

CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
2008 ANNUAL REPORT

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THE PEACE RIVER AT
CHARLOTTE HARBOR

Agency Profile & Mission



PROFILE & MISSION

The Central Florida Regional Planning Council (CFRPC) is a planning and public policy agency which works with public and private leadership in the Central Florida Region to achieve a healthy and sustainable future.

The Council's primary mission is to provide support to the citizens and counties of our region and to seek ways to improve the quality of life of the citizens of the Heartland.

TO MAKE A GREAT IMPRESSION

We would like to thank Great Impressions of Winter Haven, Florida for their service in bringing this document to fruition. Because of their help, we have been able to make a sustainable mark on our environment. Here is how we did it...

A CONTRIBUTION TO OUR ENVIRONMENT

In our efforts to promote sustainable living and the advantages of Eco-ideals, such as 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle', this document has been produced from 30% post-consumer recycled fibers and FSC certified papers. Sustainable practices not only preserve natural areas, protect wildlife and agricultural production, but also increase environmental air quality indoors and out. Here is a quick look at how our choices have had a global environmental effect.

NGREEN ECO PAPER CALCULATOR

Paper #1	< 1 lb of paper made with 30% post consumer recycled fiber* saves...
 < 1 lb wood	A total of < 1 tree that supply enough oxygen for < 1 individual annually ¹
 < 1 gal water	Enough water to take < 1 eight-minute shower ² .
 < 1mln BTUs energy	Enough energy to power an average American household for < 1 day ² .
 < 1 lb emissions	Carbon sequestered by < 1 tree seedling grown for 10 years ³ .
 < 1 lb solid waste	A total of < 1 thirty-two gallon garbage can of waste ⁴ .
< 1 lb of paper made with 100% renewable energy* saves...	
 < 1 lb CO ₂ , SO ₂ , And NO _x	Combined amount of CO ₂ , SO ₂ , and NO _x not emitted ³ . Your savings of these greenhouse gas emissions are equivalent to...
 < 1 hour	Total continuous electricity used by a single-family home ³ OR
 0 lb	Amount of waste recycled instead of landfilled ³
CLASSIC CREST®, STARWHITE®, EAMES™ and ENVIRONMENT® premium brand papers are made with 100% Green-e Certified renewable energy.	

A Message from our Chairman and Executive Director

A LETTER TO THE REGION

The Central Florida Regional Planning Council's primary mission is to provide support to the citizens and counties of our region and to seek ways to improve the quality of life of the citizens of the Heartland. In former and new ventures, 2008 was a year of profound change which brought both opportunities and challenges to our organization.

From our smallest village to our largest county, local governments throughout the region struggled with revenue reductions from state and citizen mandates of the last two years. Added to this revenue decline is the nationwide financial recession that is lowering the value of properties, generating less gas and sales tax revenues and enhancing the overall effect of growing unemployment. The result is less resources to support local government services. In seeking to assist local governments, the Council has expanded its planning services. Of more than 30 local governments, 19 of them used the Council's planning services in 2008. Our staff assisted with preparing Capital Improvement Elements (CIEs), Evaluation and Appraisal Reports (EARs), school concurrency requirements, comprehensive plan amendments and routine zoning and mapping services.

Federal and state funding assisted in providing Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) services to three rural counties. A Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) for the Avon Park Air Force Range (APAFR) has begun. Coordination of Homeland Security and Emergency Management preparation exercises were supported.

Visioning for the region's future is the goal of one of our special projects, Heartland 2060. It will take both private and public effort to position the inland counties for coming change. In 2008, the Task Forces studied Environment and Natural Resources and Education, Workforce and Economic Development which will all be critical issues for the global economy of the future in Florida.

The Council strives to meet our state mandated duties as we work to serve our counties and cities. Maximizing the new federal resources which may be available to assist our region will guide our efforts in the coming year. In all endeavors, the CFRPC seeks to work with all communities in improving the quality of life for the citizens of our region.

Best Regards,

Jeff Carlson
Chairman



Pat Steed
Executive Director



2008 COUNCIL MEMBERS

DESOTO COUNTY

Buddy Mansfield
DeSoto County Commissioner

Lorenzo Dixon
Arcadia City Council Member

Jacqueline Tucker, CFRPC Vice-Chairman
DeSoto County Gubernatorial Appointee

HARDEE COUNTY

Minor L. Bryant
Hardee County Commissioner

Clarence Bolin
Wauchula City Commissioner

VACANT
Hardee County Gubernatorial Appointee

HIGHLANDS COUNTY

Jeff Carlson, CFRPC Chairman
Highlands County Commissioner

Scott Stanley
Sebring City Council Member

VACANT
Highlands County Gubernatorial Appointee

OKEECHOBEE COUNTY

Noel Chandler
Okeechobee County Commissioner

Clayton Williams
Okeechobee City Council Member

VACANT
Okeechobee County Gubernatorial Appointee

POLK COUNTY

Bob English
Polk County Commissioner

Howard Wiggs
Lakeland City Commissioner

Jeff Potter
Winter Haven City Commissioner

Pat Huff
Bartow City Commissioner

VACANT
Polk County Gubernatorial Appointee

VACANT
Polk County Gubernatorial Appointee



EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Jason Green
Planning Manager
DeSoto County Planning Department

