



# FLERA FOCUS!

Florida Local Environmental Resource Agencies

[www.flera.org](http://www.flera.org)

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## **FLERA 2008 Annual Conference – Things are Warming Up!**

Climate change is the focus and this year's conference theme *Climate Change and Local Government: Roles, Responsibilities & Opportunities* brings it to the local level. The conference will be held at the newly renovated Hyatt on Sarasota Bay from July 30 through August 1. If you can start early, plan to tour the Mote Marine Laboratory on Wednesday morning. The Honorable Harvey Ruvin, Chair of the Climate Change Task Force in Miami-Dade County, will kick off the Conference, followed by the ever-popular 2008 Legislative Wrap-up. The panel will discuss successes and failures of legislation covering a wide variety of subject matter. In addition the Conference is filled with great panel discussions and workshops, time to network with your peers plus a luncheon, welcome reception, and barbeque at Mote Marine Laboratory! Click on <http://www.flera.org/pdf/08%20AC%20Brochure.pdf> for the conference brochure and registration form.

## **Estuarine/Coastal Numeric Nutrient Criteria Kickoff Meeting Coming Soon**

Mark your calendars! The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) has announced a kickoff meeting to discuss development of numeric nutrient criteria for estuaries and near coastal ecosystems in Florida. This initial meeting is slated for June 5<sup>th</sup> (1:00 p.m. through 5:00 p.m.) and 6<sup>th</sup> (8:00 a.m. through 12:00 p.m.) in St. Petersburg at the Florida Fish & Wildlife Institute, 100 Eighth Avenue SE. For more specific information, please contact Mr. Ken Weaver (FDEP's Numeric Nutrient Criteria Coordinator) at [kenneth.weaver@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:kenneth.weaver@dep.state.fl.us). Please note this meeting is being held in conjunction with a Gulf of Mexico Alliance meeting (June 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 6<sup>th</sup>) also focusing on estuarine and coastal nutrient criteria. (<http://www2.nos.noaa.gov/gomex/upcoming/welcome.html>). Please contact FLERA Board member Kevin Carter (Broward County, [kcarter@broward.org](mailto:kcarter@broward.org)) who has been a numeric nutrient criteria TAC member since its inception if you would like a local governmental perspective on the process to date.

## **EPA Revises Ozone Air Quality Index**

On March 12, 2008, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) revised its Air Quality Index (AQI) for ozone to reflect changes to the national ambient air quality standards for ground-level ozone. These revisions address AQI ozone range categories such as "good," "moderate," "unhealthy for sensitive groups," and "unhealthy." Under the revisions, ozone levels above 0.075 ppm are considered in the "unhealthy for sensitive groups" category. At these levels, EPA recommends certain groups such as children and adults who are active outdoors, people with asthma and other lung diseases, and older adults adjust their activity levels to reduce their ozone exposure. For more information visit <http://www.epa.gov/groundlevelozone>.

## **U.S. Department of Energy Selects Orlando as a "Solar City"**

On April 23, 2008, the City of Orlando, with Orange County Government and Orlando Utilities Commission, announced that it has been selected as one of 12 Solar American Cities by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and will receive a grant of \$200,000 for two years to increase the use of solar technology and the amount of renewable energy. See the complete story in the Orlando Sentinel at <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/local/orange/orl-solar2408apr24.0.516403.story>.

## **Jacksonville Begins Remediation Program**

The City of Jacksonville operated municipal waste incinerators from the 1910s until the 1960s at two locations. Ash from the incinerators was disposed onsite and at two offsite facilities. The ash, mixed with sand, was used by area residents as fill for potholes and low lying residential areas. Subsequent testing in the 1980s and 1990s showed that some of the ash had elevated lead levels. The City, under the direction of EPA, conducted remedial investigations and feasibility studies of these four sites to determine the extent of ash-lead contamination and to determine a remedy for the cleanup. The remedy will include excavation of up to two feet of ash-lead contaminated soil, followed by clean fill and landscaping. The City of Jacksonville has selected a program director team to oversee the project and is currently working on the selection of design-build teams to conduct the clean up. For the entire story see <http://www.flera.org/pdf/JaxProgram.pdf>.

## **Welcome New Members!**

FLERA welcomes new members: Katie Laakkonen, City of Naples; Jennifer Bramley, City of Tamarac; and Kimball Love, Tetra Tech, Stuart.