



Toward a Sustainable and Resilient Pinellas

December 2020 | Office of the County Administrator

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
BY THE NUMBERS	4
LOOKING BACK	5
Becoming a LEED Certified Community	5
Milestone Timeline	6
WHERE ARE WE NOW	8
Community and Economic Vitality	8
Environmental Stewardship	9
Safe and Secure Community	11
Resilient Infrastructure	12
Resource Allocation	13
Leadership and Collaboration	15
LOOKING FORWARD	17
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	18

Defining a Sustainable and Resilient Community

SUSTAINABILITY

The ability to maintain or improve standards of living without damaging or depleting natural resources for present and future generations.

In short: the capacity to endure

RESILIENCE

The ability to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from significant threats with minimum damage to social well-being, the economy, and the environment.

In short: the capacity to prepare and adapt

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Pinellas County is both beautiful and vulnerable. With nearly 600 miles of coastline, pristine ecosystems, and some of the nation's top beaches, the area is a highly desirable place to live, work, play, and visit. However, the abundance of waterways and shorelines, and the fact that the county is a 280-square-mile peninsula bordered by the Gulf of Mexico and Tampa Bay, puts people and places in harm's way. In fact, 25 percent of the county's land mass is in the coastal high-hazard area (also known as the floodplain). Additionally, Pinellas County is the most densely populated county in the state, with about 3,350 residents per square mile and nearly a million overall. The county continues to attract new residents and receives more than 15 million tourists each year. As a

low-lying, densely populated and highly urbanized community, the need to plan for and mitigate inherent vulnerability to climate change, sea-level rise, storm surge, man-made and natural disasters, and other extreme weather events is critical. With limited vacant land available and increased population pressure, the County must endeavor to maximize resources efficiently while ensuring long-term solutions are implemented to address economic, environmental, and social challenges (housing, jobs, transportation). Moreover, the recent COVID-19 pandemic and public health issues have highlighted additional risks and vulnerabilities in our social and economic network.

Pinellas County has established the overarching goal of becoming more sustainable and resilient to current vulnerabilities and future conditions through both internal governmental practices and external community services. Thus far, the County has been successful in developing and initiating programs, projects, and policies to enhance environmental stewardship, implement green technologies, identify and mitigate vulnerabilities, and plan for hazards. Of note is the recent creation of the County's first Sustainability & Resiliency Coordinator position, the County's leadership in the Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition, and an administrative directive to integrate resiliency into future capital improvement projects. The County is also creating its first Sustainability and Resiliency Action Plan to ensure that it has a unified vision and framework across all governmental operations and programs.

This inaugural progress report provides a snapshot of the many accomplishments that have been made and acknowledges the need for enhanced integration and improvement of current and future actions to foster long-term organizational and community resilience.



By the Numbers

Facts and statistics inform decision-making. Pinellas County prides itself on acknowledging sound data and science for analysis and making a meaningful, lasting impact in the community through action. The figures below provide a snapshot of data that drive sustainability and resiliency efforts and the accomplishments the County has achieved.



Nearly **8 inches** of sea-level rise since 1946

76 percent of Pinellas County Residents consider **sea-level rise a concern** to them.

25 percent of land area in Pinellas County is **within the Coastal High Hazard Area.**



More than **\$19 million** invested in **infrastructure projects** to prevent flooding in 2019



At the County's Waste-to-Energy (WTE) Plant in 2019, **1.7 billion** pounds of trash burned to create **renewable energy**, powering more than 45,000 homes a day

\$11 million invested to close health system gaps and provide critical services for vulnerable populations



\$29+ million in new capital infrastructure projects to reduce sanitary sewer overflows and improve our countywide water distribution system



Over **4,000 acres** of county-managed parks and preserves

LOOKING BACK

- Achieved a **Class 5 designation in FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating** resulting in over \$5.5 million in annual flood insurance savings for residents
- Built two **LEED-certified buildings**, with plans for five more
- Installed eight publicly accessible **electric vehicle charging stations**
- Launched **Green Pinellas** to provide educational resources regarding sustainability programs and initiatives to the public
- Received a Gold designation through the Florida Green Building Coalition's **Green Local Government Standard**, recognizing the County for outstanding environmental stewardship
- Attained a 3-star rating with **Sustainability Tools for Assessing and Rating (STAR) Community Rating System**
- Hired the County's first **Sustainability & Resiliency Coordinator** to build a comprehensive new program
- Formed an internal **Leadership Committee and Action Team (LCAT)** to lead the County's sustainability and resiliency efforts
- Received Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council **Community Preparedness and Resiliency Award** for the Pinellas County Sea Level Rise Capital Planning Tool
- Achieving an **ENVISION rating of Bronze** for infrastructure projects in the McKay Creek Watershed



