cooper City Water Conservation and toilet rebate program for residents. In 2017, leading a nationwide trend in community concern for habitat loss, Cooper City was officially designated an NWF Community Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF).

Cooper City strives to protect the populations of burrowing owls seen throughout the City, so much that Pioneer Middle School was chosen to host an assembly for the National movie debut of "Hoot" in May 2006.

Other practices currently implemented by the City to promote sustainability include recycling oil from City owned vehicles; Paperless workspaces; scheduling routine maintenance on City owned vehicles to optimize usage; Using low phosphorous fertilizers on sport fields; recycling at City parks; maintaining irrigation systems for efficiency; and purchasing recycled paper for office use.

Departments

- Administration City Manager
- <u>City Clerk/Administrative Services</u>
- <u>Community Development</u>
- Finance
- Public Safety
- Public Works
- Parks and Recreation
- <u>Utilities</u>

Action Steps:

The City Green Plan actions steps contain a range of programs and initiative for sustainability that formulate a strategy toward achieving sustainability. Through each action, there are means to conserve energy and water, reduce waste, improve community participation, and demonstrate environmental stewardship while achieving greenhouse gas reductions. There are different levels of effort ranging from those that are City-controlled to voluntary community participation to regional leadership. All of the efforts are interrelated, and when implemented together, will define sustainability for the City.

Although the specifics of each action are not outlined in this document, the basic concept is described together with the sustainable themes for measurement, the existing status, and the departments responsible for implementation. There is no particular order for implementation and some action steps can be completed within short timeframes, while others will require a longer timeframe. As stated in the introduction, a ten-year timeframe will be used as the ultimate goal for implementation of this plan and is subject to the availability of funding.

Categorization of Action Steps:

The action steps have been organized under nine categories to guide coordination throughout City departments and provide structure for measuring results: The nine categories are:

- Category 1: Green Development and Re-development
- Category 2: Natural Areas and Environmental Enhancements
- Category 3: Energy Conservation
- Category 4: Water conservation and Reduction
- Category 5: Waste Reduction and Recycling
- Category 6: Sustainable Transportation and Mobility
- Category 7: Community Outreach and Empowerment
- Category 8: City Operations
- Category 9: Regional Leadership

Green Development & Redevelopment



Category 1: Green Development & Redevelopment

Action 1.1 Review and revise the Cooper City Comprehensive Land Use Plan and other development regulations to reflect planning strategies to mitigate the causes of and adapt to the consequences of a changing climate.

Purpose: Will provide a blueprint to guide future development and redevelopment in Cooper City to adapt to prepare for changing weather patterns, more intense floods and impacts to water resources and supplies.

Status:

Department Responsible for Achievement: City Manager. Public Works, Community Development

Action 1.2 Review and amend landscape requirements for all new developments to encourage planting trees that sequester carbon dioxide. Encourage developers to donate trees identified for their carbon sequestration benefits and provide areas in appropriate city owned parks or other areas as designated to accommodate tree forests dedicated to mitigating Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG.)

Purpose: Reduce the City's carbon footprint and mitigate greenhouse gases.

Status:

Department Responsible for Achievement: Public Works, Parks and Recreation

Action 1.3 Review and amend the landscape ordinances to stay current with Broward County's Florida Friendly Landscape code and to maintain Cooper City as a Broward NatureScape Community.

Purpose: To improve urban ecology

Status:

Department Responsible for Achievement: Public Works, Community Development

Action 1.4 Continue using green building technologies in City owned buildings.

Purpose: As City-owned buildings begin to age, it will be important to retrofit buildings with newer green building technologies, including energy and water use systems, indoor air quality, environmental preferred products and materials (i.e., LED lighting, air conditioning systems, U/V ventilation systems) and overall building efficiency to help reduce costs.

Status: As of 2022, the Community Center, Pool and Tennis Center, and Community Development building have been upgraded.

