

CHAPTER 2: DELRAY BEACH EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

Prior to the decision to appoint a Green Task Force, the City of Delray Beach had actually already made a series of commitments to pursue green initiatives. It is important to understand the Task Force's work within the context of the City's prior commitments.

SIERRA CLUB COOL CITIES

In October of 2006, then Mayor Jeff Perlman committed Delray Beach to the [Sierra Club Cool Cities Program \(Ref 2.1\)](#). This committed Delray Beach to join other local municipalities nationwide in reducing at a local level, through local city action, the emissions that cause climate change. The four primary steps to becoming a Cool City are as follows:

1. **Take the Cool Cities Pledge** by signing the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. This agreement sets the goal of reducing city wide global warming CO2 pollution to 7% below 1990 levels by 2012.
2. **Conduct a Global Warming Emissions Inventory** that will identify the City's major greenhouse gas sources and provide a baseline to evaluate the City's progress. Technical assistance is available by joining ICLEI.
3. **Create a Solutions Plan** that includes three important strategies: green vehicle fleets, energy efficiency, and renewable energy.
4. **Implement and Monitor Progress** by putting the plan into action by implementing steps and monitoring progress.

U.S. MAYORS CLIMATE PROTECTION AGREEMENT

On October 26, 2006, as part of the Sierra Club Cool Cities initiative, Delray Beach became one of the first small cities to sign the [U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement \(Ref 2.2\)](#), which to date has been signed by over 900 other cities nationwide.

The actions the City committed to when signing the Mayors agreement align almost directly with many of the recommendations in this report (bullets below referenced from U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement):

1. Conducting an inventory of global warming emissions in City operations and in the community, setting reduction targets and creating an action plan;
2. Adopting and enforcing land-use policies that reduce sprawl, preserve open space, and create compact, walkable urban communities;
3. Promoting transportation options such as bicycle trails, commute trip reduction programs, incentives for car pooling and public transit;
4. Making energy efficiency a priority through code improvements, retrofitting city facilities with energy efficient lighting and urging employees to conserve energy and save money;
5. Purchasing only Energy Star equipment and appliances for City use;
6. Practicing and promoting sustainable building practices using the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED program or a similar system;
7. Increasing the average fuel efficiency of municipal fleet vehicles; reducing the number of vehicles; launch an employee education program including anti-idling messages;
8. Increasing recycling rates in City operations and in the community;
9. Maintaining healthy urban forests and promoting tree planting;
10. Helping educate the public, schools, other jurisdictions, professional associations, business and industry about reducing global warming pollution.

FLORIDA GREEN BUILDING COALITION GREEN LOCAL GOVERNMENT STANDARD

On December 6, 2007, the City Commission passed Resolution 71-07 ([Ref 2.3](#)) committing the City to “pursue measures to become a Green Local Government using the Green Local Government Standard ([Ref 2.4](#)) developed by the Florida Green Building Coalition.” Below are the steps to which Delray Beach has committed. The Green Task Force found that the City was already implementing a number of the items on the FGBC checklist. In addition, numerous recommendations throughout this document further contribute toward the achievement of FGBC certification.

Steps to Becoming an FGBC Green Local Government

1. **Learn about the Florida Green Local Government Standard.** Contact the Florida Green Building Coalition, Inc. (FGBC) who operates and maintains the standard.
2. **Designate an office, department, or individual as Project Coordinator.** The Project Coordinator will be the main link between the local government and FGBC. A project evaluator will be assigned to the City's team by FGBC.
3. **Determine what criteria apply to the local government.** Since the standard's criteria are organized in terms of generic local government functions, the coordinator will perform an exercise to determine what criteria will apply to the local government. For example, if there is no public electric utility, certain criteria will not apply. The exercise will enable the Project Coordinator to determine the *Maximum Applicable Points Total*. The Project Coordinator will also determine which department is likely to perform each function, in order to distribute criteria effectively.
4. **Conduct a local government assessment review in cooperation with departments.** After criteria has been distributed to appropriate departments, individual departments review the criteria and indicate what has been done or is planned for implementation, and also indicate what is likely to be considered in the interest of achieving the standard, and for the benefit of the local government.
5. **Conduct a local government evaluation.** The Project Coordinator collects all departmental information, and determines where the local government currently falls in reference to the suggested levels of compliance. The Project Coordinator then prepares a summary report that is sent to all applicable local government departments.
6. **Schedule implementation meeting to outline path towards qualification.** The coordinator then assembles a meeting of departmental representatives to discuss the status in reference to the standard. An interactive process then begins whereby areas of cooperation are explored, potential sustainable and green improvements are identified, and a plan is outlined with the intent of bringing the city/county towards compliance with the standard. Designation Levels are awarded based on achieving percentages of the *Maximum Applicable Points Total*.
7. **Submit application and all necessary documentation to FGBC, Inc. for evaluation.** At which time the local government believes they have met the minimum requirements of the standard, a submittal is provided to FGBC with necessary documentation such that the efforts can be reviewed, and the designation awarded.

REFERENCES

- Ref 2.1 - [Sierra Club Cool Cities Program](#)
- Ref 2.2 - [U.S Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement](#)
- Ref 2.3 - [Delray Beach City Commission Resolution 71-07](#)
- Ref 2.4 - [FGBC Green Local Government Standard](#)

Note: All references are available as clickable links within this electronic document and available online at <http://www.SustainableDelray.org/report.htm>