CENTURY COMMISSION FOR A SUSTAINABLE FLORIDA

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First Annual Report to the Governor and the Legislature
January 16, 2007

" I say the earth belongs to each generation during its course, fully and in its own right...(but) no generation can contract debts greater than may be paid during the course of its own existence."

Thomas Jefferson, 1789

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I have been honored to serve as the first Chair of the Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida. Please find our First Annual Report to the Governor and the Legislature. I hope you will consider this a first step in a much larger vision for the State of Florida for the next fifty years. Our hope is that we may lay the foundation for policymakers and encourage statewide communication, so that we may leave the Florida that we all love in a better condition than it was before. We want a Sustainable Florida, for our generation – and all the generations to come. Here is our initial plan.

Rick Baker, Mayor of St. Petersburg (Chair)

Century Commission Members

Rick Baker, Mayor, City of St. Petersburg
Mike Bennett, State Senator
Laura Benson, School Board Member, Sarasota County
Bob Bullard, County Commissioner, Highlands County
Chris Corr, Senior Vice President, The St. Joe Company
Dennis Gilkey, President and CEO, The Bonita Bay Group
John LaCapra, President, Florida Ports Council
Charles Lee, Director of Advocacy, National Audubon Society
Mary McCarty, County Commissioner, Palm Beach County
Charles Pattison, AICP, Executive Director, 1000 Friends of Florida
Julio Robaina, Mayor, City of Hialeah
Gary Schraut, President, Schraut and Associates
Kathleen Shanahan, CEO, WRS Infrastructure and Environment, Inc. (Resigned May 2006)
Lula Butler, Director of Community Improvement, City of Delray Beach (Appointed to Replace Kathleen Shanahan, August 2006)
Steve Uhlfelder, Uhlfelder and Associates
Don Whyte, President, Newland Communities

Steve Seibert, Executive Director
Mary Oakley, Director of Research

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Introduction

1. Introduction

Created in late 2005, the Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida was formed to envision Florida's next 50 years – the Florida we want to pass on to our children and grandchildren – and to make recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature about how to realize that future.

Our initial deliberations have led us to the following conclusions:

- The Century Commission cannot forecast Florida's future alone; it will take many minds and voices, and time, to envision and then create the future we all desire…a future where basic human needs are met, where prosperity is available to all, and where our critical natural environment is preserved. Although the details of that vision are yet to be defined, the enormity and urgency of the challenge is clear.

- Our current ways of doing business are simply inadequate to address Florida's ever expanding future challenges. The Commission's initial recommendations focus on gathering the necessary information to make better decisions, and on the coordination of the entities necessary to address these challenges.

- Armed with more information and better data, we will be in a position to help local, regional and state decision-makers address these challenges. The Commission's recommendations to conduct a "values study," compile indicators and performance measures, and identify "critical lands and waters" all focus on collecting and using meaningful data that will better define the vision and the path toward it.

- Only a more coordinated and collaborative approach, by state, regional and local entities will solve the state's most perplexing problems. We are crippled by our separateness and the lack of coordinated effort. The Commission's recommendations dealing with regional visioning, state agency coordination, transportation corridor planning, and establishing collaborative research efforts regarding energy "independence," long-term water supply, community design and climate change, all lead to promoting a culture of efficiency, effectiveness, information sharing, and conflict resolution.

- If we are to create a Florida where our children and grandchildren will want to stay, we all must elevate the public conversation relating to the impacts of population growth upon our natural environment and upon our public infrastructure. The Century Commission has been charged to lead these discussions and help orchestrate the solutions. Our responsibility is to warn, but also to inspire.

This First Annual Report lays the foundation for the creation of a sustainable Florida.

Executive Summary

2. Executive Summary

Introduction

Florida faces an unfolding dilemma as a consequence of booming population growth and development. In our quest to seek a vibrant and balanced economy, we must also realize the impacts of growth upon our natural resources and public infrastructure. Florida's population is projected to increase from approximately 18 million to 27.5 million over the next 25 years, and double in 50 years. Unless such growth is planned wisely, suburban sprawl, transportation congestion, coastal densification, habitat fragmentation, and reduced agricultural land will be the inevitable result of this population increase. Land that should be protected will be lost forever unless it is identified soon and protected. These growth issues are made more complex by the consequences of climate change, with some predicting sea level rise by as much as 12 inches by 2075. Some experts also predict an increasing probability of more intense hurricanes striking the Florida coast, where 80% of the state's population resides. This "confluence of crises" makes the identification of statewide growth management priorities both critical and urgent and explains the need for the long-term visioning for which the Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida is charged.*

The Century Commission Charge

The Governor and the Legislature gave the Century Commission a very broad mission:

- To envision a sustainable future for Florida;
- Develop a shared image of our developed and natural areas;
- Focus on essential state interests;
- Serve as a repository for exemplary community-building ideas; and,
- Develop an annual report.

The statute provides that the annual report is to make recommendations for addressing growth management, discuss the need for inter-governmental cooperation, balance environmental protection with future development, and make recommendations on issues, including dedicated resources for funding of infrastructure, environmental, and educational needs.

This is a different kind of "citizen" Commission. The mandate involves not a single subject, but encompasses the broad responsibility for creating a sustainable Florida over generations. Recognizing the breadth of the charge, the Legislature did not expect the Commission would accomplish its work within a few months. The Commission is a "standing body," determined to take the time necessary to deliberate the complex issues facing Florida and to make meaningful recommendations to the Governor and Legislature.

* This report will use the names "Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida," the "Century Commission," and the "Commission" interchangeably.

Legislative Mandate

In 2005, the Legislature enacted Section163.3247, Florida Statutes, creating the Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida. The Commission was created as a standing body to help the citizens of this state envision and plan their collective future, with an eye towards both 25 and 50 year horizons.

Century Commission Statement of Principles

One of the first priorities of the Commission was to set forth a *Statement of Principles* upon which our decisions and recommendations will be based. These principles guide the Commission's deliberations and govern interaction among ourselves and with others. Realizing the enormity of the Commission's charge on how to maintain, and even improve the quality of life for the next two generations of Floridians, we are honored to be appointed to serve in this important role. We also offer these Principles as our initial guidelines; we seek citizen comment and direction if these do not reflect the values of those we serve.

Why Read This Report

There are many reasons to put this report on the shelf and not attempt to develop and implement a long range plan for Florida's future. It forces us to think about things we would rather not. It involves some sacrifice and might step on some toes. It isn't the way we've always done things. The challenges, described in the above Introduction, mandate that we craft dramatically new methods to address the state's long-term challenges.

Century Commission Process

A critical first step was to develop a process by which the Commission determined which topics are relevant for analysis and then to gather information on the current status and options for moving forward in relation to these topics. The Commission wants to assure every action taken leads to a thoughtful and open analysis and to meaningful recommendations.

The Commission embraced the following operating guidelines: 1) think long-term and statewide without getting caught up in today's controversies, 2) focus on solutions, not blame, 3) make recommendations based on factual data, 4) gather existing knowledge where available, from a wide variety of sources, 5) explore fundamental changes, and 6) listen to and engage the people of Florida in the future planning of the state.

Sustainability – Essential State Interests

For Florida to become sustainable, it must ensure the ability to meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet

their own needs. The strength of the state's economy and quality of environment converge to create our robust quality of life. It is within these inter-related themes that the Commission identified Florida's key areas of concern.
The Century Commission identified 12 issues that will challenge Florida during the next two generations - *Essential State Interests*. Although the Commission recognizes that other issues will arise during the course of its deliberations, the subjects listed below **must** be addressed in a comprehensive and coordinated manner in order to build a sustainable Florida and enhance the quality of life for all Floridians.

These *Essential State Interests* are organized under three general categories, which correspond to the pillars of sustainability: the economy, the natural and built environment, and social systems.

I. Providing for Floridians' Needs – Residents desire a strong community and good quality of life. Being able to provide for safety, shelter, and health strengthens neighborhoods, communities, and regions while promoting the equity, justice, education, and social support essential to a sustainable society. The preservation and celebration of local culture helps to unite communities and weaves the very fabric of our state. Within this context of social systems, the Commission will focus on the following topics:

1. Obtainable Housing
2. Health Care
3. Public Safety
4. Disaster Preparedness/Recovery
5. Culture and History
6. Governance

II. Preparing Floridians for Careers – Sustainable economic growth is vital to the state's continued success in the global economy. Both the private and public sectors desire a diverse and educated workforce that helps build markets for Florida's businesses. By enhancing competitive advantages today, there will be greater opportunity for more Floridians tomorrow. The Commission will focus on these two topics:

7. Education (all levels)
8. Economic Development

III. Protecting Florida's Lands and Waters – Florida is an exceptional state, endowed with natural beauty. The vitality of the state depends upon preserving and conserving this natural landscape. The Commission will focus on the following topics to ensure a sustainable natural environment:

9. Environment: land, water and air
10. Energy and Climate Change
11. Land Use/Community Design
12. Transportation and other Crucial Public Infrastructure

Summary of Recommendations

I. Develop research which enables Florida the opportunity to establish a date certain when Florida will become independent of foreign oil, by reducing its consumption to the state's proportionate share of domestic production, while improving our environment with an emphasis on reduction of carbon emissions.

A legislative charge of the Century Commission is to *focus on essential state interests*. There may be no more pressing issue in our state than the impact of our country's current level of use of fossil fuels on the state and global environment. The relationship between our energy sources and our security, economy and environment demand a bold vision. Of all the states, Florida has the most at stake – and must take a leadership role.

A. Work with research consultants to develop an approach to provide the Governor and Legislature with alternatives relating to this analysis.

B. An example of an analysis which may result from the approach described above may be to develop a series of scenarios (three at each time frame) which identify which steps would be required to accomplish this goal within 10 years, within 25 years, or within 50 years. These scenarios must take into consideration the cost of change, the level of environmental impact
and the impact on our quality of life of any proposed changes.

C. Coordinate process with the newly established Florida Energy Commission and other interested parties.

II. Launch research initiatives relating to long-term water supply, the potential impacts of climate change, and sustainable land use choices.

Developing long-term statewide water sources and addressing climate change are essential state interests.

A. Develop a series of alternative scenarios that provide for the 50-year water needs of the state.

B. Identify what stands in the way of adopting sustainable practices in Florida pertaining to water supply, energy policy and land use choices.

C. Develop an initial state strategy to address climate change, which will include recommendations for priority action steps to both mitigate impacts and to plan for its potential effects, including sea level rise.

III. Identify Florida's most precious natural places and develop a comprehensive cooperative *Conservation Blueprint* for the State.

Another legislative charge is to *develop a shared vision of our natural and developed areas*. This recommendation will further this goal.

A. Start by using existing data to identify Florida's most precious natural areas - our "critical lands and waters."

B. Work with interested stakeholders, both public and private, to develop imaginative and workable preservation and conservation strategies.

C. Being mindful of private property rights, develop the Conservation Blueprint with input from rural landowners, agricultural interests and developers.

IV. Understand citizen values and goals for Florida's future...and develop methods to measure and monitor progress toward those goals.

Another legislative charge is to *envision a future for our state*. As a starting point, we must identify the values of the people of our state and develop indicators so we can measure whether the values are being advanced.

A. Perform a Values/Indicators study.

B. Develop and fund the compilation of statewide indicators, including metrics involving school and student achievement.

C. Develop a detailed plan for how local/regional visioning can be expanded, supported and coordinated across the state; and how to use this visioning process to inform citizens and solicit their input on issues relating to sustainability.

V. Build a commitment to collaborate, and a process and structure which supports intergovernmental cooperation.

The following address these legislative charges: focus on *essential state interests, promote intergovernmental coordination* and serve as a r*epository for best community-building ideas.*

A. Seek Governor's support for State Agency coordination.

B. Participate in the Department of Transportation's "Future Corridors Initiative."

C. Establish a statewide Email Broadcast Information Service (EBIS), which provides a mechanism for local governments to efficiently exchange information and ideas.

Proposed Statutory Changes

The Century Commission recommends to the Legislature that the Commission be expanded by three members and that these appointments reflect Florida's diverse character. The Century Commission should be assigned to the Office of the Governor for purposes of administration and fiscal responsibility, the Executive Director should serve at the pleasure of the Commission, and the Commission should be permitted to accept financial support from outside sources.

Closing Comments

The members of the Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida are optimistic and energized by what we have accomplished in this initial year of activity. We have received a tremendous amount support from various agencies, organizations and citizens by way of information, data and input. We have heard and generated some significant ideas, and recognize the tremendous challenge in trying to shape Florida for the next two generations, particularly in light of significant population growth and global change. **We know we cannot do it by ourselves.** It will take several years and many partners to make the course correction necessary to provide for a sustainable Florida. We also know the Century Commission's most valuable contribution may be in orchestrating the skill sets of others to address Florida's most difficult long-range challenges.

This is a *call to action*. Not only will it will take an unprecedented coordination of attention, resources and purpose to create the Florida we all desire, it will also take a strong commitment by our leadership to lay the foundation for a Florida where our families thrive and "where our children and grandchildren will want to stay."

We look forward to continued strong support from the Governor and the Legislature as we envision and make recommendations for a sustainable Florida.

A detailed report of our process and recommendations follow.

