

## **Volusia County's GreenVolusia Program**

In 2008, the Volusia County Council initiated the GreenVolusia program to promote the sustainable use of county resources and to educate citizens about conservation. "Volusia County has a proud history of preserving natural resources and maintaining environmental integrity," said County Chair Frank Bruno. "Now, more than ever, it is important to balance environmental and economic considerations in our daily operations. We sincerely believe that through innovative policies, Volusia County can continue to be a leader in sustainability and create positive change that will benefit our citizens now and in the future. In our efforts we will rely heavily on a continuing dialogue with the entire community. To make the Green Volusia program a true success, we will include the environmental, agriculture, business, development and tourism interests in our county. We encourage everyone to get involved so we can continue moving toward a sustainable future and leave our children with a community they can be proud of."

County leaders identified key staff in each department to form a committee dedicated to promoting greener practices throughout Volusia County. The Volusia County Council's primary directives for the GreenVolusia committee were to bring forward an ordinance encouraging the use of green building practices within the county, measure and reduce the county's carbon footprint, and attain a Green Local Government Certification from the Florida Green Building Coalition.

The GreenVolusia program gained momentum when the county received more than \$2.4 million for energy sustainability and job creation under Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program. The grant allows the county to identify energy efficiency improvements that will result in substantial reductions in energy usage and costs and to provide long-term sustainable benefits to the community as a whole. Through EECBG funding, the GreenVolusia program has expanded to include dedicated staff members to further the County Council's mission.

Since its inception, the GreenVolusia program has successfully implemented the Volusia County Council's goals and more. On December 17, 2009, the County Council adopted a green building incentive program to encourage green building practices in unincorporated Volusia County. County staff submitted a Florida Green Building Coalition application for Green Local Government designation on June 7, 2010, and anticipate award of silver level certification in 2010. In addition, an investment grade energy audit, along with a climate action plan, will be completed in 2010. This audit will be used to evaluate opportunities to reduce the county-wide carbon footprint. Through these efforts, the GreenVolusia program has, and will continue to, create positive change benefiting our citizens now and into the future. To learn more about the program, visit [www.greenvolusia.org](http://www.greenvolusia.org) or contact Ginger Adair at [GAdair@co.volusia.fl.us](mailto:GAdair@co.volusia.fl.us).