

Problem

Ongoing research continues to show that adopting green building construction and renovation standards can have a significant impact on the carbon footprint of a municipality. Outdated and inefficient green building standards increase local government operating costs, higher consumer energy costs, significant increase in energy consumption, costly building maintenance, and contribution to the heat island effect and sea level rise.

a. Solutions:

- i. Mandatory implementation on any new building projects, reconstruction projects, and land development projects that are owned, operated, and/or financed by the state.
- ii. Identify a nationally recognized green building certification standard that meets the needs of the municipality.

b. Goals:

- i. Minimize exposure to harmful materials.
- ii. Reduce usage of rare and/or nonrenewable materials.
- iii. Lessen the impact on the surrounding natural environment; water, soil, air.
- iv. Lower green house gas emissions.
- v. Protect and encourage surrounding flora and fauna.
- vi. Further Florida's attempts to be more sustainable.

c. Program elements:

- i. Reuse viable materials from other or current projects.
- ii. Implement efficient energy saving equipment e.g.
 1. Efficient light bulbs.
 2. Low flush toilets.
- iii. Reduce water usage.
 1. Reduce sprinkler usage.

d. Financing:

- i. Comes from taxes allotted for federal, city, and or county respectively.

e. Counties and Cities that implement such programs:

- i. Miami-Dade County
 - a. [Miami-Dade County](#)
- ii. Charlotte County
 - a. [Charlotte County](#)
- iii. City of Doral, FL
 - a. [City of Doral, FL](#)
- iv. Jupiter, FL
 - a. [City of Jupiter, FL](#)
- v. New Smyrna Beach, FL
 - a. [City of New Smyrna Beach, FL](#)