

# City of Tampa Annual Sustainability Report 2010



On June 12, 2008, Tampa City Council passed Resolution No. 2008-575, the “Green Resolution”. The resolution specified that an annual report from the City’s Green Officer be submitted to City Council. Specifically Section 2 (6) reads:

“The CGO will provide the City Council with an annual written sustainability report on the City’s progress in regard to all aspects of sustainability including, but not limited to the following:

- (a.) internal energy and water use;
- (b.) efforts to identify and reduce its “carbon footprint”; and
- (c.) effectiveness of its policies and practices that support the use of environmentally responsible products and services.

The annual report will also include data on:

- public and private construction of green versus non-green buildings;
- recommendations to Council on new policies and/or ordinances to improve performance by the City and the private sector.

The report that follows is organized consistent with the resolution. The time period covered in the report is from October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010 (FY2010).

## **a). Internal energy and water use.**

- *November 12, 2009* - The Tampa Water Department provided 60 free replacement nozzles during the Tampa Downtown Market on select Fridays. An automatic hand-held hose nozzle only saves water when it is working properly. As part of this effort, the Water Department also provided free information on ways to 'go green' by conserving water and providing free water conservation materials.

- *March 25, 2010* - The Mayor's Citizen/TECO Energy Conservation Task Force presented its recommendations to Mayor Pam Iorio. In March 2009 Mayor Iorio formed the Task Force to provide her with fiscally responsible recommendations for energy conservation, renewable energy, public education, and climate change initiatives to be implemented by the City of Tampa, TECO Energy, and the general public.
- *April 27, 2010* - The City awarded Air Mechanical Services Corporation a contract for \$522,000 through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act CDBG-R. This portion of the Green Building Upgrades to Community Facilities project was for HVAC upgrades at various community centers.
- *April 27, 2010* - The City awarded Gulf States Industries Incorporated a contract for \$112,000 through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act CDBG-R. This portion of the Green Building Upgrades to Community Facilities project was for re-roofing upgrades at Wayne C. Papy Athletic Center.
- *April 27, 2010* - The City awarded Commercial Interiors Incorporated a contract for \$129,640 through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act CDBG-R. This portion of the Green Building Upgrades to Community Facilities project was for energy management upgrades at various community centers.
- *September 23, 2010* - Energy Management Systems (EMS). The City awarded Automated Building Control Systems Incorporated a contract for \$1,033,999 for the installation of energy management systems in Old City Hall, Tampa Fire Rescue Headquarters and Tampa Police Headquarters. EMS helps conserve energy and reduce green house gas emissions. The funding is part of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program.
- *September 26, 2010* - Traffic Signal Upgrades. The Department of Public Works completed the conversion from incandescent bulbs to LED's for 120 intersections. The conversion to LED bulbs provides an average savings in electrical cost of 60-70% and reduces power consumption an average of 70-80% per unit. This conversion reduces the need for energy production and contributes to the overall reduction of green house gas emissions. The funding for this project was part of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program.
- *Fiscal Year 2010* - Retrofit of Parking Garage Lighting. This project provided for the upgrade of conventional electrical lighting in five (5) municipal parking garages to high efficiency induction lighting. This project reduces electrical use in the garages by approximately 55% and produces an annual savings of approximately \$316,000. The funding for this project was part of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program.

- *Fiscal Year 2010* - The Tampa Water Department posted upwards over 50 “tip of the week” water conservation tips over the course of the year on the City’s web page. These tips are an ongoing reminder and encouragement for Tampa citizens and employees to continue to conserve water.

**b). Efforts to identify and reduce the City’s “carbon footprint”.**

- *October 9-11, 2009 - Going Green Tampa Bay Expo, 2009* Campus & Community Sustainability Conference. The Going Green EXPO focused on sustainability issues and opportunities that face the Tampa Bay region. The EXPO showcased sustainable products and services as well as information about creating a more sustainable Tampa Bay. The City of Tampa had a strong two day presence and conducted various workshops at the event.
- *October 13, 2009* - The City of Tampa Department of Solid Waste and Environmental Program Management was the recipient of a Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) bronze award in the Waste-to-Energy category. The award was presented to the City for the McKay Bay Refuse-to-Energy Facility. The waste to energy facility reduces the amount of trash going to the landfill, thereby reducing methane greenhouse gas emissions.
- *October 14, 2009* - The City’s Green Officer was a guest speaker for a graduate class at the University of Tampa on business sustainability. The presentation highlighted the City’s current conservation, sustainable and emission reduction efforts.
- *October 17, 2009* - Approximately 100 trees were planted in the Grant Park Neighborhood as part of a carbon offset tree planting ceremony. The project was a collaborative effort between the University of South Florida Sustainability Conference and Going Green Expo Steering Committee, the USF Florida Center for Community Design and Research, the Grant Park Neighborhood Association, the City of Tampa Parks and Recreation Department, the Mayor’s Beautification Program, ECO2ASSET SOLUTIONS, and the USF’s Iota Theta Fraternity. Through this project, volunteers will continue to work with neighborhood residents on additional planting projects and cleanups.
- *October 27, 2009* - Growth Management & Development Services, Contract Administration and Public Works received an Energy and Efficiency Conservation Block Grant for \$3.712 million. A portion of the grant money has been allocated to the green house gas emissions baseline inventory study and sustainability action plan.
- *November 10, 2009* – McKay Waste to Energy Plant Improvements. The unattended, automated scale at McKay Bay was made operational and provides the

