



FLERA FOCUS!

Florida Local Environmental Resource Agencies

www.flera.org

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Legislative Session Begins Tuesday, March 3rd

FLERA has developed its 2009 Legislative Policy Statement. The Association's position is identified for Regulatory Reform, Environmental Finance, Delegation of Environmental Permitting, and Fertilizer and Landscaping. To view go to "Legislative Policy Statement" at <http://www.flera.org/legislative.html>.

Be sure to attend **FLERA's Legislative Day** on March 26, 2009. A legislative briefing will be presented from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Sittig Hall in the Florida League of Cities building (301 South Bronough Street) at Kleman Plaza in downtown Tallahassee. Immediately following the briefing, you will have the opportunity to visit with the members of your Legislative Delegation at the Capitol. Complete the registration form on the same link as above and fax it to the FLERA office at (850) 222-4124. There is no cost to attend but you must register before March 20, 2009.

Mark your Calendars for the Annual Conference July 29-31, 2009

This year's Conference will be held at the recently renovated Hyatt Regency Sarasota on July 29- 31, 2009. The conference theme is *Climate Change and Local Government, Roles Responsibilities and Opportunities* focusing on the role of local governments as Florida addresses the critical issue of climate change. **The deadline to submit a presentation is today, February 27, 2009!** Visit the FLERA website at <http://www.flera.org/conference.html> for more information including an application to submit a presentation.

Green Infrastructure Webcast on March 24th

The second in a series of six Green Infrastructure webcasts will be on March 24 from 1:00PM - 3:00PM eastern with Abby Hall, EPA, talking about "Revising Local Plans, Codes and Ordinances" and Chris Kloss, Low Impact Development Center and Bill Davis, Progressive Design and Planning will be talking about "Water Harvesting." Registration for this webcast will open approximately March 10. Go to www.epa.gov/npdes/training for registration information.

Stimulus Plan Will Create Sustainable Jobs That Will Protect Public Health

The economic recovery plan signed by President Obama is expected to create 3 to 4 million quality, sustainable jobs with many protecting our country's public health and our environment. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 specifically includes \$7.22 billion for projects and programs administered by EPA. These programs will protect and promote both green jobs and a healthier environment. These environmental areas include:

- Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund: \$4 billion for assistance to help communities with water quality and wastewater infrastructure needs and \$2 billion for drinking water infrastructure needs. A portion of the funding will be targeted toward green infrastructure, water and energy efficiency, and environmentally innovative projects.
- Brownfields: \$100 million for competitive grants to evaluate and clean up former industrial and commercial sites.
- Diesel Emissions Reduction: \$300 million for grants and loans to help regional, state and local governments, tribal agencies, and non-profit organizations with projects that reduce diesel emissions.
- Superfund Hazardous Waste Cleanup: \$600 million for the cleanup of hazardous sites.
- Leaking Underground Storage Tanks: \$200 million for cleanup of petroleum leaks from underground storage tanks.

All funding will be monitored by EPA's Inspector General. Announcements of grants will be posted on the Web to ensure transparency. For more information, including the state-by-state distributions for clean water and drinking water state revolving funds: <http://www.epa.gov/recovery>. Contact Enesta Jones at 202-564-7873 or jones.enesta@epa.gov for more information on the article.

Green Cities Florida - Sustainable Solutions for Business and Government

May 19-21, 2009 - Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, Florida - GreenCities Florida, has been created to deliver to governments and businesses an impressive, relevant and interactive experience to equip and empower sustainable decision making.

This conference will give businesses, community organizations, municipalities and public agencies the tools and resources they need to shift their policies, operations, and materials in ways that save money, generate jobs, and protect the environment. Please visit: www.greencities.com for more information.

WATER QUALITY...

The health of all plants and animals in the marine ecosystem rely on good WATER QUALITY. Thus, it is important to understand baselines and trends... enter Florida International University's Southeastern Environmental Research Center. Click on the following links to view the videos:

Part 1 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UwOaPIhtiXA;>

Part 2 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5vMBtSQd2yg&feature=related>

Part 3 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQslq6kyjiQ&feature=related>