Prologue: Population Growth and Development Patterns

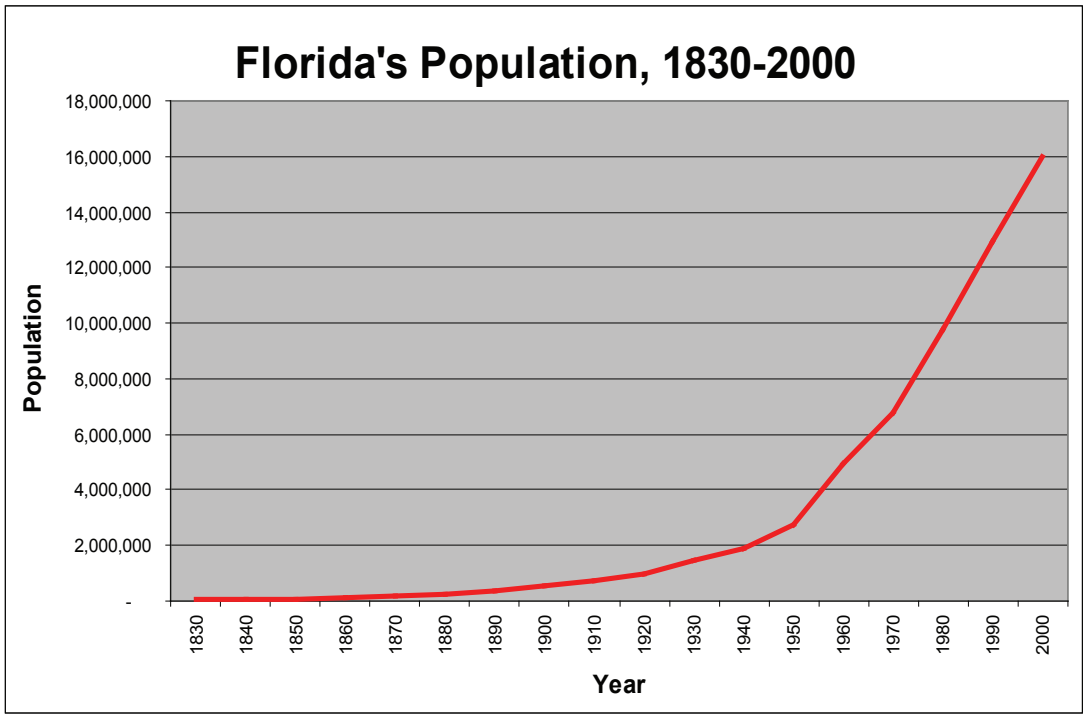
3. Prologue

Population Growth and Development Patterns

Between 1950 and 2000 the state of Florida saw more growth and experienced more changes in its development patterns than any other state in the nation. In 1950 Florida was home to less than 2.8 million residents, with 60% of the state's residents living in a rural setting. By the year 2000, the state had grown to almost 16 million residents. By 2000, fully 84% of the state's residents lived in urban or suburban settings.

Fueling these changes has been a massive, continuous population influx, with Florida adding roughly 3 million new residents in each of these last three decades. (See Figure 1.) In effect, the state of Florida has added a city with the population of St. Petersburg each year since 1970. At this time, there is no reason to believe this trend will abate in the coming decades, suggesting we pay even more attention to issues such as education, water supply, workforce innovation, environmental protection, and transportation.

Figure 1.



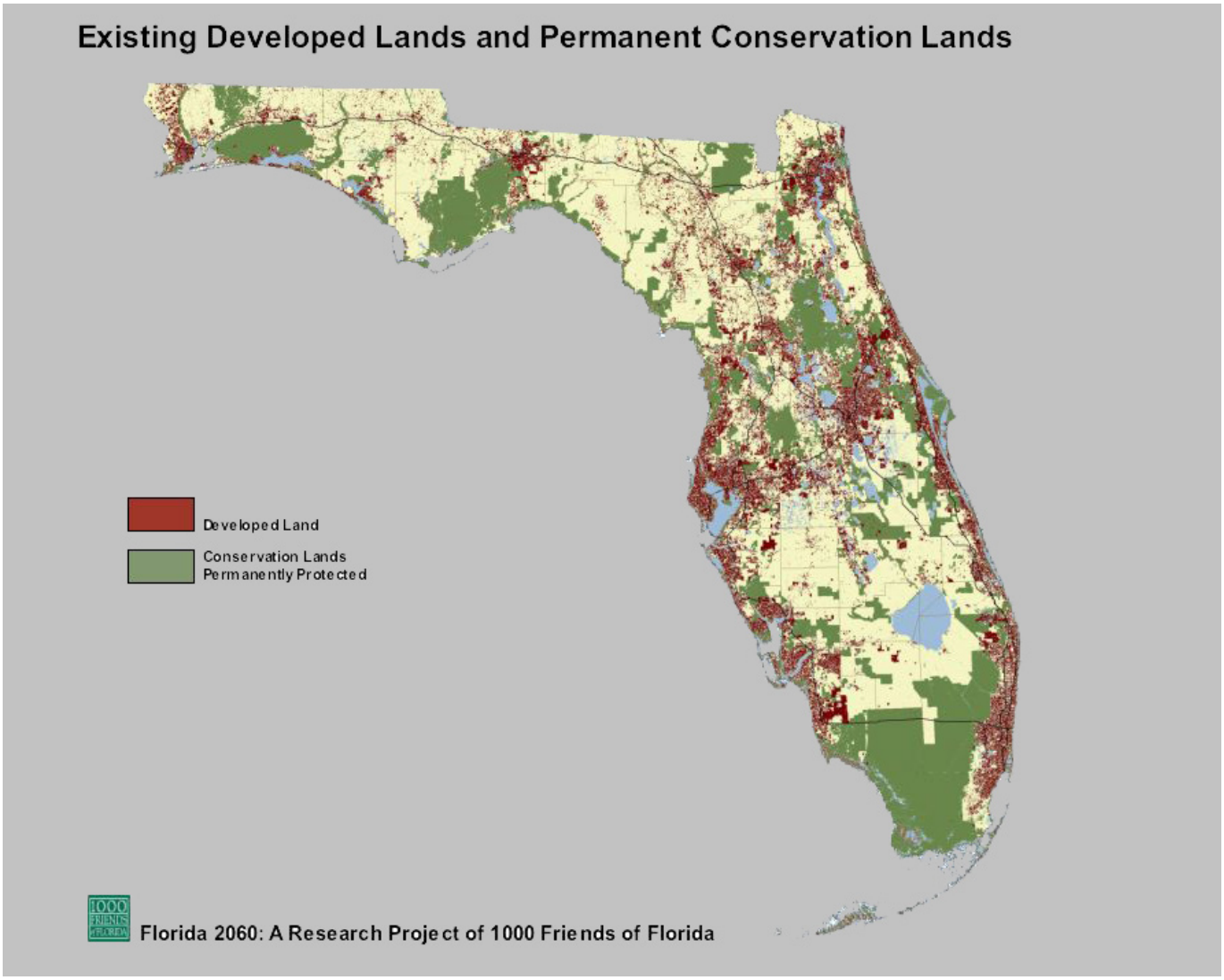
Source: Tim Chapin, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Florida State University

Beyond these gross population increases are demographic attributes that will shape the state for decades to come. Florida is well-known as a retirement destination, with roughly 17% of retirement age (65 and older). However, in the coming decades the state's population will only get older, as the generation of baby boomers comes into retirement age.

Other population trends worth noting are the emerging intra-state shifts in population. While much of the growth will continue to be experienced in the peninsula's most populous counties (the Dade-Broward-Palm Beach megalopolis, as well as Orange, Hillsborough, and Duval counties), growth is beginning to occur in areas of the state bypassed by the boom of late 20th century. Three trends seem readily apparent; 1) the movement of residents out of high growth areas, such as southeastern Florida, into other areas of the state, 2) the emergence of new suburban centers in the next ring of counties outside of the state's traditional urban centers, and 3) a Florida Panhandle boom due to the emergence of this region as a popular and viable place for retirees, visitors, and new residents.

How will we grow: what shape will this growth take? With the assistance of professors at the University of Florida's GeoPlan Center, and at Georgia Tech, 1000 Friends of Florida commissioned a snap shot of Florida in the year 2060 to show where projected growth will go if each county maintains over the next 50 years a pattern of development and density similar to today's. Figure 2 shows, in red, the distribution of the current development in Florida and Figure 3 shows the projected development in 2060.

Figure 2.

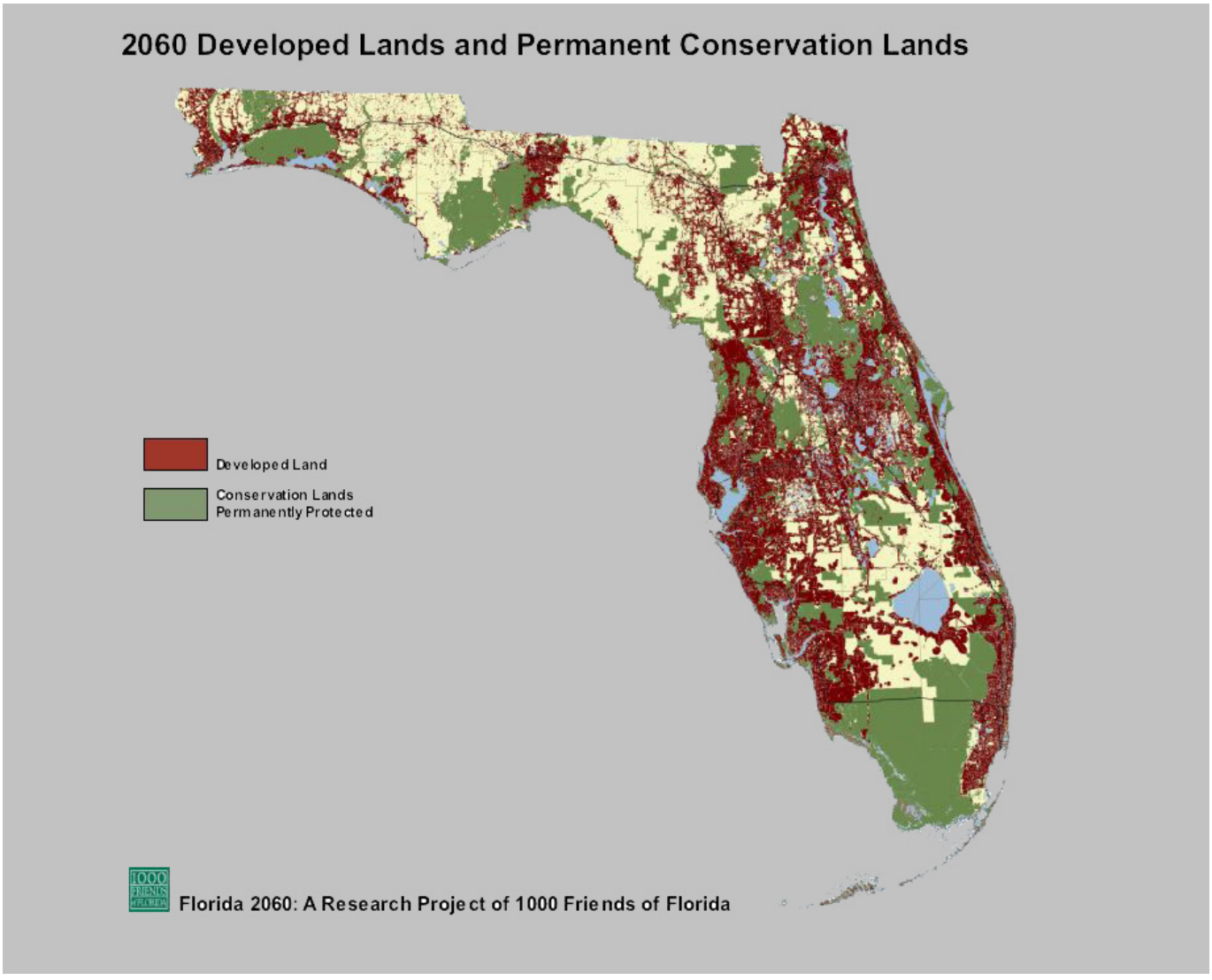


The number of Floridians is expected to double during the next two generations, increasing from nearly 18 million at present to almost 36 million in 2060.

Assuming that our new population will consume land in the same way as existing development, the 1000 Friends of Florida's "Florida 2060" project shows how Florida will appear 50 years from now (Figure 3).

This study projected that an additional seven million acres of undeveloped land, or almost 20 percent of the state's total land area, will convert to urban use through sprawl by 2060—that is, unless we plan differently for growth today. As the authors of A Time for Leadership: Growth Management and Florida 2060 wrote, "Our future is far too important to just let it happen."

Figure 3.



While the population trends may be inevitable – the state's population will continue to grow and the overall population will age – Florida's future is not set in stone. The location, form, and sustainability of new development can be influenced. The provision of education, medical services, and public infrastructure, among others things, can be tailored to shape a Florida in two generations that remains economically vibrant, socially just, and environmentally sustainable. The quality of life in our state can be maintained, even enhanced. This document reports on the first steps in a journey to develop a shared vision for Florida that achieves these lofty, but ultimately attainable goals.

Overview of Commission's Responsibilities

4. Overview of Commission's Responsibilities

The Century Commission was created, and charged by the Governor and Legislature, with a very broad mission: to envision a future for Florida, develop a shared image of our developed and natural areas, focus on essential State interests, serve as a repository of exemplary community-building ideas, and develop a report annually which (1) specifies recommendations for addressing growth management; (2) discusses the need for intergovernmental cooperation and balancing of environmental protection and future development; and (3) makes recommendations on issues including, without limitation, dedicated sources of funding for sewer facilities, water supply and quality, transportation and educational infrastructure.

It is important to note that the Commission is intended to be a standing, ongoing body, whose ideas should survive from one administration to another. It is not a group which focuses on a specific current issue, draws conclusions, makes a final report, and then disbands. It is uncommon for the State to appoint an independent body which continually reviews issues related to the sustainability and enhancement of our collective quality of life, and regularly makes recommendations for improvement.

The Commission has embraced operating guidelines in relation to its deliberations, among which are commitments to (1) think long term and statewide without getting caught up in today's controversies; (2) focus on solutions, not blame; (3) make recommendations based on data; (4) gather existing knowledge where available, from a variety of sources; (5) explore fundamental changes; and (6) listen to and engage the people of Florida. The Commissioners also discussed the importance of minimizing their professional affiliations; leaving "their logos at the door," if you will, and deliberating these difficult issues without simply advocating for the group they represent.

A critical first step was to develop a process by which the Commission determined which topics are relevant for analysis and then to gather information on the current status and options relating to those topics. The Commission needed to assure every action taken would lead to a thoughtful analysis and meaningful recommendations.

In its first year, it is true the Century Commission has neither addressed all the issues challenging Florida, nor developed recommendations relating to each mandate contained in the *First Annual Report* section of the law. However, it has identified the range of issues to discuss, charted a course to deal with them, and most importantly, proposed specific recommendations on how to change the state's approach to dealing with its future. As you will read in the subsequent pages, the Commission believes a more vigorous effort to collect and use meaningful data, along with far more collaborative methods of solving problems, must be pursued immediately and will serve Florida well in the next generation. This *First Annual Report* describes the process the Commission has undertaken, and the progress made to date on accomplishing the legislative mandate.

