



# Sustainability Committee Update to BOC

May, 2021

# Work Completed to Date

- Committee Members include:
  - Dory Larsen, Chair
  - Dr. Paul Robinson, Vice Chair
  - Karen Gallagher
  - Taylor Mandalou
  - Denise Mannino
  - Carol Mickett
  - Robin Saenger
- COVID interrupted our meetings from March-April 2020 and has hindered public input opportunities
- The Committee has met monthly on the 3rd Thursday at 6:00 pm

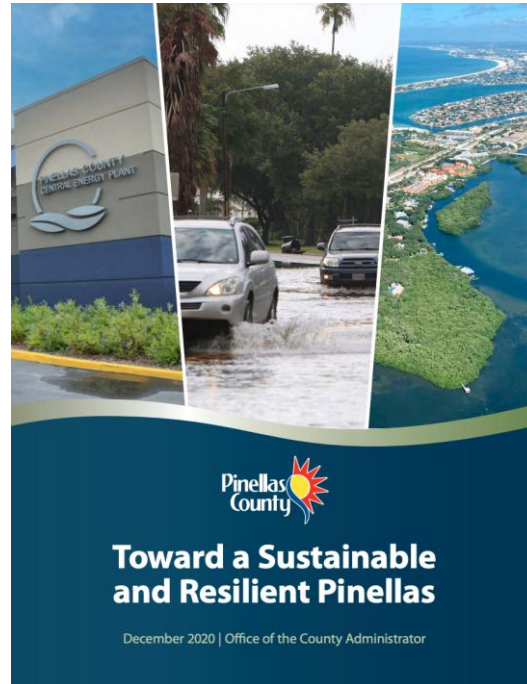


# Defining a Sustainable and Resilient Community

## SUSTAINABILITY

The ability to maintain or improve standards of living without damaging or depleting natural resources for present and future generations.

In short: the capacity to endure



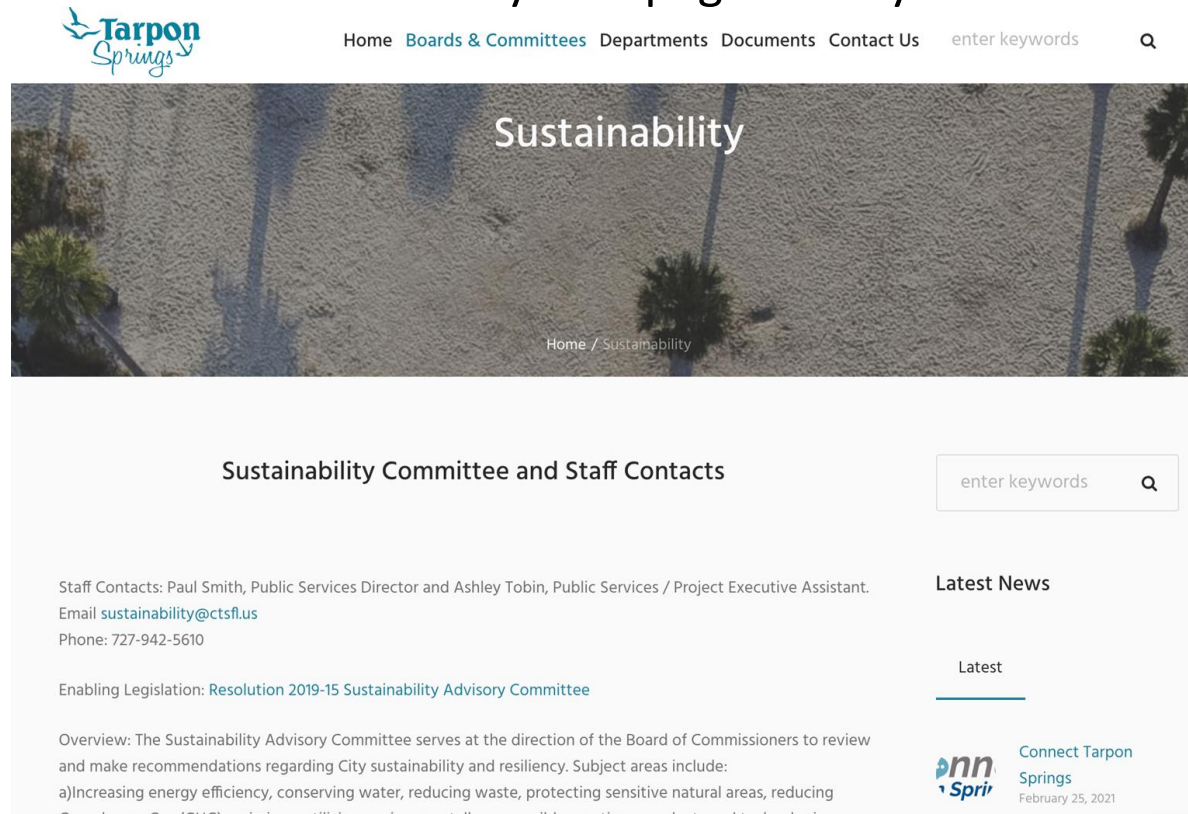
## RESILIENCE

The ability to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from significant threats with minimum damage to social well-being, the economy, and the environment.

