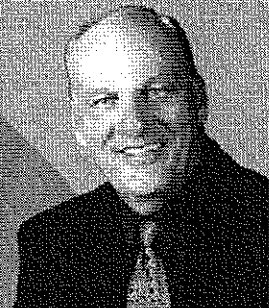


Florida's Cities Play a Vital Role in Ensuring a "Greener" Tomorrow

A true conservationist is a man who knows that the world is not given by his fathers but borrowed from his children.

— John James Audubon



by League President
Frank C. Ortis

Audubon was right. We must put into place protective measures now so that future generations will not suffer because of past actions.

Local governments nationwide have the opportunity to do their part by adopting and implementing environmental stewardship practices that conserve energy and protect our precious natural resources. I have made the "greening" of local government my priority as Florida League of Cities president because I believe that if we invest our time and resources into smart, cost-effective, environmentally friendly programs today, our grandchildren will have a much better world in which to live.

In the past 30 years, technology has improved drastically and made clear to us the damage that has been done to the environment.

We, as municipal officials, find ourselves in a unique position. The idea of environmental stewardship still is very new to many Americans but is quickly gaining momentum. By adopting eco-friendly practices now, we are committing to preserve, protect and potentially restore the environment for future generations.

We can be a positive force in this movement. It is my desire that all 412 cities in Florida embrace it as a priority. I encourage cities to adopt a resolution supporting the Green Local Government Standard

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and pursue steps toward becoming a certified Green Local Government, a program of the Florida Green Building Coalition. (See page 29.)

Many of Florida's local governments already have answered this call and signed the resolution. Numerous Florida cities have put into place programs that have decreased their carbon footprint.

This issue of *Quality Cities* discusses what some cities are doing to become greener. I encourage you to read about their programs and think about how you can do the same for your city. In addition, the League is compiling a resource book that lists the green programs of cities throughout Florida. It

will be included in the upcoming *City Innovations Showcase* publication and will be available online.

The Senegalese poet and conservationist Baba Dioum wrote: "In the end, we conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught." The adoption and promotion of these environmental standards will not only make our cities a better place to live but will stress the importance of conservation to future generations. The time to start is now.

Frank C. Ortis is president of the Florida League of Cities and mayor of the City of Pembroke Pines.

City of Pembroke Pines' "Going Green" Efforts

The Pembroke Pines has been establishing policies and practices forwarding the causes of water quality, air quality and environmental conservation.

Some of the city's green projects include:

- Taking steps toward becoming a Florida Green Local Government.
- Establishing the nation's second Wetlands Bank to maintain, protect and preserve 450 acres of wetlands that will be developed as a diverse multi-habitat ecosystem.
- Signing the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, making a commitment to reduce greenhouse emissions and shrink the carbon footprint of the city.
- Taking steps to modify city building codes to require that municipal buildings be LEED certified.
- Establishing a "Green Advisory Board," which advises the City Commission on matters related to environmental and "green" initiatives to promote environmental awareness in the city. The advisory board also provides education and information about local, state and national environmental initiatives, and consults with local business and residents in an effort to promote those initiatives in the city.
- Purchasing its first hybrid vehicle in 2007, with plans to increase the hybrid fleet substantially in coming years.
- Requiring 10 acres of open space per 1,000 residents.
- Requiring 50 percent xeriscaping when installing new landscape materials.

