



# GLEE's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Green Living Awards

## Agency/Organization Category

*For Cumulative Efforts leading up to January 1<sup>st</sup> 2009*

Name of Agency/Organization: Florida Keys Electric Cooperative Association, Inc. Tavernier  
City/Island

Name of Applicant and relation to Agency/Org: Rebecca Callahan Newman Public Relations

### Summary

Florida Keys Electric Cooperative is a progressive, member-owned, not-for-profit electric utility committed to serving its community efficiently and effectively in an environmentally responsible manner. In 2008, FKEC proudly installed its first grid-connected solar array, which is also Florida's second largest array according to the installer. FKEC was also the first fleet operator in the Keys to switch to biodiesel fuel in 2007, the first utility to welcome interconnected solar homes, a founding member of GLEE, and an original member and first host of KSAP. FKEC's green initiatives include a wide variety of contributions, ranging from providing free energy audits and distributing free recycling bins to the community all the way to arranging a CFL bulb donation to an organization in need. FKEC's board of directors, staff and employees are dedicated to caring for the Keys and are continually investigating new technologies and advancements to make the delivery of power as safe, reliable and environmentally responsible as possible.

### 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): \_\_\_\_\_
- Establish a Green Team, & Staff liaison: Liaison & Team Names: [See below](#)
- 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: [Host & attend meetings](#)

## **Part 2: Accomplishments**

<p><b><u>Renewable Energy</u></b></p>	<p>Demonstrated use and/or promotion of appropriate solar, wind and bio generated sources of renewable energy.</p>
<p>In 2008, FKEC applied for and received \$1 million worth of funding from the Internal Revenue Service's Clean Renewable Energy Bond program. The bond was used to install a total of 120 kilowatts of grid-tied solar power generation in two separate arrays. The first array, installed in Marathon, is the second largest in Florida and has a maximum capacity of 96.6 kilowatts. That full array went online on December 16, 2008. The second smaller array, with a maximum capacity of 21 kilowatts, is nearly complete within FKEC's Crawl Key Substation. FKEC was also the first utility in the Keys to provide interconnection for solar homes.</p>	
<p><b><u>Clean Transportation</u></b></p>	<p>Demonstrated use and/or promotion of smart, clean and economically efficient uses of biodiesel, fuel cells, and hybrid vehicles. Or no vehicles at all!</p>
<p>FKEC was the first fleet operator in the Keys (that we know of) to switch its fleet to biodiesel fuel. All bucket trucks were stickered with "Powered by Biodiesel" stickers to spread the word about this clean-burning alternative fuel. We were the first customer of Sol Atlantic Biodiesel from Hialeah when we contracted for the delivery of biodiesel fuel in 500 gallon increments. The fleet continues to run on a very rich blend (50/50) with more nearly two years in service in both Tavernier and Marathon. FKEC is also proud to promote GLEE's Online Carpooling service in its monthly magazine and on its website.</p>	
<p><b><u>Clean Boating</u></b></p>	<p>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 <a href="#">Florida Clean Marinas, Boatyards, and Retailers</a>.</p>
<p>FKEC performs oil spill safety drills on a routine basis behind its storage tanks in Marathon. During these drills, FKEC's spill team practices containing material on the ground as well as in the surrounding Boot Key Harbor water near FKEC's fuel and oil holding tanks. Spill team members practice towing a spill boom and setting it in place by boat. FKEC stores generation diesel, gasoline, fleet diesel and lube oil in secure, reinforced tanks behind the Marathon Generation Facility.</p>	
<p><b><u>Energy Conservation</u></b></p>	<p>Demonstrated use and/or promotion of energy-efficient appliances, energy audits, and retrofits for financial savings and pollution reduction.</p>
<p>FKEC provides in-depth free energy audits in person to all business and residential consumers upon request. FKEC promotes the use of energy-efficient appliances in its monthly newsletter and also promotes a variety of energy-saving techniques throughout the year on its website and in print materials. FKEC's member service representatives are also available at the Annual Meeting, GLEE Expos and other community events to promote energy conservation.</p>	
<p><b><u>Green Building</u></b></p>	<p>Demonstrated use and/or promotion of green techniques and technologies during retrofits on existing buildings and efficient designs for new buildings.</p>
<p>FKEC used LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) guidelines to help plan a "greener" Tavernier Operations Center (opening soon). Some of the green features include: high efficiency chillers in lieu of standard central air; a louvered "eyebrow" around the top of the building to direct natural light in while keeping heat out; solar-assist water heating; a 30,000-gallon cistern to collect rain water from the roof; recycled building materials everywhere possible; bamboo flooring in some areas, recycled carpet materials and recycled tile; and an efficient cross-ventilation system in the new warehouse.</p>	