Legislative Mandate

5. Legislative Mandate

In 2005, the Legislature created Section 163.3247, Florida Statutes, which established the Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida. The Commission, comprised of 15 appointed members, was "created as a standing body to help the citizens of this state envision and plan their collective future with an eye towards both 25-year and 50-year horizons."

In the *Findings and Intent* section of the law, the Legislature noted that the state's population was expected to double over the next 100 years, with commensurate impacts to the state's natural resources and public infrastructure. It is "in the best interests of the people of the state to ensure sound planning for the proper placement of this growth and protection of the state's land, water, and other natural resource since such resources are essential to our collective quality of life and a strong economy. The state's growth management system should foster economic stability through regional solutions and strategies, urban renewal and infill, and the continued viability of agricultural economies, while allowing for rural economic development and protecting the unique characteristics of rural areas, and should reduce the complexity of the regulatory process while carrying out the intent of the laws and encouraging greater public participation." Section 163.3247 (2), Florida Statutes (2005).

The full Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida Act is included as Attachment A.

Statement of Principles

III. Statement of Principles

The Commission members felt their first responsibility was to set forth a "Statement of Principles" upon which they would operate and upon which their decisions and recommendations would be made. These principles will also guide our deliberations and govern how we interact among ourselves and with others.

We believe our eyes are to be cast forward, not backward; we should not be laying blame but rather trying to understand the causes of challenges we face. Our goal is to make bold and meaningful recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature which truly address our collective future. We intend to discover and to tell the truth.

We believe our job is to think long term and statewide. Other Commissions are created to deal with today's controversies. Our job is to consider the fundamental changes needed to improve Florida's future.

We believe the thread which runs through all our work is to create a sustainable Florida, a state which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. We know that "a sustainable society is one that can persist over generations, one that is far-seeing enough, flexible enough, and wise enough not to undermine either its physical or its social systems of support." *

We believe that Florida's continued population growth is a fact; it is assumed in our creating statute and supported by all population projections. The rate of growth may change, but it would be irresponsible to fail to strategically plan for the many new citizens coming to this state or to recognize the changing demographics during the next two generations.

We believe the formation of public policy, at all levels, should consider the value of science, empirical information, social and economic trends, tested "best practices," and other data. There is much valuable information available which could help our leaders make wiser decisions. The challenge is to find, compile, and share that information.

We believe in the importance of regional visioning, and in regional action plans based upon those visions, as effective methods to address many of our most complex policy challenges.

We believe that a greater measure of intergovernmental coordination, among all levels, and particularly among state agencies, is essential to creating a better future.

We believe we can provide our best service to Floridians by considering, with an open mind, the interests and arguments presented by our Commission colleagues, by the experts who assist us, and by listening carefully when citizens tell us what they truly care about and why. We commit to finding new and better ways to engage the citizens of Florida in this effort to envision our collective future.

We believe in setting specific goals and in measuring our progress in reaching those goals. Such goals, however, should be set only after appropriate research, discussion and adoption by concensus. There are few measurable goals in this initial report because we have not completed that full process to determine what goals we should recommend. Ours, by choice, is a deliberate process and we will not rush to judgment on matters of such importance.

We believe that citizenship requires knowledge and commitment. The freedom we enjoy is a privilege and must be earned by our participation in self-government. Accordingly, we believe we must help elevate the public discussion about the challenges Florida faces. We must thoughtfully consider the future, courageously inform about its dangers and inspire a widespread commitment to face these challenges now.

* Beyond the Limits: Confronting Global Collapse; Envisioning a Sustainable Future,by Meadows, Meadows, and Randers, 1992.

First Year Approach in Overview

7. First Year Approach in Overview

This section provides an overview of how the Century Commission began its work. From initial conversations, it was clear the biggest challenge was to figure out what issues would transform Florida in the next two generations and how the Commission could wrap its arms around them.

At the March 2006 meeting, the Commission discussed the answers to the question: "What is the Florida you *fear* in the year 2030?" That compilation of fears led to listing the 12 "Essential State Interests," or topics to address in order to build a sustainable Florida, and **to the realization that these topics are inter-related and inter-dependent.**

Florida cannot assure economic prosperity, for example, without developing a highly functional transportation system, a world class education system, and protecting precious natural resources. They are all tied together.

Professional Partnerships

The Century Commission recognized it could thrive only if it uses the skill sets of many other professionals and organizations. With such a broad mandate, no small staff in Tallahassee could ever adequately advise the Commission, nor did the Commission want to build an institutional empire. Therefore, the Commission built its process upon partnerships and contracted academic research.

In its first year, the Commission partnered with the Council for Sustainable Florida-Collins Center for Public Policy; the Institute for Alternative Futures; the Florida Indicators Network; professors and researchers at Florida State University; Florida Atlantic University; and the University of Florida; the Florida Chapter of the American Institute of Architects; Florida Department of Transportation; the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission; the Florida Housing Finance Corporation; the Florida Department of Community Affairs; Harris Interactive, Inc.; and Healthy Development, Inc. The Commission also organized two technical advisory committees: one pertaining to rural lands and the other addressing planning and governance. The Commission benefited substantially from these partnerships and expects the benefits of using the skills and knowledge of present and additional partners and collaborators will be more fully realized in 2007.

Citizen Involvement

The Commission also expressed the need to know what citizens value most about the state and their communities now, and what they want Florida's future to hold. Additionally, the Commission desired to know what solutions citizens might propose, what metrics they believe evidence success in realizing visions, and what trade-offs they are willing to make to achieve a better future. This engagement with the people is also just beginning. It requires, at least, an educational and interactive website, many public presentations, and a first-of-its-kind statewide survey to ask people what they care about and why. The public engagement piece of the growth planning system in Florida has not yet been adequately developed. This is a priority for the Century Commission.

Within the first year of existence, the Century Commission engaged in a number of specific projects that will help shape the path for the Commission's future efforts:

- The Century Commission contracted for a "values/indicators study" to be performed as a pilot project in the St. Petersburg/Tampa Bay area by Harris Interactive, Inc.

- The Commission believes in the importance of indicators (performance measures) and is working with specialists in the field of data collection in order to provide the Commission with a list of indicators that should be compiled on a statewide basis.

- The Commission contracted with Florida State University (Florida Natural Areas Inventory) and the University of Florida (GeoPlan Center) for the first phase of the *Critical Lands/Water Identification Project* (CLIP). Any plan for the future of Florida must begin with the identification of the most precious lands and waters. The first phase of this project involves developing the criteria in a scientifically-defensible manner and mapping the identified properties.

- The Commission introduced the concept of an Email Broadcast Information Service (EBIS) to the Florida League of Cities and the Florida Association of Counties. EBIS will provide networking and shared knowledge among Florida's local governments.

- Utilizing the expertise of many other individuals and organizations, the Century Commission will develop scenarios and options for consideration by the Commission and for citizens input, relating to future water supply, energy alternatives and global climate change.

- Three valuable reports from the State University System were completed for the Commission in 2006: a Florida State University study that synthesized all available Florida survey data on "Citizen Attitudes Towards Growth;" a University of Florida compendium ("Toward a Sustainable Florida") that explains how the concept of *sustainability* applies to each of the 12 Essential State Interests the Commission had identified; and an initial listing of proposed statewide indicators, facilitated by Florida Atlantic University. (These reports are available at www.centurycommission.org.)

The Century Commission's work is an ongoing process. The *First Annual Report* marks the beginning. The question we will continually strive to address as we conduct our work is:

> ***How do we protect and improve the quality of life in Florida, for the next two generations, in the face of global changes and statewide population growth?***

The Commission's goal is to provide viable and widely vetted answers to that important question, along with practical implementation strategies for building a better, sustainable future for Florida.

Process Followed

8. Process Followed

In order to provide recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature, the Commission identified which topics were relevant for discussion relative to sustainability enhancements, gathered information from multiple sources as available and appropriate, and began to evaluate the information as a Commission. The Commission also concluded that, as a component of the process, it is critical to develop statewide indicators which will measure how well the State is advancing the progress of sustainability enhancements.

A. ***Identify Essential State Interests***. The Commission identified the following broad topical areas which impact the sustainability and enhance the quality of life for Floridians into the future. In sustainability literature, these topical areas are often referred to as "Social," "Economic," and "Environmental."

I. Providing for Floridians' Needs (Social)

1. Obtainable Housing
2. Health Care
3. Public Safety
4. Disaster Preparedness/Recovery
5. Culture and History
6. Governance

II. Preparing Floridians for Careers (Economic)

7. Education (All Levels)
8. Economic Development and Prosperity

III. Protecting Florida's Lands and Waters (Environmental)

9. Environment: Land, Water and Air
10. Energy and Climate Change
11. Land Use and Community Design
12. Transportation and other crucial public infrastructure

B. ***Gather Information***. The Commission gathered substantive information concerning the Essential State Interests in order to evaluate the critical issues affecting sustainability enhancement and alternatives to be pursued relating to same. Methods used in gathering such information included:

1. Academic Research.

a. Florida State University "Assessing Citizen Attitudes Towards Growth." Attachment C contains a summary of this report.

b. University of Florida "Towards a Sustainable Florida." Attachment D contains a summary of this report.

c. Florida Critical Lands/Water Identification Project, Phase I. Attachment E contains an overview of Phase I.

2. **Topic Expert Presentations.** Topic experts were invited to make presentations to the Commission and recommendations relating thereto. A listing of the experts who have made presentations is included as Attachment F.

3. **Gather Public Input.** The Commission has begun to gather public input on Essential State Interests and statewide community priorities as applied to quality of life, sustainability and enhancement. Methods of soliciting public input include:

   a. **Website.** See Attachment G for a summary of details about the Commission's website: www.centurycommission.org.

   b. **Speaking engagements.** See Attachment H for a list of outside speaking engagements by the Executive Director and Commission members.

   c. **Regional meetings.** See Attachment I for a list of the Century Commission's regional meetings, and the meeting schedule for 2007.

   d. **Values Study.** The results of the "values/indicators" pilot study, being conducted in January and February 2007 in the Tampa Bay region, will be presented at the March 2007 Century Commission meeting. (The final report will be posted on the Commission's website, subsequently.) See Attachment B for a summary of this research in progress.

C. ***Performance Measures/Indicators.*** The Commission will work with a range of partners to identify and develop a set of indicators that will measure, on an ongoing basis, whether or not we are advancing towards goals that will be established relating to the Essential State Interests.

1. **Compilation.** Acknowledging that the indicators must be refined and modified as time goes on, the Florida Indicators Network prepared an initial statement to the Commission as to its recommendations for statewide indicators. This statement is included as Attachment J.

2. **Baseline Survey.** The Commission will conduct a baseline survey of potential indicators in 2007.

D. ***Commission Partnerships and Advisors.*** In an effort to receive a broad spectrum of input and information, the Century Commission is currently partnered with a wide variety of public and private entities and experts. Please see the "Professional Partnerships" summarized in the previous section (Section 7, First Year Approach in Overview).

Recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature

9. Recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature

A. Introduction to the Recommendations

The recommendations in this First Annual Report should be considered "foundational." They form the basis for the 2007 work plan and beyond, and the initiatives developed this year are intended to produce specific recommendations for the Commission to consider for inclusion in the next Annual Report due in January 2008.

In addition, the recommendations proposed below should in no way be considered exhaustive. The omission of details addressing some of the most pressing problems facing Florida's future (for example; education, public infrastructure funding, economic development, and health care) should not be considered an oversight; rather, the Commission has not yet determined how to address such enormous challenges. The Commission also recognizes that we cannot address all 12 topics of primary interest (Essential State Interests) thoughtfully at once, despite the interrelatedness and interdependence of the topics and a sense of urgency to address every one of them soon.

To be successful in coordinating the creation of a long-range vision for a sustainable Florida, the Commission must fix its focus on several priority topics and initiatives each year and address them in a logical, base-building progression. And though it is the goal to create a comprehensive vision of what Floridians **want** Florida to become, the first step is to insure the state addresses our fundamental priorities: to meet the basic needs for water, food, shelter and safety, and energy for its residents. This is the rationale for the decision to focus first on sustainable water supply and quality, alternative energy sources and climate change, and the impacts of our land use choices, including resource-efficient building and community design.

It is also vitally important to be well-informed about the science and possible effects of climate change, including incremental sea level rise and an increase in the severity of storms and duration of droughts. Climate change considerations will likely affect *all* aspects of long-range land-use planning and make such planning even more challenging, as well as important.

The initial recommendations focus on gathering the necessary information to make better decisions, and on the coordination of the entities necessary to address these challenges.

The collection and analysis of vital data assumes that such data should be used to inform the decision-making of local and state officials. The Commission's current initiatives relating to performing a citizens' values study, the development of statewide indicators, and the "Critical Lands/Waters Identification Project" all focus on collecting and using meaningful data. These initiatives require further development of these initiatives in an increasingly collaborative fashion.

Further, the Commission believes that only a coordinated and collaborative approach will solve the most perplexing challenges. Florida is crippled by our "silos," and the recommendations dealing with regional and local visioning, state agency coordination,

and establishing an e-mail-based information system all lead to creating a culture of efficiency, collaboration and conflict resolution.

If these principles of using data AND creating dynamic processes which foster coordination were fully embraced, it would revolutionize problem solving in this state. This is not soft, fuzzy thinking; it is survival.

Our business model is to engage the expertise and energy of many others who have already been studying the problems, and working on potential solutions to those problems, that the Century Commission intends to address. The Commission plans to launch several task-specific working/advisory groups in 2007 that will conduct their own process of outreach, research, and deliberation that will bring the best ideas, information and distilled thinking before the Commission, along with recommendations for the Commission to consider.

With a staff of only two full-time professionals and such a broad mandate, the Century Commission will need an adequate budget to purchase the time of leading and supporting academics and garner data, professional expertise and supplemental project funding from state agencies and other entities. The Commission has entered a stage of intensive strategic planning that will last at least through the first quarter of 2007, where it will work with lead scientists and strategic planning partners to organize and plan to manage this model. This is the best method to address matters as vitally important, complex, and interrelated as the future of energy and water resources, how to protect "must save" lands in Florida, and how to understand and deal with climate change. The Century Commission is proposing very significant research efforts and its ability to proceed is dependent upon the availability of funding and other support.

