

Green Implementation Advancement Board (GIAB)
Office of Sustainability and Resilience (OSAR) Staff Report
Report Date: July 7, 2025

1. Tree Planting Program

- The Year 4 Tree Planting Program contract was executed on August 21, 2024. It includes an allotment of 719 trees for giveaways and 877 trees for drop-off.
- Current status:
 - 808 trees have been given away to residents.
 - 762 trees have been dropped off through the residential drop-off program.
 - 5 trees have been planted on city and partner sites
- A Tree Giveaway event was held on April 13 at the Coco Market in collaboration with Community Greening.
- Several potential planting locations were assessed:
 - The Train Depot was considered but ultimately ruled out due to site constraints.
 - A resident-requested planting at Leon Weekes Preserve, facilitated through Community Greening, was also evaluated and ruled out.
 - Next week planting will start with city staff along Lowson/Dover and Linton

2. Tree Trust Fund

- As of March 13, 2025:
 - Fund Balance: \$71,761.92
 - Encumbered for Current Year: \$179,627.19
 - Total Program Value: \$251,389.11
- A meeting is scheduled for the 14th with Stakeholders to review incoming deposits and determine projected available funding when the current program agreement expires on August 21, 2025.

3. Climate Action Plan (CAP)

- The draft Climate Action Plan was presented during a public webinar on February 21. A recording of the webinar has been made available on the OSAR website and shared via social media for community review.
 - OSAR hosted an outreach booth at the Coco Market on March 2, but engagement was limited due to placement in the health and wellness section. Future outreach will request placement with main vendors to improve visibility.
 - The draft CAP was formally presented at the April 22 City Commission meeting.
 - June 6 there was an initial CAP internal stakeholder evaluation meeting held with many of the operational departments across the city. These meeting will continue in order to gather feedback in the effort to align the CAP with existing city. 2 additional 90 minute meetings are currently scheduled.
 - To support internal collaboration, a SharePoint site was created as a central hub for documents and live collaboration.
 - A shared whiteboard from the stakeholder kickoff meeting is also linked in the SharePoint site.
 - No revisions will be made to the draft CAP until the current round of staff comments and discussion is complete.
 - Staff have been reminded that comments should be submitted directly in the SharePoint document ahead of follow-up meetings.
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4. LEED for Cities Certification

- The City of Delray Beach is registered for LEED for Cities v4.1 and was accepted into the 2025 Local Government Cohort.
- OSAR has completed:
 - A preliminary checklist to prioritize achievable credits
 - A crosswalk comparison between the City's completed FGBC (Florida Green Building Coalition) certification and LEED for Cities credit requirements
 - A living Gap Analysis document, hosted on SharePoint, with supporting documentation uploaded for credit review and audit preparation.
- Completed credit category reviews:
 - IP – Integrative Process
 - NS – Natural Systems
 - TR – Transportation
 - WE – Water Efficiency

- EN – Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions
 - MR – Materials and Resources
 - Quality of Life (QL) credit review is in progress.
 - Training is ongoing for OSAR staff, and one-on-one meetings with internal stakeholders began in April to align documentation needs.
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5. Facility Energy Benchmarking

- OSAR joined regional partners to coordinate a joint request (via the Southeast Sustainability Directors Network) to Florida Power & Light (FPL), requesting easier access to aggregated utility data for municipal facilities.
 - The joint email was sent to FPL’s leadership and customer service staff.
 - Follow-up inquiries by OSAR received no substantive response from FPL.
 - Benchmarking efforts remain limited by the utility’s current data sharing structure.
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6. Habitat Restoration & Invasive Species

- \$50,000 was allocated in the FY2024-25 Parks budget for habitat restoration at Leon Weekes Preserve.
- OSAR coordinated or participated in multiple events during Earth Month:
 - April 3 – Volunteer invasive plant removal event at Cornell Park, hosted by the Grass River Garden Club
 - April 19 – Invasive plant removal at Atlantic Dunes Park, organized by the Institute for Regional Conservation (IRC)
- Two restoration outreach videos were filmed:
 - One at Atlantic Dunes Park restoration site
 - Another at the Delray Beach Historical Society Heritage Garden
- Summer intern mapping project:
 - GIS-based invasive species mapping is underway, focusing on Leon Weekes Preserve
 - Field data collection utilizes Garmin and Trimble GPS units integrated with ArcGIS
- The Reef Institute
 - Documents had to be resigned due to internal oversight. They are expected to be received the week of the 7th.

7. Public Outreach & Earth Month Programming

- OSAR collaborated across departments to deliver a robust Earth Month campaign. Activities included:
 - April 2 – Coral Outplanting Site Assessment Dive (OSAR & Reef Institute)
 - April 4 – Climate Action Plan outreach during First Friday Art Walk
 - April 9 – “Solar 101” webinar by Solar United Neighbors
 - April 11 – ESPC (Energy Savings Performance Contracting) webinar with NAESCO
 - April 13 – Tree Giveaway at Coco Market
 - April 22 – CAP presented to City Commission
 - April 26 – Great American Cleanup at Sandoway Discovery Center
- Digital components included:
 - Two short videos promoting habitat restoration and OSAR programs
 - A Sustainability Photo Scavenger Hunt at 10 Delray locations, with residents encouraged to document five sustainability-themed items at each site

8. State Legislation Monitoring

- The 2025 Florida legislative session ran from March 4 to May 2.
- OSAR tracked several bills related to climate resilience and sustainability:

Bill	Subject	Outcome
SB 50 / HB 371 Nature-Based Coastal Resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish Florida Flood Hub guidelines for hybrid green–gray infrastructure• Require DEP rulemaking on nature-based coastal methods	Both bills died on June 16, 2025, after unanimous Committee passage. SB 50 passed the full Senate; HB 371 was never taken up on the House floor (florida.surfrider.org , fsenate.gov)
SB 62 / HB 143 Resilient Building Design & Green Building Tax Credits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduce tax credits and updates to building codes for LEED-certified construction	Advanced in committee, but did not reach final House/Senate floor votes before session end

Bill	Subject	Outcome
SB 510 / HB 35 Heat Illness Prevention Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen protections for outdoor workers in high heat 	Passed initial committee reviews, but no floor votes recorded, so no enactment this session.
SB 1148 / HB 1063 Carbon Sequestration Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish statewide carbon sequestration task force 	Cleared one committee in each chamber, but not passed into law this session

9. All-America City Award

- OSAR supported the City’s application to the National Civic League’s All-America City Award.
- Application submitted March 6; Delray Beach was named one of 17 national finalists.
- The final presentation was delivered in Denver, with participation from City staff, community leaders, and students.
- OSAR coordinated messaging to highlight sustainability as a core city value, including tree planting, reef protection, and green education programs.

10. Internships

- Following interviews in March, the original intern candidate declined the offer.
- Additional intern interviews are ongoing.
- The 2025 Summer Intern project includes:
 - Tree audit (20%) of plantings over the past four years
 - Invasive species mapping at city parks (initial focus on Leon Weekes Preserve)
- No Intern was hired this year