



FLERA FOCUS!

Florida Local Environmental Resource Agencies

Your *RESOURCE* for Environmental Protection

www.flera.org

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Meet at the FLERA Annual Conference

This year's Conference theme, *Sustainability & Local Government: Roles, Responsibilities & Opportunities*, focuses on local governments' role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, encouraging sustainability in government and your community, and preparing for the impact of climate change in the years to come. You won't find a better training value! FLERA members that register before July 1st will pay only \$255 for:

- 2 ½-days of training and networking opportunities!
- Access to over 40 speakers and 27 training sessions!
- A pre-conference guided tour of Mote Marine Laboratory (all spots have been reserved – waitlist only)!
- Two concurrent workshop tracks focusing on local government issues such as Water Resources, Air Quality, Growth Management and Resource Management!
- A Dinner Reception with exclusive access to Mote Marine's Aquarium!
- Invaluable opportunities to learn from your peers around the state!

Early-bird registration deadline is July 1st! Several additional discounts are available, including an option to register 3 people from the same organization and get the 4th free! FLERA is proud to invite members of our Conference Partners, the **Florida Association of Environmental Professionals** (FAEP) and the **Florida Green Building Coalition** (FGBC) to join us at the Conference and receive the FLERA member-rate! View the agenda and registration forms at <http://www.flera.org/conference.html>.

Lake County Volunteers Participate in St. Johns River Cleanup

More than 440 volunteers attended the 13th Annual St. Johns River Cleanup and collected 14 tons of trash, including 17 volunteers who joined the County's Department of Environmental Utilities in collecting 1,100 pounds of trash. For more information about the Annual St. Johns River Cleanup, log on to <http://www.volusia.org/cleanup/stjohns.htm> or contact Mike Bowers at (352) 343-3776.

Addition to Improve Water-Quality Lab Services

Construction on a 750-square-foot addition to the Lake County's Water Quality Services Division's lab began in February and is expected to be completed by July. The addition to the existing 1,900 square-foot lab will help streamline the Division's operations. The lab is certified by the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program and conducts water-quality tests for groundwater, surface water, springs, drinking water and industrial wastewater. The project includes replacing the roof on the entire building, repainting the structure and updating the lab's air handling system. For more information about the Lab, please call (352) 253-1659.

Grant Opportunities:

Renewable and Energy Efficiency Improvements

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is requesting proposals for Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements. This program will provide support to agricultural producers and rural small businesses to purchase and install renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements. \$51.6 million is expected to be available and up to 1,100 awards anticipated. Responses are due 7/31/09. For more information including regional contacts go to <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-12178.pdf>.

\$10 Million in First EPA Grants to Develop Climate Change Showcase Communities

EPA is announcing the availability of up to \$10 million in first of its kind, "Climate Showcase Communities" grants to local and tribal governments to establish and implement climate change initiatives that will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The agency expects to award approximately 30 cooperative agreements, each one ranging from \$100,000 to \$500,000. Approximately 5 percent of the funds (\$500,000) are set-asides for tribal governments. Proposals are due by July 22, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. EDT. Grants are expected to be awarded in January 2010. Click on <http://epa.gov/cleanenergy/energy-programs/state-and-local/showcase.html> for more information.

For more information on other grant opportunities, visit the FLERA links page at <http://www.flera.org/links.html>

Lee County Floats a Weir Replacement

When unable to conduct traditional littoral plantings along the banks of a stormwater pond as part of a weir replacement project, Lee County decided to look at an interesting alternative that involved installing those same plants in a floating mat system. This system eliminated the problem of fluctuating water levels that plague standard bank plantings and promoted the possibility of additional nutrient uptake associated with root systems growing in the actual water column. The mats were installed in July, 2008. The visual results were encouraging and Lee County has developed a plan for the upcoming growing season to quantify the amount of nitrogen and phosphorus removed from the water by these floating mat systems. For more information please contact Wanda Wooten at wootenws@leegov.com.

"Providing Community-Based Environmental Protection"