



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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025
AT 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

MINUTES

1. Approval of November 2024 Meeting Minutes

PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION

1. Urban Forest Management Plan Overview and Vision Statement - Shannon Brewer
2. Climate Action Plan Tools for Emissions Reductions - Holly Langston
3. Practice Presentation for BOC Sustainability Committee Review of 2024 - Denise Mannino

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

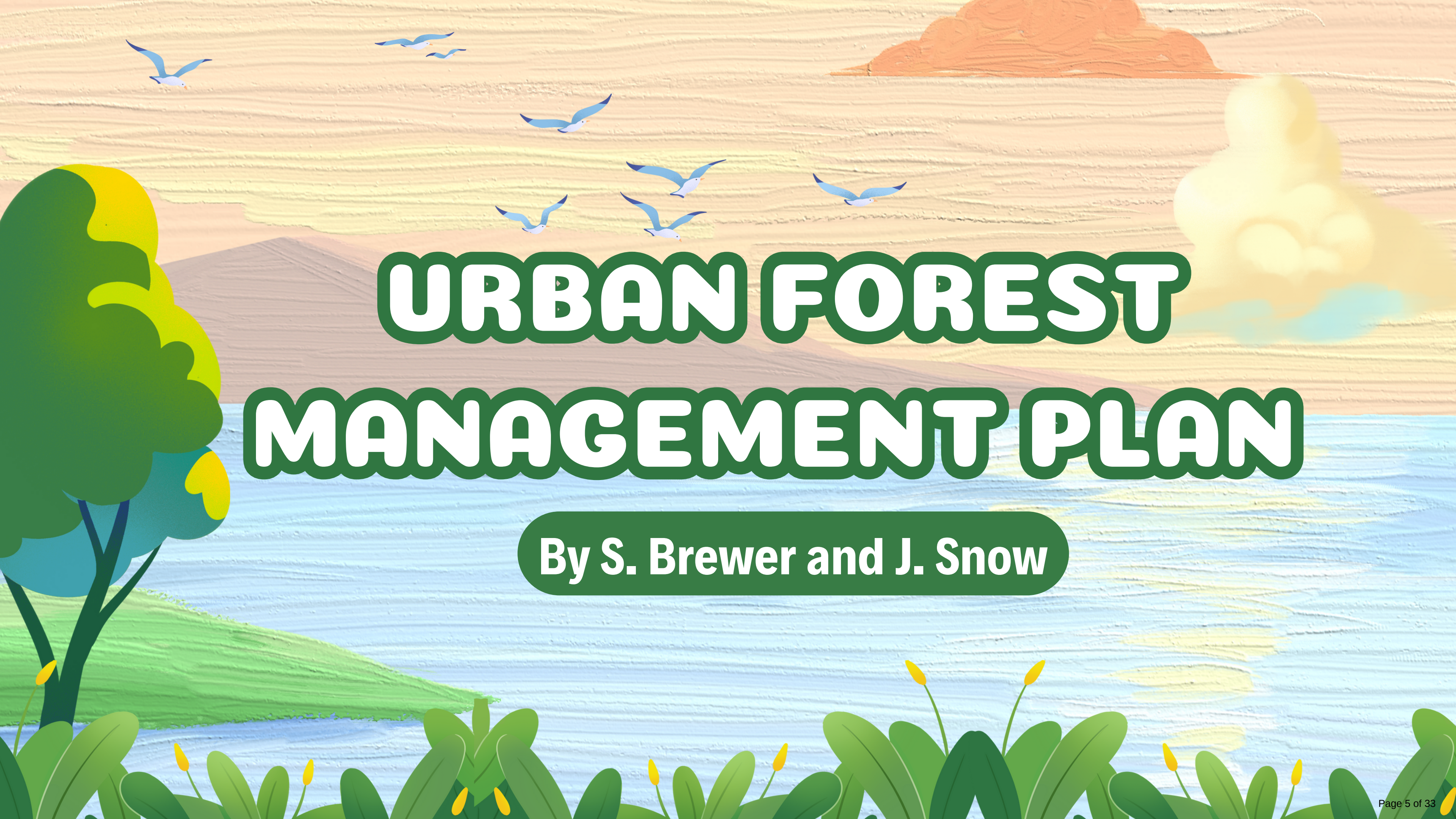
To adjourn the meeting at 7:32 PM.

