

Green Implementation Advancement Board  
Office of Sustainability and Resilience (OSAR) Staff Report  
February 20th, 2025

Tree Planting Program

- Year 4 program contract was executed on August 21, 2024.
- 175 trees were given away at the Spady Museum event on Feb 1, raising the total to 464 of 719 in the contract.
- 312+ of the 877 tree allotment have been Dropped Off
- A Tree Giveaway is planned for April, potentially at the Coco Market.
- Sites along Lowson Blvd/ SW 10 ST, and Train Depot were suggested for plantings, the former by City Commission. Coordination with other Departments was initiated, and trees larger than those available through the Tree Planting Program seem to be preferred. Work to try to identify planting locations continues.

Tree Trust Fund

- Fund Balance as of Feb 6:       \$ 50,215.66
- Encumbered for Current Year: \$ 201,609.69
- Grand Total:                       \$ 251,825.35

Green Building Ordinance (GBO)

- A webinar regarding green buildings and energy is one of the activities planned for Earth Month.

City of Delray Beach Facility Benchmarking

- An email was sent from the Southeast Sustainability Directors Network to multiple leadership and customer service personnel at Florida Power and Light, requesting easier access to energy usage data. The email was written with input from Delray Beach and other local governments in south Florida.

Climate Action Plan

- CAP Workgroup meetings were held for each of the 5 sections. Energy-Built Environment, Green Infrastructure & Natural Environment, Water, Waste, and Transportation. Climate Resilience, Outreach and Equity are overarching themes included in all strategies to be implemented and did not have a separate workgroup.
- The meetings were well attended and elicited many ideas on how to proceed.
- The next step is to provide the ideas to the public for comment and feedback. A webinar has been scheduled and advertised on City social media for Feb 21.
- OSAR will have a booth at the Coco Market on Mar 2.

Legislative Issues

- The 2025 Florida regular legislative session begins on Mar 4, 2025, and the deadline for filing bills is at 12 pm that day. The regular session will end on May 2, 2025.
- SB50/ HB371- Nature-Based Methods for Improving Coastal Resilience
- SB62/ HB143- Resilient Buildings

### Habitat Restoration

- \$50,000 was approved in the Park's budget for the current fiscal year for habitat restoration at Leon Weekes Preserve.
- The Institute for Regional Conservation (IRC) held an invasive plant removal volunteer event on January 18 at Atlantic Dunes Park.
- The IRC will hold another invasive plant removal volunteer event on Feb 15 at Orchard View Park.
- IRC is also tentatively planning an event for Earth Month.
- The Grass River Garden Club will hold an invasive plant removal event at Orchard View Park on February 24.

### OSAR Webpage and Social Media Outreach

- OSAR meets biweekly with the PIO office to discuss activities, events, future initiatives, and website updates.
- OSAR website is being edited to streamline and update the information. Planned content and minor organization updates to the website are to begin shortly.
- Work continues on a "Climate Action Dashboard", with the next step being to obtain timeline and cost estimates. A follow up email was sent on 2025/01/08

### Outreach

- OSAR provided support for a TEDx Delray event on Jan 25, at the Vintage Gym.
- An article was published on Jan 30 in The Invading Sea, written by City resident Benita Goldstein, who interviewed Kent for the article.
- OSAR will have a booth at the Coco Market on Mar 2. Main topics for engagement will be the Climate Action Plan, and Tree Drop Off Program.
- Multiple activities for Earth Month are in preparation, most involving collaboration with City partners and staff.
- OSAR is working along with other City staff and partners, preparing an application to submit for the All-America City award.

### EPA Community Change Grant

- OSAR worked with the Community Development Corporations of Delray Beach, Boynton Beach, and Riviera Beach to develop an application for this EPA grant. Post-submittal the EPA contacted the CDC's and requested additional information, but "Green and Resilient Homes Program" was not funded in the most recent round of awards, and with recent developments regarding the federal budget it is unlikely that funding will be awarded.
- Palm Beach County's Climate Resilient Communities Project was funded. This was a different Community Change Grant Track than the CDC application and is for outreach and training purposes.

### LEED for Cities

- OSAR registered Delray Beach and is beginning training to implement this project.

- A side-by-side FGBC vs LEED for Cities comparison has been completed for the purposes of determining what required LEED documentation we already have from completing the FGBC certification. This is a document tying together the related FGBC and LEED for Cities credits.
- A preliminary LEED for Cities checklist has been completed to help give direction to discussions to be held with stakeholders.
- As a complimentary document to the checklist additional information for each credit has been added to the “LEED for Cities Crosswalk”. This document is designed to be a living document to assist in individual credit management.
- Using the crosswalk, an in depth “Gap Analysis” is being completed on the LEED for Cities program. As much of the required documentation that already exists is being collected and organized on a SharePoint site dedicated to the LEED for Cities certification.
  - IP-Integrative Process – review completed
  - NS - Natural Systems - review completed
  - TR – Transportation – review completed
  - WE - Water Efficiency - review completed
  - EN - Energy and GHG - review completed
  - MR – Materials & Resources – Review ongoing
  - QL – Quality of Life – Review ongoing

#### Plastics

- Discussions for the CAP Waste Workgroup addressed plastics in several respects including: microplastics, recycling, environmentally preferred purchasing.
- OSAR is considering an Earth Month event addressing issues related to Plastics