flexibility to switch from attended to unattended status as needed. Additionally, the new scale has the ability to weigh vehicles and capture information 24-hours a day, seven days a week. The new scale decreases wait time at facility for users. By decreasing wait time it also decreases “engine idle” time and reduces green house gas emissions.

- *January 22, 2010* - E3: Energy, Environment and Economics Forum. The City’s Green Officer was a panelist discussing the sustainability issues facing our communities and responsible stewardship of our environment. The discussion focused on land preservation, the environmental benefits of urban infill development and how such development reduces the City’s carbon footprint.
- *February 11, 2010* - The City’s Green Officer was a featured panelist for the launch of the University of South Florida’s School of Global Sustainability. The panel discussion highlighted the many fields of sustainability, conservation, green house gas emissions and energy issues.
- *April 1, 2010* – Tampa named Tree City USA for the 28<sup>th</sup> year. Tampa has been designated a Tree City USA Community by the Arbor Day Foundation to honor its commitment to community forestry. This is the 28<sup>th</sup> consecutive year Tampa has received this national recognition. Tampa has met the four standards to become a Tree City USA Community: having a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, an Arbor Day observance, and a comprehensive community forestry program.
- *April 22, 2010* - Mayor Pam Iorio was joined by business and community leaders and Captain Green Eye to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Earth Day. The brief program included a musical performance by students from the Rampello Downtown Partnership School, the planting of a Pignut Hickory tree, environmental and energy conservation informational displays and a cell-phone recycling drive. The Pignut Hickory was selected because it is well suited for an urban setting. It will help purify the air, provide food for wildlife, conserve soil and water, and help moderate ambient air temperature. Irrigation of the trees in Lykes Gaslight Square Park, along with many other City parks and facilities, uses an efficient, state-of-the-art, conservation-driven, micro-irrigation system.
- *April 26, 2010* - Earth Day Celebration. The City participated with the Tampa Bay Sierra Club for the Earth Day Tampa Bay festival by working with the event organizers through the use of City facilities. The City’s Green Officer presented a proclamation to the Sierra Club and spoke about sustainability, conservation and environmental issues at the event.
- *September 23, 2010* –The City awarded Post, Buckley, Schuh and Jernigan a \$53,000 contract for the consulting firm to undertake the City’s green house gas inventory and sustainability action plan.

- *Fiscal Year 2010* - The City of Tampa continues to use and purchase ultra-low sulphur fuels for city fleet vehicles to reduce our carbon footprint and lower our green house gas emissions. During this fiscal year, 934,368 gallons were purchased.

**c). Effectiveness of its policies and practices that support the use of environmentally responsible products and services.**

- *October 24, 2009* - City of Tampa Household Chemical, Electronics Collection Program. The Department of Solid Waste & Environmental Program Management continued its household chemical and electronics collection days. The collection days provide residents the opportunity to safely dispose of unwanted chemicals and electronics at no charge.

*January 21, 2010* - City Council Recognized Top Recyclers. The City's Department of Solid Waste and Environmental Program Management, with assistance from Kessler Consulting, Inc., conducted resident focus groups and follow-up phone surveys to gather data to help identify educational approaches and incentives to increase participation. North Sulphur Springs and the Belmont Heights/Ybor City area were chosen for implementation of a residential recycling pilot program.

- *March 4, 2010* - City "Races to Recycle". City's Recycling Team recovered almost 2,400 lbs of recyclables. Race participants in the Gasparilla Distance Classic Race Weekend had the opportunity to recycle their water bottles for the third year in a row. All cardboard generated by event vendors was recovered, reducing the environmental impact of weekend events. This year marked the introduction of new, ClearStream recycling containers which, in addition to being portable, can be used again and again. Recyclables are clearly visible in the bag which is an added visual cue for participants to recycle, and contamination with other, non-recyclable materials is reduced.

The Recycling Team is also exploring opportunities for composting food waste generated at the event next year and plans to expand recycling efforts at the Aid Stations along the race routes.