VACANT
Planning Director
Hardee County Planning Department

VACANT
Development Services Director
Highlands County Planning Department

Bill Royce
Planning Director
Okeechobee County Planning Department

Tom Deardorff
Polk County Growth Management Director
Polk County Growth Management Department

Jim Otterman
Executive Director
Florida's Heartland Rural Economic Development Initiative

Missie Barletto
Lead Intergovernmental Representative
South Florida Water Management District

Joanne McClellan
Planning Liaison
Southwest Florida Water Management District

Ben Walker
Planning and Public Transportation Manager
Florida Department of Transportation, District One

VACANT
Department of Environmental Protection

The CFRPC Team

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ph. Ext. 130 Patricia M. Steed

PLANNING

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Ph. Ext. 177 Alan Klose AICP - Senior Planner

Ph. Ext. 132 Shannon Brett - Senior Planner

Ph. Ext. 112 Bettina Coleman - Planner

Ph. Ext. 108 Katherine Purcell - GIS Coordinator

Ph. Ext. 110 Marisa Barmby AICP - Senior Planner

Ph. Ext. 106 Marlene Sanchez - Planner

PROGRAMS

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Ph. Ext. 107 Chuck Carter - Program Manager

Ph. Ext. 129 Kathryn Hall - Program Coordinator

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Ph. Ext. 104 Patrick Brett - Technology Manager/Senior Planner

Ph. Ext. 101 Melissa Zerth - Administrative Assistant

Ph. Ext. 102 Regina Lausell - Publications & Graphic Design

Ph. Ext. 104 Larry Pendarvis - Webmaster



POPULATION STATS

241,534

Regional population growth from year 1990 to year 2008.

The region had a population of 546,805 persons in 1990 and a population of 788,339 persons in 2008. The 1990 to 2008 average annual growth was 2.45% per year.

5,869,293

State population growth from year 1990 to year 2008.

The state had a population of 12,937,926 persons in 1990 and a population of 18,807,219 persons in 2008. The 1990 to 2008 average annual growth was 2.52% per year.

PLANNING ASSOCIATIONS

American Planning Association - Florida Chapter -

<http://www.floridapanning.org/>

Florida Planning and Zoning Association -

<http://www.fpza.org/>

Heart of Florida Planning Association -

<http://www.floridapanning.org/hof/index.asp>

★ Arcadia

DESOTO COUNTY

Total Area: 640 sq mi

Established: 1887

Population (2008): 34,487

Largest employment sector: Government

County Seat: Arcadia

Median age (2007): 36.6

DeSoto County - <http://co.desoto.fl.us/>

Incorporated Communities: City of Arcadia

DeSoto County had a 1990 population of 23,865 persons with a land area of 637 square miles, excluding water bodies, yielding a density of 37 persons per square mile. The 2008 population was 34,487 persons, yielding a density of 54 persons per square mile. Between 1990 and 2008, the average annual growth rate was 2.47 percent per year. The Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR) mid-range projection is that the county will grow to 38,400 persons in 2020 and 41,800 persons in 2030.

★ Wauchula

HARDEE COUNTY

Total Area: 638 sq mi

Established: 1921

Population (2008): 27,909

Largest employment sector: Natural Resources and Mining

County Seat: Wauchula

Median age (2007): 32.1

Hardee County - <http://www.hardeecounty.net/>

Incorporated Communities: City of Bowling Green, City of Wauchula, Town of Zolfo Springs

Hardee County had a 1990 population of 19,499 persons with a land area of 637 square miles, excluding water bodies, yielding a density of 31 persons per square mile. The 2008 population was 27,909 persons, yielding a density of 44 persons per square mile. Between 1990 and 2008, the average annual growth rate was 2.40 percent. The BEBR mid-range projection is that the county will grow to 29,500 persons in 2020 and 30,700 persons in 2030.

The Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR) mid-range projections					
	1990	2000	2008	2020	2030
DeSoto	23,865	32,309	34,487	38,400	41,800
Hardee	19,499	26,938	27,909	29,500	30,700
Highlands	68,432	87,366	100,207	116,300	130,700
Okeechobee	29,627	35,910	40,003	44,500	48,200
Polk	405,382	483,924	585,733	679,600	774,300
Region	546,805	666,447	788,339	908,300	1,025,700

Images Compliments of:
<http://commons.wikimedia.org>

Chart Source:

2009 Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR) at the University of Florida, all population projections were based on the medium value.

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HIGHLANDS COUNTY

Total Area: 1,106 sq mi

Established: 1921

Population (2008): 100,207

Largest employment sector: Trade, Transportation and Utilities

County Seat: Sebring

Median age (2007): 50.8

Highlands County Government - <http://www.hbcc.net/>

Highlands County Local Links -

<http://www.highlands-county.com/>

Incorporated Communities: City of Avon Park, Town of Lake Placid, City of Sebring

Highlands County had a 1990 population of 68,432 persons with a land area of 1,029 square miles, excluding water bodies, yielding a density of 67 persons per square mile. The 2008 population was 100,207 persons, yielding a density of 97 persons per square mile. Between 1990 and 2008, the average annual growth rate was 2.58 percent per year. The BEBR mid-range projection is that the county will grow to 116,300 persons in 2020 and 130,700 persons in 2030.



