

Summit for Environmental Action

**Progress Report -
Implementation
Committees**

From 9/9/2008 Meeting



Released 9/22/2008

Context

The second meeting of the Summit for Environmental Action Implementation Committees was held on September 9, 2008. For two hours, more than 50 people discussed issues focused on improving our local environment and learning from each other. This report is meant to be a chronicle of the process of that meeting. It is also a tool for the Implementation Committee members and the wider community to learn about these committees and get connected to the issues and the committee members.

Structure of the Meeting

The first half hour was spent in an informal poster session. Attendees had time to network and visit with committee members to learn more about the actions that had taken place over the past two months. Some groups provided visuals and a group member was available to answer questions from other attendees.

Nick Gladding led the next part of the meeting where a representative from each committee gave a short presentation about their group's next steps. After the presentation, the audience asked questions and provided suggestions to each group.

The final segment of the meeting was an open conversation session led by Tim Dutton. The audience had a chance to share their ideas on connections between topics and other resources to consider.

Attendees

Diane Andrews	Don Fitts	Julie Morris	Bill Steen
Danny Bilyeu	Stephanie Ganey	Dorothy Mullen	Charlie Fellmeth
Maryanne Bowie	Nick Gladding	Joe Naroditsky	Leanne Fellmeth
Jack Burden	Tim Graham	Dana O'Mara	Mel Thomas
Chuck Butterfield	Bonnie Greenball	Jack Merrian	Tom Waters
Wanda Chavez	Suzanne Gregory	Terry Osborne	Kim Weaver
Dick Clapp	Maureen Hadden	Lou Ann Palmer	Rob Wright
Arbel Cohen	Chuck Henry	Karen Potts	
Casey Colburn	Beverly Hill	Betsy Roberts	
Kevin Connelly	Roxanne Joffe	Tim Ramage	
Theresa Connor	Jodi John	Jennifer Schaeffer	
Kathy Cook	Kathy Keh	Tracy Seider	
Tom Cook	Kelly Kirschner	Nancy Sloan	
Suzanne Dameron	Robert Kleeson	Frank Smith	
Tim Dutton	Roger Landry	Joe Smyth	
Wendy Fishman	Janice Mee	Linda Spivey	

Attracting Green Business

Presenter: Dana O'Mara

Summary:

The committee has been meeting twice a month for the past two months. They have worked to define green business and manufacturing in Sarasota County. The committee has been dealing with issues concerning: How do you define 'green business?', How do we focus on using existing business and also attracting new business?, Who is already working on this? The group aims to connect to other groups that are already working on this by determining who the key players are. They are also examining what the training needs are of the current workforce and what specific retrofit packages can be offered to homeowners to 'go green'. Financing is also a piece of the puzzle. The committee is looking at what sources of funding are out there and if there are institutions offering assistance. Peg Nadel has offered to Chair the financial subcommittee and has already met with two banks. The committee is also working with a policy subcommittee in looking at impediments facing green business. They are meeting with the Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce at the end of September, early October to address these issues.

Questions & Comments:

- Someone raised the question if the group had explored agriculture in general and organic agriculture specifically.
- The audience responded that we should not limit ourselves to organic options only but we should explore all types of local agriculture.
- Another audience member asked if the group had looked at alternative energy.
- Have you thought about solid waste as a green business?
- Green Connections USA is holding a meeting November 1st at the Library. They have a product but require training and ask for a \$1,000 grant to help train a workforce.



Group Members:

Diane Andrews
Fredd Atkins
Brian Bishop
Lee Hayes Byron
Bill Doorman
Wendy Cooper
Kevin Connelly
Francoise Ducroz
Tim Dutton
Don Fitts
Nick Gladding
Tim Graham
Kathy Keh
Joan McGill
Art Nadel
Peg Nadel
Shannon Staub

Solar Hot Water Heaters

Presenter: Nick Gladding

Summary:

The Solar Hot Water Heater group has taken their plan as far as it can go.. The committee is not disbanding, but will be working with a County and City Task Force that will take up where the SEA committee left off. The taskforce will kick off the end of September and will work with the SEA committee.