In fact, experience indicates the most important role the Century Commission plays is in orchestrating the skills sets of others to address Florida's most difficult long-range challenges.

B. Specific Recommendations

I. Develop research which enables Florida the opportunity to establish a date certain when Florida will become independent of foreign oil, by reducing its consumption to the state's proportionate share of domestic production, while improving our environment with an emphasis on reduction of carbon emissions.

A. Work with research consultants to develop an approach to provide the Governor and Legislature with alternatives relating to this analysis.

B. An example of an analysis which may result from the approach described above may be to develop a series of scenarios (three at each time frame) which identify which steps would be required to accomplish this goal within 10 years, within 25 years, or within 50 years. These scenarios must take into consideration the cost of change, the level of environmental impact and the impact on our quality of life of any proposed changes.

C. Coordinate process with the newly established Florida Energy Commission and other interested parties.

There may be no more pressing issue in our state than the impact of our country's current level of use of fossil fuels on the state and global environment. The relationship between our energy sources and our security, economy and environment demand a bold vision. Of all the states, Florida has the most at stake—and must take a leadership role.

II. Launch research initiatives relating to long-term water supply, the potential impacts of climate change, and sustainable land use choices.

A. Develop a series of alternative scenarios which provide for the 50-year water needs of the state.

B. Identify what stands in the way of adopting sustainable practices in Florida pertaining to water supply, energy policy, and land use choices.

C. Develop an initial state strategy to address climate change, which will include recommendations for priority action steps to both mitigate impacts and to plan for its potential effects, including sea level rise.

The first year of the effort contemplated by this recommendation will be devoted to establishing the necessary organizational structure, primarily using existing entities,

and review of existing data in each of the three areas; water supply, climate change and land use.

If a role of the Century Commission is to help find the way and lead the way to a sustainable future in Florida, the Commission needs to understand what is standing in the way right now. The Commission will ask leading academics and industry professionals to identify the main obstacles they encounter and to propose solutions that would put the state on a sustainable path.

The Commission further expects to focus on resource conservation, or the need to increase efficiency to decrease resource consumption in all categories. Florida should begin with the fundamental sustainability concept of using conservation first to stretch these limited resources.

With the help of its academic partners, the Commission intends to develop and discuss alternative long range scenarios for each of these initiatives.

The Commission recognizes that the "energy initiative" discussed in Recommendation I and this one addressing climate change are interwoven. When asked what they considered the biggest threat to Florida's future to be, the principals of the Institute for Alternative Futures (AIF) answered unequivocally: climate change. (Please see Attachment B, Research Reports in Progress, for a preview of a report that will be delivered in February 2007 by AIF. The preview describes the numerous ways climate change can affect our state.)

Floridians should understand the scientific projections and potential impacts regarding climate change on Florida, as these variables should be considered in other analyses and endeavors, including long-range water supply planning, and developing land conservation strategies that promote a robust future for agriculture. The specter of sea level rise in this flat, peninsular state complicates the already difficult question, "Where should the future newcomers to Florida go?"

The new Florida Energy Commission, whose members were appointed in December 2006, is charged with developing "a comprehensive state climate change action plan with greenhouse gas reduction…" (Senate Bill 888, 2006). The action plan is due to the State Legislature on December 31, 2007. The Century Commission will not duplicate the efforts of the Energy Commission; rather it anticipates working in a complementary fashion to address this complex issue.

Much groundwork has already been laid by many. At least 30 states have taken decisive action in some way to address climate change, and for many states that means measuring and reporting their greenhouse gas emissions. Numerous state and national organizations are actively engaged in climate change initiatives, and many are focusing their attention and resources on Florida, to increase awareness and to assist state policymakers in planning to take positive action.

III. Identify Florida's most precious natural places and develop a comprehensive *Conservation Blueprint* for Florida.

A. Start by using existing data to identify Florida's most precious natural areas, our "critical lands and waters."

B. Work with other interested stakeholders, both public and private, to develop imaginative and workable preservation and conservation strategies.

C. Being mindful of private property rights, develop the *Conservation Blueprint* with input from rural landowners, agricultural interest and developers.

A common theme of concern the Commission continually hears, and its members experience, relates to the loss of environmentally significant lands and waters due to the transformation of such property to development. Any meaningful plan for the future of Florida must begin with the identification of those truly precious properties, using a scientific process and the best available data.

Beginning in the summer of 2006, scientists from the Florida Natural Areas Inventory of Florida State University and from the GeoPlan Center of the University of Florida have been working jointly on the Critical Lands/Waters Identification Project, or CLIP. (Please see Attachment E for a description of CLIP, Phase 1, and a listing of the lead scientists and the multi-agency advisory panel involved.)

The purpose of CLIP, Phase 1, is to build on similar endeavors in the past that identified, using GIS spatial data, Florida's critical habitat, biodiversity hotspots, fragile watersheds and springsheds, and other ecologically valuable and priceless places that would be prudent to preserve. CLIP has evaluated, incorporated, updated and augmented previous work and is identifying lingering data limitations. CLIP is a tool; it should be used to **begin a new conversation** about thoughtful land conservation.

As late as November 2006, the Century Commission also discovered that the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) was working to develop a statewide conservation strategy, whose objectives, timelines, and proposed processes were aligned with CLIP and embodied the advice we had received so far from land owners about how to properly proceed with conservation planning. It makes sense to partner with FWC in the development of its *Cooperative Conservation Blueprint* (part of FWC's *Florida's Wildlife Legacy Initiative*). FWC believes it can use the information provided by CLIP and both initiatives—CLIP and the Conservation Blueprint—can be further developed together.

FWC is intent on partnering with many organizations and stakeholders to develop the *Cooperative Conservation Blueprint*, and an important goal of the *Blueprint* strategy is to develop non-regulatory methods to protect Florida's natural resources. The Century Commission will help FWC organize, and will participate in, a series of meetings with land owners and the agricultural community, to work on the *Blueprint*

and consider new tools for land conservation and agricultural preservation that may be implemented in Florida. The intention is to eventually work on CLIP and the cooperative conservation strategy at the regional level, ideally as part of a regional visioning process.

The Century Commission wishes to stress the importance of fully engaging the agricultural community in the development of CLIP specifically, and in the Commission's future visioning efforts generally. Since the time the CLIP initiative was launched, the Commission began a parallel initiative to begin to talk to rural land owners in Florida and explore their concerns about CLIP, and garner their advice about how the community conversation about CLIP could be presented in the most constructive way.

Approximately 100,000 acres of agriculturally-productive land is lost to development each year. There are many reasons for this trend, including federal inheritance tax and trade policies, the spread of citrus canker and greening, and pure economics… along with other pressures. It is also true that much of this agricultural land lies in the path of Florida's future growth. Given agriculture's preeminent role in our state's economy, and its value to Floridians in providing water recharge, open space, natural habitat, cultural tradition, and even domestic security, there is an immediate need to fully engage the agricultural community in the Commission's efforts to develop a long-term statewide vision.

The Century Commission has formed a Rural Lands Technical Advisory Committee and will be seeking advice from this resource and others to help weave the future of agriculture into the future of Florida.

IV. Understand citizens' values and goals and develop methods to monitor and measure progress toward those goals.

The cornerstone of every visioning effort should be the understanding of what citizens truly care about most and why. The only way to determine such values is to ask. The presumption that 15 Commission members can develop a statewide vision is unreasonable. The input from a broad range of citizens of the state is absolutely necessary to create a vision that can be embraced by all. This approach has also been a key component of successful regional visioning in Central Florida and in other parts of the country, and should be the foundation for our statewide visioning effort.

A. Perform a Values/Indicators Study.

The Century Commission believes such a survey should probe citizen attitudes about what they hope Florida will become (our aspirations), how citizens would measure success toward realizing those aspirations (citizen values-based indicators) and what they are we willing to do to accomplish these goals (what are the trade-offs we are willing to make?).

The Century Commission has contracted for a "values/indicators study" to be performed, as a pilot project, in the St. Petersburg/Tampa Bay region in January and

February 2007. The results of this study will be presented at the Century Commission meeting in Tallahassee in March 2007, and the report of the findings will be posted on the Century Commission's website (www.centurycommission.org).

This survey will be asking the types of questions discussed above and it is expected the results will tell us what kinds of questions elicit truly meaningful answers and will ultimately inform the regional visioning process.

In this pilot study, we expect to learn enough about how to ask the right "values" questions to later recommend that such a study be performed statewide. Given the unique nature of this tool, it is prudent to test this approach as a pilot project before recommending a larger application.

B. Develop and fund the compilation of statewide indicators, including metrics regarding school improvement.

Indicators are numbers or measurements that describe and tell a story about the quality of life, prosperity, and sustainability of regions and communities. Through good communication strategies they raise awareness, generate conversations among different sectors about priority issues, and stimulate action. A commitment to progress requires a commitment to measure our progress. It is crucial to have data that is standard across the state's jurisdictions.

The Century Commission will support indicators work by creating and maintaining, either by itself or through its partners, an easily accessible database that provides data at the local, county, regional and state levels, with flexibility to be aggregated to obtain data for self-defined and unique regions. During 2007, the Century Commission will work with the Florida Indicators Network, state agencies, and other experts to develop a set of statewide indicators, specifically including metrics relating to Florida's educational system. The Commission should also support and publicize instruments and entities that help collect data regarding public opinion, philanthropy, and other measures of civic engagement and citizen values.

C. Develop a detailed plan for how local/regional visioning can be expanded, coordinated and supported across the state; and how to use these visioning processes to inform citizens and solicit their input on issues relating to sustainability.

Public policy operates at many levels. Today Floridians find themselves thrust into a global economy where regions of the world compete with each other for the inside track for future prosperity. Each region has challenges unique to their area. The Century Commission has been convinced that its charge, including the formation of a vision for the future of Florida, requires we engage in a vigorous and honest conversation at a level smaller than the state, but greater than a local community. Therefore, the Commission recommends a process to support regional visioning and regional action plans to implement those visions.

This recommendation is consistent with the findings of the Urban Land Institute's *Regional Cooperation Report* and the *2025 Florida Transportation Plan*, two documents developed with input from a wide range of pubic and private partners statewide.

There are numerous local and regional visioning initiatives in Florida that are already in progress or soon to be launched. The Century Commission recognizes these initiatives and will work with visioning leaders and planners through an outcomes-oriented process to be conducted in 2007. The Commission will draw on the ideas and experience of the state's visioning leaders to develop a comprehensive plan for coordinated regional visioning throughout Florida, and expects to compile the products of local and regional visioning efforts as essential building blocks in the construction of a vision for a preferred future Florida. The Century Commission can have no workable visioning plan nor can we develop a citizen-preferred future vision for Florida without this critical input.

Leading off with a convening of visioning and planning experts for a roundtable discussion to be held in the first half of 2007, the Commission anticipates that a steering committee will be formed and/or one or more working/advisory groups that will be tasked to answer key questions, such as:

- What should be the common elements of, and inputs to, a local/regional visioning process and what can the Century Commission contribute, or how can we facilitate these efforts?
- How can regional visioning efforts be coordinated with the Florida Department of Transportation's long-term *Future Corridors Initiative*?
- Should regional leaders from across the state be convened periodically to determine both common and unique indicators of regional performance and progress within and across the regions, and to share best practices?

In addition, a primary conclusion of the above-mentioned ULI Report on Regional Cooperation was that the Governor plays an essential role in regional problem-solving. In order for meaningful regional collaborative efforts to be sustained, the Governor must direct state agencies to function in a highly integrated manner to foster and support regional cooperation and actively support regional visioning efforts. Without such leadership, these efforts will most likely fail or under-perform.

V. Build a commitment to collaborate and a process and structure which supports intergovernmental cooperation.

Florida needs a new paradigm for problem-solving. We need to gather and use meaningful data; we need to break down the jurisdictional and substantive walls which keep thoughtful people of good will from fully communicating; we need to ask the Governor to support regional discussions and to direct state agencies to help; we need to address long-term challenges such as the future of energy and water supply, climate change and transportation; we need to create a culture of knowledge, communication and conflict resolution. We need to do better for our kids and grandkids; we need to create a Florida where they will want to stay.

A. Seek Governor's Support for State Agency Coordination.

Only the Governor can exercise the authority necessary to assure all state agencies coordinate *with each other* in order to efficiently address the Essential State Interests discussed earlier in this document. Such efforts tend to focus on the coordination of the Departments of Community Affairs (DCA), Environmental Protection (DEP), and Transportation (DOT) in growth planning related matters, and it is appropriate to assure these agencies are "joined at the hip;" but we cannot disregard the expertise and input of the Department of Elder Affairs (ex. Communities for a Lifetime program), the Department of Health, the Department of Education, the Secretary of State's office (historical and cultural matters) and several others.

The Century Commission respectfully recommends that the Governor direct key agencies, starting with DOT, DEP and DCA, to determine where their common efforts lie to achieve a sustainable Florida, and enter into "inter-local agreements" setting forth how they agree to work together and to achieve specific goals. We expect this would be in the nature of a several year work plan, and would be reviewable annually.

The Century Commission will help develop the "inter-local agreements." We further recommend that the Governor designate a person(s) within the executive branch as an advocate for regional visioning, state agency coordination and as a liaison with the Century Commission.

B. Participate in the Department of Transportation's Future Corridors Initiative.

The Century Commission acknowledges the coordinated effort of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) in developing its long range *Future Corridors Initiative*. No single government-sponsored project in existence today will have more of an impact on Florida's development patterns during the next 50 years than this effort, which will identify and develop future statewide corridors that connect economic regions of the state. These corridors should include multiple modes of transportation as well as utility, communications systems, and other linear facilities.

The Century Commission strongly believes that, at a minimum, DOT and its partners should use data gained from CLIP, as well as the processes recommended through the local/regional visioning initiative, as these future transportation corridors are designated and developed.

C. Establish a statewide Email Broadcast Information Service (EBIS), which provides a mechanism for local governments to efficiently exchange information and ideas.