OKEECHOBEE COUNTY

Total Area: 892 sq mi

Established: 1917

Population (2008): 40,003

Largest employment sector: Trade, Transportation and Utilities

County Seat: Okeechobee

Median age (2007): 37.3

Okeechobee County - <http://www.co.okeechobee.fl.us/>

Incorporated Communities: City of Okeechobee

Okeechobee County had a 1990 population of 29,627 persons with a land area of 774 square miles, excluding water bodies, yielding a density of 38 persons per square mile. The 2008 population was 40,003 persons, yielding a density of 52 persons per square mile. Between 1990 and 2008, the average annual growth rate was 1.95 percent per year. The BEBR mid-range projection is that the county will grow to 44,500 persons in 2020 and 48,200 persons in 2030.

POLK COUNTY

Total Area: 2,010 sq mi

Established: 1861

Population (2008): 585,733

Largest employment sector: Trade, Transportation and Utilities

County Seat: Bartow

Median age (2007): 39.3

Polk County - <http://www.polk-county.net/>

Incorporated Communities: City of Auburndale, City of Bartow, City of Davenport, Town of Dundee, City of Eagle Lake, City of Fort Meade, City of Frostproof, City of Haines City, Village of Highland Park, Town of Hillcrest Heights, City of Lake Alfred, Town of Lake Hamilton, City of Lakeland, City of Lake Wales, City of Mulberry, City of Polk City and City of Winter Haven

Polk County had a 1990 population of 405,382 persons with a land area of 1,875 square miles, excluding water bodies, yielding a density of 216 persons per square mile. The 2008 population was 585,733 persons, yielding a density of 312 persons per square mile. Between 1990 and 2008, the average annual growth rate was 2.47 percent per year. The BEBR mid-range projection is that the county will grow to 679,600 persons in 2020 and 774,300 persons in 2030.



Images Compliments of:
<http://commons.wikimedia.org>
<http://www.statesymbolsusa.org>
Northern mockingbird photo by Ryan Hagerly: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



PLANNING



U.S. CENSUS BUREAU BOUNDARY AND ANNEXATION SURVEY

Council staff has assisted many local jurisdictions with the annual U.S. Census Bureau Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS). The BAS is used to collect information about selected legally defined geographic areas and to update information about the legal boundaries and names of all governmental units in the United States.

37

The number of IC&R applications reviewed by the CFRPC during fiscal year 2007-2008.

1

The number of IC&R applications deemed regionally significant within those 37.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION & REVIEW

The Intergovernmental Coordination and Review (IC&R) process is a federally-mandated program to inform state officials of federal projects, programs and documents of statewide significance that may affect them. State Executive Order 83-150 designated Florida's Regional Planning Councils as "regional clearinghouses."

The Council routinely reviews several types of projects and proposals as part of its IC&R work. They include:

- Ten-Year Site Plans for power companies that serve Central Florida
- Dredge and Fill Permit Applications filed with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Federal Consistency projects from the Florida State Clearinghouse/Florida Coastal Management Program
- Environmental Resource Permits issued by the Water Management Districts and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- Federal grant applications submitted on behalf of local governments and not-for-profit corporations
- Transportation Improvement Programs and Unified Planning Work Programs submitted by Metropolitan (Transportation) Planning Organizations

The Council evaluates each proposal to assess the extent of its regional significance. Criteria used to identify and determine such significance include proposed impacts to wetlands and/or habitats, consistency of the proposal with its respective Development of Regional Impact Development Order and other implications which may have multi-jurisdictional impacts.

DEVELOPMENTS OF REGIONAL IMPACT

IN 2008, THE COUNCIL HELD HEARINGS ON SIX DEVELOPMENTS OF REGIONAL IMPACT APPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT APPROVAL.

MOSAIC FERTILIZER, LLC - SOUTH FORT MEADE MINE (HARDEE COUNTY)

The Council held a public hearing in February 2008, and forwarded recommended conditions of approval to Hardee County. Hardee County approved the DRI in 2008. The DRI provides for an extension of the South Fort Meade Mine in Polk County into northeast Hardee County. The total mine area is 10,856 acres of which 6,941 acres will be mined.

EAGLE RIDGE MALL (LAKE WALES, POLK COUNTY)

The Council held a public hearing on this Substantial Deviation in April 2008 and forwarded recommended conditions of approval to the City of Lake Wales. The City approved the Substantial Deviation in 2008. Located on U.S. 27, Eagle Ridge Mall is an existing enclosed mall facility with outparcels.

MOSAIC FERTILIZER, LLC - HOOKERS PRAIRIE REMNANT PARCELS - MINE (POLK COUNTY)

The Council held a public hearing in June 2008 and forwarded recommended conditions for approval to Polk County. Polk County approved the DRI in 2008. The DRI provides for the mining of three small unmined parcels associated with the Hookers Prairie Mine.

EVANSVILLE WESTERN RAILWAY, INC. RAIL TERMINAL FACILITY (WINTER HAVEN, POLK COUNTY)

The Council held a public hearing in August 2008 and forwarded recommended conditions of approval to the City of Winter Haven. The City approved the DRI in 2008. The DRI provides for an approximate 318- acre site in south Winter Haven, just north of SR 60 as a rail terminal facility.

