



FLERA FOCUS!

Florida Local Environmental Resource Agencies

www.flera.org

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2006 Annual FLERA Conference

This year's Annual Conference at the Hyatt Hotel on Sarasota Bay attracted a record number of attendees. Over 150 participants attended the conference! "Local Government – Leading by Example," offered great workshop sessions and outstanding keynote speakers, with pre-conference tours of local environmental programs and projects, a Silent Auction and FLERA's Exhibits program. The famous FLERA BBQ was held at a new venue - the MOTE Marine Laboratory! Visit <http://www.flera.org/conference.html> for pictures from the event. Next year will feature the same venue on August 1 – 3, 2007. Mark your calendars now and stay tuned for future FLERA Conference information.

Statewide Fertilizer Management

A statewide work group on Fertilizer Management has been working to review use of appropriate fertilizer products. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) has developed an initial draft rule that is currently under review and subject to potential revision pending further technical input. Once DACS and the work group are comfortable with the scientific basis for the rule, the Chapter 120 rule making process would follow. The next steps would be public workshops leading to rule adoption.

DACS is planning on initiating rulemaking to adopt a statewide rule for specialty (bag and box) fertilizer that will focus on two basic areas: 1) Limiting by rule the nutrient content of fertilizer intended for different urban uses, which is important because each of these uses has different requirements and failure to match fertilizer content with plant needs could have the unintended consequence of spurring overuse of these materials by the consumer. 2) Requiring by rule that the fertilizer labels clearly specify the intended use of the fertilizer and the maximum application rate for individual applications, as well as the number of applications per year.

The initial effort will include both phosphorus and nitrogen. Thus far, measures to pre-empt local authority to regulate fertilizers and the applications thereof have not surfaced at the work group meetings. Go to <http://www.fl-counties.com/pdf/newsnotes/newsnotes9106.pdf> or http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/hot_topics/agriculture/bmps.html for more information.

The Clean Air Partnership

The Clean Air Partnership (CAP) evolved from a joint collaboration between the Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) and the Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management (DEM) to address air quality concerns as they relate to vehicle exhaust and traffic congestion in the region. EPC and DEM have partnered with other local transportation organizations and agencies in challenging Tampa Bay area employers to participate in the CAP program. Employers are publicly recognized for their participation by offering commuter choice programs and/or utilizing clean-fuel fleets within their organizations. The goal of the CAP program is to reduce air pollution by offering alternative commute options that decrease the number of single occupancy vehicles on the road. If you are interested in learning more about this program visit <http://www.cleanairpartnership.com>

The 10th Annual St. Johns River Cleanup - *Try This in Your Community!*

A total of 471 participants pulled 14.54 tons of tires, bottles and other debris from 59 miles of the St. Johns River. Some of the unusual items removed from the river were a car, refrigerator, half of a boat, a couch, electrical panel, rubber raft, water heater and an electric motor. A total of eight sites along the river were utilized to give participants access to the river. Two airboat groups, school groups, boating/paddling groups, along with individuals and environmental, civic and scouting groups participated in this year's event. Volusia County Environmental Management won first place in the Publicity Contest and fifth place in the Photo Contest from the National River Cleanup Week organization. The next St. Johns River Cleanup is scheduled for May 2007. Check <http://www.Volusia.org/cleanup> for details or contact Darrell Abrahamson at 386-736-5927(ext 2424) or dabrahamson@co.volusia.fl.us for more information.

FLERA Welcomes New Members in 2006!

William Lorenz, Jr., Collier County Environmental Services Department; Michael McCabe, City of Palm Bay; Christina Uranowski, Osceola County Environmental Services; Marjorie Craig, City of West Palm Beach; Heather Faessler, City of Clearwater; Kathy Sotero, City of Deltona; Bart Bibler, DOH, Division of Environmental Health; Nora Idso, City of Bradenton Beach; Wade Sparkman, Nassau County Health Department; Corey Franklin, Polk County Department of Health, Petroleum Cleanup Program; Andrew Kelly, City of North Port; Kevin Erwin, Kevin L. Erwin Consulting Ecologist, Inc.; and, Donald Polmann, Tampa Bay Water. **Welcome to FLERA!**