



Educating with Extension

Monroe County Climate Change Advisory Committee

The Climate Change Advisory Committee (CCAC) was created on January 19, 2011 when the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) adopted Resolution No. 002-2011, establishing the committee to make recommendations regarding appropriate mitigation and adaptation policies needed to address climate change issues.

History

The Green Building Code Task Force was originally created in 2008 to make recommendations to the Monroe County Building Department to adopt local technical amendments for the Florida Building Code to include "green" building practices.

On April 15, 2009, the BOCC adopted Resolution No. 121-2009, changing the name to Green Initiative Task Force (GITF) and shifting the scope of authority to having the task force make recommendations to the BOCC rather than to the Building Department. Recommendations were to be made not on local technical amendments to the Florida Building Code, but rather of environmentally sound practices and techniques to protect the environment.

GITF was sunset on October 1, 2010 with the following accomplishments achieved:

- ◆ Initiated an energy efficiency grant proposal that was submitted to the Florida Energy and Climate Commission in which Monroe County was ultimately awarded a \$3M grant.
- ◆ Developed a Sustainable Vision Statement to guide development of a Community Climate Action Plan and the energy-related components of Monroe County's Comprehensive Plan Amendment.
- ◆ Advised the BOCC on measures that reduced energy use within County offices, which saved the County money and also reduced greenhouse gas emissions.
- ◆ Recommended that the BOCC form an Employee Green Team to develop a Monroe County Government Operations Climate Action Plan to identify measures that would reduce energy use and greenhouse gases in building maintenance, fleet management, and other pertinent operations.
- ◆ Greenhouse Gas Target for County Operations (Resolution 067-2010). Adopted a goal for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to 20% by 2020 as measured from a 2005 baseline inventory.
- ◆ Florida Green Building Coalition Commercial Building Standard (Resolution 147-2010). Adopted the Florida Green Building Coalition's green commercial building standard for county buildings in addition to the Florida Building Code as the standard to be used for construction of all public buildings.

Present

The newly-formed CCAC has eleven voting members, with two members appointed by each commissioner and one member appointed by the County Administrator:

- District 1 - Don Riggs
- District 1 - William Hunter
- District 2 - Chris Bergh (Vice Chair)
- District 2 - David Tuttle
- District 3 - Annalise Mannix (Chair)
- District 3 - Chris Belland
- District 4 - Sherry Popham
- District 4 - Alex Score
- District 5 - Joel Reed
- District 5 - John Forrer
- Monroe County Admin. Appt. - Harry Appel

Other agencies that may participate as non-voting advisors and represent the utilities, municipalities, or other state and federal agencies include:

- City of Key Colony Beach
- City of Layton
- City of Marathon
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
- Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority
- Florida Keys Electric Cooperative
- Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
- South Florida Water Management District
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- U.S. Navy
- Village of Islamorada

Future

The CCAC is tasked with the following goals:

- Development of a Community Climate Action Plan.
- Getting community input on the education and conservation strategy components of the Florida Energy & Climate Commission Grant.
- Participate in the ICLEI Climate Resilient Communities Program, which will require community input.
- Effective climate change policies that will require intergovernmental cooperation.

Meetings will be held on a bi-monthly basis at the Marathon Government Center. Agendas, minutes, meeting dates and more information can be found on Monroe County's website, (www.monroecounty-fl.gov), Extension's website (<http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu>), or by [clicking here](#).

Plants and Trees

May/June Events

Media Recap

SUMMER PLANT CLINICS

Kim and the Master Gardeners will be available from May through September to help you with your plant and/or insect problems.

The [Key West Plant Clinic](#) will take place on the first and third Mondays, from 1 - 4 p.m., and the [Key Largo Plant Clinic](#) is set for the first and third Wednesdays, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

To see the new schedule, click on the links above or go to the Master Gardener page of our website at <http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu/lawn/lawn.shtml>.

16th Annual Tree Giveaway

Keys Energy Services (KEYS) will host its [16th Annual Tree Giveaway](#) on Saturday, May 7, at 8:30 a.m. at the KEYS Service Building, 1001 James Street, Key West, and at the KEYS Cudjoe Electrical Substation, MM 22, Oceanside.

The giveaway is on a first-come, first-served basis for all KEYS customers, who will have their choice of two free native shade trees each, while supplies last.

KEYS Tree Giveaway, which began in 1994, is part of a nationwide public power program called TREE POWER sponsored by the American Public Power Association (APPA). The national goal is to plant one tree for every public power customer for a total of 16 million trees. KEYS received the Golden Tree Award from APPA in 2004 for reaching its goal of planting more than 27,500 trees, or one for every customer it serves. To date, KEYS has given away over 36,000 native shade trees.

In 2009, KEYS began holding the event on odd-numbered years, with the 17th Annual Tree Giveaway scheduled to take place in 2013.