HATCHINEHA LAKES – WITHDRAWN (POLK COUNTY)

The Council held a public hearing on this DRI in August 2008 and forwarded recommended conditions of approval to Polk County. Polk County's Planning Commission voted to recommend denial of the DRI. The applicant subsequently withdrew the DRI application and the property was purchased by The Nature Conservancy.

OTHER MANDATED DEVELOPMENT REVIEWS CLEAR SPRINGS SECTOR PLAN CONCEPTUAL PLAN OVERLAY (BARTOW, POLK COUNTY)

Through the Optional Sector Plan process, pursuant to Section 163.3245, Florida Statutes, the Council held a public hearing on the Clear Springs Sector Plan Conceptual Plan Overlay (CPO) in April 2008 and forwarded its recommendations to the City of Bartow and the Florida Department of Community Affairs. The City of Bartow adopted the Plan in September 2008. The conceptual long-term buildout overlay includes the entire project of over 17,000 acres. Detailed Specific Area Plans (DSAP) will be required before development proceeds.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

THE CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL SERVES 30 LOCAL GOVERNMENT JURISDICTIONS INCLUDING 5 COUNTIES AND 25 MUNICIPALITIES. THE CFRPC PROVIDES ASSISTANCE TO THOSE JURISDICTIONS THROUGH A NUMBER OF SERVICES AND SPECIAL ASSISTANCE AS LISTED BELOW.

PLANNING ADVISORY SERVICES

In 2008, the CFRPC provided Planning Advisory Services to 13 jurisdictions. Planning Advisory Services include technical assistance in the review and preparation of small- and large-scale comprehensive plan amendments as well as rezoning and development proposals.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS MAPPING SERVICES

The CFRPC provided Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping services to 16 municipalities within the Region in 2008. The GIS mapping services included updates to the Future Land Use Map and Zoning Map of each jurisdiction as well as requested maps such as the delineation of Community Redevelopment Areas, Utility Service Areas, and of natural resources and environmentally sensitive areas.

LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

In 2008, the Council assisted one local jurisdiction in re-writing its Land Development Regulations (LDR). The Council provided ongoing technical assistance regarding LDRs to the 13 cities for which it provided Planning Advisory Services.

EVALUATION AND APPRAISAL REPORTS

Section 163.3191, Florida Statutes requires that all local governments in the State of Florida prepare an Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) of their comprehensive plans every seven years. The EAR provides a review of the comprehensive plan and recommendations on how the plan should be amended to better serve the community in future years. Most of the jurisdictions in the Region have EAR due dates between the years of 2008 and 2010. In total, the CFRPC was under contract to prepare 18 EARs in 2008. Much of the public involvement and data and analyses were performed in 2008 for the EARs due in 2009.

13

The number of jurisdictions the Council assisted with Planning Advisory Services.

16

The number of municipalities the Council assisted with GIS Mapping Services.

18

The number of EARs under preparation by the Council.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

THE CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL SERVES 30 LOCAL GOVERNMENT JURISDICTIONS INCLUDING 5 COUNTIES AND 25 MUNICIPALITIES. THE CFRPC PROVIDES ASSISTANCE TO THOSE JURISDICTIONS THROUGH A NUMBER OF SERVICES AND SPECIAL ASSISTANCE AS LISTED BELOW.

ANNUAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT ELEMENT UPDATE

Florida Statutes mandate that, by December 1st of each year, local governments update and adopt a Capital Improvement Element (CIE) including the CIE 5-Year Schedule of Improvements, after adoption of the Annual Budget and CIE. The Council assisted 19 local governments in the preparation and adoption of their CIEs in 2008.

PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES ELEMENT

In 2005, Senate Bill 360 was passed by the Florida Legislature initiating changes to Florida's growth management laws to include requirements for public school facility planning. All local governments in Florida containing public school facilities are required to adopt a Public School Facilities Element (PSFE) into their comprehensive plans. The Council assisted 8 jurisdictions in the preparation and adoption of their PSFE.

TEN-YEAR WATER SUPPLY PLAN

In 2005, the Florida Legislature made significant changes to Chapters 163 and 373 of Florida Statutes to strengthen the link between land use and water supply planning. Local governments must amend their comprehensive plans to be consistent with the Water Management District's Regional Water Supply Plan. The Council assisted 6 local governments in the preparation of required water supply plans and amendments.



8

The number of jurisdictions the Council assisted in the preparation and adoption of the Public School Facilities Element.

6

The number of local governments the Council assisted in the preparation of required water supply plans and amendments.

19

The number of local governments the Council assisted in the preparation and adoption of CIEs in 2008.

STRATEGIC REGIONAL POLICY PLAN FOR THE CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

5

The number of elements in the SRPP mandated by the Florida Legislature.

69

The total number of comprehensive plan amendments reviewed by the CFRPC during the year.

The Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP) for the Central Florida Regional Planning Council and its constituent jurisdictions provides a long range guide for the physical, economic, and social development of the region. The SRPP is a direction-setting tool rather than a regulatory document. Its focus is to strategically address certain systems which make up the region. The systems or elements in the SRPP are mandated by the Florida Legislature. The SRPP is not merely a plan for the Regional Planning Council, it is a plan for all the cities and counties within the region; those communities who are active participants in shaping a more healthy and sustainable future.