Department Responsible for Achievement: City Manager, Community Development

Action 1.5 Create a "green" checklist" for use on all City and private projects such as engineering or landscape projects, permits, etc. and incorporate green review in the development order process.

Purpose: A green checklist will assist in project planning and product evaluation for any City-initiated project. This action will further the City's commitment to sustainable community goals.

Status:

Department Responsible for Achievement: City Manager, Public Works, Community Development

Action 1.6 Encourage Community Development to recommend renewable energy infrastructure in all new development and redevelopment.

Purpose: This action will further the City's commitment to sustainable community goals of utilizing renewable energy sources for building and transportation.

Status:

Department Responsible for Achievement: Community Development, Public Works, Utilities

Natural Areas & Environmental Enhancements



Category 2: Natural Areas & Environmental Enhancements

Action 2.1 Encourage 30-40% tree canopy in pervious areas throughout the City with maximum tree coverage on public and private land by 2030. Promote native tree giveaway programs and swale area, common area and right of way tree planting.

Purpose: Increasing tree canopy benefits the City as a whole and provides a social, economic and environmental value to the community.

Status: Currently the City is at 20% tree canopy.

Department Responsible for Achievement: City Manager, Public Works

Action 2.2 Ensure continuation of Tree City U.S.A. status and support Cooper City's signature street tree planting program.

Purpose: Increase tree canopy and mitigate GHG.

Status Cooper City has achieved the honor of being a Tree City USA since 1982.

Department Responsible for Achievement: City Manager, Public Works

Action 2.3 Ensure public access to passive parks, recreational areas, open space, or greenway trails for use by all residents.

Purpose: Public parks enhance the quality of life for residents. By providing access, residents can utilize park facilities particular to their needs. In addition, the public can be more aware of open space and find a new appreciation of urban nature.

Status:

Department Responsible for Achievement: City Manager, Public Works

Action 2.4 Encourage the development of future parks and passive recreational areas where appropriate throughout the City. Purpose: Public parks enhance the quality of life for residents.

Status: As of 2021, Cooper City has achieved the honor of being a Tree City USA for 39 consecutive years.

Department Responsible for Achievement: City Manager, Public Works

Action 2.5 Further the goals of the Anne Kolb Tree Path, as represented by Cooper City. Resolution No. 81-8-2 and the Special Act of the Florida Legislature Chapter 91-319, SB 2394, by working with municipalities adjacent to the Tree Path to plant and dedicate trees in accordance with agreements that call for trees to be planted on the portion of Griffin Road that is located between the Florida Turnpike on the east and 660 feet west of Flamingo Road on the west and ensure that the Department of Transportation erects suitable markers along the Path as provided for in SB 2394.

Purpose: Protect existing trees planted along Anne Kolb Tree Path, maintain the tree canopy, and ensure that trees planted on behalf of Anne Kolb are not relocated to areas outside of the designated pathway and ensure that this living memorial remains as a tribute to the efforts of Anne Kolb to protect the environment and quality of life of all residents of Broward County.

Status:

Department Responsible for Achievement: City Manager, Public Works

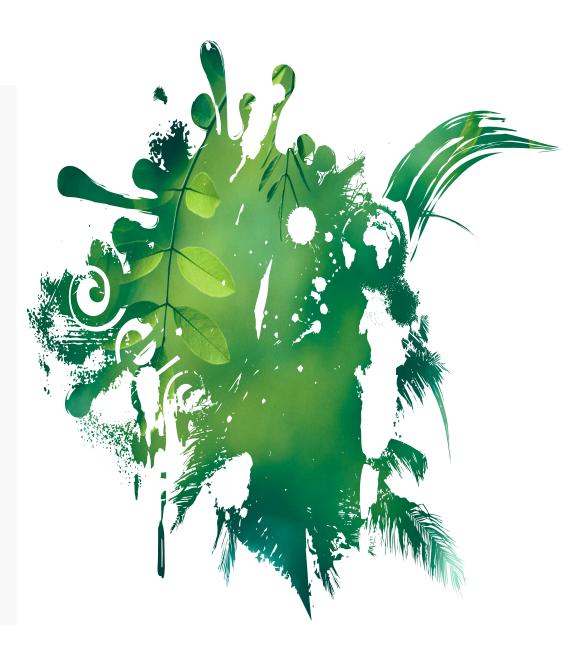
Action 2.6 Ensure the wetlands set aside as mitigation for all development are protected and preserved in perpetuity. Encourage the creation of nature preservation boardwalks, pathways, and other environmental enhancements.