Questions & Comments:

- An intention of this committee should also be to create jobs in Sarasota.



Group Members:

Leo Bellil
Tom Harriman
Joseph Hochadel
Nick Gladding
Raymond Kaiser
Donna Krabill
Bonnie Nickel
Nina Powers
Betsy Roberts
Rich Swier
Gerry Swormstedt
Bruce Zeitlin

Alternative Water Use

Presenter: Tim Rumage

Summary:

The Alternative Water Use Committee and Low Impact Development Committee have joined forces. These two groups will work together to examine areas including landscaping models and detention features (trying to clean water), among other issues. Pelican Cove is the focus of the group's case study. They are examining how water is being used in order to 1) create a water budget 2) look at water quality vs. use 3) explore how water can be relocated 4) understand government issues surrounding water usage 5) define fiscal issues 6) understand the allocation of water (pulling from other sources). The group is documenting their study of Pelican Cove in order to create a "template" that can be used by existing developments to gauge their water usage and for new developments to determine how water can be used.

Questions & Comments:



Group Members:

Grant Beatt
Jack Burden
Chuck Butterfield
Charlie Fellmeth
Leann Fellmeth
Nick Gladding
Chuck Henry
Roger Landry
Gary Raulerson
Tim Rumage

Low Impact Development

1

Presenter: Jack Merriam

Summary:

Since the last implementation committee meeting, the Low Impact Development (LOD) Committed has merged with the Alternative Water Use Committee. Jack spoke with the group on how the Englewood CRA Group has shown interest in LOD techniques and has been using the information previously gathered by the group.

Questions and Comments:



Group Members:

Claire Kanter
Dick Kanter
Ellen Maloff
Jack Merriam

Transit Oriented Development

Presenters: Julie Morris and Jennifer Shafer

Handouts: [Great Transit Connecting Great Communities](#)

Summary:

The Transit Oriented Development (TOD) committee continues to meet every two weeks. The next meeting will be September 22nd. TOD has run into the problem in looking at density and transit like a “chicken or the egg” problem. Which one came first? Over the last month, they have solidified their goal “to stimulate community interest, discussion and enthusiasm for transforming the Bee Ridge Boulevard by applying TOD concepts and design...” (Please see Attachment 1 for their goals). The committee is focusing on examining multi-modal aspect of TOD in order to account for the demands of multiple stakeholders. They are also looking into changing existing policy in regards to transportation concurrency to focusing on multi-modal approaches of development.

Questions and Comments:

- Has there been any research into a [Jitney](#) as a mode of transportation in the Bee Ridge Corridor? Sarasota should look into this.



- Group Members:**
- Pat Driscoll
 - Millie Headdy
 - Julie Morris
 - Andrew Nouné
 - Jeff Orenstein, Ph.D
 - Terry Osborn
 - Sean Poust
 - Olga Ronay
 - Susan Scott
 - Jennifer Shafer
 - Linda Spivey
 - Frank Folsom Smith
 - Christopher Warn

General Question and Answer

How do we make connections?

- Cross-training within each of the areas such as Low Impact Development and Solar Hot Water would be beneficial.
- The training of installing is one aspect, but there also needs to be training on the maintenance and upkeep of green roofs, solar hot water heaters, etc.
- There is also a connection between Green Business and Transit Oriented Design. Having more transportation options would make Sarasota more attractive for Green Businesses.
- Has anybody looked at interests from large corporations such as Lowes, Wal-Mart, or Home Depot to put a retro-fit package together?
 - Response: We have local manufactures that are capable of putting a package together which would help our local small businesses.
- Is there a local manufacturing committee working with Green Businesses?
 - Response: Yes.
- It was recommended to the Solar Hot Water group that they contact *Gulf Thermal Corporation* to see why they left Sarasota. Gulf Thermal Corporation is a solar hot water heater manufacturer that moved its operations to Jacksonville a few years ago.

