



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

**THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2025
AT 6:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

MINUTES

1. Approval of February 2025 Meeting Minutes

PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION

1. Urban Forestry Management Plan - Introduction to 3-35-300
2. Communications, Education and Outreach Update
3. Practice Presentation for BOC Sustainability Committee Review of 2024

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
FEBRUARY 20, 2025

THE SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MET IN THE CITY HALL MEDIA ROOM, 324 E. PINE STREET, TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA, ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025, AT 6:00 P.M., WITH THE FOLLOWING PRESENT:

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

STAFF PRESENT:	HOLLY LANGSTON	SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR
	SHANNON BREWER	MUNICIPAL ARBORIST
	PAT MCNEESE	PRINCIPAL PLANNER

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Denise Mannino called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Langston called roll.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 2024 MINUTES:

MOTION:	DR. CAROL MICKETT
SECOND:	SIOBHAN NEHIN

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No public present.

DISCUSSION

1. URBAN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN (UFMP) OVERVIEW AND VISION STATEMENT - SHANNON BREWER, MUNICIPAL ARBORIST

Ms. Brewer presented an overview of the work she is doing through grant funding. The creation of an Urban Forestry Management Plan is the current phase of a multi-year project funded through FDACS and the Florida

Forest Service. Ms. Brewer introduced (virtually) the consultant who is assisting with the UFMP, John Snow. Ms. Brewer shared the internal staff team that is collaborating and then presented three potential vision statements that had been narrowed down and recommended by the staff team. The Committee members had a brief discussion on the options. Opinion was asked via a roll call to see if there was a consensus after reading and discussing the vision statement options. The preferences were as follows:

Dr. Mickett: #2

Ms. Nehin: #1

Chairperson Mannino: #2

Vision Statement Option #3 was removed from the possible choices. The discussion continued for a short time and all three Committee members agreed that Vision Statement #2 should be chosen, with the required addition of "Community of Tarpon Springs" to the end of the last phrase.

2. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN TOOLS FOR EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS - HOLLY LANGSTON

Ms. Langston presented to the Committee the three most effective tools the City can use to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions, per the analysis done for the Climate Action Plan (CAP) for the City. Continued participation in the Clean Energy Connection through Duke Energy, Fleet Electrification, and Solar Installations are the three policy areas that rise to the top as far as how the City can make the largest impact in reducing its emissions from local government operations. An overview of each area was provided through a brief presentation, and questions were answered by Ms. Langston.

3. PRACTICE PRESENTATION FOR BOC SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE REVIEW OF 2024

Chairperson Mannino presented a draft version of the presentation she will present to the BOC for the required annual update at a regular April BOC meeting. The other Committee members provided feedback and suggestions for changes as well as for the addition of other items.

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING AGENDA:

- 3-35-300 vs. Zero net loss canopy concept presentation & discussion - Shannon Brewer
- Sustainability Plan Actions Implementation update
- Preview of the final presentation for the BOC
- Megan Araya - the Committee would like to invite her (schedule dependent)

STAFF COMMENTS:

Ms. Langston introduced (virtually) the current Sustainability Intern, Christina Cole. Christina is pursuing a Master's Degree in Environmental Science & Policy at USF along with a graduate certificate in GIS (Geographic Information Systems).

COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Committee requested the Newsletter be sent to them for review. Committee shared other ideas for information sharing such as the Water Bill insert, or potentially a future Beacon article. Committee members expressed frustration that so many people do not know the proactive things the City is doing in the Sustainability realm. Additionally, they would like to be able to share more of their collective expertise – the desire is to act. However, Chairperson and staff reminded Committee members that the Resolution creating the Sustainability Advisory Committee establishes them as an Advisory Committee that serves at the direction of the Board of Commissioners. Dr. Mickett recommended the documentary "Good Natured: Journey through Florida's Wild Spaces" by WEDU. Ms. Nehin is interested in how the City is mitigating the flooding disasters going forward – how is it preparing? Chairperson Mannino filled the Committee in on some involvement she has had regarding the lighting at Sunset Beach and she is requesting information from Duke Power to assist with a request to Commissioner Eisner through a group of concerned citizens.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: DR. CAROL MICKETT
SECOND: SIOBHAN NEHIN

To adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM.