Purpose: Improve urban ecology.

Status:

Department Responsible for Achievement: Public Works. Community Development

Energy Conservation



Category 3: Energy Conservation

Action 3.1 Utilize a minimum of 10% of publicly owned land appropriate for alternative energy sources by 2030 in a manner that will not impose an impact on environmentally sensitive or natural areas.

Purpose: The City should strive to utilize appropriate City-owned land for solar collectors and/or other green power strategies for long term energy generation to serve the needs of City buildings. If possible, the City should evaluate using active County-owned land for similar use.

Status:

Department Responsible for Achievement: City Manager, Public Works

Action 3.2 Promote the use of all alternative energy sources including solar energy in residential areas.

Purpose: Alternative energy sources including Solar Energy are extremely effective in smaller continuous loads, perfect for a residential unit. As such the City should encourage the use of alternative sources for residential use by educating residents on the benefits as well as the available rebates and permit process.

Status:

Department Responsible for Achievement: City Manager, Community Development

Action 3.3 Educate residents on how to obtain carbon offset credits when they use alternative energy sources or have their homes modified for such when technologically feasible. Support net metering when possible.

Purpose: Encourage the city, its businesses, and its citizens to reduce their carbon footprints.

Status:

Department Responsible for Achievement: City Manager, Community Development, Public Works, Utilities

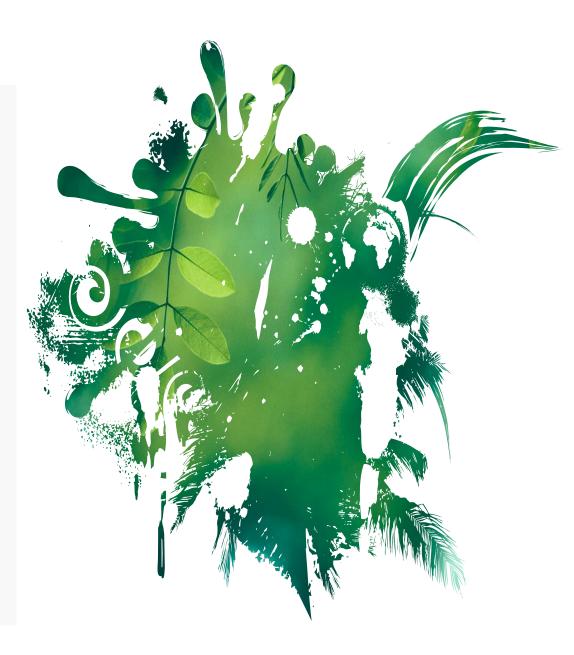
Action 3.4 Transition City vehicles to new vehicles that operate on alternative energy sources by 2030. Increase and encourage the use of alternative forms of fuel. (Federal Government may offer municipalities tax credits and grants for such initiatives.)

Purpose: Encourage growth of alternative energy usage in all city vehicles.

Status:

Department Responsible for Achievement: All departments

Water Conservation & Reduction



Category 4: Water Conservation and Reduction

Action 4.1 Continue to reduce potable water consumption through a Citywide Water Reduction Initiative. (i.e., WaterSmart.) Identify the highest residential users an assist them with conservation measures.

Purpose: To meet the SFWMD criteria as adopted through the Regional Water Availability Rule, to encourage citywide reduction of water consumption, and to postpone major capital expenditures for future public water supply demands.

