



**SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA
324 EAST PINE STREET
2ND FLOOR MEDIA ROOM**

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2024
AT 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

MINUTES

1. Approval of November 2024 meeting minutes

PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION

1. Climate Action Plan: Clean Energy Connection and Vehicle Electrification
2. Upcoming Meetings- Membership and Schedule

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING AGENDA

STAFF COMMENTS

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

This meeting is open to the public. Any person who decides to appeal any decision of the Board with respect to any matter considered at this meeting will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. The City of Tarpon Springs is committed to providing reasonable accommodation for access for the disabled. Anyone needing assistance regarding this meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at (727) 938-3711, fax a written request to (727) 942-5619, or email a written request to cityclerk@ctsfl.us at least two days prior to the meeting. For further information regarding this meeting, please contact the Code Enforcement Division at (727) 937-0017 or TarponCode@tspd.us

MINUTES
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS
NOVEMBER 21, 2024

THE SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MET IN THE CITY HALL MEDIA ROOM, 324 E. PINE STREET, TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA, ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2024, AT 6:00 P.M., WITH THE FOLLOWING PRESENT:

DENISE MANNINO	CHAIRPERSON
DR. CAROL MICKETT	MEMBER
SIOBAHN NEHIN	ALTERNATE MEMBER

ALSO PRESENT:	THOMAS KIGER	DIRECTOR -PUBLIC SERVICES
	HOLLY LANGSTON	SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Denise Mannino called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Holly Langston called roll.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 2024 MINUTES:

MOTION:	DR. CAROL MICKETT
SECOND:	SIOBHAN NEHIN

To approve the minutes of September 2024 Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting.

Vote on motion: Upon viva voce vote, the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No public present.

DISCUSSION

1. VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT – POST HURRICANE UPDATE: THOMAS KIGER

Mr. Kiger presented on the topic of the City's Vulnerability Assessment and how the flood modeling matched up with the impacts seen from Hurricane Helene. First Mr. Kiger noted that the Vulnerability Assessment and Action Plan (VAAP) is still under review by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Once this study report is accepted, there are plans to add updates or use information from the VAAP to create a Resilience Plan. It was

Sustainability Advisory Committee

noted that the City experienced a 9 foot storm surge and there were significant impacts to some city services; especially wastewater. There were many lift stations impacted by flooding, and one by fire. Additionally, the rising floodwater was only about 18 inches from causing a major equipment impact at the Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant. During Hurricane Helene, there was not a flood barrier available, but during Milton, the state was able to provide the City with a 36-inch high Tiger Dam to protect the electrical systems at the AWWTP. The lessons learned include real impacts of unprecedented storm surge, and how to best prepare in the future. The City must focus on infrastructure resilience; including hardening facilities and possible adaptations- resilience is all about how quickly can the City bounce back and resume its operations. Committee Members commented that they were impressed with how well the City got services back online. There was a brief conversation about emergency services and the need to heed Emergency Warnings and Mandatory Evacuations.

2. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN UPDATE- HOLLY LANGSTON

Ms. Langston presented to the Committee the background and work done so far in creating a Climate Action Plan (CAP) for the City. The creation of a CAP was an Action established in the Sustainability Plan. Therefore, this is an implementation of the Sustainability Plan- putting it into action. ICLEI has served as the consultant and is responsible for the technical work to support any reduction targets or goals that are established. Ms. Langston shared the City's baseline carbon dioxide (CO₂e) emissions from 2019 data and three reduction scenarios modeled by ICLEI. The City's ability to decrease emissions significantly relies on the goal of Duke Energy to reduce emissions to net zero by 2050. The City's emissions reduce 82% based on Duke's future reductions. The other areas in which the City has the highest potential to reduce its emissions are the City's vehicle fleet and by producing its own clean energy to partially or fully power some facilities. Fleet Electrification and Solar Installations are the two policy areas that rise to the top as far as where the City can make changes to its emissions. The report will include policies and projects that are actionable items for the City as well as an in-depth discussion on the real impacts of current and future threats due to climate change.

