



FLERA FOCUS!

Florida Local Environmental Resource Agencies

www.flera.org

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U.S. Green Building Council in Florida

The U.S. Green Building Council is the nation's foremost coalition of leaders working to promote buildings that are environmentally responsible, profitable, and healthy places to work and live. The USGBC Florida chapters are fairly young, having been around for less than three years, but are growing quickly. Florida now hosts seven chapters throughout the state with more than 2000 members. There are currently 29 Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified projects and 480 LEED registered projects in Florida. To find a Chapter near you visit <http://www.usgbc.org/> and click on Chapters.

Resolution Supports Fertilizer Task Force Decision

Tuesday, February 5, 2008, the Orange County Board of County Commissioners approved a resolution supporting the Florida Consumer Fertilizer Task Force decision. See <http://www.flera.org/pdf/OCResolution.pdf> to view the Orange County resolution. The Task Force's Final Report (see <http://consensus.fsu.edu/Fertilizer-Task-Force/index.html>) was *adopted unanimously* and preserves the ability of local governments to adopt more stringent standards than those of the state. It also provides that the "model" fertilizer ordinance is just that – an example of what a city or county could do concerning fertilizer – as opposed to being directly codified as a statewide regulation. FLERA members should stay vigilant during 2008 legislative session beginning March 4th as fertilizer and related interests/ industries could seek passage of legislation that will impose uniform standards statewide and pre-empt the ability of cities or counties to adopt measures that are more stringent than those of the state. If your city or county has not yet adopted a Resolution please do so ASAP.

FLERA First Annual Legislative Day

Don't miss FLERA's first Annual Legislative Day Thursday, March 27th at Sitting Hall in Tallahassee. All members are invited to participate in the member event! The morning will begin at 9:00 a.m. with a briefing on the legislative process and a review of this year's issues and priorities. After the briefing and a short walk to the Capitol Building, you will have an opportunity to visit with your legislative representatives. Registration is required so register today at <http://www.flera.org/pdf/FLERA%20Legislative%20Day.pdf>.

FLERA's 2008 Position Paper

FLERA has issued a Legislative Policy Statement for the 2008 Legislative Session. The Policy Statement outlines FLERA's support or opposition on nineteen items ranging from *Budget and Appropriations Actions to be Considered/Reviewed by Various Committees to Everglades Restoration*. Visit http://www.flera.org/pdf/FLERA_%202008%20LegisPolicy.pdf to view the entire document.

Florida Communities Trust Announces Dates for 2008 Florida Forever Funding Cycle

Florida Communities Trust, the state's premier program for helping local communities preserve parks and recreational space, will open its eighth Florida Forever application cycle on February 22, 2008. An expected \$66 million in Florida Forever funds will be available to local governments and non-profit environmental organizations to acquire land for green space, conservation, and recreation purposes. The deadline for submitting applications is 5:00 p.m. (EDT), May 7, 2008. In conjunction with the 75-day application cycle, a series of application workshops will be held at different locations across Florida to help local communities navigate the application process. The workshops are free of charge and registration is not required. For a copy of the FCT-4 grant application and more information about the FCT program, visit the website at <http://www.floridacommunitydevelopment.org/fct/>.

FLERA Welcomes New Members

FLERA welcomes new members for 2008! Kathy Hale, **Environmental Management & Design**, Orlando; and Steve Spencer, **Seagrass Recovery LLC**, Indian Rocks Beach.

Save the date!

2008 FLERA Annual Conference July 30 – August 1

The Annual Conference will be held at the Hyatt Hotel on Sarasota Bay. This year's conference theme is *Climate Change and Local Government - Roles, Responsibilities and Opportunities*, offering a variety of workshop sessions, outstanding keynote speakers, a Silent Auction, great exhibits, and the famous FLERA Dinner held at the MOTE Marine Laboratory!

Watch for registration details coming in April!

"Providing Community-Based Environmental Protection"