Becoming a LEED Certified Community

Pinellas County is proud to be certified in the U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC's) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) for Cities and Communities program. The program serves as a catalyst and transformative tool toward more sustainable, equitable and resilient communities around the world. The rating system encompasses economic, environmental, and social performance measures and provides a clear data-driven approach to benchmark and communicate progress.

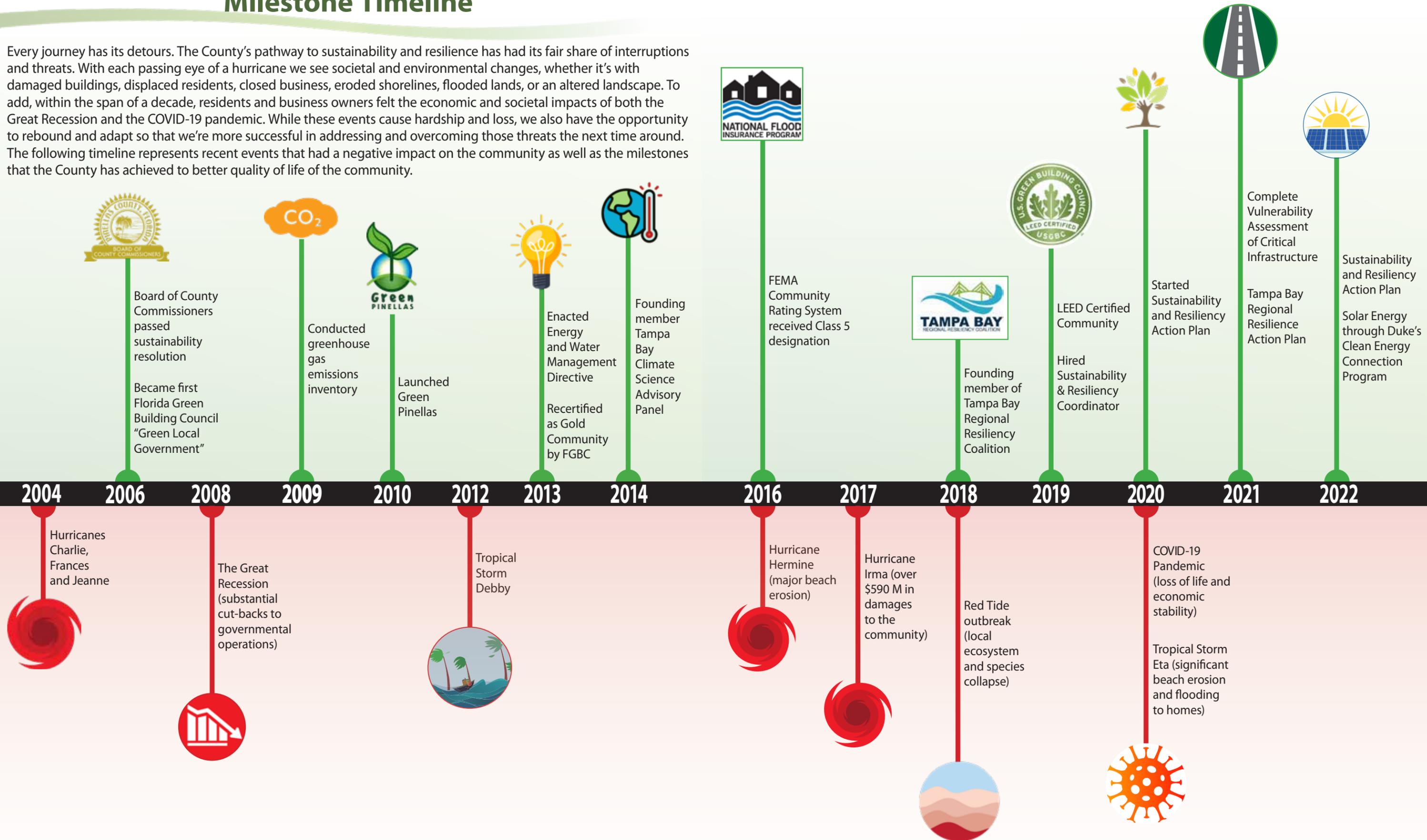
Pinellas County's journey to achieving this notable status began in 2006, when the Board of County Commissioners passed its first sustainability resolution. With unanimous support, the resolution memorialized the County's commitment to work in partnership with citizens, neighboring governments, developers, businesses, educators, and other agencies to achieve a more sustainable community. It also set in motion a desire to seek certification as a Green Local Government through the Florida Green Building Coalition to demonstrate commitment to environmental stewardship. Not only did the County receive a Silver level certification, but it was the first community in Florida certified in the program. In 2013, the County attained recertification, improving to the Gold level and earning recognition as one of the top-scoring counties that year with the Green Achievement Award.