3. UPCOMING MEETINGS SCHEDULE

Ms. Langston checked in with the Committee members regarding their availability for December and January meetings. At the time of the meeting, all members are available for the next meeting scheduled on December 19, 2024. The December meeting will proceed as planned. Dr. Carol Mickett is unsure of her availability for the January meeting, so we will revisit this topic at the December meeting, as all three members are required to be present to have a quorum.

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING AGENDA:

- Climate Action Plan- draft document (depends on readiness)
- Sustainability Plan Actions update- solar feasibility study
- Floodplain Manager- Megan Araya (if available)

STAFF COMMENTS:

Staff provided the Committee members with information on the Main Street Program – there was a kickoff meeting happening at the same time as this meeting. However, staff plans to keep the members posted on whether there will be a second meeting or if there is a packet of information that can be passed onto them. Staff also announced the hiring of a Sustainability Intern who will hopefully be starting in December.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Committee Comments regarding flooding in and around city as well as curiosities on County Parks Facilities status post-storm. Dr. Mickett commented that numerous people lost vehicles and is interested in the City possibly designating a parking area on high ground that residents may be able to use in order to protect their vehicles when storm surge flooding is expected. This is a topic that the Emergency Managers could consider.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: DR. CAROL MICKETT
SECOND: SIOBHAN NEHIN

To adjourn the meeting at 7:32 PM.

Vote on motion: Upon viva voce vote, the motion carried unanimously.

DENISE MANNINO
CHAIRPERSON

THOMAS KIGER
DIRECTOR –
PUBLIC SERVICES

CITY CLERK'S NOTE: This meeting has been recorded in its entirety and the recordings are kept on file in the City Clerk's office for the required retention period.



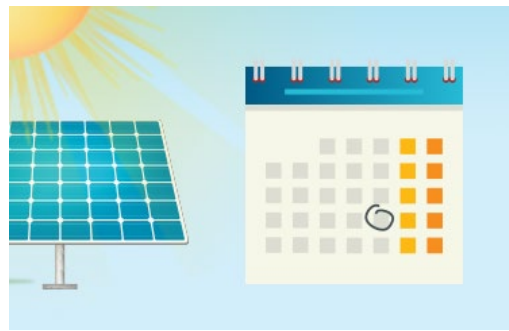
CLIMATE ACTION PLAN: CLEAN ENERGY CONNECTION AND TRANSPORTATION ELECTRIFICATION

WHAT IS THE CLEAN ENERGY CONNECTION?



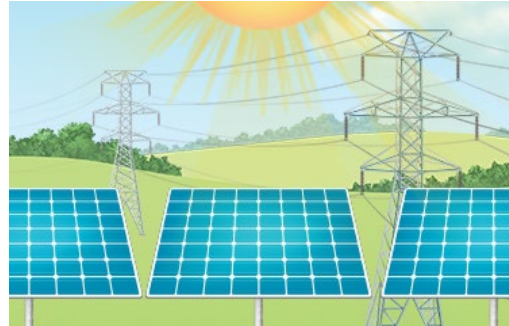
Duke Energy's Clean Energy Connection is a program that lets residential and business customers in Florida support renewable energy, subscribe to solar power and earn credits toward their electricity bills – all without equipment installation or maintenance. The program operates according to a “shared solar” model, which means that solar power generating sites are supported by multiple community subscribers who earn bill credits based on the renewable energy their subscription share produces. Our subscription helps support solar plants here in Florida and add more clean renewable energy to the grid.

HOW DOES CLEAN ENERGY CONNECTION WORK?



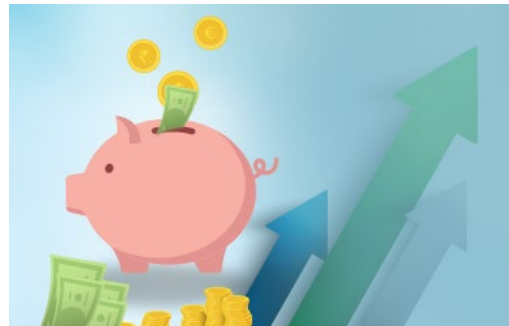
1. Join Clean Energy Connection

Participants pay a monthly fee for a portion of solar energy generated by large-scale solar centers. The subscription can be up to 100% of your 12-month historical energy use.



