



FLERA FOCUS!

Florida Local Environmental Resource Agencies

www.flera.org

Volume 3, Issue 4

FLERA and Orange County Enter into Training Partnership

FLERA has partnered with the Orange County Environmental Protection Division to provide training services on various aspects and topics concerning sustainability. The first of the series of workshops are on Solar Hot Water System Financial Incentives, and why going solar is a smart choice for Florida residents and commercial business owners. They are scheduled for the following locations and dates:

Winter Garden City Hall

300 W. Plant Street, 34787
Date: Saturday, September 27, 2008
Time: 9-11 A.M.
Register by: Monday, September 22, 2008

Orange County Extension Education Center

6021 S. Conway Road, 32812
Date: Saturday, October 11, 2008
Time: 9-11 A.M.
Register by: Monday, October 6, 2008

Topics will include: Energy Efficiency in Your Home; Types of Solar Systems; Financial Incentives; etc. All registered attendees will be eligible for door prizes. Families are welcome! Space is limited, so be sure to reserve your space early! Register by contacting Marcia Clark or Beth Bromfield at (407) 836-1400 or OrangetoGreen@ocfl.net.

Bylaws Amended and Board of Directors Elected at Annual Membership Meeting

The Annual Business Meeting of FLERA was held earlier this month. The membership approved revisions to the Bylaws that expand the membership of the Board of Directors to nine persons: Seven government representatives who select an additional two private-sector members of the Board. Newly elected officers are: President - Lori Cunniff (Orange County); Vice President - Rob Brown (Manatee County); Secretary-Treasurer - Ebenezer Gujjarlappudi (Jacksonville/Duval). Other members of the Board include: Immediate Past President - Andy Squires (Pinellas County), and Rick Tschantz (Hillsborough County), Mike Bowers (Lake County) and Rich Walesky (Palm Beach County). Two private sector members will be chosen by the Board later this year.

Board Finalizing Action Plan for 2009

The FLERA Board of Directors is completing work on an Action Plan for 2009, looking at new and expanded services for the membership. The Plan will be released in September. In addition to the cooperative training sessions with Orange County (*above*), the Board voted to suspend the planned dues increase for 2009 due to the downturn in the economy and the passage of Amendment 1. (Remember that the membership had voted to adopt a dues rate increase beginning in 2008 and continuing for three years.) Look for the detailed Action Plan late next month.

FLERA Representatives Update on FDEP Advisory Committees

Statewide Stormwater Treatment Rule

The Advisory Committee was created to provide guidance and comments concerning significant revisions to stormwater treatment regulations that are being planned by FDEP. The Committee has been meeting for the past several months. FDEP hopes to begin the rulemaking process in early 2009. Their next meeting is scheduled for September 15th and 16th in Orlando. Jack Merriam (Sarasota County) is FLERA's representative on the TAC and can be reached at 941/861-0804 or jmerriam@scgov.net. His PPT presentation to the FLERA Board can be found at <http://www.flera.org/pdf/SWTAC.pdf>. Information on the proposed revisions can be found at http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/wetlands/erp/rules/stormwater/rule_docs.htm.

Water Resources Monitoring Council

FDEP has the responsibility to establish data and monitoring standards that are used in water quality programs. The Water Resources Monitoring Council was created to advise the Department to help link existing monitoring programs with expanded coastal and ocean monitoring efforts to form a comprehensive, integrated monitoring program. Specific directions to the Council include the development of water resource metadata standards for adoption by state agencies, support for the replacement of STORET, and coordination of Florida's ongoing fresh water monitoring with new coastal monitoring network and with local and federal monitoring programs. Rob Brown (Manatee County) is FLERA representative on the Council and can be reached at 941/742-5980 or rob.brown@mymanatee.org. Visit <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/coastal/WaterMonitoringCouncil/> for more information.

"Providing Community-Based Environmental Protection"