

**CITY OF PENSACOLA  
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD**

Thursday, May 2, 2019 ~ 2:00 p.m.  
Vince Whibbs, Sr. Conference Room

**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order/Quorum
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes—April 4, 2019
3. Board Member Comments/Updates:
  - a) 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue Tree Replacement and No Parking Enforcement—Kyle Kopytchak
  - b) Review of tree and landscaping regulations—Michael Lynch
  - c) Criteria for Tree Fund Grant Proposals
  - d) DEP and EPA Assessments in Area—Steve Elliott
  - e) Environmental Justice/Injustice—Calvin Avant
  - f) Water Quality of Bay/Gulf—Blaise Butts, Katie Fox
  - g) Sanders Beach and Bruce Beach Stormwater Drainage, Flooding/Toxin Issues in Tanyard—Gloria Horning
  - h) Environmental Impacts on Disenfranchised Communities—Gloria Horning
  - i) Renewable Energy Sources—Neil Richards, Robert Bennett
  - j) Stormwater management—Katie Fox
4. Discussion Items:
  - a) Current Council/Mayor Action Items
  - b) Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Task Force Report
5. New Business
6. Reports and Announcements
7. Public Comments—Open Forum
8. Adjourn

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Board is June 6, 2019, unless changed.

*The City of Pensacola adheres to the Americans with Disabilities Act and will make reasonable accommodations for access to City services, programs and activities. Please call 435-1606 or TDD 435-1666 for further information. Requests must be made at least 48 hours in advance of the event in order to allow the City time to provide the requested services.*

**CITY OF PENSACOLA**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, April 4, 2019**

**Members Present:** Neil Richards, Chair, Kyle Kopytchak, Bob Bennett, Blase Butts, Calvin Avant, Katie Fox, Michael Lynch

**Members Absent:** Steve Elliott, Vice Chair, Dr. Gloria Horning

**Others Present:** See Attached Sign-in Sheet

1. Call to Order/Quorum: The meeting was called to order by Chair Richards. A quorum was established.
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes—March 7, 2019

**Motion made by Member Bennett, to approved the minutes, seconded by Member Lynch and was unanimously carried.**

3. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair

Chair Richards opened the discussion and floor for nominations for the selection of Chair, Vice Chair and added Secretary/Recorder. **Member Bennett moved to nominate Chair Richards to serve as the Chair again, seconded by Member Kopytchak and was unanimously carried.**

Chair Richards opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair. **Member Bennett volunteered to serve as Vice Chair, seconded by Member Kopytchak and was unanimously carried.**

Chair Richards opened the floor for nominations for Secretary/Recorder. **Member Bennett nominated Member Fox, seconded by Member Lynch and was unanimously carried.**

4. Board member Comments/Updates:
  - a) 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue Tree Replacement and No Parking Enforcement—Kyle Kopytchak  
The signs are not in place.
  - b) Review of tree and landscaping regulations—Michael Lynch  
Update given by Member Lynch. In addition, mention was made of the formation of the new Pensacola/Perdido Bay Estuary Committee. City Council Member Hill indicated that she was appointed to serve on that Committee by the City Council.