Status:

Department Responsible for Achievement: Utilities Department

Action 4.2 Increase water conservation measures in cooperation with other government agencies.

Purpose: As part of a larger region, the City must continue to participate in South Florida Water Management District programs and restrictions and promote participation in the NatureScape Broward programs (i.e., Water Matters Day) and Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Program. Enforce SFWMD Mandatory Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Conservation Measures Rule (Chapter 40E-24, Florida Administrative Code).

Status:

Department Responsible for Achievement: Utilities Department

Action 4.3 Convert old water fixtures within City owned building and facilities to water saving efficient fixtures by 2024.

Purpose: By replacing water fixtures throughout City owned building and facilities, the City can contribute to water reduction.

Status:

Department Responsible for Achievement: Utilities Department

Action 4.4 Promote water conservation by providing tips on electronic message board, City newsletter, City social media, and back of water bills. Advertise the WaterSmart app for mobile devices.

Purpose: Educate the residents and encourage conservation.

Status:

Department Responsible for Achievement: City Manager/Administration, Utilities Department

Action 4.5 Participate in the Broward County Conservation Pays toilet rebate program.

Purpose: Replace older toilets with new water savings ones.

Status:

Department Responsible for Achievement: Utilities Department

Action 4.6 Promote the utilization of rain barrels and cisterns throughout the city.

Purpose: To improve efficient use of rainfall.

Status:

Department Responsible for Achievement: Utilities Department

Action 4.7 Promote, support, and participate in Broward County's Annual Water Matters Day.

Purpose: To encourage residents to attend Water Matters Day, which is the County's largest environmental outreach event of the year offering over 40 educational booths and displays, and a native tree and plant giveaway.

Status:

Department Responsible for Achievement: City Manager/Administration, Utilities Department

Action 4.8 Follow up on the City of Miramar interlocal agreement to satisfy the City's reuse system obligation of about 1.0 million gallons of reclaimed water every day that will be credited to Cooper City by 2025. (i.e., RESOLUTION NO. 17-11-3 A)

Purpose: To reduce the consumption of potable water.

Status:

Department Responsible for Achievement: City Manager, Utilities Department

Waste Reduction & Recycling



Category 5: Waste Reduction and Recycling

Action 5.1 Continue to use recycling rollout carts and provide information on updated recycling methods through public outreach.

Purpose: By increasing recycling, the City can begin to reduce waste at the source of generation and maximize reuse/recycle efforts in the community.

Status:

Department Responsible for Achievement: City Manager

Action 5.2 Create a shredded paper program for the community and share this information with the residents and businesses through public outreach.

Purpose: The City should provide a program for residents and businesses to dispose of shredded personal and office paper where these types of papers are usually disposed of in trash by residents or businesses. There are similar programs conducted throughout Broward County that utilize a mobile service for disposal. The City should seek funding options to implement this program.

Status:

Department Responsible for Achievement: All Departments

Action 5.3 Promote the Household Hazardous Waste recycling program to increase community awareness.

Purpose: To inform residents of the free Household Hazardous Waste recycling program as well as to reduce overall hazardous materials currently being dumped in the landfill.

Status:

Department Responsible for Achievement: City Manager, Public Works, Utilities

Action 5.4 Encourage residents and the City to compost. Provide education information through public outreach.

Purpose: Divert organic matter that can be mulched and composted to reduce vegetative waste in the landfill.

Status:

Department Responsible for Achievement: City Manager, Public Works

Sustainable Transportation & Mobility

Category 6: Sustainable Transportation and Mobility

Action 6.1 Maintain bus shelters, bicycle parking, bicycle lands and greenway trails.

Purpose: Public transportation options are essential to reduce vehicular miles traveled within the community. Maintaining of bus shelters will provide protection from weather conditions for the users. To promote other forms of mobility, the City should ensure that all new roads and reconstructed roads provide for bike lanes.