In short: the capacity to prepare and adapt

# Work Completed to Date

## New Sustainability Webpage on City Website



The screenshot shows the new Sustainability webpage on the City Website. At the top left is the Tarpon Springs logo. The navigation menu includes Home, Boards & Committees, Departments, Documents, Contact Us, and a search bar with the placeholder text "enter keywords". The main header features a large image of a beach with palm trees and the word "Sustainability" in white text. Below the header is a breadcrumb trail: "Home / Sustainability". The main content area is titled "Sustainability Committee and Staff Contacts" and includes a search bar with the placeholder text "enter keywords". The text provides staff contacts: Paul Smith, Public Services Director and Ashley Tobin, Public Services / Project Executive Assistant. Email: [sustainability@ctsfl.us](mailto:sustainability@ctsfl.us), Phone: 727-942-5610. It also mentions enabling legislation: [Resolution 2019-15 Sustainability Advisory Committee](#). An overview states: "The Sustainability Advisory Committee serves at the direction of the Board of Commissioners to review and make recommendations regarding City sustainability and resiliency. Subject areas include: a) Increasing energy efficiency, conserving water, reducing waste, protecting sensitive natural areas, reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, utilizing environmentally responsible practices, products and technologies". On the right side, there is a "Latest News" section with a "Latest" link. At the bottom right, there is a logo for "nn Sprin" and "Connect Tarpon Springs" with the date "February 25, 2021".

- <https://www.ctsfl.us/sustainability.htm>

# Work Completed to Date

The Committee has started drafting the City's First Sustainability Action Plan

Objective	Priority Action	Type of Action	Estimated Costs		Timeframe	Action By		
			Capital or Upfront	O&M or Ongoing		Lead City Department	Partners	Co-Benefit Areas
NS1, NS2, NS3	Include communitywide Natural Systems planning that addresses green infrastructure; urban forest, invasive species management, biodiversity, and protecting and restoring natural resources.	Planning / Analysis	\$\$\$	\$	SHORT 0 - 3 YEARS	Planning (Supporting: Project Admin.; Building; Public Works)	US Forest Service Florida Urban Forestry Council UF / IFAS	
NS1	Include evaluation of green infrastructure potential during early site reviews of proposed developments and subdivisions	Policy	\$	\$	SHORT 0 - 3 YEARS	Planning (Supporting: TRC Departments)	APA Florida Chapter FDEP UF/IFAS	
NS1	Adopt local design criteria and associated codes that require proactive green infrastructure practices for new developments	Policy	\$	\$	SHORT 0 - 3 YEARS	Planning (Supporting: TRC Departments)	APA; Green Infrastructure: A Landscape Approach	
NS1	Dedicate a percentage of funding invested in green infrastructure	Infrastructure	\$\$\$\$	\$\$\$\$	MEDIUM 4 - 6 YEARS	Finance (Supporting: Planning; Project Admin; Public Works)		
NS1	Partner with key community groups and other stakeholders to ensure that green infrastructure practices are used in appropriate settings	Collaboration	\$	\$	SHORT 0 - 3 YEARS	Sustainability [Public Services] (Supporting: Public Works Stormwater, Parks)	The Conservation Fund FDEP SWFWMD Pinellas County	
NS1	Create incentive programs to encourage landowners to adopt green infrastructure practices that link to broader green infrastructure systems	Incentives	\$	\$	SHORT 0 - 3 YEARS	Public Works (Stormwater, Parks) (Supporting: Sustainability [Public Services], City Arborist)		
NS2	Adopt or enforce an ordinance requiring control of listed priority invasive species or enact a preferred plant ordinance for private and public landscaping	Policy	\$	\$	SHORT 0 - 3 YEARS	Planning (Supporting: Public Works; City Arborist)	UF / IFAS Florida Friendly Landscaping	
NS2	Ensure that all local government-owned buildings use native and/or sustainable, site-appropriate species in landscaping	Infrastructure	\$\$\$	\$	MEDIUM 4 - 6 YEARS	Public Works	UF / IFAS Florida Friendly Landscaping	
NS3	Adopt land use regulations that establish appropriate wetland, stream, and shoreline buffer widths and adjacent land uses	Policy	\$	\$	SHORT 0 - 3 YEARS	Planning (Supporting: Public Works; Public Services; Project Admin)		
NS3, NS5	Sponsor activities to increase ecological literacy, knowledge about natural resource protection ambient water quality, pollution prevention, mitigation, and restoration techniques	Education / Outreach	\$	\$	SHORT 0 - 3 YEARS	Sustainability (Public Services)		
NS3	Implement local and market-based financing strategies to acquire land or development easements, or fund restoration and maintenance activities	Incentives	\$	\$	SHORT 0 - 3 YEARS	Planning (Supporting: Finance, Public Works)		