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

DENISE MANNINO
CHAIRPERSON

HOLLY LANGSTON
SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR

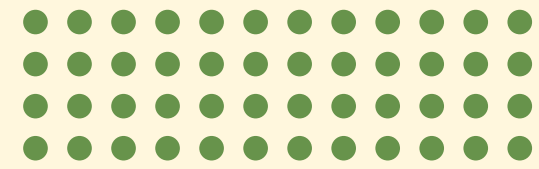
CITY CLERK'S NOTE: This meeting has been recorded in its entirety and the recordings are kept on file in the City Clerk's office for the required retention period.

City of Tarpon Springs
Urban Forest Management Plan

CANOPY DISTRIBUTION

3-35-300 Rule Discussion





Introduction

The Sustainability Plan's Natural Environment goal aimed to establish a "net zero canopy loss" policy to preserve overall tree canopy coverage.

The journey to net zero is not about just planting more trees, it is about HOW we distribute and use canopy coverage.

How do traditional methods for achieving net zero canopy loss address accessibility, distribution, or public engagement with the tree canopy? They don't.



3-35-300 Rule Methodology

Measurable Criteria

- > Ability to see 3 trees from every home
- > 35% canopy cover in residential neighborhoods
- > Providing public park or green space within 300 yards of the home

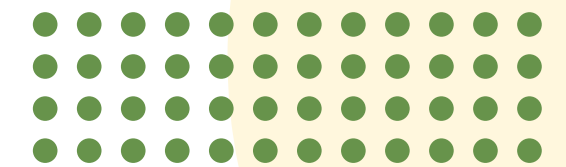
Principles

Adapted from Koeser et al: Using the 3-30-300 Rule to Access Urban Forest Access and Preferences. Prioritizes not only maintaining canopy but seeks to ensure evenhanded distribution and access to green spaces, enhancing health, environmental resilience, and urban livability.



Key Advantages

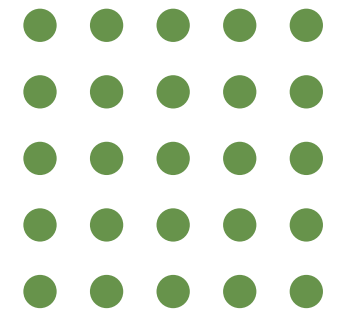
- ▶ Balanced canopy distribution so that all neighborhoods have 35%
- ▶ Enhanced health and well-being by being close to green space
- ▶ Climate change adaptation and reduction of urban heat island effect
- ▶ Aligns with community preferences discovered in recent surveys
- ▶ A more comprehensive and measurable approach



Traditional methods used for measuring net canopy loss can allow for disparities, where trees are removed and replaced but not necessarily in the locations that need them most.

The 3-35-300 framework sets specific, measurable goals that ensure urban forestry policies while providing tangible benefits.

Performance indicators are required for implementation and measurability. Indicators are measured on a set frequency by the responsible agency; trends are then analyzed to evaluate effectiveness.