The SRPP contains the following five elements:

- Natural Resources
- Economic Development
- Regional Transportation
- Affordable Housing
- Emergency Preparedness

Another major component of the SRPP is the documentation of Natural Resources of Regional Significance and Significant Regional Facilities. These materials document the region's network of natural systems as they relate to developing urban and agricultural areas. They also document historic resources and critical infrastructure; resources that preserve our heritage and provide the foundation of our future development. Each local government comprehensive plan amendment in the region is evaluated for consistency with the SRPP. In 2008, a total of 69 amendments were reviewed by the Council. One amendment was found not consistent with the SRPP.

PROGRAMMS





ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION'S MISSION:

TO LEAD THE FEDERAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENDA BY PROMOTING INNOVATION AND COMPETITIVENESS, PREPARING AMERICAN REGIONS FOR GROWTH AND SUCCESS IN THE WORLDWIDE ECONOMY.

FOR MORE INFORMATION YOU MAY VISIT THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION WEBSITE: WWW.EDA.GOV



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) designated the Central Florida Regional Planning Council's region as an Economic Development District (Region IV) in 1976. The Council receives funding from the EDA to provide assistance to local governments and economic development agencies in securing EDA funding for viable projects, and to develop Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS). The CEDS is a performance-based economic development plan designed to bring public and private sectors together in the creation of an economic roadmap to diversify and strengthen the regional economy. It serves as a guide for establishing regional goals and objectives, developing and implementing a regional plan of action, identifying investment priorities and funding sources, and assigns lead organizations responsibilities for execution of the plan. It plays a critical role in the region's efforts to defend against economic dislocation due to global trade, competition, natural disasters and other events. The CEDS outlines a specific program for intra-district cooperation, self-help and public investment.

The Council submitted their 5-year plan to the EDA in 2007. Amendments were submitted in 2008. For more information you may visit the Economic Development Administration website CEDS documentation:

http://www.eda.gov/PDF/CEDS_Flyer_Whit_Background.pdf

RURAL AREAS OF CRITICAL ECONOMIC CONCERN (RACEC)

The economic development area served by the Council is also part of a State of Florida program developed by the Governor's Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development (OTTED) called the Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI). This program is a coalition of state and rural government agencies who foster economic development in economically distressed rural areas. Through this program, the REDI designation area has an array of programs to assist the area's economic activities. The counties of DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, and Okeechobee are part of the Florida Heartland Rural Economic Development Initiative (FHREDI).

The Governor's office designated three Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC) in the state. As part of the effort to bring a skilled workforce and thus higher paid wages to those regions, the identification and creation of a "Catalyst" project was undertaken in each of the RACEC areas. Under the framework of the Catalyst initiative, local governments within the RACEC can participate in the investment required to implement a job producing project within the rural area and share in the additional revenues generated by the project. The Catalyst project selected in this region includes healthcare services, life sciences, and environmental industries and science. The Sebring Airport Authority was chosen as the site for the project. The Catalyst project is listed as project number one in the CEDS. Local and State economic development leaders are pursuing and marketing the Catalyst project.

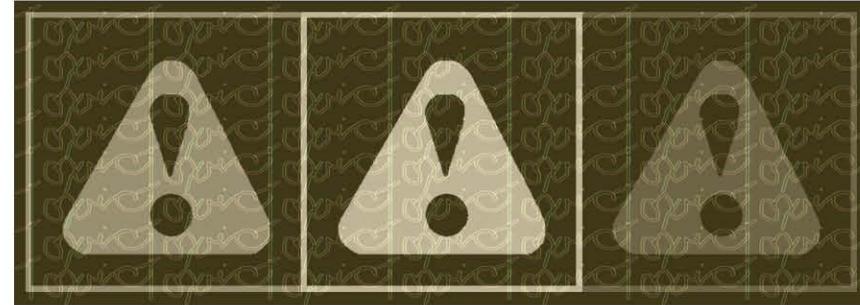
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE, DISTRICT 7

The CFRPC is the coordinator for the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) that is responsible for increasing hazardous materials safety and awareness. The LEPC accomplishes this by assisting in planning for chemical spill mitigation, supporting and providing training events, designing, conducting and evaluating emergency exercises, and educating the public on how to react to a hazardous materials release.

The LEPC is made up of individuals from diverse occupations. Members represent the various groups of first responders (Law Enforcement, Fire, Emergency Medical Services) while others represent corporate partners such as Publix, Mosaic and Coca-Cola. The goal of the LEPC is twofold. First, to establish working relationships so that when an agency responds to an incident they have already worked with and trained alongside the other responders. Second, to educate the public and professional responders on how to react to incidents in an “all hazards” environment.

I-4 Emergency

In response to a multi-vehicle accident on Interstate-4 that included 70 vehicles, took 5 lives and closed I-4 for almost 3 days, CFRPC worked extensively with the members of the LEPC to research and develop the formal after action report on the I-4 multi-vehicle accident. This after action report is fully compliant with the standards of the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) and is only one of two reports prepared in the state of Florida to assess the response to a real world event. This project required over nine months of research, interviews, and development to put together a document capturing the actions of well over 300 first responders from 5 counties and numerous agencies and their response to the accident. The lessons learned through the development of this report will greatly enhance the future abilities of our emergency personnel to respond to any situation they may encounter.