One of the exemplary models of intergovernmental coordination and dissemination of best practices is found at the University of Virginia's Cooper Institute for Public Policy and is called EBIS. This program is an online information service primarily for city and county officials, although the Commission hopes it will be used by regional and state entities as well. EBIS will facilitate networking among Florida's governments and provide practical "nuts and bolts" advice in a timely fashion.

The program is simple and effective. A government official e-mails a request for information or assistance to the operator of EBIS, and a database record for that inquiry topic is created. The question is then reformatted and emailed via a listserv to the local governments throughout the state. Responses to the inquiry are received first by the Institute, often within minutes, entered into the database record, and then transmitted to the original inquirer. All inquiries and responses are reviewed for relevance and professionally filtered before being forwarded. Sensitive or inappropriate issues can be handled this way.

Because the system can reach a majority of the state's local governments in seconds, and there is a commitment among local governments' staff to place a priority on EBIS-related questions, it represents a highly efficient replacement for the old custom of "letting the fingers do the walking" by calling a handful of other jurisdictions to find out who is doing what on a given issue. That process was often unsuccessful or offered very incomplete information.

In contrast, EBIS provides fast, up-to-date information on issues confronting the state's communities. Within a short time, virtually thousands of different topics can be addressed and a helpful database established. Substantial staff time is dedicated to screening the initial queries and responses. All materials are carefully reviewed before they go into the database or to the inquirer. In short, significant personnel support is need for such a system, and a qualified EBIS manager is a must.

The Florida League of Cities and the Florida Association of Counties have both expressed support for EBIS, at least as a pilot project, and would provide funds for its operation.

Proposed Statutory Changes

The Century Commission recommends to the Legislature that the Commission be expanded by three members and that these appointments reflect Florida's diverse character. Further, the Century Commission should be assigned to the Office of the Governor for purposes of administration and fiscal responsibility, the Executive Director should serve at the pleasure of the Commission, and the Commission should be permitted to accept financial support from outside sources.

Attachments

ATTACHMENT A

The Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida Act

(Florida Statutes Section 163.3247)

Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida.--

(1) POPULAR NAME.--This section may be cited as the "Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida Act."

(2) FINDINGS AND INTENT.--The Legislature finds and declares that the population of this state is expected to more than double over the next 100 years, with commensurate impacts to the state's natural resources and public infrastructure. Consequently, it is in the best interests of the people of the state to ensure sound planning for the proper placement of this growth and protection of the state's land, water, and other natural resources since such resources are essential to our collective quality of life and a strong economy. The state's growth management system should foster economic stability through regional solutions and strategies, urban renewal and infill, and the continued viability of agricultural economies, while allowing for rural economic development and protecting the unique characteristics of rural areas, and should reduce the complexity of the regulatory process while carrying out the intent of the laws and encouraging greater citizen participation.

(3) CENTURY COMMISSION FOR A SUSTAINABLE FLORIDA; CREATION; ORGANIZATION.--The Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida is created as a standing body to help the citizens of this state envision and plan their collective future with an eye towards both 25-year and 50-year horizons.

(a) The commission shall consist of fifteen members, five appointed by the Governor, five appointed by the President of the Senate, and five appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Appointments shall be made no later than October 1, 2005. The membership must represent local governments, school boards, developers and homebuilders, the business community, the agriculture community, the environmental community, and other appropriate stakeholders. One member shall be designated by the Governor as chair of the commission. Any vacancy that occurs on the commission must be filled in the same manner as the original appointment and shall be for the unexpired term of that commission seat. Members shall serve 4-year terms, except that, initially, to provide for staggered terms, the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall each appoint one member to serve a 2-year term, two members to serve 3-year terms, and two members to serve 4-year terms. All subsequent appointments shall be for 4-year terms. An appointee may not serve more than 6 years.

(b) The first meeting of the commission shall be held no later than December 1, 2005, and shall meet at the call of the chair but not less frequently than three times per year in different regions of the state to solicit input from the public or any other individuals offering testimony relevant to the issues to be considered.

(c) Each member of the commission is entitled to one vote, and actions of the commission are not binding unless taken by a three-fifths vote of the members present. A majority of the members is required to constitute a quorum, and the affirmative vote of a quorum is required for a binding vote.

(d) Members of the commission shall serve without compensation but shall be entitled to receive per diem and travel expenses in accordance with s. 112.061 while in performance of their duties.

(4) POWERS AND DUTIES.--The commission shall:

(a) Annually conduct a process through which the commission envisions the future for the state and then develops and recommends policies, plans, action steps, or strategies to assist in achieving the vision.

(b) Continuously review and consider statutory and regulatory provisions, governmental processes, and societal and economic trends in its inquiry of how state, regional, and local governments and entities and citizens of this state can best accommodate projected increased populations while maintaining the natural, historical, cultural, and manmade life qualities that best represent the state.

(c) Bring together people representing varied interests to develop a shared image of the state and its developed and natural areas. The process should involve exploring the impact of the estimated population increase and other emerging trends and issues; creating a vision for the future; and developing a strategic action plan to achieve that vision using 25-year and 50-year intermediate planning timeframes.

(d) Focus on essential state interests, defined as those interests that transcend local or regional boundaries and are most appropriately conserved, protected, and promoted at the state level.

(e) Serve as an objective, nonpartisan repository of exemplary community-building ideas and as a source to recommend strategies and practices to assist others in working collaboratively to problem solve on issues relating to growth management.

(f) Annually, beginning January 16, 2007, and every year thereafter on the same date, provide to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a written report containing specific recommendations for addressing growth management in the state, including executive and legislative recommendations. Further, the report shall contain discussions regarding the need for intergovernmental cooperation and the balancing of environmental protection and future development and recommendations on issues, including, but not limited to, recommendations regarding dedicated sources of funding for sewer facilities, water supply and quality, transportation facilities that are not adequately addressed by the Strategic Intermodal System, and educational infrastructure to support existing development and projected population growth.

(g) Beginning with the 2007 Regular Session of the Legislature, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall create a joint select committee, the task of which shall be to review the findings and recommendations of the Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida for potential action.

(5) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR; STAFF AND OTHER ASSISTANCE.--

(a) The Secretary of Community Affairs shall select an executive director of the commission, and the executive director shall serve at the pleasure of the secretary under the supervision and control of the commission.

(b) The Department of Community Affairs shall provide staff and other resources necessary to accomplish the goals of the commission based upon recommendations of the Governor.

(c) All agencies under the control of the Governor are directed, and all other agencies are requested, to render assistance to, and cooperate with, the commission.

History.--s. 11, ch. 2005-290.

ATTACHMENT B

Research Reports in Progress

In addition to the foundational studies that have been delivered to the Commission in 2006, the following research reports will be delivered to the Commission in early 2007 and posted to the Commission's website: www.centurycommission.org:

1. ***25 and 50-Year Forecasts for Technology Related to Sustainability in Florida,*** by the Institute for Alternative Futures (IAF), Alexandria, VA; Chairman Clement Bezold, Ph.D. and Robert Olson, Ph.C., principal investigators.

This first report from the futurists will focus on five of the Commission's Essential State Interests identified: Economic development/industry; Energy; Transportation; Housing; and the Environment. IAF will discuss the future of key technologies likely to have the greatest impact on those topic areas, including *bioprocessing; precision agriculture and green biotechnology; hypercars; and earth systems engineering.*

This report will highlight areas where emerging advanced technologies hold the promise of being good for business and the economy, good for the quality of life in Florida, and essential for dealing with climate change, which IAF identifies as "the most serious long-term threat to sustainability in Florida."

A draft preliminary report, dated December 19, 2006, is included in this Attachment (B).

2. ***Health, the Built Environment and a More Sustainable Florida—A Primer (A Vision for a Healthy Future),*** by Healthy Development, Inc. (HDI), Tallahassee, FL; Principal Kathy Baughman McLeod and demographer Melanie Simmons, Ph.D., primary authors.

This two-part report will provide an easy to read summary of the literature that will identify the impacts the built environment has on human and community health and discuss the implications, using health and cost measures, and provide a detailed bibliography of the scientific evidence cited in the summary, including Florida-specific studies and statistics.

Like the report from the futurists, HDI's report will also be highly integrative and will address several other of the Commission's Essential State Interest topics, in addition to health and healthcare, such as *employment and economic development* and *schools and childcare.* This primer will be designed to show, said HDI, "that those decisions made or facilitated by the Commission can elevate and optimize the health of our citizens, help attract sustainable economic development, and reduce health care costs for our growing state."

3. *Results of the Tampa Bay Regional Values and Indicators (Pilot) Study,* by Harris Interactive, Inc., Reston, VA; President Dee Allsop, Ph.D., and Scott Hawkins, principal investigators.

Harris Interactive (HI) will report the findings from a series of focus group and Advanced Strategy Lab (interactive computer-based interviewing) sessions conducted in January and February 2007 with demographically representative samples of citizens in the greater Tampa Bay region, including representatives of urban, suburban, and rural communities. This report will compare the values of the citizens in the Tampa Bay region with those of the citizens in the greater Orlando region, based on the extensive research HI completed there in 2005.

By exploring to identify citizen participants' core personal values regarding future growth, using methodologies pioneered by Dr. Allsop, the study will seek to understand the tangible benefits of those community characteristics that deliver the sought after personal values. In similar work HI did in Central Florida, for example, they found that the natural environment is strongly associated with peace of mind and personal enjoyment.

The Century Commission also requested Harris Interactive to assist in the development of indicators, as part of this values study. Dee Allsop's response, in proposal, explains the purpose of this request and pursuit:

> It is our understanding that the Commission is interested in exploring the development and implementation of "values based indicators," the purpose of which would be to understand the emotional characteristics Florida citizens deem important in measuring the progress and impact of social, economic, and environmental programs. The hypothesis is that among the many ways in which the effectiveness of such programs might be tracked, there are key measurements which are more likely to elicit an emotional reaction by public stakeholders – positive or negative. By identifying these metrics in advance the Commission can specify indicators and metrics that the public will find credible and meaningful.
>
> We strongly support this hypothesis and believe that the exploration and recommendation of "values based indicators" is a natural extension of the proposed values research. Our research design integrates this shared philosophy.

The Tampa Bay Partnership, which is providing the leadership for a seven-county regional visioning process—*Tampa Bay Vision 21*—has partnered with the Century Commission in sponsorship of this values/indicators pilot study. The results of the study will be discussed with the Commission at the public meeting scheduled for March 11 and 12 in Tallahassee, with a formal report soon to follow.

4.

Preliminary Draft
Climate Change, Sustainability & Technology
December 19, 2006

Forecasts for Climate Change Impacts on Florida and Emerging Technologies to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

For

The Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida

By

The Institute for Alternative Futures

Preliminary Draft
Climate Change, Sustainability & Technology
December 19, 2006

Forecasts for Climate Change Impacts on Florida and Emerging Technologies to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

This preliminary report provides an overview of 1) potential impacts of climate change on Florida and 2) technologies essential for dealing with climate change that also hold the promise of being good for business and the economy, and good for the quality of life in Florida.

This preliminary version focuses on climate change impacts. The suggestions for improvement that emerge from reviews of this draft will be incorporated into the final version. It also includes one-paragraph descriptions of the technologies that will be covered in the final report. These technologies emerged from IAF's scan of emerging technologies as most important for responding to climate change without damaging Florida's economy.

Topic Areas	Technologies
Energy	- Solar – Photovoltaics - Biofuels - Advanced Coal Technologies with Carbon Sequestration - Fuel Cells/ Hydrogen
Transportation	- Hypercars - Smart Public Transit
Housing	- Green Development - Low-cost Housing
Industry/ Economic Development	- Green Manufacturing - Precision Agriculture
Environment	- Earth Systems Engineering

The final version of this report will include an introduction and summary, a review of probable impacts of climate change in Florida between now and 2100, and 1-2 page descriptions of these technologies. The descriptions will include a review of their present status, 10-year forecasts, and more speculative 50-year forecasts of how they could evolve over time and influence Florida's future.

Approach of this Report in Relation to the Commission's Approach

The Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida is charged to:

> *…envision a future of Florida; develop a shared image of our developed and natural areas; focus on essential state interests; serve as a repository for ideas; and, develop a report annually. The report is to make recommendations for addressing growth management, discuss the need for inter-governmental cooperation, balance environmental protection with future development, and make recommendations on issues, including dedicated resources for funding of infrastructure, environmental, and educational needs.*

In its first report, the Commission notes that one function of its work is to "force us to think about things we would rather not think about. It might involve some sacrifice and it might step on some toes." It has developed several operating principles, among which are commitments to:

1) think long-term and statewide without getting caught up in today's controversies,
2) focus on solutions, not blame,
3) make recommendations based on factual data,
4) gather existing knowledge where available, whether from people or completed studies,
5) explore fundamental changes

In developing this report, the Institute for Alternative Futures has tried to adopt the same approach as the Commission, following the same operating principles, being willing to think about potentially distressing things, but ultimately working to envision a positive future for Florida. We set out to identify technologies that would be important for sustainability over the next 50 years in Florida. We were asked to focus on what is almost certainly the most important trend affecting Florida's sustainability, namely climate change, and to focus on identifying technologies essential for dealing with the climate challenge that also *hold the promise of being good for business and the economy, and good for the quality of life in Florida.*

We believe that the fundamental scientific, technical and industrial know-how to solve the climate problem for the next 50 years either already exists or is easily in reach. Changes in behavior can play a part in meeting the climate challenge, but technological change to use energy and other resources much more efficiently is by far the biggest element of the climate solution. The technical changes needed to stabilize the climate are much larger than most people realize, but they are feasible and taken together constitute a Next Industrial Revolution that will take us to a far more advanced technology.

Florida obviously cannot stop climate change by its own actions. The State does have the opportunity, however, to join more actively with other states and cities to promote the technological progress that can slow and eventually reverse global warming. Given the extensive negative impacts climate change is likely to have on the state, Florida has every incentive to play a leadership role in moving forward into the Next Industrial Revolution.

Climate Change: Florida's Greatest Sustainability Challenge

There is no longer any serious doubt that global warming is occurring and is being driven largely by human activity. The uncertainties and debates now center on how severe the impacts will be, how rapidly they could unfold, and what to do to minimize them. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change estimates that between now and 2100 the Earth's average surface temperature will increase by 4 to 10 degrees F. and sea level will rise by from 8 inches to over 2.9 feet[1], with some scientists estimating a rise by as much as five feet[2].