In 2017, Pinellas County chose to pursue the Sustainability Tools for Assessing and Rating (STAR) Community Rating Systems to assess and benchmark the County's holistic integration of sustainability efforts on a national scale. The process of certification with STAR involved data collection (early 2018), followed by training sessions and meetings involving STAR staff and local stakeholders. The stakeholders included representatives from different County departments, and several agencies such as Duke Energy, St. Petersburg College, Pinellas County Youth Advisory Committee, Tampa Bay Water, and Department of Health among many others. At the end of the process, the County earned the STAR Community designation as well as the designation of a USGBC LEED-certified Community due to the merger of STAR Communities with the USGBC.

Milestone Timeline

Every journey has its detours. The County's pathway to sustainability and resilience has had its fair share of interruptions and threats. With each passing eye of a hurricane we see societal and environmental changes, whether it's with damaged buildings, displaced residents, closed business, eroded shorelines, flooded lands, or an altered landscape. To add, within the span of a decade, residents and business owners felt the economic and societal impacts of both the Great Recession and the COVID-19 pandemic. While these events cause hardship and loss, we also have the opportunity to rebound and adapt so that we're more successful in addressing and overcoming those threats the next time around. The following timeline represents recent events that had a negative impact on the community as well as the milestones that the County has achieved to better quality of life of the community.



WHERE WE ARE NOW

Community and Economic Vitality

The local economy is the backbone of a vibrant and thriving community. The projects and programs listed below help to build a better community where all of us can live, work, play.



Comprehensive Plan

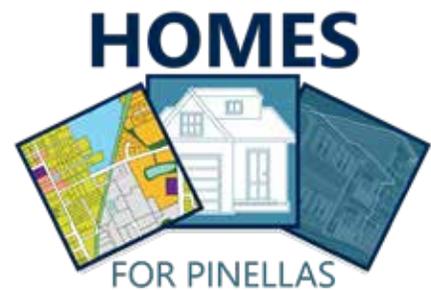
Pinellas County is currently conducting a major update to its Comprehensive Plan, known as PLANPinellas. This plan establishes the policies that guide the County's decision-making as it relates to development, natural resource protection, and the delivery of services. As part of this process, PLANPinellas has sought new ways to strengthen sustainable practices, including strategies to plan for climate change and sea-level rise, focusing development away from the Coastal Storm Area, and continued coordination with local and regional partners.

<http://planpinellas.org/>

Developing a Countywide Affordable Housing Strategy

A new \$80 million affordable housing fund and virtual countywide housing summit in 2020 marked the start of a plan to provide more homes for residents and link them with transportation, jobs, schools, workforce training, childcare, and other services. A key component of this strategy is ensuring that dwellings are energy efficient and safe for their residents. Effective affordable housing will not only ensure the occupant can either afford to buy or rent in the local community, but that they also have affordable utility and insurance bills. The County also aims to ensure that its housing stock can withstand hazards like hurricanes and flooding events. Nearly \$80 million has been committed to the effort in the next decade through the Penny for Pinellas fund.

www.homesforpinellas.org/



Healthcare for the Homeless Program

The Pinellas County Health Care for the Homeless program provides medical services, otherwise known as primary care, for homeless residents, including treatment of illness and injury as well as preventative care, education, limited prescription coverage and referrals for lab work, specialty care, dental assistance, behavioral-mental health assistance, and substance abuse treatment.

www.pinellascounty.org/humanservices/hch.htm

Health in All Policies (HiAP)

Health in All Policies is a collaborative approach to improving the health of all people by incorporating health considerations into decision-making across sectors and policy areas. There are seven organizational strategies to implementing HiAP, including:



- Develop and Structure Cross Sector Relationships
- Incorporate Health into Decision Making Processes
- Enhance Workforce Capacity
- Coordinate Funding and Investments
- Integrate Research, Evaluation & Data Systems
- Synchronize Communications and Messaging
- Implement Accountability Structures

Impacted by COVID-19?
 Financial help is available for **Pinellas County residents and businesses.**



Apply today: CARES.Pinellas.gov

Pinellas Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Fund

The County used this federal relief fund to provide financial assistance to thousands of individuals, families, businesses, and nonprofit organizations by offering grants to cover emergency expenses, such as overdue bills, resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Pinellas CARES also bolstered local pandemic response through workforce reemployment programs, increased local capacity for testing, contact tracing, skilled nursing, collection and distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE), community health educators, and other public health measures.

<http://covid19.pinellascounty.org/where-to-get-help/>

Stormwater Manual

The Stormwater Manual, adopted by the Board of County Commissioners in 2017, is the County's adopted code for the regulation of stormwater discharges. The manual provides guidance and support on green infrastructure alternatives that maximize development opportunities while improving water quality and drainage conditions.

www.pinellascounty.org/drs/stormwater_manual.htm

Environmental Stewardship

Being good stewards of the environment ensures that natural resources not only benefit us today but are also preserved for future generations. Activities within this area include proper land management, conservation, and restoration practices, as well as regulations. Providing green space for recreation and preserving precious habitat are all part of our commitment to protecting our environment.

Fertilizer and Landscape Ordinance

Pinellas County's fertilizer ordinance, Article VIII, Chapter 58, regulates landscape maintenance practices and the sale and use of fertilizers containing nitrogen or phosphorous to protect Pinellas County's aquatic environment. The ordinance bans the use of phosphorous year-round unless a soil test confirms it is needed and bans the sale and application of fertilizers that include nitrogen from June 1 through Sept. 30 each year. It also requires education and certification of landscape professionals to implement best management practices (e.g. Florida-Friendly Landscaping Principles).

www.pinellascounty.org/environmental/



Living Shoreline Projects



To help protect shorelines and habitat, as well as mitigate impacts from natural hazards, the County is installing living features to shorelines in local communities and parks. Natural materials such as rocks, plants, and oysters are used to prevent bank/shoreline erosion, providing habitat and improving water quality. Pinellas County is ramping up this effort through community-based pilot projects and plans to scale up implementation in the future. A current project includes a living shoreline being installed at Phillippe Park, thanks to a partnership between Pinellas County's Public Works and Parks & Conservation Resources Departments, with funding from the Tampa Bay Environmental Restoration Fund.



Adopt-a-Pond Program

Citizen pond owners can apply and partner with the County to improve stormwater pond function through best management practices, including removal of invasive plant species and installation of native plants as well as implementing neighborhood outreach and education.

www.pinellascounty.org/environmental/adopt-a-pond.htm

Lake Seminole Sediment Removal Project

The Lake Seminole Sediment Removal Project aims to improve water quality by reducing internal nutrient recycling through the removal of organic sediments. The removal of the organic sediments, based on pre-construction sediment analysis, is expected to eliminate 54 tons of total phosphorus and 311 tons of total nitrogen from the lake and reduce nitrogen loads by an estimated 56 percent to Long Bayou and Boca Ciega Bay, which will decrease the likelihood of harmful algal blooms.

www.pinellascounty.org/publicworks/projects/lake_seminole_restoration.htm



Chesnut Park Aquifer Recharge and Recovery Project

Located off Lake Tarpon, this project will increase the longevity and reliability of the north county reclaimed water system and will also provide significant benefit to the environment by creating a fresh water bubble that will provide a barrier to salt water intrusion and freshening of the aquifer underlying the underground source of drinking water (USDW). This project will benefit our region by replacing the saline waters in the aquifer under the USDW in nearby well fields, ensuring a sustainable supply of potable water. It will also reduce the amount of nitrogen discharged into upper Tampa Bay by an estimated 6 tons per year!



