



GLEE's 1st Annual Green Living Awards

Agency/Organization Category *For Cumulative Efforts leading up to Expo 2008*

Name of Agency/Organization: Florida Keys Electric Cooperative Association Tavernier
 Name of Applicant and relation to Agency/Org: Rebecca Callahan Newman, Public Relations City/Island

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. FKEC is proud to be the first fleet operator in the Keys to switch to biodiesel fuel, 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 almost 2,000 free recycling bins to the community all the way to planning new solar parking canopies to feed 150 kilowatts of alternative "green" power into the grid. FKEC's board of directors and staff 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 eco-friendly 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.

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: Hosted first two, attended all three.

Part 2: Accomplishments

<u>Renewable Energy</u>	Demonstrated use and/or promotion of appropriate solar, wind and bio generated sources of renewable energy.
<p>FKEC was the first utility in the Keys to provide interconnection for solar homes and will soon add 150 kilowatts of solar energy generation to its grid. There are now four interconnected homes with two more planned for connection this year. FKEC has also received a \$1 million Clean Renewable Energy Bond to add 150 kilowatts of solar energy to its grid. The first project is currently being engineered and involves the installation of a solar panel parking canopy at FKEC's Marathon facility. The power produced will be fed directly into the power grid to power homes in the Keys. A similar canopy is planned in Tavernier.</p>	
<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!
<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 than a year in service in both Tavernier and Marathon.</p>	
<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 .
<p>N/A</p>	
<u>Energy Conservation</u>	Demonstrated use and/or promotion of energy-efficient appliances, energy audits, and retrofits for financial savings and pollution reduction.
<p>FKEC provides extensive free energy audits to all business and residential consumers upon request. FKEC promotes the use of energy-efficient appliances in its monthly newsletter to 31,000 members and also promotes a variety of energy-saving techniques throughout the year on its website and in print materials. FKEC member service representatives are also available at the Annual Meeting, GLEE Expos and other events to promote energy conservation.</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.
<p>FKEC used LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) guidelines to help plan a "greener" Tavernier Operations Center (currently under construction). 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 cistern to collect rain water from the roof; recycled building materials everywhere possible; bamboo floors, recycled carpet materials and recycled tile; and an efficient cross-ventilation system in the new warehouse.</p>	

<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.
<p>FKEC applied for and received a \$1 million Clean Renewable Energy Bond to install solar generation on its grid. 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>	
<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.
<u>Land Conservation</u>	Demonstrated adherence and/or promotion of conservation of natural habitats by using Keys-Friendly landscaping practices and use of <u>GreenThumb Certified Nurseries</u> .
<p>FKEC's Environmental Affairs Manager Dr. Deborah Shaw is an outspoken advocate of land conservation and Keys-friendly landscaping, and she 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.</p>	
<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.
<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.</p>	
<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>FKEC ordered 1,800 hinged clamshell food containers made from sugarcane fibers to serve free lunches at its 2008 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.</p>	

<u>R4 #3: Rot (Compost)</u>	Demonstrated waste diversion through composting of food scraps and yard trimmings
<p>FKEC sorts and mulchs its tree trimmings and delivers free mulch to anyone requesting it for landscaping. FKEC also accepts Christmas trees for mulching after the holidays.</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
<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.</p>	
<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.
<p>FKEC's new Tavernier Operations Center will use a large cistern (already installed on site) to capture and reuse rain water for irrigation and other purposes.</p>	
Water Quality	Demonstrated use and/or promotion of wastewater treatment, storm water retention, phosphorus free products, slow release fertilizers, animal waste reduction, etc.
Youth Leadership	Involve local students in projects and research for healthy long-term choices in any of the above for the future of all.
<p>FKEC donated free recycling bins to Upper and Middle Keys Schools and to specific classes and youth groups that were establishing recycling programs.</p>	

GLEE Participation	Actively involved with GLEE via ideas, time and/or membership to help further GLEE's Mission and Goals .
<p>FKEC is proud to be a founding member of GLEE and has promoted GLEE extensively in its monthly magazine (Florida Monthly) distributed to 31,000 residents of the Middle and Upper Keys. FKEC also links GLEE to the home page of its website and promotes the Expos extensively.</p>	
Other Factors	Have you done something else not included in the scope of this application? Let us know!
<p>FKEC has hosted and supported the Keyswide Sustain-Ability Project and staff members have provided extensive presentations to the group. FKEC's Environmental Affairs Manager Dr. Deb Shaw has also provided endless community support through years of community presentations on environmental issues. In addition, she has hand-carried tree snails out of harm's way every year during right-of-way clearing and lovingly moved them to new, safer trees. She also serves as a board member on many conservation organizations.</p>	

Part 3: Other Agency/Organization Factors

Team Commitment	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; and Environmental Affairs Manager Dr. Deb Shaw, although many other employees have volunteered and contributed to green events, including GLEE Expos, the Keyswide Sustain-Ability Project, and Earth Day.</p>	
Communications	How are your environmental efforts visibly communicated to staff, locals, tourists, shareholders, customers and/or vendors?
<p>FKEC communicates with its 31,000 members through its monthly newsletter inserted into Florida Monthly magazine and through its website, www.fkec.com.</p>	
Certifications/Memberships	Do you currently hold any green certifications or memberships?
<p> </p>	

Part 4: Green Pledge

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

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