- *March 20, 2010* - Conservation Workshops. Tampa Water Department sponsored a free 'Go Green At Home [On A Budget]' customer clinic. The customer clinic included presentations and workshops on water efficiency. The program was designed specifically for single-family residential customers. The hands-on workshop topics included home water audits, micro-irrigation retrofit, irrigation system maintenance, and composting.
- *March 20, 2010* - Clean City Day. City of Tampa held its fourth annual Clean City Day. The City of Tampa Clean City Division, along with Friends of Clean City,

initiated this effort during the Great American Clean Up, the nation's largest community improvement program, held between March and May each year. New this year was a partnership with Exide Batteries. Residents recycled old auto, motorcycle and marine batteries at one of the five staging sites for recycling.

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- *Fiscal Year 2010* - Construction Debris Recycling.
  - Euclid Avenue from Bayshore to Westshore. The Public Works Department completed a 2.2 mile project and recycled 13,370 tons of asphalt. The project prevented 278 tons of CO2 emissions from entering the atmosphere by avoiding dump truck trips to the land fill. Recycling the asphalt also reduced the consumption of new oil based product.
  - The Public Works Department also completed another approximate 1.25 mile resurfacing project on Swann Avenue from MacDill to Lois. This project generated 1,561 tons of recycled asphalt. The department stockpiled the asphalt for sale or use on other projects. In some cases, the old asphalt was rejuvenated and re-used at various locations throughout the City.

### **Public construction of green versus non-green buildings.**

- *October 26, 2009* - South Plaza segment of the Tampa Riverwalk. Mayor Pam Iorio was joined by business and community leaders for a ribbon cutting ceremony to officially open the new Riverwalk segment located on the southwest corner of Channelside and Beneficial drives. The Tampa Riverwalk's South Plaza is the beginning of the waterfront pedestrian corridor that spans from the Channel District to the Brorein Street Bridge. The Plaza serves as the gateway to Cotanchobee Fort Brooke Park and the Tampa Bay History Center. It incorporates contemporary shade structures and informational kiosk signage, whose maps and lighting is solar powered.
- *January 24, 2010* - New Waterfront Park in Downtown Tampa. The new eight acre Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park features a unique urban design, sustainable construction, and operational features, including reclaimed water for irrigation and LED lighting. Park amenities include the Great Lawn, a dog run, a kiosk and pavilion with restrooms, park offices, and space for a future vendor. The two interactive fountains use filtered, re-circulated water.
- *April 19, 2010* - Seminole Garden Center. Mayor Iorio was joined by neighbors, elected officials, and City staff to officially reopened the Seminole Garden Center

after a \$1.4 million renovation. The scope of work included the renovation of the existing building to restore the original character and correspond with the architectural style of the Seminole Heights neighborhood. Renovations, weatherization and efficiency upgrades included redefining the lobby and restoring the main entrance to the east side of the building, expanding and modernizing the restrooms, and upgrading the kitchen and energy efficient appliances.

- *June 5, 2010* - Ground Breaking at New Community Center. The City of Tampa broke ground for the new \$2.5 million Springhill Park Community Center. It is a 16,000 square foot facility being built to satisfy LEED silver level construction. Once completed, the facility will feature a gymnasium, kitchen, classroom, multi-purpose room, theater arts classrooms, splash pad, play equipment, and a new sports field.

#### **Private construction of green versus non-green buildings.**

- Attachment 'A' is a project list of those privately owned buildings that have been certified by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) to have achieved the specified LEED rating. The source of this information is the official USGBC web site as of December 2010.
- Attachment 'B' is a project list of those privately owned buildings that have registered with the USGBC with the intent to achieve a specified LEED rating. The source of this information is the official USGBC web site as of December 2010.

#### **New policies and/or ordinances to improve performance by the City and the private sector.**

- Community Gardens - The necessary code changes to allow community gardens throughout the city were transmitted to the Planning Commission and is on schedule for adoption in March of 2011.
- Chapter 13 automatically reduces use of turf area by 5% per year through 2013. This program started in 2009 by lowering turf area percentages from 50% configured with a permanent irrigation system to 45%. In 2010, the allowable percentage was 40%. In 2011, the allowable percentage will be 35% and percentages will drop by 5% per year, in effect, bringing allowable turf area down to 25% by 2013.
- Land Development Coordination (LDC) continues to work on Community Planning through Form Based Codes. Form-Based Codes maximize efficiency and environmental quality for drainage, transit and transportation, use of public right of way and pedestrian connectivity. The Seminole Heights and the 40th Street Area Vision Plans were completed and adopted by City Council in FY2010. LDC is

currently working on the Regulating Document for Seminole Heights to be part of the City's land development code.

- The Transit Oriented Development option in the City's Comprehensive Plan was approved by City Council and transmitted to the State Department of Community Affairs during FY2010.