Wall Springs Park Coastal Addition

In partnership between the Pinellas County Parks and Conservation Resources and Public Works Departments, Wall Springs Park, which recently opened in Palm Harbor, added 125 acres of coastal lands to the existing 84-acre park. The park expansion gives visitors more recreational options and a considerable amount of natural land to enjoy with more amenities. The project earned Pinellas County a 2019/2020 Project of the Year award from the American Public Works Association's (APWA) West Coast Branch in the category of Historic Preservation, Environment and Safety. Because of its location on The Gulf of Mexico, the addition to Wall Springs Park protects a variety of native habitats and associated plant and animal life including 18 species of fish, 148 species of plants and 127 species of birds.

www.pinellascounty.org/park/

Safe and Secure Community

Protecting life and property through disaster preparedness and response is essential for a resilient community. Every hurricane season poses new threats, so our county conducts long-term analysis to determine how future climate conditions could impact our residents, business owners, and visitors. This section highlights projects and services that enable the county's people and infrastructure to be more resilient in the face of natural and man-made hazards.

Ready Pinellas

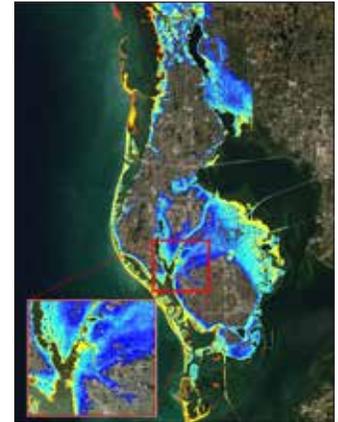


The Ready Pinellas app helps residents prepare themselves and their families for storm-related impacts. It is available to download for free through the Apple App Store and Google Play. The app offers residents easy access to evacuation information, a readiness checklist, and other tools to help them prepare for disasters and stay safe.

www.pinellascounty.org/readypinellas/

Countywide Critical Infrastructure Vulnerability Assessment

To assess the county's vulnerability to rising seas, the County created flood maps for various sea-level rise scenarios, horizons, and inundation durations, combined with storm surge projections, to help identify vulnerable assets and develop adaptation alternatives.



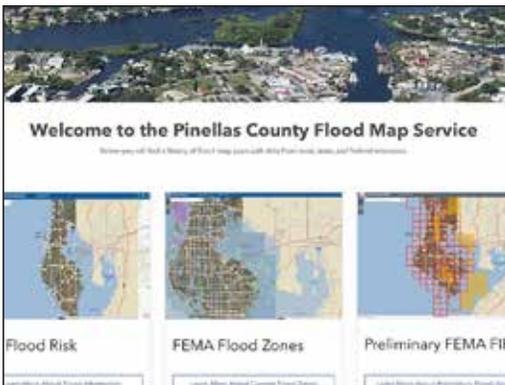
Updated Local Mitigation Strategy

The Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) integrates mitigation initiatives established through various policies, programs, and regulations into a single, stand-alone working document. The plan is maintained by the LMS Working Group with representatives from all the municipalities, public and private agencies and nonprofit organizations. The LMS Working Group meets at least quarterly to address various functions of mitigation planning. The plan is updated annually and approved every five years.

<http://pinellaslms.org/>

Water Systems Risk and Resiliency Assessment

Pinellas County Utilities contracted with a consultant team to perform a Risk & Resiliency Assessment (RRA) of the county water system. Three stakeholder workshops and a thorough evaluation process resulted in the identification of Utilities' 12 most critical assets. This information will guide future capital investments and an emergency response plan.



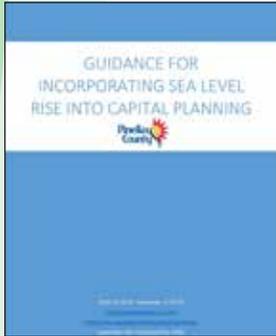
Pinellas Flood Map Service

The online Pinellas County Flood Map Service offers interactive maps with flood risk information, including FEMA flood zones, hurricane evacuation zones, storm surge, sea-level rise projections, elevation certificates, and more.

<http://floodmaps.pinellascounty.org/>

Resilient Infrastructure

Surrounded by water and located in sub-tropical climate, Pinellas County faces many natural and man-made hazards. In addition to the historical threat of hurricanes, tidal flooding is becoming more frequent. Through proper planning and capital improvements, the County aims to minimize sewer spills and flooding in its neighborhoods to protect residents' homes and the health of their water while making the community more resilient to storms, erosion and climate change.