Status:

Department Responsible for Achievement: Public Works, Community Development

Action 6.2 Enhance bicycle paths throughout the City and include access and circulation through existing and future parks.

Purpose: To promote an increase in bicycle use by connecting the residents access to parks, shopping and schools by greenways.

Status:

Department Responsible for Achievement: Public Works, Community Development

Action 6.3 Promote an alternative vehicle parking program and charging stations on city and commercial properties.

Purpose: A program to increase the number of designated parking spaces for alternative vehicles would add to the City's commitment on greening the City and send a clear message on sustainable transportation. It may also include electrical outlets for electrically powered vehicles.

Status:

Department Responsible for Achievement: City Manager, Community Development

Action 6.4 Establish Cooper City as a free Wi-Fi public zone.

Purpose: To encourage free access for internet and Wi-Fi communications for businesses and residences.

Status:

Department Responsible for Achievement: City Manager

Action 6.5 City vehicle program should use Broward County's Alternative Fuels & Advanced Technology Vehicles Program as a guide. (i.e., <u>www.broward.org/FleetService/Pages/alternativeFuels.aspx</u>)

Purpose: To reduce carbon emissions

Status:

Department Responsible for Achievement: City Manager

Community Outreach & Enpowerment



Category 7: Community Outreach and Empowerment

Sustainable Theme: Energy, Water, Waste Reduction, Climate Change

Action 7.1 Expand the annual Tree and Plant Care Workshop by including additional environmental topics.

Purpose: To bring local awareness to environmental issues and promote green planning efforts. Status:

Department Responsible for Achievement: City Manager, Public Works

Action 7.2 Promote the Yard of the Month program which recognizes homeowners, neighborhoods and commercial establishments that incorporate green and sustainable practices.

Purpose: This program can formally recognize efforts in the community where green, sustainable techniques and beautification enhancements are practiced.

Status:

Department Responsible for Achievement: City Commission, Public Works, Utilities

Action 7.3 Encourage environmental education programs or lecture series for the public on a variety of sustainable topics such as rainwater collection, composting, littering, etc. Include an environmental topic in the City newsletter promoting initiatives and provide tips on energy and water conservation and reducing waste.

Purpose: This action will serve a public purpose by educating residents, homeowners associations, and businesses on the benefits of going green through specific green and sustainable topics conducted by staff and experts.

Status:

Department Responsible for Achievement: City Manager, Public Works

Action 7.4 Promote the City Sustainability Plan.

Purpose: As with any community planning effector, the City should educate and empower the community on the fundamental elements of the sustainability plan and evoke behavioral changes.

Status:

Department Responsible for Achievement: All Departments

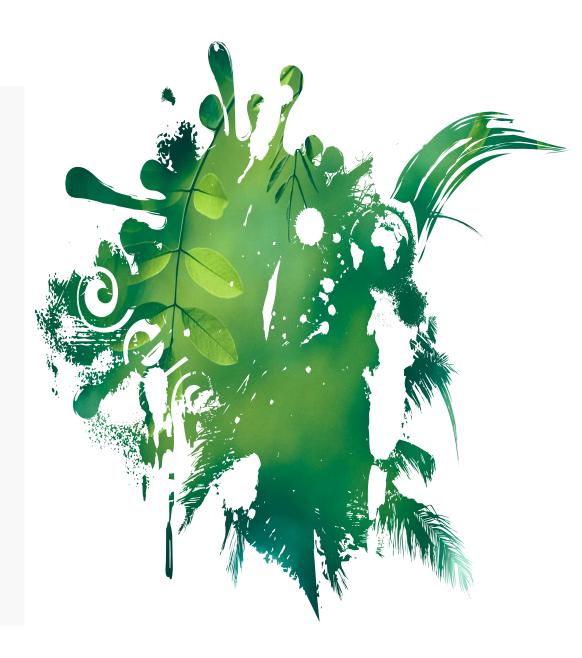
Action 7.5 Maintain the annual re-certification with the National Wildlife Federation as a Community Wildlife Habitat and continue the annual renewal of the Mayors' Monarch Pledge certification.