Actionable Objectives & Performance Indicators

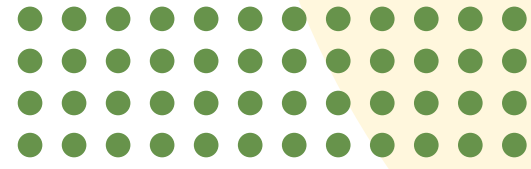


▶ Optimal - 90% +

▶ Good - 75-89%

▶ Moderate - 50-74%

▶ Low - less than 50%



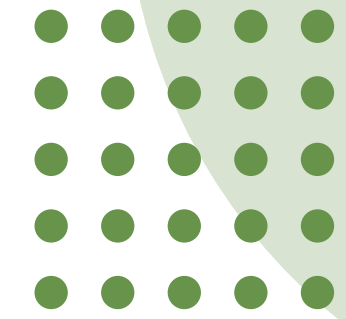
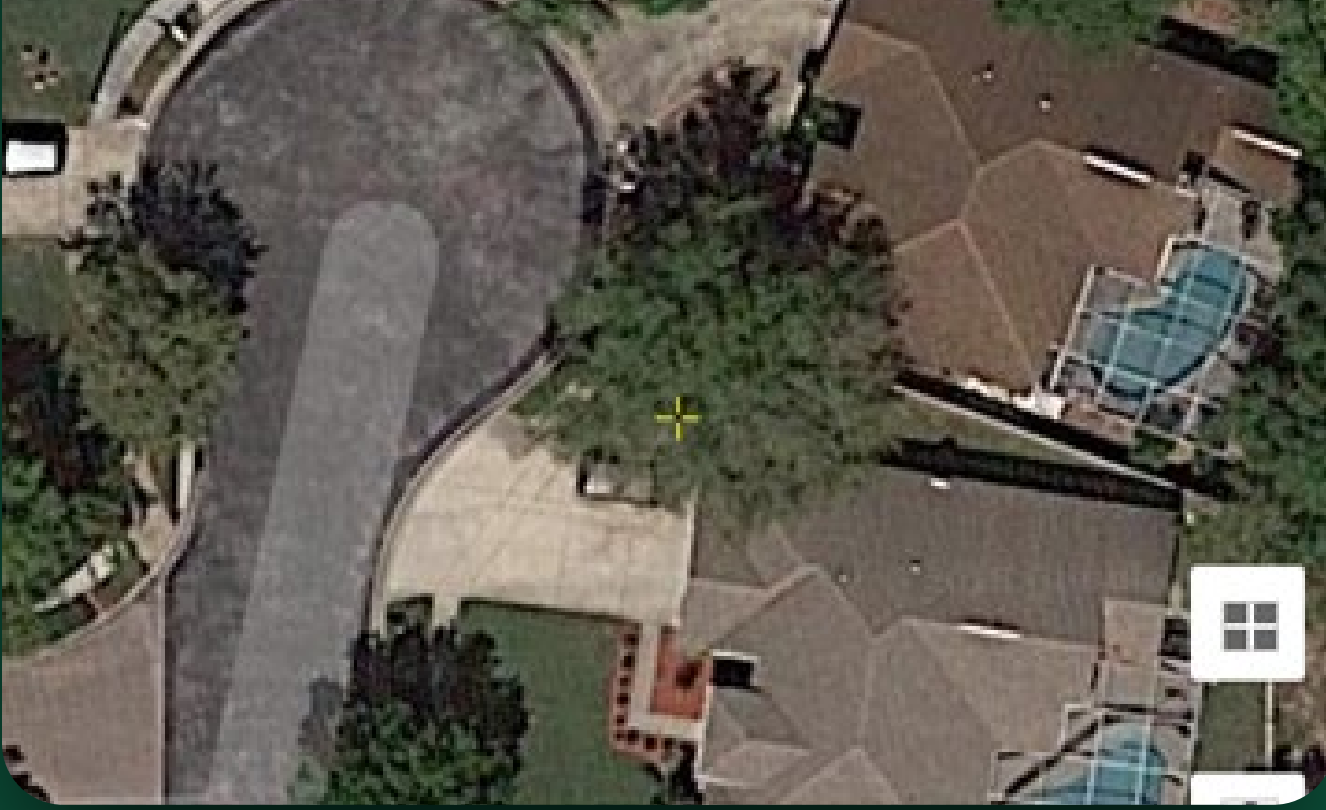
Objective 1: See 3 Trees

The “3” captures urban forest access by asking the question “Can you see 3 trees from home”?

Using annual tree giveaways or targeted planting projects, could increase neighborhood trees.

- ▶ Timeframe from adoption:
10 Years
- ▶ Complete neighborhood
social survey
- ▶ Complete city -wide street tree
inventory
- ▶ GIS or point sampling
monitoring





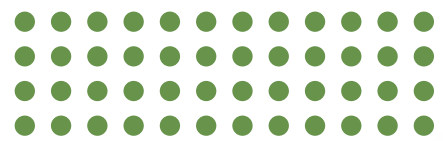
Objective 2: 35% Canopy Cover

The “35” relates to achieving at least 35% canopy cover in every residential neighborhood and an overall canopy coverage of 30%.

The Statewide Community Tree Canopy Assessment calculated the City’s current canopy coverage rate at 35% in 2023.

- ▶ Aligns with environmental justice principles to prevent clustering
- ▶ City canopy cover - once every 5 years using iTree assessment
- ▶ District canopy cover - once every 5 years using iTree assessment

Objective 3: 300 Yards to Green Space



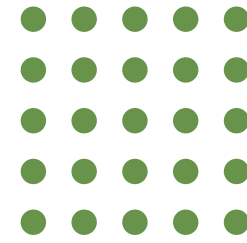
▶ Time frame for completion - 15 years from adoption

▶ Use existing land use data and GIS maps to create 300 -yard buffer zones

▶ Guide leadership to develop parks and open space availability, and to adopt green space standards for development

The “300” is for individuals to be within 300 yards of the nearest public park or green space.