Sea-Level Rise Tool for Capital Planning

Developed by the Pinellas County Public Works Department, this guidance tool provides a framework for evaluating sea-level rise within the capital improvement program process, as well as in maintenance projects. It provides a vulnerability and risk assessment for various assets by using the latest climate science and then supports creating adaptation measures to improve the assets' resiliency to impacts from sea-level rise. The County received a grant to transition the tool from being Microsoft Excel-based to an online app, so any local government in the region or state will be able to use it in the future.

Baypointe Regional Stormwater Park

Pinellas County purchased about 40 acres of land previously known as the Baypointe Golf Course. The \$1.2 million site will allow the County to provide enhanced stormwater services that improve water quality and storage capacity for the surrounding community that were constructed prior to stormwater regulations. This will also provide a new local park with passive recreation opportunities.

www.pinellascounty.org/baypointe/



Green Infrastructure Program

Green infrastructure practices create habitat and allow rainwater to filter through vegetation and soil rather than running into storm drains. To offset dense development and the amount of impermeable surface in the county, Pinellas is incorporating green infrastructure techniques into land planning and design standards. This specific project includes design templates for development plans and features, as well as within County-owned easements and rights-of-way. Additionally, the County is providing educational materials and tools for encouraging the use of green infrastructure both internally and externally.

www.pinellascounty.org/PublicWorks/pdf/green-infrastructure.pdf

Develop a Countywide Smart Transportation and Technology Plan



Through the adoption of an Arterial Intelligent Transportation System by the Pinellas County Transportation Division, this plan supports initiatives, programs and projects that improve travel times, enhance travel options, and increase safety. This initiative is led by an internal Smart Communities Advisory Team, which focuses on the use of information and communications technology toward practical applications, solutions and advancements to enhance Pinellas County's overall livability, workability and sustainability.

www.pinellascounty.org/publicworks/ITS.htm

Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plan (PDRP)

The main intent of the PDRP is to guide the County and its municipalities' actions and decisions during the post-disaster recovery and redevelopment stages, which often last years after a disaster event. The PDRP addresses a variety of recovery and long-term redevelopment topics, such as business resumption and economic redevelopment, housing repair and reconstruction, infrastructure restoration and mitigation, environmental restoration, and other long-term recovery issues identified by the community. It also identifies preparations before a disaster strikes to speed up the recovery process. The County recently received funding under the State of Florida's Resilient Coastlines Program to evaluate flood-risk policies and sections of the PDRP.

www.postdisasterplan.org/

Beach Nourishment

Preserving our beaches helps maintain the quality of life that residents value and attracts visitors and tourists throughout the year – a major economic driver for the county. Moreover, proper beach nourishment provides infrastructure protection from storms and environmental benefits by supporting many types of wildlife and marine species. Pinellas County's Coastal Management Program works with both the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to ensure that the coastline is properly restored year after year.



Resource Allocation

Resources are the assets that are needed to build infrastructure and keep it running. The County is broadly concerned with the quantity, source, and characteristics of these resources and their impacts on the overall sustainability and resiliency of a community. Resources addressed include physical materials (both those that are consumed and discarded), energy, and water use. These resources are finite and should be treated as assets to use responsibly.

Downtown Central Energy Plant



This plant generates and delivers chilled water through an underground distribution piping network to provide energy efficient air conditioning to several County buildings throughout downtown Clearwater. The plant is currently saving the County over \$1.5 million in operating annual costs — primarily from reduced energy and water use — and will reduce the County's carbon dioxide footprint equivalent by 35,000 tons over the life of the plant. To further save costs, the County recently installed rooftop solar panels at the facility.

LED Street Light Replacement Program

This program was established to replace all the County-maintained arterial street lights, which reduces energy bills and overall maintenance. Transportation Operations staff recently converted the lighting during their routine maintenance on the system.



Energy Management Initiative

The Facilities and Real Property Division has launched a pilot program to collect HVAC building data for analysis. At the end of the pilot program, the County will develop a scope of work for retrofits and ongoing commissioning of buildings' mechanical and electrical systems to manage and reduce energy consumption.

Waste to Energy (WTE) Plant



All the municipal solid waste (garbage) generated in Pinellas County is delivered to the Pinellas County Department of Solid Waste. Most of this garbage is sent to the WTE facility, where it is burned to generate up to 75 megawatts (MW) per hour of electricity. After some of the energy is used to run the plant itself, the County sells about 60 megawatts of electricity to Duke Energy. This electricity powers around 45,000 homes and businesses every day.

