



GLEE's 2nd Annual Green Living Awards

Agency/Organization Category

For Cumulative Efforts leading up to January 1st 2009

Name of Agency/Organization: Dolphin Research Center

Grassy Key

City/Island

Name of Applicant and relation to Agency/Org: Megan Mertsock

employee

Summary

We have a huge banner at our entrance that sums up what we are about; "In the end, we will only conserve what we love; We will love only what we understand, And we will understand only what we are taught" Teaching and demonstrating how we can all contribute to a sustainable future for all of Earth's inhabitants is the heart and soul of our facility. As a not-for-profit we are often limited in how many "green" renovations we can do as funds are limited, but we are continually looking for ways to make a difference and as things need to be replaced we are doing so in the most environmentally friendly way possible. Currently grants are being investigated for solar power and automatic timers for public areas. Additionally, we just completed a contest where staff submitted over 50 excellent ideas on what else we can do to be more eco-friendly and we will be implementing many of those suggestions in 2009.

Part 1: The Keyswide Sustain-Ability Project

GLEE's Goal: Involve all major policy makers in the Keys in systematic emissions reductions & conservation actions. Involving all 6 municipalities, 3 utilities, federal, state and local agencies, non-profits, mentor governments from the mainland, and other national resources, the Keyswide Sustain-Ability Project (KSAP) aims to meet quarterly, researching and convening experts on subjects requested by its participants. The projects strengths include economy of scale, cross pollination of ideas and collaboration on new projects and funding opportunities.

- My Ag/Org is not currently a KSAP member, but we do intend to and can check off some KSAP tenets.
- My Ag/Org is not currently a KSAP member, and will probably not become one.
- I am a KSAP member, but I do intend to become one

The KSAP checklist:

- Adopt [Mayors Climate Protection Agreement tenets](#) (date signed): 2-1-09
- Establish a Green Team, & Staff liaison: Liaison & Team Names: Marathon Green Team
- Hold monthly Green Team meetings: # of Meetings Held:
- Develop a baseline of emissions: Date Began, Completed:
- Create an action plan: Date Began, Completed, Acted on:
- Participate in quarterly KSAP meetings: # Mtgs Attended: 1

Part 2: Accomplishments

<u>Renewable Energy</u>	Demonstrated use and/or promotion of appropriate solar, wind and bio generated sources of renewable energy.
<u>Clean Transportation</u>	Demonstrated use and/or promotion of smart, clean and economically efficient uses of biodiesel, fuel cells, and hybrid vehicles. Or no vehicles at all!
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many staff carpool, walk, ride bikes, motorcycles, and mopeds to work. 	
<u>Clean Boating</u>	Demonstrated adherence and/or promotion of eco-friendly actions whilst on the water, including cleaning products, propulsion, water conservation, fisheries conservation, catch and release techniques, and use of Florida Clean Marinas, Boatyards, and Retailers .
<u>Energy Conservation</u>	Demonstrated use and/or promotion of energy-efficient appliances, energy audits, and retrofits for financial savings and pollution reduction.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All lights use CFL or energy efficient bulbs since 2007. • When replacing facility appliances, we purchase more energy-efficient replacements. • Cloth lines are used instead of dryers for wet items. <p>staff are encouraged to shut off computers at night along with printers, faxes and what not either turned off or put on energy saver, and thermostats are turned up at night</p>	
<u>Green Building</u>	Demonstrated use and/or promotion of green techniques and technologies during retrofits on existing buildings and efficient designs for new buildings.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As roof replacement has become necessary, we have installed energy efficient roofing on several buildings to improve efficiency of climate/temperature management. • As replacement of central air conditioning unit has become necessary, we have installed more efficient Energy Star rated units. • Currently (January 2009), we are installing a storm-water reclamation system on our buildings, including specialized gutters and cisterns to utilize rainwater for most if not all landscape irrigation. 	

<u>Green Financing</u>	Demonstrated use and/or promotion of tax credits, rebates, and other incentive programs that help finance, sustainability projects. Also includes Socially Responsible Investing.
<u>Healthy Living</u>	Demonstrated adherence and/or promotion of green procurement, green consumerism and healthy choices through buying organic foods and other non-toxic, healthy and sustainable products.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We purchase organic food items, when we can, for use in programs where we provide food. • Cleaning products are green cleaners (7th generation, etc.) • The staff, on their own, have banded together to bulk order organic fruits and vegetables for home use. 	
<u>Land Conservation</u>	Demonstrated adherence and/or promotion of conservation of natural habitats by using Keys-Friendly landscaping practices and use of GreenThumb Certified Nurseries .
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have planted non-invasive, native, and drought and salt resistant plants and use xeriscaping throughout the property. • Walkways and parking are created using natural stone and brick to allow for proper drainage without sewer line requirements. • Plant trimmings are composted and re-used for mulch and fertilizer. 	
<u>R4 #1: Reduce</u>	Demonstrated reduction of waste through bulk buying, refillable products, double-sided printing, avoiding over-packaged products, closing the loop by purchasing products made of recycled, post consumer content; implementation of policies which encourage and/or mandate waste reduction.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We require staff to use double-sided printing. Staff also re-uses paper for in-house printing that was originally only printed on one side. • Reports, especially large reports, are done electronically in lieu of printing. • The gift shop has begun to purchase products made from recycled materials and also offers some corn plastic items for purchase like pens and coffee mugs. • Large water coolers are located in office buildings and staff must use a re-usable cup for water. 	
<u>R4 #2: Reuse</u>	Demonstrated reuse of products, buy second hand, donate unneeded items, and avoid disposables, and share magazines /other publications before recycling them.
<p>Employees leave messages about items that are no longer needed and may be used by other departments. Staff members also donate unneeded items to each other. Equipment that uses batteries, use re-chargeable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-usable bags are used when purchasing items from stores. • Staff returns staff shirts that are no longer wearable in front of the public to be used when staff is doing “dirty” jobs. • Signage is being converted to materials that will not fade or break easily to reduce the amount of materials required by replacements. 	