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

April 4, 2019

Page 2

- c) Criteria for Tree Fund Grant Proposals—Chair Richards indicated that was also tied in with the tree ordinance and the mitigation money that comes from removing protected trees and heritage trees. The tree fund is a separate line item in the budget and expenditures from the fund have been put on hold. The new Mayor and Laurie Murphy are looking at it. The EAB is continuing to monitor the fund.
  - d) DEP and EPA Assessments in Area—Steve Elliott. No update given.
  - e) Environmental Justice/Injustice—Calvin Avant  
Update given by Member Avant on the Citizens Science Conference he recently attended and other work being done in conjunction with several universities. He mentioned the April 11 meeting with DEP at Rolling Hills landfill.
  - f) Water Quality of Bay/Gulf—Blase Butts, Katie Fox  
Member Butts reported on two water quality advisories in Bayou Chico and Bayou Texar issued on March 28 and recent clean-up efforts of Ocean Hour. They picked up 1,010 pounds of trash. There are 2 meetings coming up on April 11 Science Hour is on beach safety and on April 10 seagrass monitoring training at the southwest branch library. With regard to water bottling filling stations, the Airport has had 162,000 water bottles filled at their stations. Member Fox commented on the Bayou Chico remediation project.
  - g) Sanders Beach and Bruce Beach Stormwater Drainage, Flooding/Toxin Issues in Tanyard—Gloria Horning  
Member Horning was absent. However, Member Butts reported in one hour, they picked up 288 pounds of trash from Bruce Beach. Chair Richards gave credit to the former Mayor for clearing and opening Bruce Beach up for citizens to enjoy the access.
  - h) Environmental Impacts on Disenfranchised Communities—Gloria Horning. No update given.
  - i) Renewable Energy Sources—Neil Richards, Robert Bennett  
Member Bennett distributed a news release (attached) about Florida Power and Light's proposal filed with the Florida Public Service Commission. He also presented comments (attached) on his analysis of the solar proposal contained in the Mayor's Transition Team Report appendix. Further comments were made by Chair Richards and Members Bennett and Butts concerning solar power.
  - j) Stormwater Management—Katie Fox. No update at this time.
5. Discussion Items:
- a) Status of Tree Ordinance—Covered under updates.
  - b) Council Action on EAB Recommendations re: Climate Task Force Report  
Chair Richards attended the March 28, 2019 City Council Meeting where the three EAB recommendation items sponsored by City Council Member Sherri Myers were on the agenda. He did not get a chance to speak because the items were withdrawn by the Sponsor. Member Bennett indicated they were withdrawn by the sponsor, in light of the upcoming strategic planning session that is scheduled for May.

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

April 4, 2019

Page 3

Further discussion occurred on the three proposed recommendations of the Environmental Advisory Board and how to proceed from here. Member Kopytchak stated that it starts with the person, the sustainability position. Whether you are a member of the organization that helps supply the data, if you don't have anyone to measure the data you have nothing. If you obtain the position, get the measurement and data on the second issue and show the return, it would be much easier.

Chair Richards indicated that the EAB has done its job and brought the recommendations to the attention of the Mayor and City Council. The Board needs to get their marching orders back from the Mayor or City Council.

Council Member Hill indicated that there is a plan to merge the report from the Mayor's Transition Team and the priorities of the City Council so that there will be one strategic plan. She did not believe the Mayor abandoned the recommendations. They just need to tackle all of the suggestions that have been made for the future of the City and what the plans should be.

The Board further discussed the Siemens Report and whether it would be beneficial to research that report and to obtain a copy of the report.

Member Bennett suggested that the Environmental Advisory Board recommend that the upcoming City strategic plan include an element to assess the feasibility of joining the FPL SolarTogether program as a method to reach the 100% renewable energy goal recommended by the Climate Change Task Force and the Mayor's Transition Committee and an implementation plan developed, if joining is feasible.

Further discussion on the suggested recommendation was held. Christian Wagley suggested expanding the recommendation to add or other appropriate programs.

**Member Bennett made a motion that the Environmental Advisory Board recommend that the upcoming City Strategic plan include an element to assess the feasibility of joining the FPL SolarTogether program or other feasible alternates as a method to reach the 100% renewable energy goal recommended by the Climate Change Task Force and the Mayor's Transition Committee and an implementation plan developed, if joining is feasible. Member Avant seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.**

City Council Member Ann Hill agreed to sponsor the item.

- c) Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Task Force Report:  
Member Bennett further indicated that there were many social injustice issues mentioned in the mitigation report and at some point there needs to be a

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

April 4, 2019

Page 4

recommendation on those issues. Further discussion occurred regarding flooding issues, hardening properties, conformance with new building codes to make them more resilient, new flood plain maps. New homes being built are off grade. Also, comments were made concerning a flooding issue at 14 East Strong Street.