Purpose: To protect and increase the number of sustainable landscapes and wildlife habitats that support native and migratory species, including birds, butterflies (i.e., Monarchs) and burrowing owls.

Status:

Department Responsible for Achievement: Public Works, Green Advisory Board, Community Wildlife Habitat Team

City Operations



Category 8: City Operations

Action 8.1 Advance emission controls on all City fleet vehicles to reduce emissions by replacing older vehicles with hybrid, electric or more efficient technologies.

Purpose: The use of advanced emissions controls on public fleet reduces the particulate matter and smog-forming emissions that impact air quality.

Status:

Department Responsible for Achievement: City Manager, Public Works

Action 8.2 Increase the use of renewable energy in the City.

Purpose: In an effort to conserve energy, City-owned public buildings should be upgraded with alternative energy and be continuously monitored for energy efficiency.

Status:

Department Responsible for Achievement: City Manager

Action 8.3 Reduce overall energy consumption on City owned sites and buildings.

Purpose: In an effort to conserve energy, City-owned public buildings and properties should be continuously monitored for energy efficiency.

Status:

Department Responsible for Achievement: All Departments

Action 8.4 Reduce paper consumption with continued use of online services (i.e., e-billing.)

Purpose: To reduce the amount of paperwork associated with City operations.

Status:

Department Responsible for Achievement: All Departments

Action 8.5 Create or appoint a Sustainability Coordinator position.

Purpose: To expand sustainable planning with a specific coordinator position to develop and implement new green programs that advance the City's green image.

Status:

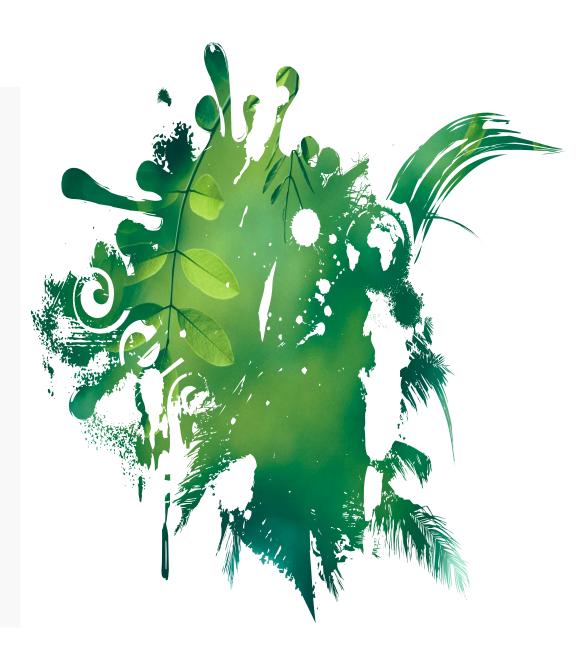
Department Responsible for Achievement: City Manager

Action 8.6 Create an Internal City Green Team with a representative from each department.

Purpose: To evaluate city operations and assist in the annual monitoring of this Green Plan Status:

Department Responsible for Achievement: All Departments

Regional Leadership



Category 9: Regional Leadership

Action 9.1 Continue to participate in Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact. Support efforts of the Compact.