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.



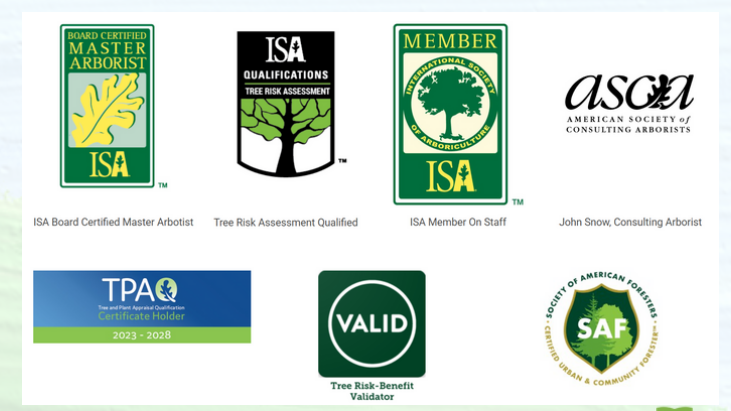
URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

By S. Brewer and J. Snow

INTRODUCTIONS



John Snow



Tree Checkup LLC has been chosen as the contractor to provide advice and collaborate on the Urban Forest Management Plan, which is part of the three-year grant from FDACS and the Florida Forest Service.



PROJECT TIMELINE

JAN - MARCH 2025

- Kick off meeting
- Review City plans for UFMP themes
- Define vision statement
- Define UFMP goals
- Write first draft

APRIL - JUNE 2025

- Determine consensus for second draft from SAC, TRC and City leadership
- Bring second draft to SAC for feedback
- Final draft to City leadership



VISION STATEMENT

1. Our vision is a thriving, sustainable urban forest that enhances quality of life and protects natural heritage. By improving stormwater management, reducing urban heat, and enhancing air quality, we aim for measurable outcomes that create a healthier, greener, and more resilient future inclusive of all residents of Tarpon Springs.

2. Our vision is to create a thriving, inclusive urban forest that protects heritage, enhances the environment, improves stormwater management, and delivers measurable, sustainable outcomes for the community.

3. Our vision is to create a thriving urban forest that protects and preserves the natural environment, honors cultural and ecological heritage, and fosters inclusivity by engaging the community in its stewardship. Through thoughtful planning, equitable collaboration, and innovative practices, we will cultivate green spaces that enrich the lives of current and future generations.

DISCUSSION

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Consensus Building and Voting Method for Statement Selection

- **Begin by taking a roll call to gauge which member prefers which statement.**
- **Remove the least favored statement from consideration.**
- **Facilitate a group discussion on the two statements that remain.**
- **Reach a consensus to select one statement.**
- **Conduct a vote to adopt the UFMP statement.**



NEXT STEPS

- **Discuss with committee No Net Canopy Loss vs. 3–30–300 Rule to assess urban forest access in Florida**
- **Create and adopt 5 goals and outcomes for UFMP**



THANK YOU



CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

TOOLS FOR EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

An aerial photograph of a coastal town at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the water and the town. The town is built on a peninsula, with houses and buildings visible. The water is calm, reflecting the sunset. A green text box with a white border is overlaid on the image, containing the text: OVERVIEW: HOW THE CITY WILL ACHIEVE EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS.

OVERVIEW:
HOW THE CITY WILL ACHIEVE
EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS FROM
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
OPERATIONS

- The primary actions to reduce local government GHGs will be:
 - Continued participation in the CEC
 - Fleet Electrification
 - Solar installations
-
- Building Retrofits
 - Small Engine Electrification
 - Trees!!