HAZARDS ANALYSIS INSPECTIONS

The Hazards Analysis (HA) program monitors facilities that have extremely hazardous substances held in stock or used in their day to day operations. Some of these chemicals include Anhydrous Ammonia, Paraquat Dichloride, Sulfuric Acid and Chlorine.

CFRPC conducts inspections in Okeechobee and DeSoto Counties under the HA inspection program. Each year the Council assesses approximately 15 sites as directed by the State of Florida. The data collected is used by the LEPC and local first responders to develop hazardous materials emergency plans for use in responding to and recovering from a release or spill of hazardous or toxic substances.

SMALL QUANTITY GENERATORS OF HAZARDOUS WASTE

The Small Quantity Generators (SQG) program identifies and monitors facilities that produce some form of hazardous waste either as a product or a by-product of their day to day business. This includes, but is not limited to, automotive repair facilities, dry cleaners, medical facilities that use x-ray machines, and many manufacturing businesses.

The CFRPC conducted 285 inspections in three counties. All facilities are inspected on a reoccurring basis every five years. Records are maintained on active businesses and historical data on the type of businesses that have occupied a given address in the past.

STATEWIDE REGIONAL EVACUATION STUDY PROGRAM

The Statewide Regional Evacuation Study Program is the first comprehensive attempt to develop a fully integrated evacuation plan to serve the needs of the entire state. This plan, while targeted toward hurricane evacuation, can be used to manage and coordinate evacuations for any natural or man-made disaster. While many counties and regions had evacuation studies in the past, they were not fully coordinated with adjacent regions. Therefore actions taken in one area that would have significant effects on another area were not coordinated. This study will provide planning tools that will allow for fully integrated, seamless planning across counties and regions to manage the movement of large numbers of citizens safely out of the areas in danger. This two year study is anticipated to be completed in October 2009.

HOMELAND SECURITY

CFRPC staff taught the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) at the Florida State Governor's Hurricane Conference, a 2 ½ day program of instruction for emergency managers from across the state.

Our staff worked with the Southwest Florida Domestic Security Task Force to design and develop table top exercises and hands on drills to test the ability of law enforcement, explosive ordnance disposal and hazardous materials teams to respond to a simulated terrorist event that included attacks on an airport and a college campus. During this exercise, explosive ordnance disposal personnel were allowed to conduct a "live shot" to neutralize a suspected bomb. This marked the first time in many years that these personnel were able to use live explosives in a training environment, adding an extreme level of realism to the training event. After the exercise, staff developed the after action report and improvement matrix to document the events, provide a template for training and allow agencies to correct identified shortcomings.



2007 HURRICANE FORECAST OVER THE STATE OF FLORIDA



JANUARY 2008 MULTI-VEHICLE ACCIDENT ON I-4



FLORIDA'S TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED POPULATION:

"THOSE PERSONS WHO BECAUSE OF PHYSICAL OR MENTAL DISABILITY, INCOME STATUS, OR AGE ARE UNABLE TO TRANSPORT THEMSELVES OR TO PURCHASE TRANSPORTATION AND ARE, THEREFORE, DEPENDENT UPON OTHERS TO OBTAIN ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE, EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION, SHOPPING, SOCIAL ACTIVITIES, OR OTHER LIFE-SUSTAINING ACTIVITIES, OR CHILDREN WHO ARE HANDICAPPED OR HIGH-RISK OR AT-RISK"

FOR MORE INFORMATION YOU MAY VISIT THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION
WEBSITE: WWW.EDA.GOV



REGION IV

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TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED PROGRAM

The Central Florida Regional Planning Council is the designated official planning agency for the transportation disadvantaged program in Hardee, Highlands, and Okeechobee counties. The Council provides planning services and staff support and implements the program for the TD Commission at the local level. The Commission ensures the availability of safe, efficient, cost-effective and quality transportation services for individuals throughout the state.

A Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) is selected through a competitive procurement process for the Council's multi-county service area. The Council conducts the process and makes their recommendation to the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD). Once approved, the CTD contracts directly with the CTC. Local Coordinating Boards also provide assistance to the CTCs. This process is generally conducted every five years.

The Central Florida Regional Planning Council created a multi-county service area by combining the three counties under one Community Transportation Coordinator and combining three Local Coordinating Boards into one Board. This multi-county structure provides for a more cost effective, efficient service delivery for these rural counties.

The Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged contracted with the Marketing Institute of Florida State University College of Business to conduct a Return on Investment Study of the Transportation Disadvantaged program. The study concluded that the investment in the TD program paid off in benefits that far surpassed the financial investment of public funds. The study showed that the State investment of \$372.2 million in the TD program provided 51.5 million trips in 2007. The funds generated benefits of nearly \$3.2 billion, which was a payback of \$8.35 for every dollar invested in the program.

50,269,997

The total number of trips provided statewide in 2008.

31,227

The number of trips provided in 2008 to 692 people in Okeechobee County. Approximately 500 trip requests were not able to be provided due to insufficient financial resources.

108,007

The number of trips provided in 2008 to 2,145 people in Highlands County. Approximately 2,200 trip requests were not able to be provided due to insufficient financial resources.

20,976

The number of trips provided in 2008 to 529 people within Hardee County. Approximately 530 trip requests were not able to be provided due to insufficient financial resources.