Purpose: Although individual cities can adopt policies, initiatives or action plans to reduce GHG, the region needs to have a collective plan that establishes success. (i.e., www.broward.org/Climate/Pages/Climate ActionPlan.aspx)

Status:

Department Responsible for Achievement: City Commission, City Manager

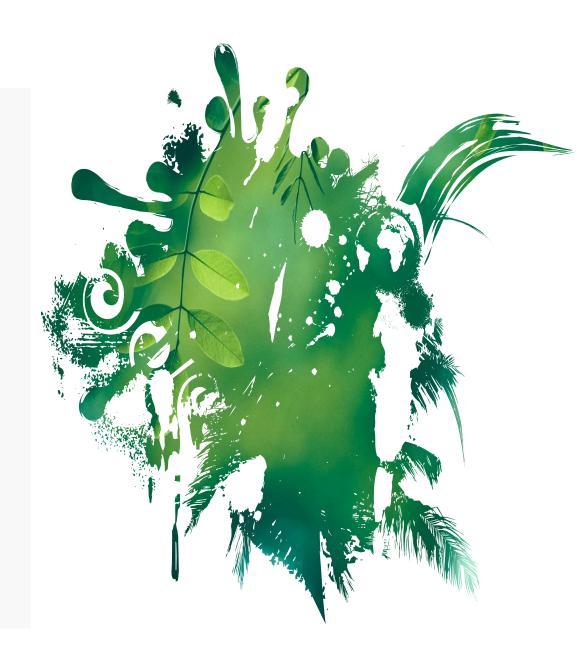
Action 9.2 Create partnerships with local schools, colleges, and universities, such as Broward College and Florida Atlantic University, for sustainable research, pilot programs, and educational courses.

Purpose: Education facilities provide the greatest opportunity for new, innovative measures for the future. By partnering, the City can become a model for improvements in the realm of sustainable practices.

Status:

Department Responsible for Achievement: City Commission, City Manager, Sustainability Coordinator

For More Information



For More Information

Natural Areas & Environmental Enhancements

NatureScape Welcome to NatureScape Broward

Home Page - Community Wildlife Habitats (nwf.org)

Trees | US Forest Service (usda.gov)

Municipal 2014 Final Report.pdf (uwsp.edu)

How Trees Make a Difference (nwf.org)

The Importance of Trees - Learn Value and Benefit of Trees (savatree.com)

<u>The benefits of trees for livable and sustainable communities - Turner-Skoff - 2019 - PLANTS, PEOPLE,</u> <u>PLANET - Wiley Online Library</u>

22 Benefits of Trees - TreePeople

ProjectPerch.org

Energy Conservation

Department of Energy

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | US EPA

Energy Conservation | National Wildlife Federation (nwf.org)

ENERGY STAR | The simple choice for energy efficiency.

Energy Efficiency and Conservation « FESC (ufl.edu)

Energy / Divisions & Offices / Home - Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (fdacs.gov)

Water Conservation and Reduction

Water Conservation Water Matters (broward.org)

Water Organizations and Their Websites - Water Footprint Calculator (watercalculator.org)

How We Use Water | US EPA

Start Saving | US EPA

Water Conservation Tips and Checklists | City of Fort Lauderdale, FL

Water Conservation | Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Water Conservation: 45 ways to conserve water | Eartheasy Guides & Articles

Welcome to the Southwest Florida Water Management District Home Page (state.fl.us)

Conservation Pays | Broward Water Partnership

Waste Reduction and Recycling

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle | US EPA

Managing and Reducing Wastes: A Guide for Commercial Buildings | US EPA

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Resources for Students and Educators | US EPA

Be A Food Waste Warrior | Educators Toolkits | WWF (worldwildlife.org)

Recycling | Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Commercial Recycling | City of Fort Lauderdale, FL

Volunteer Keep Broward Beautiful

Sustainable Transportation and Mobility

Smart Growth and Transportation | US EPA

Sustainable transportation | Environment Florida

10 Ideas for a Green Transportation Infrastructure | HowStuffWorks

General facts on Sustainability

Inspirational environmental sustainability facts - Circular Ecology

Environmental Topics | US EPA

Environmental Facts (ecocycle.org)

<u>Greencyclopedia™: 50 Facts About Your Environment (for Kids!) (gogreencyclopedia.blogspot.com)</u>

Useful Websites - Environment and Ecology (sccollege.edu)



This document was revised by the Cooper City Green Advisory Board.

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