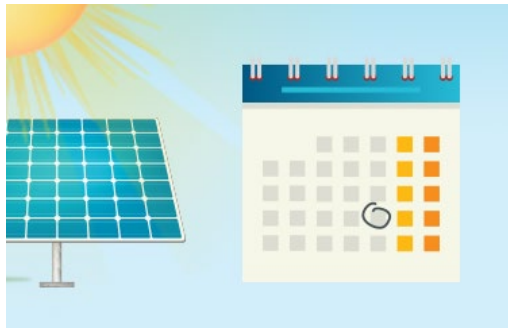
CLEAN ENERGY CONNECTION



Duke Energy's Clean Energy Connection 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.

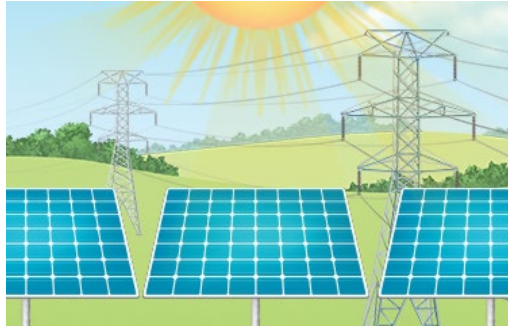
The program operates according to a “shared solar” model, which means that solar power generating sites are supported by multiple community subscribers who earn bill credits based on the renewable energy their subscription share produces. Our subscription helps support solar plants in Florida and add 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.

