

Green Implementation Advancement Board
Office of Sustainability and Resilience (OSAR) Staff Report
September 19th, 2024

Tree Planting Program

- Year 4 program contract was executed on August 21.

Dead Tree Removal

- OSAR Tree Removal Project will be complete as of the end of the fiscal year, September 30. Trees have been removed thus far at sites including Orchard View Park, Delray Beach Golf Course, and Lakeview Golf Course.
- An additional RFP is being processed by Parks, to continue removal of dead and poor quality trees.
- Tree removal contractor working against the weather to complete the removals under the current contract that will not be renewed for the upcoming fiscal year. Lakeview Golf Course is the last major removal site. The rest are scattered around town and are targeted for removal before September 27th.

Tree Trust Fund

- Fund Balance as of July 11th: \$273,925.05
- Encumbered for Current Year: \$ 19,569.35
- Grand Total: \$293,494.40

Green Building Ordinance (GBO)

- The ordinance went into effect on Nov 1, 2023.
- It is up for review for effectiveness and updates in November of 2024.
- OSAR has started communications with interested parties in preparation for the upcoming ordinance review. A public webinar was held on August 16, reviewing the GBO requirements, and asking for input on potential revisions.
- The GBO will be reviewed with internal staff, in preparation for a second public outreach webinar to be held prior to November 1.

City of Delray Beach Facility Benchmarking

- The initial steps for benchmarking each of the city's facilities have been completed. Benchmarking is also expected to be a topic of discussion during the reevaluation of the GBO.
- A complete list of city water meters has been provided to the OSAR. We are working to get these incorporated into Portfolio Manager.

Climate Action Plan

- Extensive efforts were made to gather responses, including hardcopy displays at City and partner sites, social media, and email distribution.
- Over 300 survey responses were received, and the survey will close on September 15, 2024.
- Review of responses is underway, and initial preparation for presentation to Commission has begun.

Legislative Issues

- The 2025 Florida regular legislative session begins on Mar 4, 2025, and ends on May 2. Pre-session committee meetings began in August 2024.

Habitat Restoration

- OSAR staff continue to work with Parks and Recreation staff, and the Institute for Regional Conservation (IRC) to build knowledge of, and implement, habitat management. The annual agreement with IRC was renewed on April 12.
- \$50,000 has been requested in the Park's budget for next year for habitat restoration at Leon Weekes Preserve. The final budget public hearing is set for the September 16 Commission meeting.

OSAR Webpage and Social Media Outreach

- OSAR meets biweekly with the PIO office to discuss OSAR activities, events, and future initiatives.
- A webinar regarding native plantings was recorded at the Delray Beach Historical Society, and was posted on social media during Climate & Culture.
- The City's web and social media outlets have been and will continue to be important advertising mechanisms for the Climate Action Planning Survey, Climate & Culture, and the Green Building Ordinance Reevaluation.

Climate and Culture

- Climate & Conversations on September 6 at Arts Warehouse was well attended, and discussions are underway to make it a regular event.
- On Sep 7 at the Cornell Museum, preliminary results of the Climate Action Planning Survey were on display. OSAR staff were also present to discuss results with visitors.
- A webinar highlighting native plantings at the Delray Beach Historical Society was posted on the City's YouTube channel on September 6.
- The Reef Institute gave a virtual presentation to a Spady Elementary 5th grade class on September 5.
- OSAR staff reached out to the City's certified Green Businesses. It was a good opportunity to renew the relationship and discuss future collaboration.

Lawn Equipment

- Palm Beach County submitted a grant application to EPA, which includes a request for funding further study and outreach on this issue.

EPA Community Change Grant

- OSAR continues to work with the Community Development Corporations of Delray Beach, Boynton Beach, and Riviera Beach to develop an application for this EPA grant with technical assistance from the Southeast Sustainability Directors Network. Application submittal is imminent.

- A sample home was selected and an as built energy rating was conducted. A proposed improvement model was created that quantifies the potential GHG and energy cost reductions. This info will be included in the grant application.

GIAB Appointment

Adam Jones was selected for the open seat by Commissioner Casale at the September 3 Commission meeting.