6. New Business—No new business.

7. Reports and Announcements

April 5, 6, and 7, is the Festival of Flowers at the Milton Campus.

April 20 is Earth Day

April 27, Escambia Extension Office on Stefani Road is having their Spring Information session.

8. Public Comments—Open Forum

Christian Wagley addressed the Solar Proposal contained in his Environmental Section of the Mayor's Transition Team Report. If the City chooses to follow that recommendation, they would certainly put it out for bid and receive many proposals. Further comments were made concerning cost of electricity, regulatory control, and clean air requirements. Solar and wind generated power is way cheaper than fossil fuels. Also mentioned in his report was the natural gas utility. The City will have to abandon the natural gas utility in order to move to 100% renewable. Natural gas is not renewable, it is a fossil fuel, it does cause climate change. The trend today is all electric homes. He also expressed appreciation for the high school students who voiced their concerns about climate change at the City Council meeting.

City Council Member Ann Hill expressed her delight in seeing the interest of the young people in expressing their concerns. It is their future and they want to have a voice in it and she hopes they will continue to be involved.

9. Adjourn: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

City of Pensacola Environmental Advisory Board Meeting  
 Thursday, April 4, 2019  
 Whibbs Conference Room, 1st Floor  
 City Hall, 222 West Main Street  
 2 P.M.

**PLEASE SIGN IN**

NAME (Please Print)	Agenda Item	Telephone Number	Address
Ann Hill		850-432-9979	412 W Gregory St
Chris Maddie		436-5696	722 W Main St.
Betty Wilson		850-380-2950	2299 Scenic Hwy T-2
Paul Pipes		850-516-9382	1003 E. Brainerd St.
Christian Wagley		850-687-7918	809 E. Cara St.

*Presented April 4, 2019 EAB Meeting by Member Bob Bennett*

I took a quick peek at the solar proposal. My comments are as follows without having direct access to the power bill and the details of the calculations.

1. I don't see O&M charges included unless they are buried in the calculations. They average \$8/kW/yr. [Often inverters are replaced in midlife.]
2. If the City buys the array the funds will probably come from revenue bonds at an interest rate between 5% and 7.2%. If financed for 25 years the average annual interest cost is between \$45,000 and \$70,000.
3. Net result is average annual saving of \$61,000 to \$36,000 not \$111,000
4. More importantly, the ACTUAL generation varies +/- 20% on a yearly basis and +/- 40% on a monthly basis from the model calculations. In the generation world, firm energy and firm capacity values are determined to support debt repayment and dispatch (often 85% or less than theoretical.)

This is the most expensive way for the City to go renewable. There are better solar procurement options:

1. The best option is a Power Purchase Agreement with a third party but this is NOT permitted in Florida
2. The second best is to lease the equipment from a private entity. On February 5, 2019 the Public Utility Commission in Florida ruled Tesla could lease equipment. This opens the door for others. Under this scheme the capital cost is borne by a third party who receives accelerated depreciation, tax credits, and renewable energy credits (if any) offsetting costs and charges a monthly lease payment to the city for equipment. [In this way equipment is being leased not electricity being sold. A fine but legally crucial point.] Cities are not eligible for tax advantages.
3. Negotiate a green only supply from NextEra. NextEra is the "Global King of Green Power" per Wall Street Journal.
4. Negotiate a Power Purchase Agreement with NextEra who would own the installation. This is legal, I think. [A new development, Babcock Ranch, in Florida has done this recently.]

This is why I suggested at the last EAB meeting that "The Environmental Advisory Board recommends that the City of Pensacola explore and define feasible options for renewable sourced electricity factoring in the limitations and opportunities available under Florida's regulatory system and Federal incentives reporting back to the City Council with options for further consideration. [Such items as a renewables-only contract with Gulf Power, a collaborative effort with NextEra (or private entity if regulations change) to build a renewable energy plant under a power purchase agreement, installation of solar panels on city facilities, etc.]"