Even at the midrange of these estimates, climate change stands out as the most serious long-term threat to Florida's economic, environmental and social sustainability. Many changes consistent with early stages of climate change have already been observed in

1 Leatherman, S.P., Zhang, K., and Douglas, B.C. (2000) "Sea Level Rise Shown to Drive Coastal Erosion," in *EOS Transactions*, American Geophysical Union, 81: 55–57.

2 Sea change coming for Everglades. *USA TODAY*. May 31, 2006

Florida, including erosion of shorelines, salt water intrusion into freshwater aquifers, increased forest fires, dying coral reefs, and warmer air and sea temperatures[3]. The potential range of impacts that climate change could ultimately have on Florida has been fairly well documented, but there are still uncertainties about their timing and magnitude.

No matter how severely the effects of global warming ultimately manifest themselves, Florida's latitude, low-lying geographic profile and peninsular geography with extensive coastlines ensure that it will shoulder a highly disproportionate share of the climate-related costs imposed on the U.S. Understanding this creates an incentive for Florida to be a leader and model in the adoption of technologies that can dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions and minimize damages from climate change.

Impacts on Tourism

Tourism is likely to be hit harder by climate change than any other sector of Florida's economy. Over the century ahead, the state's famous beaches will be eroded by sea level rise and many ocean-front hotels and homes will be flooded. In the lowest areas, a thirty inch increase in sea level would translate into a horizontal movement of the oceanfront by as much as 400 feet[4]. Roughly 30 percent of Florida's ocean beaches and two-thirds of its estuarine beaches would disappear[5].

Despite the small regional cooling currently taking place in the southeastern U.S., rising temperatures will make Florida more unpleasant for more of the year. The projected increase in the summer heat index of 8 to 15 degrees F. by the end of the century will be the highest increase in the nation[6].

Sea level rise and hotter temperatures will degrade all the coastal ecosystems that make Florida such a unique and appealing tourist destination. The lower Everglades could be completely inundated by 2100. Saltwater fishing and sport diving could nearly disappear as ocean warming causes Florida's coral reefs to die off.

Impacts on Urban Areas

With over 15 million of Florida's 16 million residents living and working within 35 miles of the coast[7], sea level rise impacts on urban areas are a key concern. Miami Beach, Pensacola, St. Petersburg, Tampa and other densely populated areas near the ocean will face enormous expenditures for elevating areas, building sea walls and other flood control structures, and encouraging relocation.

As sea level rises, storm surges from hurricanes and northeasters will cause more flooding because they will come in from a higher base of water. A FEMA report to

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3 Natural Resource Defense Council. (2001) *Feeling the Heat in Florida*.

4 Leatherman, S.P., Zhang, K., and Douglas, B.C. (2000) "Sea Level Rise Shown to Drive Coastal Erosion," in *EOS Transactions*, American Geophysical Union, 81: 55–57.

5 The National Wildlife Federation & The Florida Wildlife Federation (2006) *An Unfavorable Tide: Global Warming, Costal Habitats and Sportfishing in Florida*. Retrieved November 22 from: http://www.nwf.org/nwfwebadmin/binaryVault/An_Unfavorable_Tide_Report.pdf

6 The heat index measures the perceived temperature to the human body based on both air temperature and the amount of moisture in the air.

7 U.S. Census Bureau (2000). Retrieved November 30, 2006 from: http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/12000.html

Congress estimates that with a 1-foot rise in sea level, annual damages to existing development in the U.S. Coastal Zone would increase by 36-58 percent, and a 3-foot rise would cause up to a 200 percent increase in annual damages[8]. Climate change impacts are fast becoming a central concern within the insurance industry and areas subject to damages can expect sharply rising rates or even refusal of coverage[9].

Hurricanes

Warming of the ocean will increase tropical hurricane intensity. This could be very significant by the end of the century, but over the next several decades the effects of climate change will be small compared to other cyclical weather patterns, which are also expected to intensify hurricanes. Fortunately, global warming is not expected to increase the number of hurricanes[10]. Thus, there will be more hurricanes in the future because of factors other than global warming. But global warming effects, particularly higher ocean surface temperatures, will lead to more severe hurricanes.

Impacts on Agriculture and Citrus Growing

The best current estimate is that over the coming century climate change will make it impossible for about half of the American land to sustain the types of plants now on that land[11]. In Florida, agriculture could actually benefit for several decades from increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and a modest amount of warming. Warming could also protect citrus crops from freezing. But if the average temperature increases beyond 3 to 4 degrees F., farmers and growers will face declining yields from that point on[12].

The key uncertainty is rainfall. Some climate models forecast reductions in precipitation which would limit crop growth by decreasing soil moisture and water availability, but other models predict increases in precipitation. Whether rainfall decreases or increases, it is expected to come increasingly in the form of more intense downpours followed by longer periods of drought[13].

Impacts on Water Resources

Heavy rains and extended periods of drought make it more difficult for water managers to provide reliable water supplies, control flooding, and protect natural areas. Shallow coastal aquifers will be increasingly at risk from salt water intrusion. For example, the Biscayne aquifer, a primary water source for all of South Florida, is recharged by the freshwater Everglades. As rising water levels submerge low-lying areas of the Everglades, growing areas of that aquifer will be infiltrated[14].

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8 Environmental Protection Agency. Costal Zones and Sea Level Rise. Retrieved November 20, 2006 from: http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/effects/coastal/index.html

9 Joel Garreau, "A Dream Blown Away: Climate Change Already Has a Chilling Effect on Where Americans Can Build Their Homes." *The Washington Post*. December 2, 2006, C01.

10 RA Pielke, *et al*. (2005) Hurricanes and Global Warming. *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*.

11 James Gustave Speth, "Creating a Sustainable Future: Are We Running out of Time?" in Robert Olson and David Rejeski, eds., *Environmentalism and the Technologies of Tomorrow: Shaping the Next Industrial Revolution*. Washington, DC: Island Press, 2005, pp.12-13.

12 Natural Resource Defense Council. (2001) *Feeling the Heat in Florida*.

13 Natural Resource Defense Council. (2001) *Feeling the Heat in Florida*.

14 Environmental Protection Agency. Costal Zones and Sea Level Rise. Retrieved November 20, 2006 from: http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/effects/coastal/index.html

Impacts on Commercial Forests

Dominant tree species will change over time as the climate warms. Higher temperatures and more prolonged periods of drought will make forests more vulnerable to damage from wildfires. Indeed, there is statistical evidence of the beginnings of such an increase over the past few decades[15]. Warming may also increase the threat of invasive species and pests. In the long run, unchecked climate change would turn Florida into a treeless savanna.

Impacts on Commercial Fishing

Florida's coral reefs are the underpinning for the state's commercial fisheries. These reefs are already in decline as a result of disease and coral bleaching, a process directly tied to rising ocean temperatures[16]. Recently both Elkhorn and Staghorn Caribbean coral were added to the list of threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. Both species have declined by 97 percent since the late 1970s[17].

A recent survey commissioned by the Florida Wildlife and National Wildlife federations forecasts that if global warming continues, sea level rise and warming temperatures would dramatically alter the extent and composition of important coastal habitats and that fishing, as we know it, could disappear in a matter of decades. Among the species most at risk are Bonefish, Flounder, Gag grouper, Gray snapper, Permit, Pompano, Redfish, Snook, and Tarpon. Essential habitat would also be reduced for prey species such as shrimp, crabs and smaller fish[18].

Impacts on Health

The projected 8° to 15° F. increase in Florida's heat index over the next century will pose a growing health threat, especially to the elderly population most vulnerable to heat stroke and other heat-related ailments. Warmer temperatures also contribute to higher ground level concentrations of harmful ozone and to smog formation[19]. As warming alters global disease patterns, both humans and wildlife in Florida will be exposed to more tropical strains.

Impacts on Natural Systems

Natural ecosystems are likely to fare worse than agriculture, commercial forestry and other intensively managed systems. Sea wall projects and other flood control structures to protect highly populated areas may actually increase damages to ecosystems in unprotected areas. Low lying areas and shallow water areas will be particularly affected by sea level rise. A 15 inch rise in sea level would inundate 50 percent of Florida's salt marshes and 84 percent of its tidal flats[20]. Current plans to restore the Everglades rest on the assumption that sea level will rise by no more than one foot by 2100, which may be overly optimistic[21].

15 Natural Resource Defense Council. (2001) *Feeling the Heat in Florida*.

16 Rising Ocean Temperatures Threaten Florida's Coral Reef. *The New York Times*. May 22, 2006

17 Ibid.

18 The National Wildlife Federation & The Florida Wildlife Federation (2006) *An Unfavorable Tide: Global Warming, Costal Habitats and Sportfishing in Florida*. Retrieved November 22 from: http://www.nwf.org/nwfwebadmin/binaryVault/An_Unfavorable_Tide_Report.pdf

19 Natural Resource Defense Council. (2004) *Heat Advisory*

20 The National Wildlife Federation & The Florida Wildlife Federation (2006) *An Unfavorable Tide*

21 "Sea Change Coming for Everglades." *USA Today*. Interview with Everglades National Park chief Dan Kimball. May 31, 2006.

Emerging Technologies to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

ENERGY

Solar Photovoltaics

Of all the renewable energy technologies, Florida has by far the most potential for harnessing direct solar energy. Direct solar technologies, photovoltaic cells in particular, have begun to improve at a rate so accelerated that developers are calling it a "second silicon revolution," following the first silicon revolution of ever more powerful integrated circuit chips. Indeed, a growing number of the Silicon Valley venture capitalists and entrepreneurs who led that first revolution are now investing in solar start-ups. In October 2006 Silicon Valley-based SunPower announced the development of a silicon cell with a record 22% efficiency in converting sunlight to electricity (solar cells in use today are generally about 12% efficient). Two months later, Boeing-Spectrolab achieved a world record conversion efficiency of 40.7% with a solar cell that uses an optical concentrator to increase the sunlight intensity falling on the cell. Other companies like Nanosys and Nanosolar in Palo Alto are developing a new kind of photovoltaic technology that incorporates nanotechnology and results in thin rolls of highly efficient light-collecting plastic that can be spread across rooftops, built into building materials, or even sprayed on to other materials or woven into clothing. A recent economic analysis of declining costs of electricity from solar cells estimates that solar-generated electricity will become cost competitive with grid electricity in Miami by 2016.

Biofuels

When biomass is used to create ethanol or other liquid fuels, the carbon dioxide released when the fuel is burned is roughly balanced by the carbon dioxide captured through photosynthesis as more fuel crops are grown. Biofuels, therefore, are relatively "carbon neutral." Secretary of Energy Samuel Bodman recently announced the goal of making ethanol a practical and cost-competitive alternative by 2012 (at $1.07/gal) and displacing 30% (60 billion gallons) of current gasoline consumption by 2030. If fuel efficiency can be tripled over time (see the Hypercar description below), then most of the U.S. light vehicle fleet will be able to run on biofuels. Almost all the ethanol produced today is derived from corn grain, and it will remain the dominant feedstock for the next few years. But rapid progress is occurring in the production of "cellulosic" methanol derived from fibrous, generally inedible plant matter such as post-harvest corn stalks and other agricultural residues, switchgrass and poplar. A recent study at Oak Ridge National Laboratory concludes that Florida has a significant potential for producing various types of biomass. It estimates that at a price of $20/dry ton Florida could produce 2,761,950 dry tons of biomass, and at a price of $50/dry ton it could produce 9,533,398 tons.

Advanced Coal Technologies with Carbon Sequestration

Coal burning in Florida, primarily for generating electricity, releases over 68 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions per year into the atmosphere. Only ten other states have larger emissions from coal. Florida can continue to use this abundant energy source – if its environmental impacts can be sufficiently reduced. In the 1980s, amid concerns about acid rain and particulate emissions, a federal effort was undertaken

to develop Clean Coal technologies. In recent years, concerns about carbon dioxide emissions and global warming have prompted a renewed effort. Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC) and other advanced combustion technologies, combined with carbon capture and sequestration, could make coal a sustainable energy technology. Some industry analysts believe it may be possible to burn coal with zero emissions at competitive prices by 2020. If these more advanced coal technologies are not pursued, growing use of coal will become the main driver of climate change.

Fuel Cells – Hydrogen

Hydrogen fuel cells are just now starting to enter specific market niches. Microcells for powering portable electronic devices will enter the U.S. marketplace in 2007. Larger stationary fuel cells will soon be able to compete on cost to provide backup power for industrial, commercial and even residential applications. Large investments are being made by both business and government to improve performance and reduce costs enough to make fuel cells practical for running electric cars. If this proves possible, fuel cells will revolutionize the auto industry and its vast network of suppliers. The only emission from running fuel cells on hydrogen is water vapor, so shifting from oil to hydrogen could dramatically reduce carbon dioxide emissions from transportation as well as all other kinds of auto-related urban air pollution. But how clean hydrogen really is depends on how it is produced. Energy is required to produce hydrogen, and if that energy comes from fossil fuels there will still be carbon dioxide emissions. For many people involved in hydrogen development, the Holy Grail is a Solar Hydrogen Economy based on extracting hydrogen from water using solar energy.

TRANSPORTATION

The Hypercar

Florida has the third highest carbon dioxide emissions from transportation of all the states, exceeded only by California and Texas. Technology that can cut these emissions sharply through major improvements in fuel economy is evolving rapidly. Fuel-electric hybrids and advanced diesels can already allow mid-sized cars to achieve around 50 mpg in normal driving. Growing use of biofuels in the fuel mix will further reduce CO2 emissions. The next major jump of progress is likely to be "lightweighting" by making car bodies out of carbon composites and substituting electronic components for bulky mechanical systems. Carbon composites five times stronger than steel by weight could make cars safer while cutting their weight in half. Eventually, it may prove feasible to power vehicles with zero-emission hydrogen fuel cells, which are twice as efficient as the best internal combustion engines. All of these possibilities have been brought together in the Hypercar concept originated at the Rocky Mountain Institute to demonstrate how the transportation aspect of the climate change challenge can be solved. Rigorous technical modeling suggests that the combination of hybrid-electric drive, ultralight construction, low-drag design, and efficient accessories can achieve a 3 to 5-fold improvement in fuel economy with equal or better performance, safety, amenity and affordability, compared to today's vehicles.