<b><u>Green Financing</u></b>	Demonstrated use and/or promotion of tax credits, rebates, and other incentive programs that help finance, sustainability projects. Also includes Socially Responsible Investing.
<p>In 2008, FKEC applied for and received a \$1 million Clean Renewable Energy Bond to install a total of 120 kilowatts of grid-tied solar power generation in two separate arrays. Not only will the solar panels add kilowatts to the grid, but FKEC's staff intends to use the experience it gains in installing these solar arrays to help educate and assist businesses and homeowners who are installing or interested in installing PV panels.</p>	
<b><u>Healthy Living</u></b>	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.
<p>FKEC Member Service Representative T.J. Patterson recently coordinated the donation of 58 CFL bulbs to a Supported Living Facility in Marathon requesting help with energy conservation. FKEC encourages its members to buy the most energy efficient appliances, to conserve energy in their daily lives, and to use energy efficient light bulbs and to recycle the spent bulbs. (Also see below information under "reuse" for information on sugarcane plates.)</p>	
<b><u>Land Conservation</u></b>	Demonstrated adherence and/or promotion of conservation of natural habitats by using Keys-Friendly landscaping practices and use of <a href="#">GreenThumb Certified Nurseries</a> .
<p>FKEC encourages and guides the use of native trees and shrubs at FKEC facilities, substations and office grounds. FKEC also encourages home and business owners to plant native trees and to plant them in the proper location so they don't interfere with overhead power lines. FKEC also plans to plant native trees and shrubs at its new facilities in Tavernier. In addition, the company builds platforms for ospreys and moves nests that are in harm's way on power structures. FKEC has also relocated more than 33,000 tree snails (by hand!) in advance of tree trimming in our Card Sound Road right-of-way since 1993.</p>	
<b><u>R4 #1: Reduce</u></b>	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.
<p>FKEC encourages members to use the Internet for bill paying and to "opt out" of paper bills to reduce paper use and waste paper. Approximately 10% of FKEC's members have gone paperless to date. Payments can be made by credit card or bank draft. Members can also view their monthly usage charts, average usage charts, payment history and service request requests online.</p>	
<b><u>R4 #2: Reuse</u></b>	Demonstrated reuse of products, buy second hand, donate unneeded items, and avoid disposables, and share magazines /other publications before recycling them.
<p>In 2008, FKEC ordered 1,800 hinged clamshell food containers made from sugarcane fibers to serve free lunches at its Annual Meeting. This annually-renewable resource is made into compostable products with a similar look and feel to paper. And unlike Styrofoam, sugarcane clamshells will completely compost under commercial composting conditions in just 45-60 days. FKEC plans to order these same food containers again for its meeting in April 2009.</p>	

<b><u>R4 #3: Rot (Compost)</u></b>	Demonstrated waste diversion through composting of food scraps and yard trimmings
<p>FKEC sorts and mulches its tree trimmings and delivers free mulch to anyone requesting it for landscaping. FKEC also accepts Christmas trees for mulching after the holidays.</p>	
<b><u>R4 #4: Recycle</u></b>	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
<p>FKEC donated nearly 2,000 free recycling bins to our community after FKEC's staff learned that these bins were no longer available from Monroe County. FKEC also encourages recycling in its offices and break areas by providing bins and separate trash receptacles.</p>	
<b><u>Water Conservation</u></b>	Demonstrated use and/or promotion of water use reduction through efficient irrigation, xeriscaping, cisterns, rain barrels, water audits and/or use of reclaimed water.
<p>FKEC's new Tavernier Operations Center includes a 30,000 gallon cistern to capture and reuse rain water for irrigation and other purposes. The entire roof of the building was designed to direct rainfall into cistern pipes running throughout the building. Condensation from the air conditioning system is also directed into the cistern to augment rainfall. In addition, the building features waterless urinals and toilets with two separate flush settings in the second and third floor administrative restrooms. Pulling up on the flush handle results in a light flush and pushing down on the handle results in a full 1.6 gallon flush.</p>	
<b>Water Quality</b>	Demonstrated use and/or promotion of wastewater treatment, storm water retention, phosphorus free products, slow release fertilizers, animal waste reduction, etc.
<b>Youth Leadership</b>	Involve local students in projects and research for healthy long-term choices in any of the above for the future of all.
<p>FKEC has already hosted multiple visits by school children to its new solar array in Marathon and has used the opportunity to explain alternative energy and its role in the future of power generation. FKEC also donated free recycling bins to Upper and Middle Keys Schools and to specific classes and youth groups that were establishing recycling programs.</p>	

<b>GLEE Participation</b>	Actively involved with GLEE via ideas, time and/or membership to help further GLEE's <a href="#">Mission and Goals</a> .
<p>FKEC is proud to be a founding member of GLEE and has promoted GLEE extensively in its monthly magazine (Florida Monthly) distributed to approximately 25,000 home and business owners in the Middle and Upper Keys. FKEC's T.J. Patterson has served on GLEE's board since its inception. FKEC also links GLEE to the home page of its website and promotes the Expos and other GLEE programs.</p>	
<b>Other Factors</b>	Have you done something else not included in the scope of this application? Let us know!
<p>FKEC has also hosted and supported the Keyswide Sustain-Ability Project and FKEC staff members have provided extensive presentations to the group. FKEC staff members also provide endless community support through community presentations on environmental issues.</p>	

**Part 3: Other Agency/Organization Factors**

<b>Team Commitment</b>	List staff or other supportive people on your "Green Team"
<p>Primarily: CEO Scott Newberry; Member Service Representatives T.J. Patterson (GLEE board member), Maria Jones and Shawn Mulholland, although many other employees have volunteered and contributed to green events, including GLEE Expos, the Keyswide Sustain-Ability Project, and Earth Day. FKEC has also recently hired a new Environmental Affairs Manager, Sara Hamilton, to replace Dr. Deb Shaw who retired last year.</p>	
<b>Communications</b>	How are your environmental efforts visibly communicated to staff, locals, tourists, shareholders, customers and/or vendors?
<p>FKEC communicates with its members primarily through its monthly newsletter inserted into Florida Monthly magazine, through press releases to local papers, through participation in radio shows about energy conservation and green power, and through its website at <a href="http://www.FKEC.com">www.FKEC.com</a>.</p>	
<b>Certifications/Memberships</b>	Do you currently hold any green certifications or memberships?
<p>Member Service Representative T.J. Patterson is registered for courses to become a certified PV installer in 2009. He was also appointed to Monroe County's Green Building Code Task Force in 2008.</p>	

**Part 4: Green Pledge**

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