This distance represents an approximate five-minute walk.



Conclusion

The 3-35-300 rule is a more holistic, measurable, and community-driven approach than no net canopy loss. It ensures canopy distribution, provides public health benefits, and improves environmental resilience while aligning with the desires of Tarpon Springs residents. By setting clear performance indicators, this method provides a structured and measurable way to enhance Tarpon Springs existing urban forest in a way that benefits all residents.





THANK YOU

SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS, SPRING 2025



IN THIS ISSUE

- Recycling Study
- Tree Care Before Storms
- Beach Cleanup
- Spring Cleaning Tips
- Earth Day

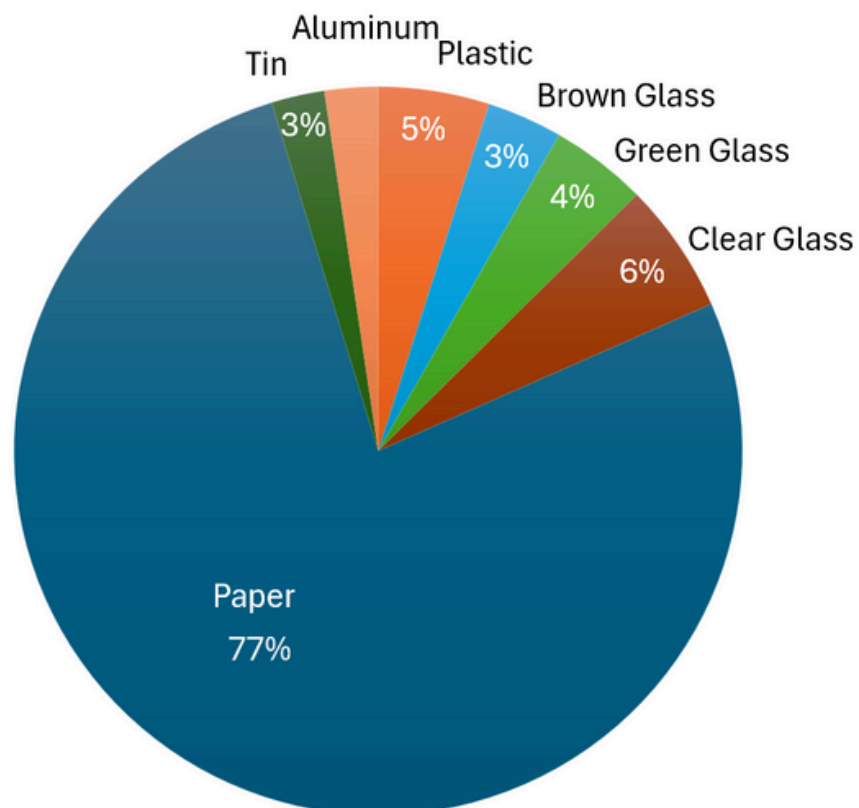
RECYCLING COMPOSITION STUDY

In 2024, the City of Tarpon Springs participated in Pinellas County's Municipal and County Recyclable Materials Composition Study (RCS). This study aims to identify the types and amounts of materials recycled within the county.

The results from this study revealed that our city recycled nearly 1,090 Tons in 2024! This is great news because our city saves money for every ton of materials recycled.

Thanks to high participation in recycling, the city saved over \$20,000 last year in the solid waste department.

2024 Recycling





The next Sunset Beach cleanup will be held on **March 1st at 9 AM!**

The City of Tarpon Springs is teaming up with Keep Pinellas Beautiful to clean up Sunset Beach. Please wear closed-toed shoes and bring a reusable water bottle. We will provide gloves and trash bags for participants.

*Cleanup is organized by Tarpon Springs Recreation Division

GOOD TO KNOW

- Rainfall is seasonal. Our rainy season is a four-month period from *June through September*.
- Tarpon Springs is currently experiencing Moderate to Severe Drought conditions as of February 18, 2025.

Visit the Southwest Florida Water Management District for water conservation resources for homeowners:



UPCOMING AWARENESS DAYS

March:

- 3 - World Wildlife Day
- 22 - World Water Day

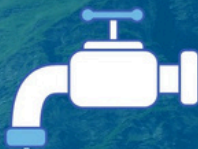
April:

- 22 - Earth Day
- Last Friday - National Arbor Day
- 2nd Week - National Environmental Education Week

May:

- 20 - World Bee Day
- 21 - Endangered Species Day
- 23 - World Turtle Day

**April is
Water Conservation
Month**



TREE CARE BEFORE STORMS

It is never too early to prepare for hurricane season!