Smart Public Transit

Public transit is far more energy-efficient than travel in single-passenger automobiles, so greater transit use can reduce CO2 emissions. Transit will play a larger role over time as higher energy prices and public policy converge to promote more clustered Smart Growth development patterns. Light rail technology and the reintroduction of trams (trolleys) in urban cores are likely to expand. Demand-Responsive Transport

systems that offer on-demand call-up door-to-door service from any origin to any destination in a service area will become more common and sophisticated as Intelligent Transportation Systems technologies come into widespread use. Emerging technologies are likely to blur the very concept of public transit. Cars coordinated by GPS and traffic monitoring sensor systems, for example, could function as 'personalized public transit' well before the actual functions of driving are automated. As virtual connectivity becomes ever more sophisticated, telecommuting will likely reach a tipping point, reducing the need for many types of physical travel. Flexible telecommuting combined with improved transit, more walkable neighborhoods, and higher energy prices could begin to reduce vehicle miles traveled.

HOUSING

Green Development

Buildings consume nearly a third of Florida's energy, much of it wasted by inefficient design. Real-estate development therefore offers major opportunities for using energy more efficiently and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Well designed green buildings typically use from one-half to one-quarter of the energy used in conventional construction. Done well, green development involves analyzing interconnected issues like building site and design, resource efficient construction, energy and water efficiency, lighting and mechanical design, and the potential toxicity of building materials. Then it strives to optimize all these aspects in so far as possible in an integrated design. While this approach requires more knowledge than conventional development, it is not proving to be more costly. Features that have higher individual costs, like better windows, can actually reduce the whole building cost because other elements such as the heating and air conditioning system can be downsized. The U.S. Green Building Council's LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) rating system is a tool to evaluate building performance from this kind of "whole-system" perspective. It provides the definitive standard of what constitutes a green building. The Council states that a LEED Silver-rated building should not cost more than a conventional building, while outperforming conventional construction by all of its measures. Over the past year or two, green development has passed a threshold where many developers are realizing that this approach is good business as well as good for the environment.

Low Cost Housing

Low cost housing will be revolutionized by advanced design and fabrication methods and innovative materials that allow high energy efficiency to be achieved at low costs. One technology that illustrates the possibilities ahead is Contour Crafting (CC). Developed at the University of Southern California, CC is a rapid production technology which uses robotic mechanisms to assemble building substructures much as robotics is used in car assembly today. As a result, total building times can be accelerated by an order of magnitude. The technology is already being considered as an option for emergency reconstruction and disaster relief. A wide range of inexpensive, energy-efficient construction materials are being developed for prefabricated housing, including Expanded PolyStyrene (EPS) wall and roof panels with cementitious coatings, ferrocements, calcium silicate products, wood-based composites, and a variety of recycled products.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – INDUSTRY & AGRICULTURE

Green Manufacturing

Developments in pollution prevention, green chemistry, computer monitoring and

control, recycling and other areas are coming together into a new image of the potential for 21st century manufacturing. Leading companies pioneering super efficient "green manufacturing" are already demonstrating fundamental changes in production design and technology that extract two, five or even ten times the work out of each unit of energy and materials used, minimizing the release of carbon dioxide and other pollutants. They are striving to avoid hazardous substances like toxic heavy metals and chlorinated hydrocarbons. Over the decades ahead, advanced green manufacturing will move toward closed-loop production systems, modeled on nature's designs that return every output harmlessly to the ecosystem or create valuable inputs for other manufacturing processes. Waste and pollution will come to be viewed as a design failure, not an inevitable product of industrial production.

Precision Agriculture

Precision agriculture is the application of information technology to farming processes. It allows water, fertilizers, pest control agents and other inputs to be precisely applied, where needed and as needed, minimizing waste. For example, satellite information can be analyzed by computer programs designed to detect evidence of pest damage and the information relayed to farmers for corrective action. Drip irrigation systems linked to soil moisture sensors can provide water when and where needed, reducing water use while optimizing soil moisture. Agricultural inputs require surprisingly large amounts of fossil fuels to produce, transport and apply, so optimizing their use will reduce carbon emissions.

Appendix: Technology Forecast Information Sources

In the initial environmental scan that served as the basis for choosing the technologies reviewed in this report we consulted the publications of the organizations and individuals below to identify which emerging technologies they thought would be most significant for shaping a sustainable future over the next 25 to 50 years:

- Battelle
- British Telecom
- Foresight Institute
- Future Survey/World Future Society
- GW (George Washington University) Forecasts
- Hudson Institute
- MIT's Media Lab
- MIT's Technology Review
- National Academy of Engineering
- National Renewable Energy Laboratory
- RAND Corporation
- Rocky Mountain Institute
- SRI International
- Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
- World Business Council for Sustainable Development
- World Resources Institute
- Forecasts of individual visionaries: Arthur C. Clarke, Paul Hawken, and Ray Kurzweil

ATTACHMENT C

Summary of the Final Report "Assessing Florida Citizens Attitudes Towards Growth, Growth Management, and Quality of Life Issues."

September 6, 2006

by

Dr. Tim Chapin and Heather Kahn
Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Florida State University

This purpose of this project, commissioned by the Century Commission, was to identify and review extant statewide (Florida) survey data and reports on citizens' attitudes toward growth and growth management in Florida and to write a summary of the key findings and trends regarding Floridians' values and views on this topic. Tim Chapin, Ph.D., was chosen as principal investigator because he had analyzed longitudinal survey data of this nature and had published articles on this subject in professional journals.

The investigators identified a total of thirty-four surveys, survey reports, and other materials that provide insights into Florida citizen attitudes towards growth and how these have changed over time. The materials acquired for this study came from many sources including the library of Dr. Chapin, local governments, the Regional Planning Councils, The Nature Conservancy, 1000 Friends of Florida, Florida Chapter of the American Planning Association, Leadership Florida and Myregion.org.

Two research questions guided their analysis of the materials gathered:

1. Is there a sufficient body of sound survey data available to provide a clear understanding of Florida citizen views and values regarding growth and how it is managed in Florida?

2. Does the available evidence indicate an ability by the Century Commission to determine what Floridians like and don't like about growth and development, what their related concerns or desires are, and whether they perceive their quality of life to be getting better or worse over time?

The investigators stated seven **primary findings**, based on their review:

Finding 1. There is a substantial amount of information available on citizen attitudes towards growth, growth-related issues, and state and local government responses towards this growth.

Finding 2. Overall, evidence indicates that Florida's citizens have substantial concerns with the pace of growth in their communities.

Finding 3. Related to Finding 2, there is strong evidence that Florida's citizens perceive ongoing population growth as negatively affecting the state and slowly compromising their quality of life.

Finding 4. Studies reveal several growth-related issues as major citizen concerns, including transportation, environmental quality, provision of education, and the management of growth.

Finding 5. Studies suggest that citizens view growth management, in some form, as an important ongoing activity for government.

Finding 6. While citizens indicate general support for growth management, there is evidence that citizens are unhappy with the progress of government in managing growth and mitigating the impacts of this growth.

Finding 7. There is evidence of a willingness to pay for those amenities that a majority of Floridians perceive as contributing greatly to their quality of life.

These findings were summarized into four **conclusions**:

1. *A great deal of information on citizen attitudes is available*, offering a detailed picture of citizen views towards ongoing population and economic growth in the state, impacts associated with this growth, and perceptions concerning the effectiveness of the state's growth management approach.

2. *Florida's citizens express major concerns about the pace and form of growth in the state,* with many of the issues associated with growth identified as major problems facing the state. There is some limited evidence that Floridians perceive their quality of life to be declining, in large part because of growth-related issues.

3. *There appears to be a set of five "core values"* that receive broad-based support:

- Environmental Protection
- Safety and Security
- Personal Time
- Affordability, and
- Commitment to Collective Action

Finally, as the investigators were asked to also identify knowledge gaps (specifically, what important questions were **not** asked in prior surveys that should be explored in future research), their fourth conclusion answers the knowledge gap question:

4. Despite the large number of surveys, survey reports, and articles that have investigated citizen attitudes, *our current knowledge regarding these attitudes remains incomplete*. Specifically, our knowledge base falls short in the following areas:

- Insights into attitudes and values in the North Florida region (the Panhandle of the state is generally not well-represented in surveys),
- Insights into attitudes and values in rural areas of the state,
- Insights into what citizens want (versus what they don't want), as almost all surveys attempted to discern what respondents didn't like about their communities, not what they most enjoy or are committed to protecting,
- Insights into tradeoffs when pursuing those state and local attributes valued by citizens. Beyond determining what attributes (of communities) are valued most, there is also a need to determine what people are willing to possibly pay or give up or change (in their own behavior) in return for protecting highly valued attributes, or obtaining what they want to have.

The full report, which includes an annotated bibliography and detailed listing of all survey information reviewed in this study, is posted under "Current Projects" on the Commission's website: **www.centurycommission.com**, or may be accessed by this link: https://www.commentmgr.com/projects/1148/docs/CC%20FSU%20Survey%20on%20Citizen%20Attitudes.pdf

ATTACHMENT D

Summary of the Final Report: "Towards a Sustainable Florida: A Review of Environmental, Social and Economic Concepts for Sustainable Development in Florida."

September 1, 2006
Edited by
Stephen Mulkey, PhD,
School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Florida

This report is a 102-page, 15-chapter, multi-authored compendium that provides a practical overview of what the concept of *sustainability* means when applied to each of the Essential State Interests the Century Commission identified. For example, what does it mean to have sustainability applied to education? It was commissioned to help educate the Commission as to what sustainable means in a practical and applied sense, so the Commission could in turn help educate and better communicate with policy-makers, community leaders, and the general public about sustainability and implementing sustainable practices in Florida.

Twenty-three authors contributed (including topic co-authors); all topic experts and most members of the "People and Land Use Strategies (PLUS) Faculty Workgroup," which Dr. Stephen Mulkey —who organized this writing effort and edited the report—founded and chairs at the University of Florida. The chart to follow identifies the topics addressed, the authors and their area of expertise:

Tools for Applied Sustainability

Topic	Authors	Expertise
	I. Environmental	
Protecting Ecosystem Services	Alan Hodges	Environmental Economics
Water Resource Sustainability	James W. Jawitz	Hydrologic Ecosystems
Bioenergy	Janaki Alavalapati	Resource Policy & Economics
Energy Technology	Eric Wachsman	Materials Science & Engineering
Land Use	Margaret Carr Paul Zwick	Land Use Planning
	II. Social	
Community Design	Martin Gold Mark Hostetler	Community Design Urban Wildlife & Natural Resource Conservation
Transportation	Ruth Steiner	Land Use and Transportation
Housing	Kristin Larsen	Housing, Preservation & Planning
Population Health	Barbara Lutz Andrea Gregg	Health Policy & Public Health
Public Safety	Richard Schneider	Crime Prevention & Planning
Disaster Mitigation	Carol Lehtola	Agricultural Safety
Culture & Sustainability	Charles M. Brown Mark Brennan	Community Development
Adaptive Governance	Christine Overdevest Alyson Flournoy	Environmental Governance Environmental & Land Use Law

III. Economic

Education	Martha Monroe	Environmental Education
Economic Development	David Denslow Jim Dewey Babak Lotfinia	Economics Analysis & Business Research

The report addresses all 12 of the Commission's Essential State Interests, which were noted to be interrelated and interdependent by Dr. Mulkey in the introduction to the report and to the general concept of sustainability:

> "Sustainability is the result of the flow of energy through natural, social, and economic systems. Thus, the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development identified three objectives for sustainable development: (1) protecting natural resources, (2) eradicating poverty, and (3) changing unsustainable production and consumption patterns. Regardless of how the term is defined, the conundrum inherent in sustainable development is that the goals of sustainability are interdependent. Indeed, the complex interdependence of the environmental, social, and economic legs of sustainability is apparent from even a casual consideration of any one of the issues related to growth management in Florida."

The authors were asked to be concise (topic sections range from three to ten pages each), to write for a general audience, and were invited (optionally) to offer recommendations to the Commission as to how sustainable practices could be established or enhanced, in the topical area they addressed, in Florida.

Each topic section provides an insightful and informative Florida-specific overview and identifies resources for readers to find more information (references and internet links). The report—notably produced in only 60 days in an outstanding collaborative effort—has been and will continue to be a useful and valuable educational reference for the Century Commission.

The full report is available at www.centurycommission.org, and specifically at: https://www.commentmgr.com/projects/1148/docs/CC%20UF%20Applied%20Sustainability.pdf

ATTACHMENT E

Description of the Critical Lands/Waters Identification Project (CLIP)

The Century Commission believes that any meaningful plan for the future of Florida must begin with the identification of the natural places that should or must be saved; i.e., protected from development so that future generations can also enjoy the benefits of the state's most precious lands and waters and other ecologically and socially valuable areas.

The Commission also believes that its work should not "reinvent the wheel," but instead make the best use of existing data and build on the prior research efforts of others. The Critical Lands/Waters Identification Project (CLIP), Phase I, commissioned by the Century Commission and launched in the summer of 2006, is designed to do that.

The co-principal investigators for Phase I of CLIP are Jonathan Oetting, Conservation Planner and a leading GIS (Geographic Information Systems) analyst with the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) of Florida State University, and Tom Hoctor, Ph.D., with the GeoPlan Center of the University of Florida, noted for his design work on the "Florida Reserve Network," a recommended statewide system of 'greenways' to connect landscapes, important habitat and conservation areas. Both the GeoPlan Center and FNAI, which developed and maintains the Florida Forever Needs Assessment used for the evaluation of the state's land acquisitions, have extensive databases and staff expertise, which have been brought together for CLIP. The project also involves a group of advisors, including participants from The Nature Conservancy, The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and a variety of other biodiversity, water resources and hydrology experts.