2. Generate Solar Energy

Clean solar electricity is generated by solar centers throughout Florida then is fed into Duke Energy's electric grid.



3. Earn Bill Credits

Your participation earns credits that are applied directly to your monthly bill. Credits grow over the life of your subscription.



4. Share in Sustainability

Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) will be retired based on your participation (dependent on available blocks and annual energy consumption). A REC represents 1 MWh of renewable energy

WHERE ARE THE CEC SOLAR FACILITIES LOCATED?

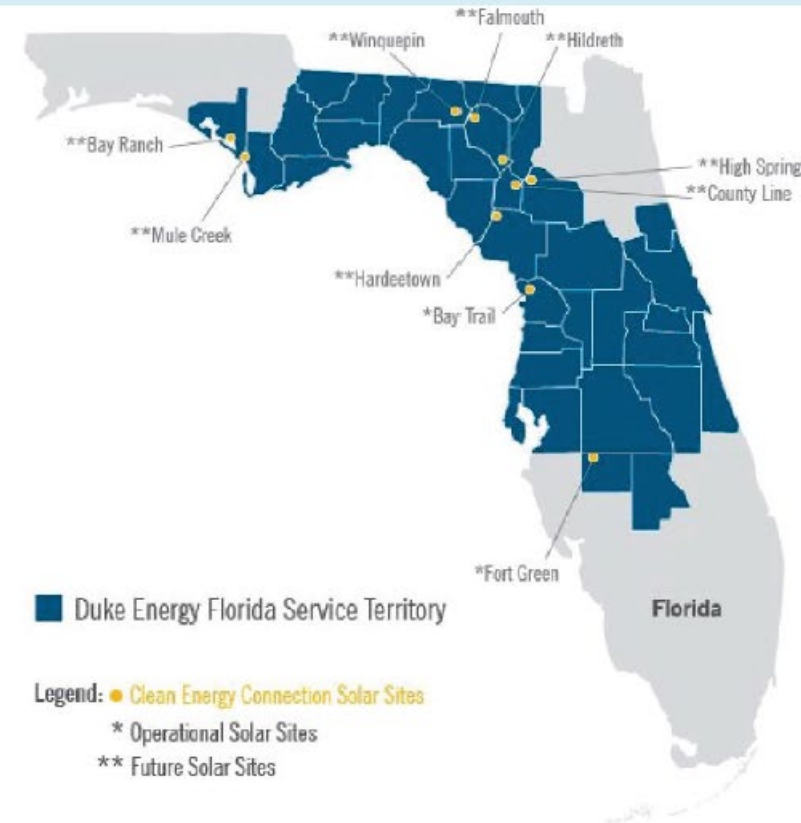
In total Clean Energy Connection has 10 solar centers, each approximately 400-500 acres in size.

Clean Energy Connection

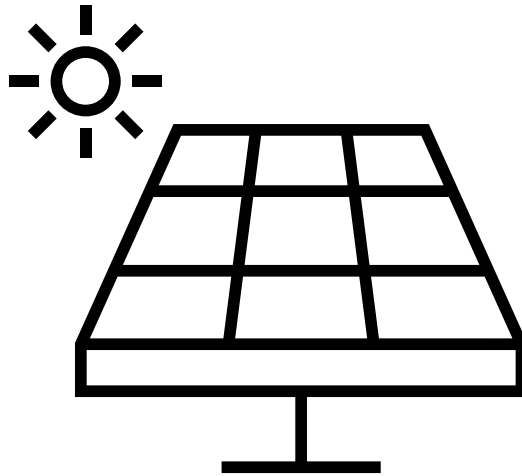
How will this adverse weather events such as hurricanes affect program participants again in the future?