This [IFAS resource](#) provides guidance on selecting, planting, and most importantly, pruning trees to maximize their chance of survival.

Find more IFAS tips on preparing your trees for hurricane season [here!](#)



Photo Credit: WUSF

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

Interested in Sustainability?
Apply to serve on the
Sustainability Advisory
Committee!

To apply scan this QR code and
submit the completed application
to the City Clerk's office.

Contact the City Clerk's office
for more information
727-942-5614.



WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON

- Implementation of 2025 Sustainability Plan Actions
- Solar Feasibility Study for select City Facilities
- Climate Action Plan
- Continued staff team, local, and regional collaboration



Contact us:
Sustainability@ctsfly.us

TIPS FOR SPRING CLEANING

- Avoid harsh chemicals; use Green Seal certified cleaning products (or make your own products using [these recipes!](#))
- Choose reusable cleaning tools such as old rags and washable mop heads
- Reduce water usage by turning off the tap between cleaning
- Repair or repurpose old items to give them a new life; donate items you don't want to a local charity or thrift shop
- Learn how to properly recycle household materials



Don't know where to take your waste?

Use the **[Where Does it Go? Search Tool](#)** to find local drop-off sites for batteries and electronics.

For more ideas on less waste, visit:

[Earth 911!](#)



**EARTH DAY IS
APRIL 22!**

City Events:

The *Library* will have an Earth Day display in April offering information and resources from a variety of City Departments.

Shred & Recycle event
hosted by the *Police Department* on
April 26, 9AM-12PM
at Tarpon Tower

2025 RECYCLE GUIDE



HOW TO RECYCLE RIGHT!

Place only these items in your recycling bin. Everything clean and dry. No plastic bags. No bagged recycling.



Flattened cardboard, clean paper, junk mail, paperboard, cartons

Empty plastic bottles, jugs (no caps)

Empty metal cans (no lids)

Empty glass bottles, jars (no lids)

City of Tarpon Springs Spring Cleanup and Tire Collections

Sunday, April 06, 2025 7AM



This is a free service for City residents who pay for residential curbside garbage service on their City of Tarpon Springs utility bill. If you do not pay City of Tarpon Springs, this event does not apply. Thank You!

Place all items at the curb for pickup no later than 7AM on Sunday, April 06, 2025

Place the following items at the curb by 7AM:

- Furniture
- Mattresses
- Small Household Items, Carpet & Pads (cut and bundle in 4' sections)
- Oven, Washer, Dryer or Microwave



The following items **WILL NOT** be picked up:

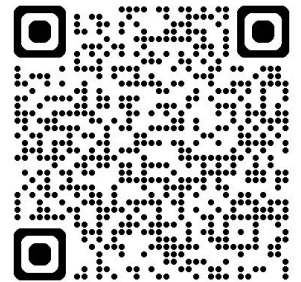
Tires, Yard Waste, Propane Tanks Gas Powered Equipment, Air Conditioning Units Concrete, Construction Material over 4' Refrigerators, Freezers, or Chemicals

Solid Waste Holiday Collection Schedule

There will be no
COLLECTION on
Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day
or New Year's Day

QUESTIONS?

Call (727)943-4837 or
Scan QR Code for
information:



City of Tarpon Springs
Solid Waste Division



Reminder: No plastic bags for yard waste collection.
Use paper yard waste bags & reusable containers only.

TIRE COLLECTION DAYS AT THE YARD WASTE FACILITY

As a part of this special clean up service, the City of Tarpon Springs will accept used tires—NO RIMS at the: **Yard Waste Facility**
101 Meres Blvd, Tarpon Spring, FL 34689
727-943-0067

Friday, April 04, 2025 from 7 AM until 4:30 PM
and
Saturday, April 05, 2025 from 7 AM until Noon

You **must** bring your City of Tarpon Utility bill and valid drivers license.

No more than 4 tires
(off the rim) per
household.

Tires over 32" must be
cut in half.