5/4 & 5: Fisheries Public Hearings, Banana Bay Resort, Marathon

5/7: "16th Annual KEYS Tree Giveaway," Key West & Cudjoe Key

5/7: "GLEE Annual Meeting and 4th Annual Green Living Awards," Key West Tropical Forest & Botanical Garden, Stock Island

5/12: "Composting with Worms," by Kim Gabel, at the Keys Expo for Young Scientists (K.E.Y.S.), Switlik Elementary School, Marathon

5/14: "Lionfish Derby," Fiesta Key Resort, Long Key

5/16: "Monroe County Climate Change Advisory Committee Meeting," Marathon Government Ctr.

5/19: "Whitefly Management in the Landscape" workshops, Founders Park, MM 87, Bayside, Islamorada

5/21: "Flagler's Key West Bike Tour," 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon

5/21: "Raising Green on the Green for the Green," Tap Johnson's Estate in Islamorada, 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

5/22: "Key West Orchid Society Monthly Meeting," Key West Garden Club, 1:00 p.m.

6/1: "Whitefly Management in the Landscape" workshop, Harvey Government Center, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

6/4: "Flagler's Key West Bike Tour," 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon

6/5: "National Trails Day - Marathon Paddle-Pedal," 9:00 a.m.

For more information on these and other events, check out our online calendar at <http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu/calendar.shtml>.

Doug Gregory spoke on US 1 Radio's "Morning Magazine," WGMX's "Morning Mix," and KONK 1500 AM about public hearings on spiny lobster and mackerel fishing regulations, and public hearings on spiny lobster and gag grouper catch limits.

Kim Gabel spoke on US 1 Radio's "Morning Magazine" and on WGMX's "Morning Mix" about the Rugose Spiraling Whitefly.

Alicia Betancourt spoke on US 1 Radio's "Morning Magazine" about Monroe County's newly-formed Climate Change Advisory Committee.

EDIS Publications

Options for Unwanted Exotic Pets

Exotic reptiles, birds, and fish are popular pets. However, many species grow large and require special cages or become difficult

to handle. If at some point you are no longer able to care for your exotic pet, you



have several options that are discussed in this fact sheet/brochure.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw353>

Florida-Friendly Landscape Practices

A Florida-Friendly yard is attractive, functional, and ecologically sound. Its creation and maintenance can be accomplished rather effortlessly by using the landscape practices listed in this publication. They are grouped according to how much money or labor they take to accomplish from easiest (Tier One) to most expensive and/or labor intensive (Tier Three). Even the simplest practice can have significant, positive impacts on the landscape and the environment.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep413>





**Family, Youth,
and Community
Sciences News**
Alicia Betancourt



**Marine &
Green News**
Doug Gregory



**Horticulture
News**
Kim Gabel

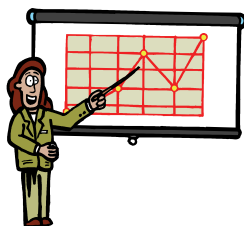
Alicia worked on energy grant activities including coordination of reporting requirements and timelines for accomplishments; worked with Marathon and Key West on coordination of match funding under grant activities; worked with staff on energy strategy contract compliance.

She developed and presented a highlight of the accomplishment of Monroe County in the areas of climate change and efficiency development to a national audience of Extension professionals and specialists at the annual Joint Council of Extension Professionals conference in Alexandria VA, April 4 - 6. Fifty-seven participants attended the Monroe County presentation. Of particular importance during this conference was the ability to engage National Institute of Food and Agriculture federal program leaders in small discussion groups to discuss national priorities and policy issues that impact Extension programs and Extension clients.

Alicia developed and provided strategies for marketing the Florida Keys Council for People with Disabilities at their April meeting. This will include a social marketing campaign for the awareness and inclusion of people with disabilities.

She helped to coordinate the Climate Change Advisory Committee (CCAC) including agenda items and board objectives, and presented an update on climate action plan progress and outlined the steps to further development for 22 participants.

Alicia developed and presented an overview of volunteerism and its economic effects to a volunteer group at an appreciation breakfast for 49 participants.



Doug organized and conducted the first meeting of the Monroe County Climate Change Advisory Committee (CCAC). He presented a 30-minute PowerPoint presentation, "Introduction to Climate Change." Overviews of the EECBG grant and development of a Community Climate Action Plan were primary topics of discussion. Annalise Mannix was selected as Chair and Chris Berg was selected as Vice-Chair.

He attended the South Atlantic Council's Lobster Advisory Committee meeting and public hearing in Key West. The Gulf and South Atlantic Councils have adopted a measure to allow continued use of undersize lobsters as attractants in the commercial trap fishery using the rationale that the 10% mortality rate associated with such use is lower than in other fisheries. Doug originally identified this rationale and provided it to the regulators and industry.

He gave a one-hour "Greening the Florida Keys Community College Campus with Solar" presentation to the FKCC Environmental Club as part of their week-long Earth Day event.

Doug attended a meeting of the Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's Association Board of Directors to review issues and improvements for the Florida Keys Seafood Festival based on this year's event, which was held in January.