Given that:

- The City of Pensacola Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Task Force Report 2018 recommends (page 4) that the City commit to 30% renewable energy target by 2030 for City owned facilities and operations with a goal of 100% renewable by 2040.
- The City of Pensacola Mayoral Transition Committee Report of March 4, 2019 recommends (page 33) that the city set an aggressive energy goal for Pensacola. Mayor Robinson should specifically set a goal for a transition to 100% renewable Energy for City operations.
- On March 18, 2019, FPL proposed the largest community solar program in the nation named FPL SolarTogether.

The Environmental Advisory Board recommends:

That the upcoming City Strategic plan include an element to assess the feasibility of joining the FPL SolarTogether program as a method to reach the 100% renewable energy goal recommended by the climate Change Task Force and the Transition Committee and an implementation plan developed, if joining is feasible.

*or other appropriate programs  
feasible alternatives*



Hand-out April 4, 2019  
EAB Meeting by  
Member Bob Bennett

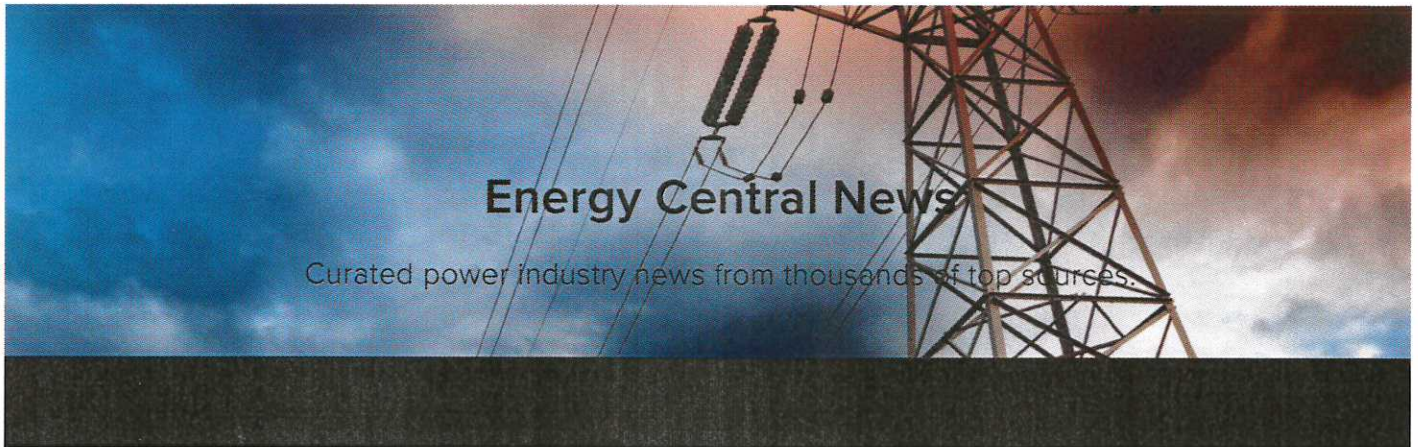
Missing out on insights  
from your peers?



Bridge the Gap with our suite of newsletters.

energycentral.

Subscribe now! ▶



Newest   Trending   News

## NEWS

# FPL proposing nations largest community solar program

↪ share   👍 like   comment

March 15, 2019

509 views

Source: Business and Financial Times

Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) filed a proposal with the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) for a new community solar program that would offer FPL customers the opportunity to help accelerate the cost-effective growth of solar in Florida by subscribing to a portion of new solar power capacity. In return, they will receive credits that are expected to reduce their monthly bills over time.