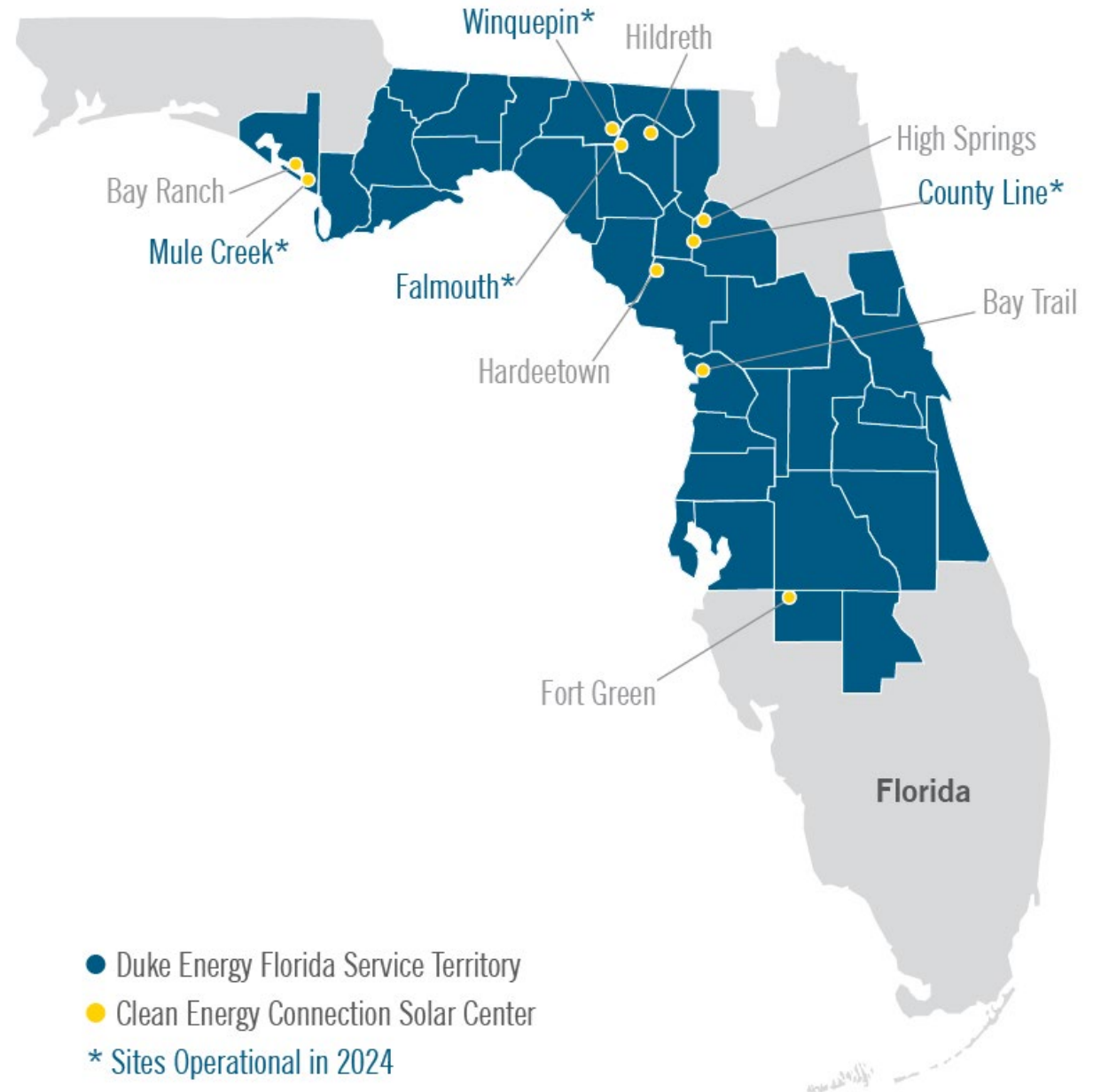


4. Share in Sustainability

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

CEC SOLAR LOCATIONS

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



HOW THE CITY PARTICIPATES

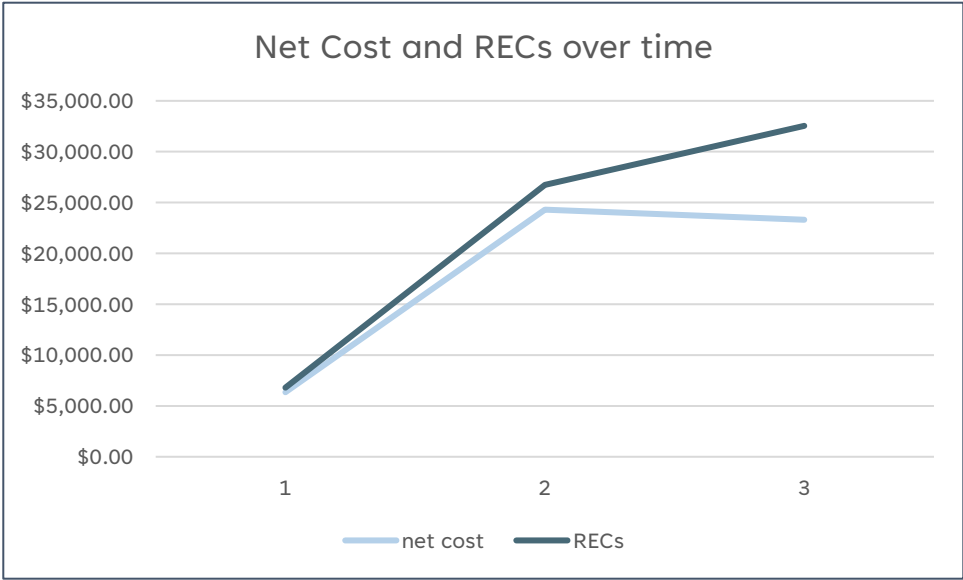


The City's three largest energy consuming accounts are subscribed to the Clean Energy Connection for the maximum allowable amount (the demand amount that matches the previous 12 months of energy usage for each account at the time of subscription).

These accounts include:

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

EFFECTIVE IMPACT OF CITY CEC SUBSCRIPTIONS



- 2022 - Beginning of program, 2 City accounts subscribed, few Duke Energy solar facilities online
- 2023 - More solar facilities came online; subscription fees and RECs increased as more solar was produced
- January 2024 – increased subscription to 3 City accounts
- Year end 2024, all 10 solar facilities in the CEC online; all three City subscriptions *maximized*
- 2024 annual estimate of 9224 RECs retired equates to **63% of City energy needs!** (compared to 2019 baseline)
- City Return on Investment - possibly as soon as fall 2025 credits may exceed fees