PUBLIC TRANSIT SERVICE PROGRAM

The Central Florida Regional Planning Council administers the FTA Section 5311 program for the Multi-County Transportation Disadvantaged service area of Hardee, Highlands and Okeechobee counties. These funds are designated to be used in rural communities throughout the United States. The area is without public transit service and funds are used to enhance mobility to the general public. The Council applies for funds on an annual basis and funding is awarded to each of the three counties based on a population-based formula. Funds pass through to the Community Transportation Coordinator who schedules and provides trips for the general public.

In FY 2007/2008 approximately 14,000 trips were provided to the general public through this program.

FUNDING SUPPORT

In addition to the FTA Section 5311 funds, the Council also applies for FTA 5310 Capital Funds to procure vehicles that are used in the Multi-County Transportation Disadvantaged service area of Hardee, Highlands and Okeechobee counties. Vehicles awarded through this grant process are titled to the Council who then leases them to the Community Transportation Coordinator. Vehicles procured through this program are used to provide public transportation trips as well as provide service to eligible transportation disadvantaged clients. Federal and State funds pay for 90% of the cost of a vehicle. The program requires a 10% local match.

In FY 2007/2008 the Council was awarded funds for 6 wheelchair accessible mini vans to replace vehicles that had outlived their useful life. The multi-county service area realized a cost savings of nearly \$202,000 through this award, which lowered costs and enabled more trips to be provided.

6

The Council was awarded funds for 6 wheelchair accessible mini vans to replace vehicles that had outlived their useful life

202,000

The cost savings realized by the Council through this award, which lowered costs and enabled more trips to be provided.

VISIONING SPECIAL PROJECTS





THE HEARTLAND VISION

The Council began a visioning effort entitled Heartland 2060 in September 2007. This effort encompasses DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Okeechobee and Polk Counties. These counties have substantial rural and agricultural areas that are being impacted by growth pressures.

The purpose of the visioning effort is to create a vision looking forward to the year 2060 that enables growth while preserving natural areas and protecting wildlife, supporting healthy communities, large and small, and ensuring a vibrant economic and social life. As the Heartland is unique in natural habitat, rural lifestyle, and agricultural heritage, it is facing major changes and challenges due to growth and development. Establishing a clear vision can ensure preservation of the unique values, a mix of urban and rural lifestyles, and natural resources all while supporting sustainable growth and development in Heartland communities.

The Heartland 2060 visioning effort is addressing such issues as transportation and land use, environment and natural resources, economic development, education and workforce, and community resources such as health systems and cultural resources. Four task forces are identifying issues, developing goals and objectives, and recommending implementation strategies.

TASK FORCES

A Heartland 2060 Leadership Team met regularly throughout 2008. The Environment and Natural Resources Task Force, and the Education, Workforce and Economic Development Task Force were launched in 2008. The Leadership Team established core values for the vision, and each Task Force is identifying key issues and has begun the goal writing process. In 2009, the Transportation and Land Use as well as the Community Resources Task Forces will be launched.

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TASK FORCE

Key Issues:

- Climate & Energy Change
- Sustainable & Viable Natural Systems
- Water
- Agriculture

EDUCATION, WORKFORCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE

Key Issues:

- Creating a 21st Century Workforce
- Economic Diversification
- Infrastructure to Support a Diversified Economy
- Early Learning, K-16 and Lifelong Education

OUR EFFORTS, YOUR SUPPORT!

The Heartland 2060 visioning effort has met with support from both the public, private and civic sectors. Over 200 individuals have participated in the Leadership Team or one of the Task Forces. The Task Forces have gathered and analyzed vital data and have hosted area experts to broaden their knowledge of identified key issues.

Join the Transportation Task Force or the Community Resources Task Force in 2009! Please visit the Heartland 2060 website at www.Heartland2060.com (org).

JOINT LAND USE STUDY JLUS

AVON PARK AIR FORCE RANGE

PROTECTING THE COMMUNITY; PRESERVING THE MILITARY MISSION

The Council is preparing a joint land use study that is designed to ensure the compatibility of the land uses that develop around the Avon Park Air Force Range (APAFR) with the military's training needs and the safety of the public. Future land uses in four counties (Highlands, Okeechobee, Osceola and Polk) and three cities (Avon Park, Frostproof, and Sebring) are being studied. CFRPC received a grant in 2008 from the Department of Defense, Office of Economic Adjustment to conduct the Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) for the Range. The JLUS is also receiving financial support from Enterprise Florida, Inc. CFRPC is responsible for leadership, coordination and management of all study activities, providing public information, and identifying issues and opportunities for effective coordination between the Range and affected local governments and stakeholders.

Avon Park Air Force Range (APAFR) is the largest bombing and gunnery range east of the Mississippi River and is the second largest military installation in Florida with approximately 400 square miles of restricted airspace and 1,000 square miles of military operating area. APAFR's 106,000 acres provide an important training facility for active and reserve military units from all services.

Military operations can be loud and can present safety concerns for civilian communities. Conversely, urban development near the perimeter of military ranges can impact the viability of the installation. Development can be affected by low level flight patterns in military operating areas and required clear zones for runway approaches. Encouraging appropriate development in proximity to the Range can protect the Range's ability to conduct effective training of homeland security, public safety and military personnel.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The JLUS Study includes a public outreach program to inform the public about the Study and the military training activities at the Range. The public outreach activities will include:

- Workshops
- Brochures and Media Advisories
- Meetings with stakeholders and local governments

The website will provide up to date information on the progress of the JLUS Study and planned public meetings and workshops.