- Projected In-Service Dates:
 - Site #1 – Bay Trail (June 22' | Billing Aug/Sept 22')
 - Site #2 – Ft. Green (June 22' | Billing Aug/Sept 22')
 - Site #3 – Bay Ranch (April 23' | Billing June/July 23')
 - Site #4 – Hildreth (April 23' | Billing June/July 23')
 - Site #5 – Hardeetown (April 23' | Billing June/July 23')
 - Site #6 – High Springs (April 23' | Billing June/July 23')
 - Site #7 – Mule Creek (Early 2024)
 - Site #8 – Winkiepin (Early 2024)
 - Site #9 – Falmouth (Early 2024)
 - Site #10 – County Line (Mid to Late 2024)

** Timelines are dependent on construction process which are subject to change*



HOW THE CITY PARTICIPATES



The City's three largest energy consuming accounts are subscribed to the Clean Energy Connection for the maximum allowable amount (the demand amount that matches the previous 12 months of energy usage for each account at the time of subscription). These three accounts include:

- Two at the Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment Plant
- One at the Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant

EFFECTIVE IMPACT OF CITY CEC SUBSCRIPTIONS

	Clean Energy Connection			
	Total Fees	Total Credits	Total Net Cost	Number of MWh/REC
2022	\$ 24,624	\$ 18,278	\$ 6,346	452
2023	\$ 122,044	\$ 97,814	\$ 24,229	2,422
S1* 2024	\$ 197,862	\$ 186,203	\$ 11,658	4,612
Total	\$ 344,529	\$ 302,296	\$ 42,234	7,486

* January - June

- 2022 - Beginning of program, only 2 accounts subscribed, few Duke Energy solar facilities online
- 2023 - More solar facilities came online; subscription fees and RECs increased as more solar was produced
- June 2024 - 8/10 solar facilities online, City has retired 7,486 *Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs)*
- By end of 2024, all 10 solar facilities in the CEC will be online, and all three City subscriptions are maximized
- 2024 annual estimate of 9224 RECs retired equates to **63% of City energy needs!** (compared to 2019 baseline)
- City will begin seeing Return on Investment in next couple of years- credits exceed fees

2019 baseline: 14,512 MWh

VEHICLE/FLEET ELECTRIFICATION



TRANSPORTATION ELECTRIFICATION SUMMARY



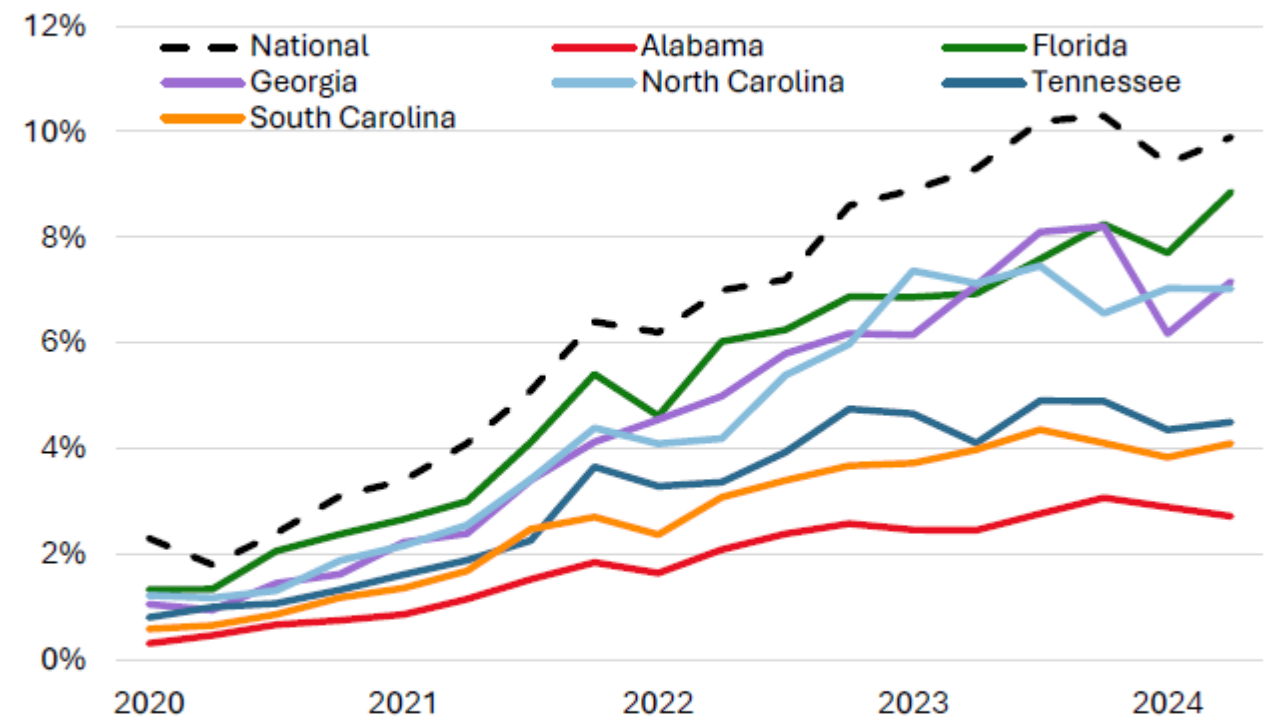
* Southeastern Alliance for Clean Energy and Atlas Public Policy – Fifth Annual Report 2024)