VEHICLE/FLEET ELECTRIFICATION

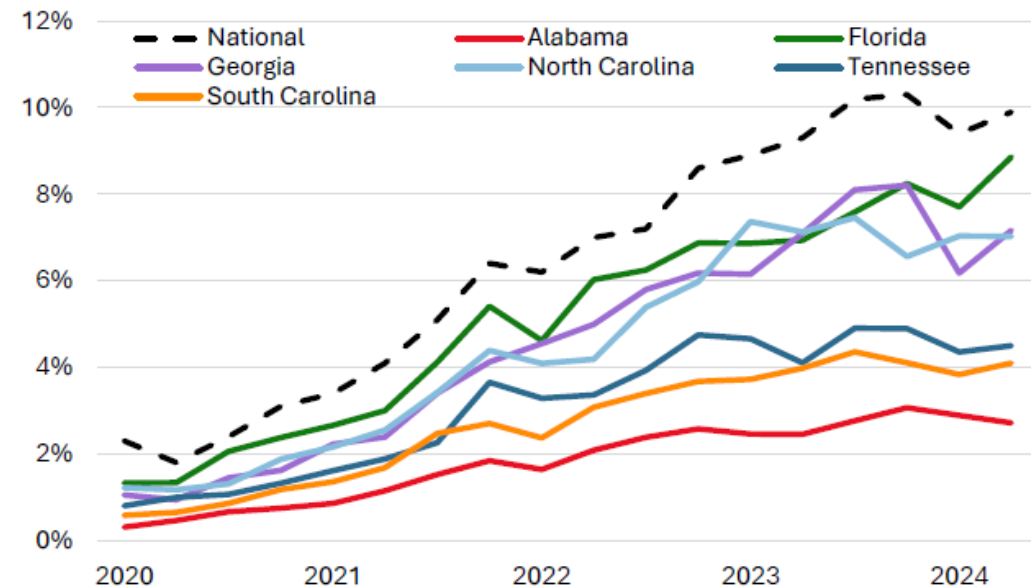


TRANSPORTATION ELECTRIFICATION



- 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. (National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure)
- Signed into law on May 1st, Senate Bill 1084 preempts the regulation of EV charging stations; local governments may not enforce regulations and ordinances around EV charging for private development.

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 in the Climate Action Plan regarding evaluating vehicles for replacement by EV
- 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

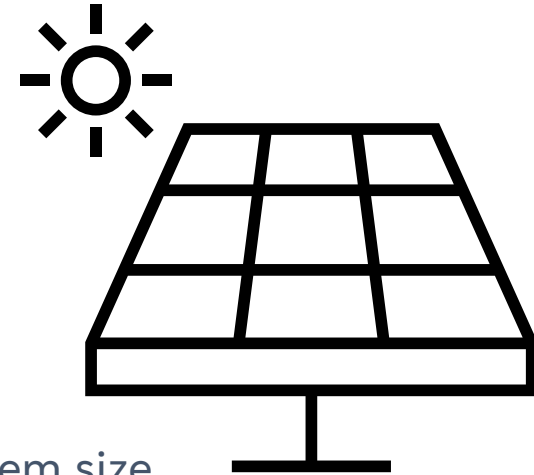
FUNDING POTENTIAL



- Coordinate with Fleet re: budgeting process to request funds and include new vehicle purchases
- Tax credits: rebates for Electric Vehicles and charging infrastructure are available through the Inflation Reduction Act (funding will hopefully remain intact – tax years 2024 and 2025 protected by law)
- Duke Energy has an EV charging infrastructure rebate program for electrical improvements required for new public, fleet, and staff charging stations
- Future re-investment of Tax credit rebates from solar array into ongoing clean energy transition initiatives (filing now - 2025; payment anticipated in 2025-2026 depending on many factors)

SOLAR INSTALLATIONS

- Benefits
 - Energy cost savings
 - Added energy security
 - Reduced emissions
 - Air quality improvements
- Next steps
 - Climate Action Plan will set policy to install a set amount or system size
 - Per 5-year time increment from 2025-2050
 - Solar feasibility study kicking off in March
 - Study will evaluate selected city facilities and provide a prioritization list
 - Request funds annually through CIP process
 - Track other potential funding sources & create a strategy for achieving install goals





Sustainability Advisory Committee Update to BOC for 2025

Current Committee Members:

- Denise Mannino, Chair
- Dr. Carol Mickett
- Siobhan Nehin
- We are seeking new Members!