ULTIMATE GOALS OF JLUS INITIATIVES

- Protect the health, safety and welfare of residents living or working near military installations.
- Preserve long-term land use compatibility between the installation and the surrounding community.
- Promote comprehensive community planning.
- Encourage a cooperative spirit between the local base command and the local community officials.
- Integrate the local jurisdiction's comprehensive plans with the installation's plans.

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4,050

Reconstruction of the Council's parking lot used approximately 4,050 rubber tires that otherwise would have ended up in landfills.

101

At 50lbs - 220 lbs per wheel, this number is the minimum **TONS** of tire waste we recycled.

CREATING A GLOBAL EFFECT WITH A SMALL AREA



WATER WISE LANDSCAPING,
PERVIOUS RECYCLED PARKING LOT MATERIAL
SENSOR DRIP IRRIGATION

PARKING LOT RENOVATION

The CFRPC has renovated its office site! To support our commitment to guiding communities to achieve a healthy and sustainable future, the Council's parking lot and landscaping were renovated using the principles of water conservation through the use of Florida-friendly sustainable design.

Existing lawn was removed and replaced with water wise, low impact landscape materials. A new drip irrigation system was designed and installed using moisture and rainfall sensors and sub-surface drip irrigation, incorporating the best practice of establishing separate water use zones by plant group needs. The existing asphalt was removed and replaced with an environmentally friendly, completely pervious paving material called Flexi Pave, composed from the residual of waste tires.

As a result of this project, the site's previous drainage problems have been eliminated, and there has been no observed stormwater runoff. The project has been extremely successful in demonstrating an innovative, sustainable, and conservation-based solution.

The project was awarded an Honorable Mention by the Heart of Florida Section of the American Planning Association.

A COUPLE OF FACTS.....

Flexi Pave provides a solution to the environmental and economic concerns associated with the disposal of worn tires across the globe. Today, '80.4%' of scrap tires in the United States are being reclaimed. In 2003, the reclamation statistics looked like this:

- 130 million tires were used as fuel
- 56 million tires were recycled or used in civil engineering projects
- 27.5 million tires were recycled into other products or projects; for example, rubber lumber, roof pads, shower tiles and commercial flooring
- 12 million tires were ground up and used in rubber-modified asphalt for roads, parking lots and athletic tracks
- 9 million tires were sent to other countries where they are used to make retreads



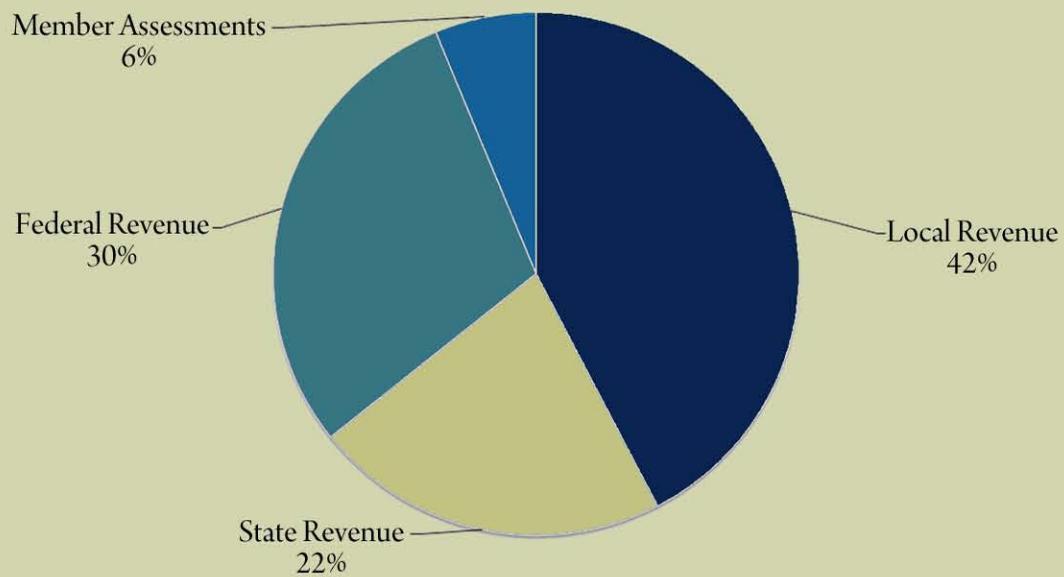
<http://www.charityguide.org/volunteer/iswhome/used-tires.htm>
USED TIRES REUSE, RECYCLE, RETREAD. by Deborah Mitchell

The financial statements of the CFRPC are audited each fiscal year. The following information was taken from the financial statements for the year ended September 30, 2008:

Revenue by Program:

Local Government Assistance	\$ 1,100,490
Developments of Regional Impact	\$ 726,713
Transportation Programs	\$ 823,846
Emergency Management Programs	\$ 309,575
Other Programs	\$ 86,209
Total Revenue	\$ 3,046,833

FY 2007/2008 REVENUE SOURCES



FY 2007/2008 EXPENDITURES