EARTH DAY

Connecting for Conservation



Tuesday, April 22nd, 2025

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

St. Petersburg College (SPC) - Tarpon Springs Campus

600 E Klosterman Rd, Tarpon Springs, FL 34689 (BUILDING #?)

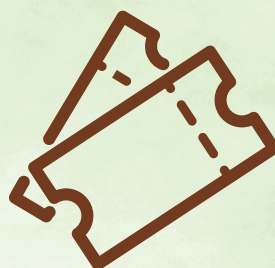
Join us for an incredible lineup of local, professional conservationists as we come together in our efforts to act local while thinking global this earth day! Light refreshments.

**Clearwater Marine Aquarium, MOTE Marine Aquarium,
Youth Making Ripples, Caladesi Island State Park, SPC,
Blue-Green Connections, City of Dunedin**

Register for Tickets

\$20 General Admission

Students - Donation of your choice





Install **Rooftop Solar** At An Affordable Price

Switch Together Makes Rooftop Solar Installations More **Affordable** For Your Home



switch together.



Interested in installing solar on your home or small business, but don't know where to start?

Switch Together is a program offered by local governments in Florida and nonprofit **Solar United Neighbors**. Registration is **free** and participating households are expected to save an average of **\$6,941** on a typical-sized solar installation.

How does Switch Together work?



Installer auction: Pre-vetted installers submit bids. The most competitive package wins the auction.



Registration: It's free and without obligation. You will provide basic information to find out if your roof is compatible.



Personal recommendation: You will receive a recommendation that includes personalized estimated savings from the program.



Your decision: You decide if you want to accept the offer.



Installation: The installer will contact you to discuss the site assessment results and confirm the installation.

Register for free at switchtogether.com/solar

Any Questions? We're here to help



1-888-810-1117
Mon-Fri, 8 AM - 5 PM



solar@switchtogether.com





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 defined is:

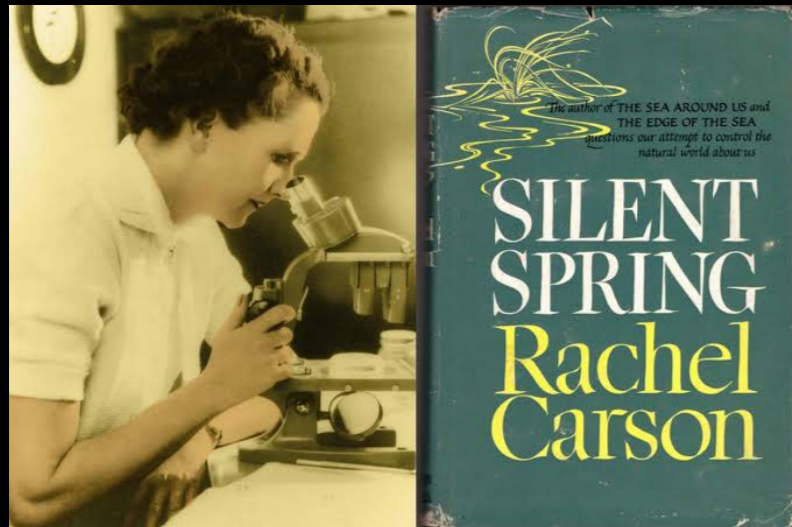
'Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.'

Beyond that, it is about providing the best "Quality of Life for Enrichment," which includes the health and beauty of our environment, and consequently for US and future generations.

The historical Wake Up Calls of 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.



SUSTAINABILITY

Environmental
Sustainability

Economic
Sustainability

Social
Sustainability

3 Pillars of Sustainability



Highlights in 2024

The Sustainability Plan Crosswalk was woven into the updated Comp Plan via

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

We received regular staff updates on the plan implementation schedule

We connected with all departments on issues relevant to sustainability

We focused on feedback regarding the Climate Action Plan

Reality-checked resiliency and accuracy of VAAP after Helene and Milton



Moving forward the Committee will...



Provide feedback on ordinances regarding Sustainability in All Policies;

Continue our relevant educational process through department presentations;

Provide feedback on Urban Forestry Plan;

Proactively request accountable implementation of the SAP timeline progress;

Prioritize effectively engaging the citizen-partners of Tarpon Springs.



Recommendations to the BOC:

Continue to actively seek Resiliency funding for projects;

Educate residents on ‘adjusting their sails to the changing winds;’

User-friendly updates to City Sustainability sites to improve communications;

Coordinate department specific initiatives, planning, and ongoing work.



“The Earth does not belong to us: we belong to the Earth.”
Chief Seattle