Staff Liaisons:

- Holly Langston, Sustainability Coordinator
- Tommy Kiger, Director of Public Services

Meetings are held monthly on the 3rd Thursday, 6 - 8 PM



Sustainability is the ultimate concept of
“Thinking Globally, Acting Locally.”
What we do in Tarpon Springs contributes
to collective planetary stewardship.



What motivates sustainability?



Our children and our grandchildren...
Our future through them,
and for them...



Sustainability is:

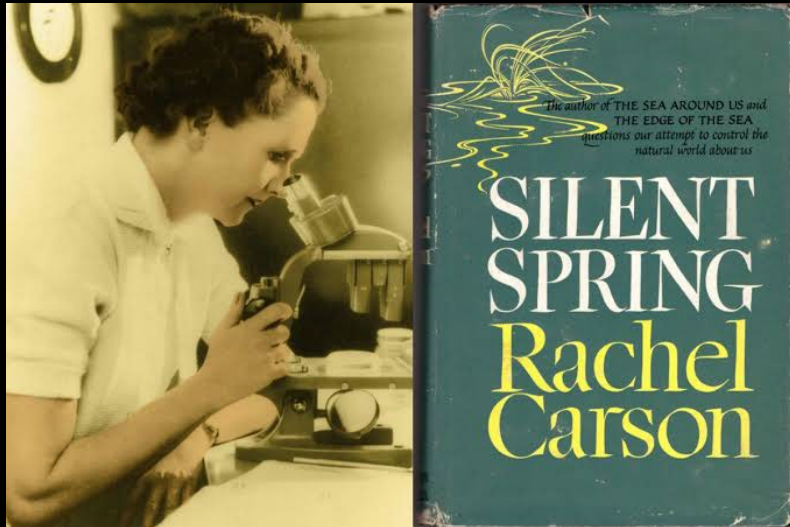
'Meeting the needs of the present
without compromising the ability of future
generations to meet their needs.'

Beyond that, it is the beauty of the best
quality of life.

The Wake Up Calls in the not-so-distant past...



Great Smog of London, 1952, a coal air pollution inversion event created dense smog causing 10,000 - 12,000 deaths. World population was approximately 2.5 billion then.



10 years later, 1962, Rachel Carson alerted the public to the mysterious disappearance of birds and insects directly connected to use of post-war chemical, DDT. Subsequently, the chemical was banned by Congress, World population was 3.1 billion.