<u>R4 #3: Rot (Compost)</u>	Demonstrated waste diversion through composting of food scraps and yard trimmings
<p>In 2000, we installed a Clivus Multrum Model#M-12 Composting Toilet in our main office building.</p>	
<u>R4 #4: Recycle</u>	Demonstrated recycling of items accepted by local waste hauler and/or other items which may be recycled elsewhere (e.g., electronics, CFL light bulbs, cell phones, printer cartridges); implementation of policies which encourage and/or mandate recycling practices
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We recycle plastics, glass, aluminum, white paper, mixed paper, cardboard, computer monitors, CPUs and print cartridges facility-wide. Recycle bins are provided for both the staff and are in all public areas for guest use. Signage is also included at public recycle bins to educate the importance and proper way to recycle • Staff that does not have recycling available where they live can bring their own recyclables to work for recycling. • Whenever possible and where available items given to members such as pens and pencils are made from recycled materials. On site events use corn-based plates and cups. 	
<u>Water Conservation</u>	Demonstrated use and/or promotion of water use reduction through efficient irrigation, xeriscaping, cisterns, rain barrels, water audits and/or use of reclaimed water.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Environmental Services Dept. utilizes xeriscaping methods as much as possible. • Toilets have been outfitted with Sloan Flushmate (Model M-101526-F) water reducing systems. This system is pressure-assisted with a component inside that harnesses the pressure from the water supply line to provide the energy needed to complete the flush so, because of the reduction in water, multiple flushes are not required . <p>Rainwater is used for irrigation</p>	
Water Quality	Demonstrated use and/or promotion of wastewater treatment, storm water retention, phosphorus free products, slow release fertilizers, animal waste reduction, etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We utilize eco-friendly and naturally produced from compose fertilizers and other products to prevent the release of environmentally hazardous materials into runoff that winds up in our near-shore waters. • Our grounds are regularly checked during the day to insure that that anything dropped on the ground does not get into ocean water. 	
Youth Leadership	Involve local students in projects and research for healthy long-term choices in any of the above for the future of all.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regularly participating in outreach with students to teach about environmental conservation. Host many events inviting students to come and learn about conservation, including Ocean Celebration day where over 300 students are educated about ocean conservation. We also host day and week long programs to teach students about the environment • We offer recycling crafts for children who visit the center 	

GLEE Participation	Actively involved with GLEE via ideas, time and/or membership to help further GLEE's Mission and Goals .
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively involved with both GLEE and Marathon's Green Team 	
Other Factors	Have you done something else not included in the scope of this application? Let us know!

Part 3: Other Agency/Organization Factors

Team Commitment	List staff or other supportive people on your "Green Team"
<p>Megan Mertsock- Julie Bradford- Jessica Lily</p> <p>We have our own conservation committee at work that also includes Patrick Bogan, Amy Bayer, Kasey Weber and Katy Donegan.</p>	
Communications	How are your environmental efforts visibly communicated to staff, locals, tourists, shareholders, customers and/or vendors?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have a conservation committee to promote new conservation initiatives and continue existing practices. They keep staff informed about local green events and send monthly e-mails with tips on green living and what they can do to make a difference. We sponsor a Bridge & Shoreline clean up twice a year (in conjunction with the Ocean Conservancy Coastal Clean-up) and publish this in the paper as it occurs Public programs always include a conservation message and we have various signage at the facility about our conservation efforts Part of new staff orientation involves learning about our conservation efforts and how to contribute 	
Certifications/Memberships	Do you currently hold any green certifications or memberships?
<p>We are an active member of the Florida Entanglement Working Group which coordinates the Monofilament Recovery and Recycling Program. This program is responsible for the monofilament bins found on bridges, marinas and other fishing areas. Some of our staff also volunteer to collect the line from local bins for recycling.</p>	

Part 4: Green Pledge

I certify that the above information is correct to the best of my knowledge.