He coordinated a "Listening Session" with Extension staff and Extension Advisory Council members to evaluate current and future programming needs for the citizens of Monroe County.

Doug continued to organize the writing of the final report on the yellowedge grouper and tilefish population assessment with the review panel of international scientists. The final report is expected by the end of April.

Twelve Master Gardeners were on hand to help out 789 people who stopped by the horticulture education booth at the 2nd Annual Florida Keys Ocean Festival that was held at the Eco-Discovery Center.

Kim set up a horticultural education booth at the 4th Annual John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park Native Plant Day, with 13 Master Gardeners educating 130 clientele about native plants, composting with worms, and common insect pests.

She taught a "How to Make a Rain Barrel" workshop at the Key West Tropical Rainforest & Botanical Garden, in which 20 people were in attendance.

Kim and 23 Master Gardeners along nine guests, went on a field trip to Kampong Gardens in Miami.

She held a "Composting 101" workshop for the Big Pine Key Botanical Society. Thirty individuals attended.

In the first floor conference room of the Gato Building, Kim hosted a workshop, "Whitefly Management in the Landscape," that 50 people attended.

She set up a horticultural education booth at the 16th Annual Bahia Honda Earth Day, with 8 Master Gardeners helping 156 clientele with questions regarding common insect pests, composting with worms, and Extension's Horticultural Program.

Kim made four site visits:

- Big Coppitt: Subterranean termites on Spanish Lime tree
- Cudjoe Key: Termite frass
- Tavernier: Native planting suggestions
- Islamorada: Rugose Spirling Whitefly

Kim and 25 Master Gardeners held six regional plant clinics, assisting 20 clientele with plant and/or insect problems.

Don't forget to check out Kim's blog for updates on recent hot topics:

www.floridakeyslandscapeadvisor.com

UF/IFAS/MONROE COUNTY EXTENSION

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This newsletter can be accessed online at the following link
<http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu/newsletter.shtml>

Douglas R. Gregory, Jr.

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We're on the Web at <http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu>

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HELP SAVE FLORIDA'S BUTTERFLIES

Like most insects, butterflies eat plants (when in juvenile caterpillar form), pollinate plants (when in adult butterfly form) and serve as food for birds and other creatures (in all forms). Their beauty makes them popular with people but nonetheless, butterflies are in big trouble, experiencing a 40% decline in numbers over the last 30 years.

Florida is home to some 170 butterfly species, and nearly one in four are seen only or mostly in the state. Not surprisingly, the most endangered butterflies are found in South Florida, where the greatest loss of natural habitat has occurred. Your yard can make a big difference for butterflies if you choose native plants and avoid pesticides.

For everything you always wanted to know about butterflies, but didn't know where to look, check out our butterfly webpage at http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu/lawn/lawn_butterflylinks.shtml

Excerpt from *Florida Gardening* magazine
February-March edition

Fun Fact: Did you know that a scientist who studies moths and butterflies is called a lepidopterist?



Eastern Tiger
Swallowtail

"Whitefly Management in the Landscape"

Monroe County Extension Services and the University of Florida/Tropical Research & Education Center are preparing for a series of upcoming workshops to be held throughout the Keys to inform everyone about the Rugose Spiraling Whitefly epidemic that the county is currently facing. This specific whitefly was formerly known as the Gumbo Limbo Spiraling Whitefly.

The following workshops are free and will offer an update on whitefly management in the landscape:

- ⇒ **May 19: For the General Public**, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., in the Community Room (next to the pool house) at Founders Park, 87000 Overseas Highway, Bayside, Islamorada. Note: 50 seats; 50 standing room.
- ⇒ **May 19: For Commercial Landscapers and Pest Control Operators**, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., same place as above.
- ⇒ **June 1: For the General Public**, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., Harvey Government Center, BOCC meeting room, 1200 Truman Avenue, Key West.
- ⇒ A Marathon workshop will be scheduled soon.

Pre-register to [Kim Gabel via e-mail](#). More information can be found on the main page of our website, <http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu>.



COMMUNITY INPUT SURVEY

Florida Extension is a partnership between the University of Florida and Florida A&M University to improve the quality of life for everyone through education.

In the coming decade, decisions will be made by Florida Extension that influence you and your community. This survey is a way for you to give your opinions about certain issues that may impact these decisions. The focus of this survey is your own community – where you live, shop, work, and play.

Please take five minutes of your time and access the survey online by [clicking here](#), or go to the main page of our website, <http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu>, and click on the survey link. Be sure to answer all of the questions; your opinion is very important!

Thank You!

UF/IFAS/MCES QUARTERLY CONTACTS

	Feb	Mar	Apr	Total
Phone calls	339	314	385	1038
Office visitors	38	21	38	97
Visits to clients	16	14	19	49
Group teachings	10	16	10	36
Participants	539	302	379	1220
Media submissions	8	7	7	22
Publications distributed	298	392	384	1074
TOTAL contacts	1248	1066	1222	3536