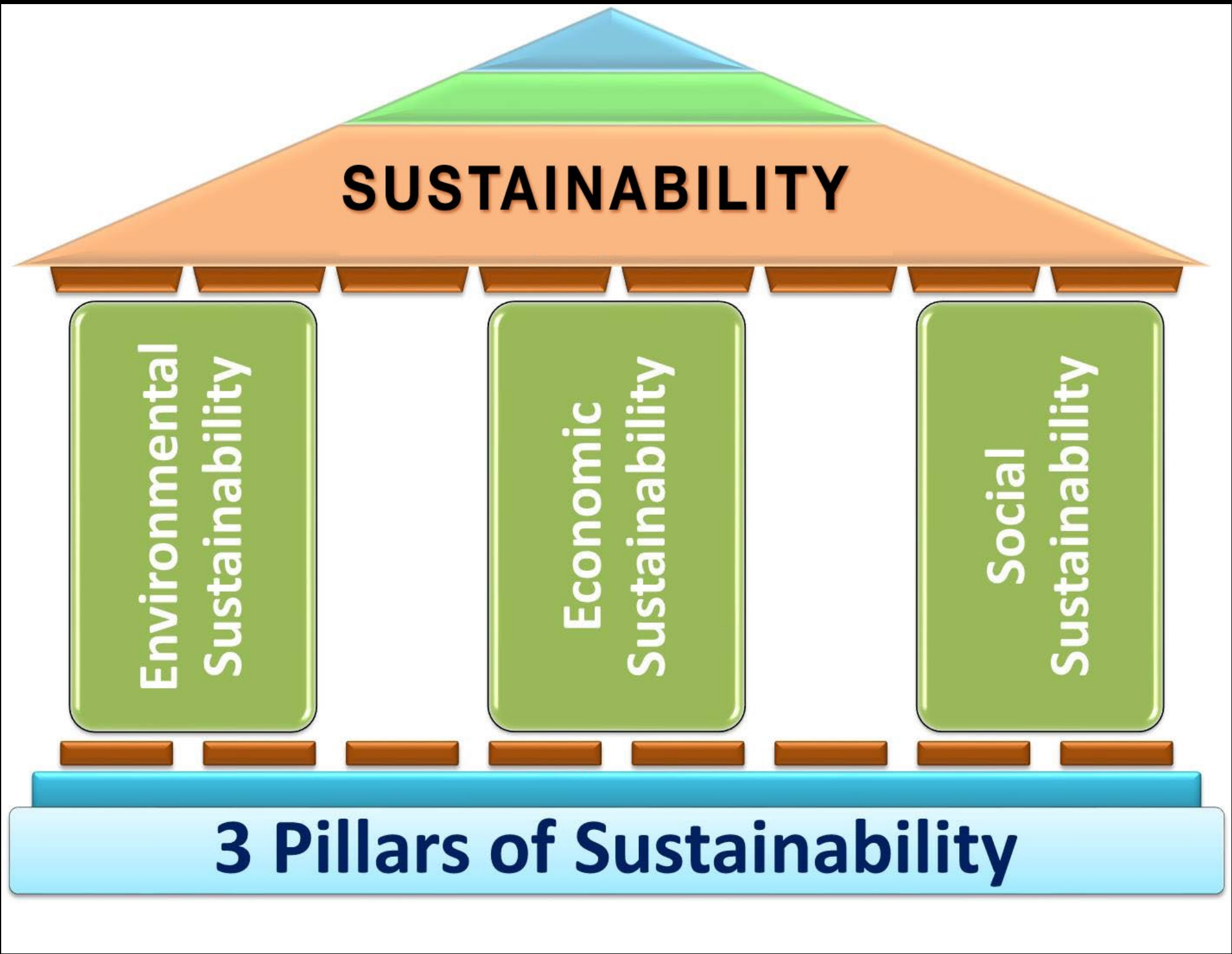


Again, in the 1960's, water in the Great Lakes was so polluted from nutrient-rich run off that caused algae blooms, exactly what we see in red tide conditions. The Clean Water Act of 1972 was born in response to these environmental crises. By then, world population was 3.8 billion.



Currently, the world's population is 8.2 billion people. Our impact is causing what scientist say is the sixth mass extinction, yet in the short time that the COVID shut down occurred, miraculous recovery happened overnight. Hope Dies Last, according to author Studs Terkel.



A diagram illustrating the three pillars of sustainability. It features a large orange triangle at the top with the word 'SUSTAINABILITY' in bold black letters. Below the triangle are three green rectangular pillars, each containing text. The pillars are supported by a blue base. The entire structure is flanked by orange decorative elements.

SUSTAINABILITY

Environmental
Sustainability

Economic
Sustainability

Social
Sustainability

3 Pillars of Sustainability



Highlights in 2025

Integration into updated Comp Plan via Sustainability Plan Crosswalk

Of 50 Actions in the Sustainability Plan, 31 were written into the Comp Plan

Received regular staff updates on implementation schedule

Connected with all departments on issues relevant to sustainability

Focused on feedback regarding the Climate Action Plan

Reality checked resiliency and accuracy of VAAP after Helene and Milton



Moving Forward:

Continuing education through department presentations,

Providing feedback on Urban Forestry Plan,

Staying apprised of Sustainability Actions as they roll out,

Prioritizing effective means of engaging the citizens of Tarpon Springs.