Draft

# What is a Sustainability Action Plan?



- A Sustainability Action Plan (SAP), builds a framework toward a sustainable future by guiding our actions over a set time frame (one recommendation could be five years) with the intent to realign it at that point. It establishes goals, objectives, strategies, timelines, metrics, and responsible parties in topic areas.

# Work Completed to Date: Framework

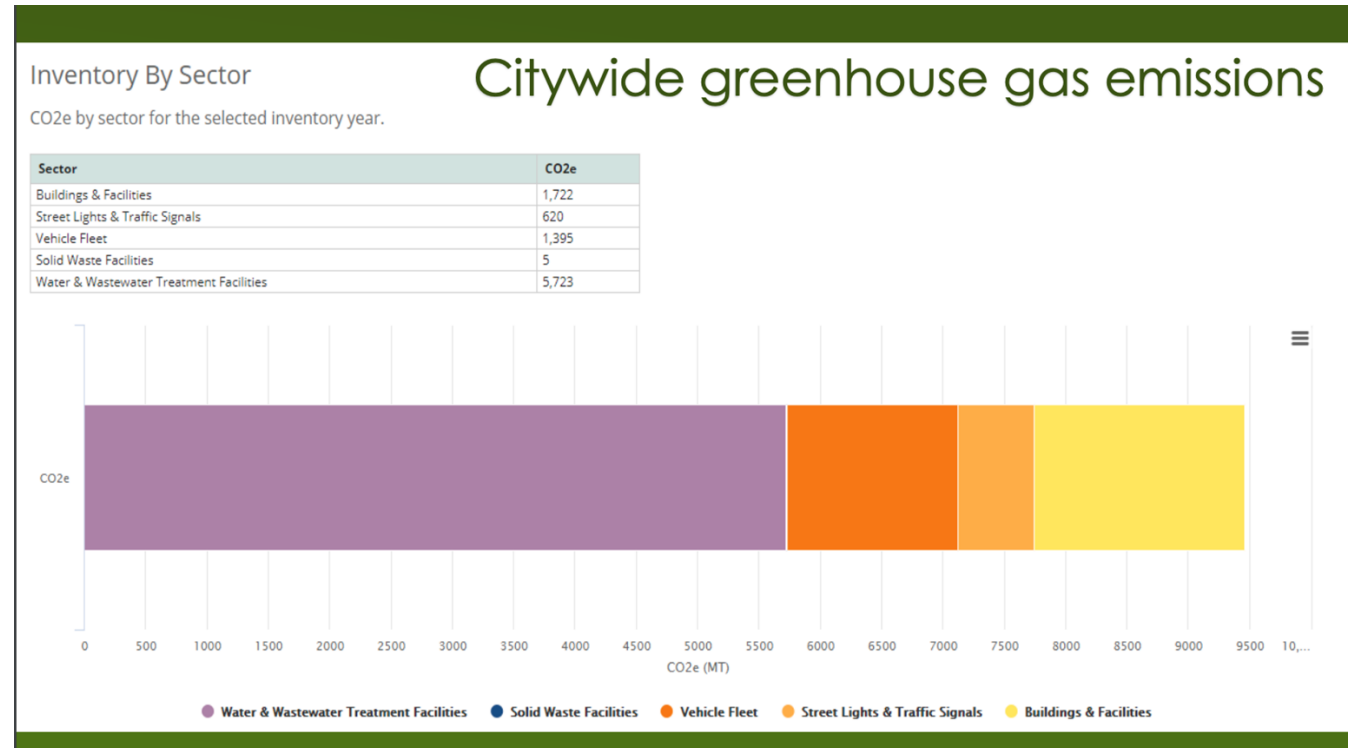
- The Committee reviewed various other City Sustainability Plans and other established *frameworks*
- The Committee agreed to utilize the STAR framework, an established national standard as a starting point
- The framework itself does not cost money to use and allows us to complete an in-house first draft according to an established standard
- An excellent starting point:
  - developed with more than 160 volunteers representing more than 50 cities and counties, state and federal agencies, non-profit organizations, national associations, universities, utilities, and private corporations.
  - Revised/updated in 2016 based on 4 years of use and feedback by local governments
- The STAR framework utilizes 7 Goal Areas (columns) with objectives (cells) within each
- Objectives are clearly defined to move the community toward the broader sustainability goal.