*Florida specific data is supplemental to the “Transportation Electrification in the Southeast” 2024 report by Atlas Public Policy and the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy.

- On the federal level, policies and regulations have contributed to a growing EV market nationwide. In 2024, the EPA finalized the strongest-ever vehicle emissions standards for light, medium, and heavy-duty vehicles to protect public health and address the climate crisis.
- Over the past year, vehicle manufacturers—both domestic and international—have significantly increased their investments in EV manufacturing facilities in the United States, often leveraging federal tax credits provided by the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).
- The last 12 months in the Southeast have seen significant growth in electric vehicle (EV) adoption and EV charging deployment.
- EV sales in the Southeast continue to grow, and while all states trail the national average, Florida is not far from that benchmark.
- Florida has not kept pace with other southeastern states in manufacturing investment or jobs.
- Florida is #5 out of 6 southeastern states in public funding.
- Signed into law on May 1st, Senate Bill 1084 preempts the state to regulate EV charging stations, meaning local governments may no longer enforce regulations and ordinances around EV charging.
- Florida has more EVs on the road than any other state except California; however, the state is one of 12 nationally that has yet to initiate the contracting process for NEVI-funded charging stations. (NEVI - National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure)

EV SALES TRENDS IN
THE SOUTHEAST VS
NATIONAL

Figure 5. EV Sales Market Share for Light-Duty Vehicles in the Southeast



This figure depicts EV sales as a percentage of new light-duty vehicle sales from 2020 to the end of June 2024. EV includes both BEV and PHEV sales.

Source: [Atlas EV Hub](#) [3] for the Southern Alliance on Clean Energy



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTIONS

- Establish policies regarding evaluating vehicles for replacement by EV (in the Climate Action Plan)
- Expand the local charging infrastructure
 - Deploy new public and workforce chargers
 - Ensure government facilities are capable of supporting chargers
- Maintain chargers
- Promote/incentivize local private investment in charging infrastructure
- Engage with the public through events such as touch a truck where people can see the EVs and hybrids in its fleet

FUNDING POTENTIAL



- Local government budgeting process to request funds and include new vehicle purchases (coordinate with Fleet)
- Tax credits: rebates for Electric Vehicles and charging infrastructure are available through the Inflation Reduction Act (funding will hopefully remain intact)
- Duke Energy has an EV charging rebate program – contingent on meeting metering and timing requirements
- Future re-investment of Tax credit rebates from solar array into ongoing clean energy transition initiatives (filing in 2025; payment anticipated in 2026)

NEXT STEPS

As public funding continues to be disbursed in the Southeast, ongoing policy support is crucial.

More proactive policy measures taken now at the state and local level will ensure that Southeast residents and fleet operators reap the rewards of better public health, a cleaner environment, and a thriving economy made possible by transportation electrification.

Seek additional funding to accelerate the potential for bringing clean energy projects to the City of Tarpon Springs.