The CLIP scientists have assembled and assessed the best GIS data available in the state for the purpose of identifying statewide conservation priorities—to conserve biodiversity and ecosystem services, including the protection of watersheds and aquifer recharge areas. The combined database, consisting of multiple data layers (such as one showing the state's water resources; another featuring critical habitat), reflects the conservation recommendations, in a sense, of many other scientists and agencies who had developed specialized data layers (highlighting critical lands and waters) that have been evaluated for use in CLIP. One objective of CLIP, Phase I, is to consider these identified sensitive areas comprehensively and develop various scenarios depicting (tiered) conservation priorities.

Another objective of CLIP is to identify data gaps and other data inadequacies, such as being out of date, which compromise the current analysis or which need to be addressed in future updates for Florida to have the very best possible planning tool to inform the state's decision-making in envisioning—and insuring—a sustainable future. It is the intention that CLIP can become that tool, and the project will continue in 2007, in partnership with FWC and others agencies, as part of the development of a cooperative comprehensive *Conservation Blueprint* and strategy for Florida (per Recommendation III in Section 9 of this report).

ATTACHMENT F

List of Topic Expert Presenters to the Commission

November 18-19, 2006

Mathew Click, AICP
Intergovernmental Programs Administrator, Florida Turnpike

Charles Pattison, AICP
Executive Director, 1000 Friends of Florida

Secretary Thaddeus Cohen
Secretary, Florida Department of Community Affairs

September 10-11, 2006

Dr. Timothy Chapin
Professor, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Florida State University

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Speaker-Designate, Florida House of Representatives

The Honorable Ken Pruitt
President-Desginate, Florida Senate

Dr. Stephen Mulkey
Director, Research & Outreach/Extension, School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Florida

Dr. Lenore Alpert
Assistant Director of Research, Florida Atlantic University Center for Urban and Environmental Solutions

Ben Warner
Deputy Director, Jacksonville Community Council Inc.

July 9, 2006

Robert Romig
Director, Office of Policy Planning, Florida Department of Transportation

Sally Patrenos
Executive Director, Florida Transportation Commission

May 8, 2006

Dedee DeLongpre
Director of the Office of Sustainability at the University of Florida

Dr. Charles Kibert
Holland Professor and Director, Powell Center for Construction and Environment, M.E. Rinker Sr. School of Building Construction, University of Florida

Gary Knight
Director, Florida Natural Areas Inventory

March 13, 2006

Secretary Denver Stutler
Secretary, Florida Department of Transportation

January 8, 2006

Robert M. Rhodes
Foley & Larnder LLP

January 9, 2006

Robert Grow
O'Melveny & Myers LLP, Co-Founder *Envision Utah*
Shelley Lauten
www.MyRegion.org
Linda Chapin
Metropolitan Center for Regional Studies, University of Central Florida
Dr. Duane DeFreese
Hubbs-Seaworld Research Institute

ATTACHMENT G

Summary of Website Details

(by Website Host, Neighborhood America)

Asking Floridians to envision their state 50 years in the future and convey their comments to the commission members can be a major undertaking for both sides. Collecting, organizing, managing and reporting their thoughts and ideas presents a significant challenge. To help engage citizens and stakeholders and manage their input, the Century Commission chose to partner with Florida-based Neighborhood America to build a Web presence that will enable the commission to not only inform the public, but also to encourage citizens to participate in the visioning process.

Using the Internet to reach and engage the public, the Century Commission is using the same technology used by the National Parks Service to collect public comments related to the United Flight 93 National Memorial project. The technology solution being used is delivered through the Web, and unlike email, enables the commission to capture structured, organized ideas that can immediately be reported and analyzed. Our resources can remain focused on achieving our department objectives and the technology enables our small staff to manage hundreds, even thousands of comments rather than becoming buried with emails and other forms of unstructured communications.

Part of the success of the Century Commission will be our ability to efficiently include the public's input in our planning processes. Neighborhood America's Public Communications System provides a comparatively cost-effective way to expand our outreach across the entire state, providing the opportunity for inclusion to all who want their ideas to be heard. Such inclusion helps to develop long-term visioning plans that include the voice of our residents, while enabling our small team to work most efficiently.

Please visit www.centurycommission.org.

The Century Commission and staff wish to thank the many people who have participated in the on-line survey and those who posted extensive, expert advice to the site in feedback to the Commission's draft recommendations, which were posted for public review and comment.

ATTACHMENT H

List of Outside Speaking Engagements

(of Executive Director Steve Seibert and Century Commission Members)

1. January 13, 2006: Florida Regional Councils Association, Tallahassee (Seibert)

2. February 7, 2006: Florida Chamber Foundation, Tallahassee (Seibert)

3. February 15, 2006: Growth Management Short Course, Florida Chamber of Commerce Orlando (Bullard, Gilkey, Pattison, Seibert)

4. March 7, 2006: Clay County Chamber of Commerce, Green Cove Springs (Seibert)

5. March 16, 2006: Florida Institute of Architects, Tallahassee (Seibert)

6. March 17, 2006: Urban Land Institute Meeting on Regionalism, Miami (Seibert)

7. March 28, 2006: House Committee on Community Affairs, Tallahassee (Seibert)

8. April 4, 2006: Florida Association of Public Insurance Adjusters, Tallahassee (Seibert)

9. April 10, 2006: Leadership Pinellas Capitol Trip, Tallahassee (Seibert)

10. April 11, 2006: House Community Affairs Committee, Tallahassee (Seibert)

11. April 24. 2006: Florida Indicators Network Meeting, Orlando (Seibert)

12. May 11, 2006: Council of 100 Growth Management Committee, St. Petersburg (Seibert)

13. May 18. 2006: Department of Community Affairs Growth Management Seminar, Orlando (Baker, Benson, Seibert)

14. May 31, 2006: Small County Coalition, Tallahassee (Seibert)

15. June 12, 2006: Leadership Jacksonville, Jacksonville (Seibert)

16. June 15, 2006: Florida Association of Special Districts, Marathon (Seibert)

17. June 28, 2006: Florida Association of Counties Annual Conference, Marco Island (Bullard, Pattison, Gilkey, Seibert)

18. August 10-11, 2006: 100 IDEAS Gathering, Orlando (Seibert)

19. August 25, 2006: Association of Florida Community Developers, Orlando (Seibert)

20. September 1, 2006: Urban Land Institute Meeting, Orlando (Seibert)

21. September 7, 2006: Water Management Districts Annual Meeting, Tarpon Springs (Seibert)

22. September 8, 2006: Florida Regional Councils Association, Tallahassee (Seibert)

23. September 15, 2006: Florida Association of Realtors, Hollywood (Seibert)

24. September 29, 2006: Florida Chapter, American Planning Association, Marco Island (Seibert)

26. October 26, 2006: Campus and Community Sustainability Conference, Gainesville (Seibert)

27. November 14, 2006: Ag Lands, Development and the Future of Florida, West Palm Beach (Seibert)

28. December 1, 2006: Florida's Future Corridors Statewide Workshop, Orlando (Seibert)

29. December 8, 2006: Leadership Florida Class Presentation, Sarasota (Baker)

ATTACHMENT I

List of Century Commission's Regional Meetings

In an effort to attract a diverse audience and regionally specific speakers, the Century Commission has met every two months beginning November 2005 at various locations across the state. A list of the meetings and their dates are as follows:

November 14, 2005
St. Petersburg, Florida

January 8-9, 2006
Tallahassee, Florida

March 12-13, 2006
Tallahassee, Florida

May 7-8, 2006
Daytona Beach, Florida

July 9-10, 2006
Naples, Florida

September 10-11, 2006
Miami, Florida

November 19-20, 2006
Tallahassee, Florida

Meeting dates and locations scheduled for 2007 are as follows:

-February 5-6 (Tallahassee)
-March 11-12 (Tallahassee)
-May 20-21 (Pensacola-location tentative)
-July 22-23 (St. Petersburg/Tampa-location tentative)
-September 9-10 (Jacksonville-location tentative)
-December 2-3 (Tallahassee-location tentative)

ATTACHMENT J

Statement on Statewide Indicators

(by the Florida Indicators Network)

Indicators are numbers or measurements that describe and tell a story about the quality of life, prosperity, and sustainability of regions and communities. Descriptive, reliable data is used to create a baseline of past trends and current conditions and assess our strengths and weaknesses. Through good communication strategies, they raise awareness, generate conversations among different sectors about priority issues, and stimulate action. They are a valuable tool to inform citizens and policy-makers as they create and implement regional and state visions. They can enable informed decision-making, act as a guide for investment and public policy, and measure progress toward state and regional goals.

Indicators research focuses on the following topics: education, economy, environmental and natural resources, housing, transportation and mobility, social equity, health, child well-being, elder well-being, public safety, civic engagement, and disaster preparedness and vulnerability. Demographic changes are also an important data piece, as they drive many of the other changes.

To accurately assess our progress, it is crucial to have data that is standard across the state, and its regions, counties, and municipalities, yet data availability is a considerable challenge. For example, no data is available for some highly descriptive measures. For others, data is often reported for impractical geographic areas and is often not comparable across geographic areas or across time due to different data sources, different methodologies and inconsistent reporting.

The Century Commission could support indicators work by creating and maintaining an easily accessible database that provides data at local, county, regional, and state levels, with flexibility to be aggregated to obtain data for self-defined, unique regions. In the next year, the Century Commission should work with the Florida Indicators Network and state agencies to develop a set of statewide indicators to be compiled and reported annually by state agencies and entered into the database. Last, the Commission could support instruments that help collect data regarding public opinion, philanthropy, and other measures of civic engagement and citizen values.

ATTACHMENT K

Overview of an Email Broadcast Information System; The Virginia Model

Virginia Local Government Management Association (VLGMA) members have always been a tight group of professionals. Networking is their strength. A few years ago, when they unanimously endorsed the creation of the Virginia Institute of Government, technology was a concern and interest for all. They needed to ensure managers would be able to become technologically aware and willing users, and also that some of their unmet networking needs might be addressed. To the rescue came a unique online list serve program called the E-mail Broadcast Information Service (EBIS) by its creator, former local government manager and Institute of Government Associate Director Tedd E. Povar. Since its debut in November, 1996, local government managers say that they can't imagine a time without EBIS. Other state associations, regional organizations, universities, or Institutes of Government can easily adapt this system to your use, and join with those in Virginia who sing its praises on a daily basis.

WHAT THE HECK IS AN EBIS?

The Virginia Institute of Government's EBIS is an online information sharing service for local government managers all over the Commonwealth. Part of the mission of the Institute is to facilitate networking between local governments and provide practical, "nuts and bolts" advice in a timely fashion. The service is open to all employees of the Institute's member governments (not all Virginia localities are members), and it is a perk of their membership. There is no fee associated with the service.

The entire system is managed by Tedd Povar, an experienced former local government manager who has a strong working relationship with his peers in local government. He has been there, done that, and bought the coffee mug. The Institute members understand that he is not only knowledgeable and can comprehend where they are coming from, but he is also, most of all, trustworthy and confidential. This is critical to the success of EBIS.

As with most successful programs, it is simple and effective. A member government official e-mails a request for information/assistance to Mr. Povar at the Institute and a database record for that inquiry topic is created. The question is then reformatted and emailed via a listserv to over 220 local governments throughout the state. Responses to the inquiries are received first by Mr. Povar, entered into the database record, and then transmitted to the original inquirer. The inquirer is promised complete anonymity, and all queries and responses are reviewed for relevance and professionally "filtered" before being forwarded. Sensitive issues can be easily handled this way. Managers who might have a very specific question but, for whatever reason, hesitate to have it be known by others can feel confident using EBIS.

The turnaround time for delivery of answers is impressively swift. Usually responses begin coming in within minutes of inquiry posting. This is extremely popular with local staff which find it difficult to justify research when turnaround time is relatively slow and time consuming. Because the system can reach a majority of the state's local governments in seconds, it represents a highly efficient replacement for the old custom of "letting their fingers do the walking" by dialing up and handful of other jurisdictions to find out "who is doing what" on a given issue. That process was often unsuccessful or offered very incomplete information.

THE BOTTOM LINE

The incredible popularity of EBIS is exemplified by the fact that it now includes over 2,250 different topics, and new topics are added at a rate of 250 - 300 per year. In all, 99.9 percent of all inquirers get responses to their queries. Based on an average of 11 responses per inquiry, over 23,000 pieces of information have been handled so far. The volume of requests and overall activity level continues to require that a significant portion of Tedd's work day is allocated to running this system.

Substantial time is dedicated to screening the initial queries and responses. This means time on task for a qualified and resourceful manager. Fortunately, Tedd has significant institutional memory of what has been asked and answered before, and since he came from the municipal management field, he can determine if questions require refinement. The EBIS manager also has to edit for inappropriate or "off-point" responses. All materials are carefully reviewed before they go into the database or to the inquirer. In short, significant personnel support is needed for such a system, and a qualified EBIS manager is a must.

Another critical element of success is for queries to be handled in a timely manner. A priority is placed on posting the question shortly after receipt, thereby facilitating quick return of responses and guaranteeing satisfaction among those who use it on a daily basis. Anonymity is also a good thing when it comes to this kind of service. It is almost certainly one of the big keys to the success of the program.

This service helps local officials all over the state help each other without any painful expenditure of time or expense. Essentially, this makes people feel good about investing in the system. They can really make a difference for a fellow local government staff member by simply taking a moment to reply back to the EBIS manager with a "hey, have you thought of (fill in the blank) as a way to deal with that issue? We did this, and it worked!"

According to Tedd Povar, other than the time he spends on processing and sending queries, this is not an expensive service to provide. It just requires a computer, a simple database, e-mail, and a lot of personal dedication. The rewards to Virginia's local governments are enormous. Tedd will be glad to answer any questions you might have about setting up an EBIS for your state at your convenience. It could be the answer to more questions than you have time to even think about answering!

CONTACT:
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" Most of the time the future creeps up on us quietly, like a new habit—arriving not on a thundering spaceship or a roaring jet-ski, but more like an old man out on his daily walk, coming at us step by slow step. The Next Florida probably will arrive that way. We see the old man approach way yonder in the distance, and watch him getting closer, yet chances are that we still will be surprised when he gets here.

If we just look at those steps one at a time, though, we might be able to understand them. Some of the mystery might fall away. We might at least have a better view of where the old man came from, and if we pay close attention we might even be able to guess where he's headed, what this future might be that he is bringing so deliberately. "

From Al Burt, The Tropic of Cracker (1999)