**STAR Framework of Sustainability Goals & Objectives**

Built Environment	Climate & Energy	Economy & Jobs	Education, Arts & Community	Equity & Empowerment	Health & Safety	Natural Systems	Innovation & Process
Ambient Noise & Light	Climate Adaptation	Business Retention & Development	Arts & Culture	Civic Engagement	Active Living	Green Infrastructure	Best Practices & Processes
Community Water Systems	Greenhouse Gas Mitigation	Green Market Development	Community Cohesion	Civil & Human Rights	Community Health	Biodiversity & Invasive Species	Exemplary Performance
Compact & Complete Communities	Greening the Energy Supply	Local Economy	Educational Opportunity & Attainment	Environmental Justice	Emergency Management & Response	Natural Resource Protection	Local Innovation
Housing Affordability	Energy Efficiency	Quality Jobs & Living Wages	Historic Preservation	Equitable Services & Access	Food Access & Nutrition	Outdoor Air Quality	Good Governance
Infill & Redevelopment	Water Efficiency	Targeted Industry Development	Social & Cultural Diversity	Human Services	Health Systems	Water in the Environment	
Public Parkland	Local Government GHG & Resource Footprint	Workforce Readiness	Aging in the Community	Poverty Prevention & Alleviation	Hazard Mitigation	Working Lands	
Transportation Choices	Waste Minimization				Safe Communities		

# Work Completed to Date

- Sent “Did You Know” mailer in utility bill to (1) inform citizens about committee and (2) seek input for the SAP
- Initial Community Listening Sessions
- Baseline data are important to measure progress
  - Public Services collecting GHG data:
    - CO2 emissions by city sector (buildings & facilities, traffic lights & traffic signals, fleet, solid waste facilities and water and wastewater treatment facilities)
    - fleet fuel use in gallons
    - electrical consumption in kWh
    - water use trends
  - Planning Department Open Space baseline data
- Duke Clean Energy Connection Program
- **Florida Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act** FEECA Review and feedback to through the BOC to FPSC
- Tree Giveaway: 250 trees given away





# Work In Progress



1. Complete Vulnerability Assessment and Action Plan
2. Provide Input to Planning and Zoning staff on areas of interest for Strategic Planning, Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code
3. Align Sustainability Action Plan with Comprehensive Plan
4. Align Sustainability Action Plan with Strategic Plan
5. Complete Sustainability Action Plan

# Future Recommended Projects and Goals

- Review proposed Land Development Code Amendments for recommendations related to promoting Sustainability
- Align LDC with Comprehensive Plan and Strategic Plan



# Future Recommended Projects and Goals



- Community engagement is an essential component of successful sustainability action.
- Develop ***Bang the Table*** opportunities to seek feedback on desired outcomes and local actions to implement.

# Recommendations to the BOC

- Fund sustainability efforts
- Create a full time staff position
- Look at consultants for some of work
- Look for University assistance



The screenshot shows the SSDN (Southeast Sustainability Directors Network) website. The header is green with the SSDN logo and navigation links: ABOUT, PROGRAMS, MEMBERS, NEWS & STORIES, and a search icon. Below the header is a large image of a white boat on the water with people on board. To the right of the image, the word "FLORIDA" is displayed in large green letters. Underneath, the word "MEMBERS" is shown in smaller green letters. A list of Florida members follows, arranged in three columns:

FLORIDA		
MEMBERS		
City of Boca Raton, FL	Miami-Dade County, FL	City of South Miami, FL
City of Boynton Beach, FL	City of Miramar, FL	Volusia County, FL
Broward County, FL	City of Oldsmar, FL	City of West Palm Beach, FL
City of Dunedin, FL	Orange County, FL	City of Winter Park, FL
City of Ft. Lauderdale, FL	City of Orlando, FL	City of Saint Petersburg, FL
Hillsborough County, FL	Palm Beach County, FL	City of Largo, FL
Leon County, FL	City of Sarasota, FL	City of Pensacola, FL
City of Miami Beach, FL	City of Satellite Beach, FL	Seminole Tribe of Florida
	Sarasota County, FL	

# Recommendations to the BOC

- Ensure Sustainability Committee is giving meaningful input into the Strategic Plan
- Ensure Strategic Plan is prioritizing Sustainability and Resiliency
- Become a more sustainable community by enhancing our City's environment, economy and equity
- Protect our natural resources for future generations and grow environmental stewardship across the community
- Prepare for the impacts of climate change through proactive resiliency planning, mitigation and adaptation