Weve been aggressively expanding solar with one goal in mind: bringing more solar to all of our customers cost-effectively while continuing to keep their bills lower than 90% of the country, said Eric Silagy, president and CEO of FPL. This innovative program is another major step forward in our 30-by-



30 plan, which is one of the worlds largest solar expansions, and also an unprecedented opportunity for our customers to harness the power of the sun like never before.

FPL SolarTogether will significantly expand solar energy in Florida. Pending PSC approval, FPL plans to install 1,490 MW of new universal solar at 20 new solar power plants across its service territory to meet anticipated customer enrollment in the program. Built cost-effectively, the new solar power plants attributed to the program are projected to generate an estimated \$139 million in net savings for customers over the long term, primarily from avoided fuel and other system savings. Participating customers will receive direct credits for the savings on their monthly bills, and the program is designed to also contribute a portion of the savings to all customers, which will help keep fuel costs low for everyone.

If approved, FPL SolarTogether will be the largest community solar program in the United States. According to the Solar Energy Industry of Americas latest information, a total of 1,298 MW of community solar has been installed in the U.S. through the third quarter of last year.

This program will more than double the amount of community solar currently in the U.S., said Silagy.

FPL studied community solar programs offered throughout the country, including Florida. Program participants will not be tied to a long-term contract and can terminate or reduce their subscription at any time. In addition, because the subscription is associated with a customer account and not a physical address, program participants who move within FPLs service area can maintain their subscription benefits. FPL expects program participants to achieve a simple payback on their subscription within seven years. FPL also will retire Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) on behalf of participants who are looking to meet sustainability goals.

In order to gauge potential customer interest in a program like this, FPL has been working with its largest energy users. More than 200 of FPLs largest energy users including municipalities, national retail chains, universities, banks, restaurants and schools have committed to participate, providing the foundation for such a large program.

Broward College is committed to the education and advancement of sustainable energies that improve community wellness, said John Dunnuck, CEO, Broward College. The Colleges partnership with FPLs SolarTogether program is an investment in Floridas future.

If passed, the new energy centers built through the program will increase the use of solar power on the energy grid, helping to offset the use of other power plants fueled by non-renewable resources. The first six solar plants, each of which will have about 300,000 solar panels and be capable of generating 74.5 MW of solar, are scheduled to be operational in early 2020, with the remaining 14 facilities planned for 2021. FPL has already secured enough land to build all of these plants and the company plans to announce the individual locations in the future.

FPLs SolarTogether program provides an innovative approach to addressing business and residential needs for embracing clean energy in Florida and cost-effectively expanding the Sunshine States renewable energy footprint, said Tim Center, executive director of Tallahassee-based, Sustainable Florida. This initiative chalks up major wins for Floridas environment and sustainability.

In response, Southern Alliance for Clean Energys executive director Dr. Stephen A. Smith issued this statement:

SACE welcomes the news of Florida Power & Lights newly-announced SolarTogether Program. We believe this will be a significant move to provide low-cost solar power to a wider range of customers throughout Florida. We believe that this program, coupled with FPLs previously announced 30 x 30 commitment to utility-scale solar, shows that the utility is serious about advancing solar power in Florida. This program appears to make clean, solar power more widely available in the Sunshine State. We are carefully reviewing the details of this proposal and will provide more comments as we review this filing.

#legal-&-regulatory    #carbon-regulation    #utility-business

#### DISCUSSIONS

---

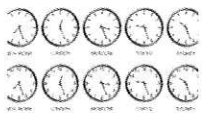
Sign in to Participate

#### RELATED NEWS

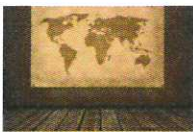
---



Mar 18, 2019 - **Putin visits Crimea to mark 5th anniversary of annexation**



Mar 18, 2019 - **Engagement of Specialist Collaborator for the Verification and Training of the Development of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emission Factor for the Electricity Sector**



Mar 18, 2019 - **Supply of Power Transformer**



Mar 18, 2019 - **More load shedding scheduled for this week**