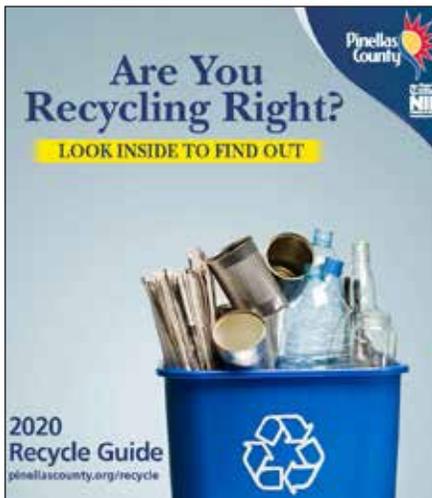
www.pinellascounty.org/solidwaste/wte.htm

Zero Waste to Landfill Goal

The Pinellas County Solid Waste Department has launched a new 30-year Master Plan one primary goal: "Zero Waste to Landfill." The new strategies within the Master Plan will create a closed-loop system to minimize waste generation, maximize recycling, diversion and recovery, and manage left over materials responsibly.

www.pinellascounty.org/solidwaste/masterplan/

Recycling Program



Pinellas County Department of Solid Waste (DSW) provides drop-off recycling collection to the residents of unincorporated Pinellas County through 15 collection centers in beach communities and parks operated by the state, municipalities, and the County. DSW offers drop-off recycling collection for household electronics and chemicals at the Household Electronics and Chemical Collection Center and through mobile collection events located throughout the county. DSW produces an annual Recycle Guide to educate residents on how and where to "recycle right." The "Where Does it Go?" search tool is an online database that includes information on what to do with 600 types of commonly discarded items. DSW also offers educational opportunities through tours and presentations as well as its YouTube playlist with videos on the 4 Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle, and recover). Due to its collective efforts, Pinellas County has been the top recycler in the state of Florida for the last five years!

www.pinellascounty.org/recycle/



Artificial Reef Program

There are 42 artificial reef sites along the gulf coast of Pinellas County from Tarpon Springs to St. Pete Beach. These reefs provide valuable underwater habitats for marine life and are constructed from environmentally safe construction and demolition waste. Items such as concrete pipes, steel beams or entire ships are carefully placed on the ocean bottom. Within about two weeks, algae and barnacles attach to the reef material. Soon, fish come to feed on these creatures. Within a year, the reef begins to support coral growth, improving fishing opportunities and creating new scuba diving destinations.

www.pinellascounty.org/reef/

Leadership and Collaboration

Meeting sustainability and resiliency goals require a new way of thinking about how programs, projects, and policies are developed and delivered. Local governments are most successful if they communicate and collaborate early on, involve a diverse range of people in creating ideas, and understand the long-term, holistic view of the actions and impacts.

Sustainability and Resiliency Action Plan (SRAP)

The County's SRAP will set the foundation for sustainability and resiliency initiatives, planning, programs, policies, and solutions. This process will take an evidence-based, comprehensive approach to develop achievable strategic goals and objectives, measurable short- to long-term actions, process integration, and decision-support tools. It will promote organizational and community-based sustainability and resiliency activities and programming in alignment with the County's Strategic Plan, structure, operations, and services. The SRAP will also prioritize the economic and social case for environmental stewardship, community resiliency, hazard mitigation, and climate change adaptation, including cost savings, economic opportunity, and self-sufficient programs.

Resiliency in Capital Planning Directive (AD 2-12)

The purpose of this directive is to clarify expectations and guidelines as it relates to the County's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) as part of the ongoing efforts to continuously improve County project planning and delivery and adopt a project portfolio management framework. The directive requires the assessment of sea-level rise and future conditions for capital improvement projects, watershed management plans, and infrastructure master plans.



Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition



Pinellas County is a founding member of the Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition (TBRRC), and Commissioner Janet Long currently serves as its Chair. Coordinated by the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, the TBRRC comprises seven member counties and 24 member municipalities that have come together to discuss complex regional issues, develop strategic regional responses, and build consensus for setting and accomplishing regional goals. This collaboration will strengthen our region's ability to plan for the changing climate, reduce impacts, and secure increased levels of federal

funding to support resilient infrastructure improvements, adaptation, and mitigation programs, which protect our communities, property and economies.

www.tbrpc.org/resiliency/

Wastewater/Stormwater Partnership



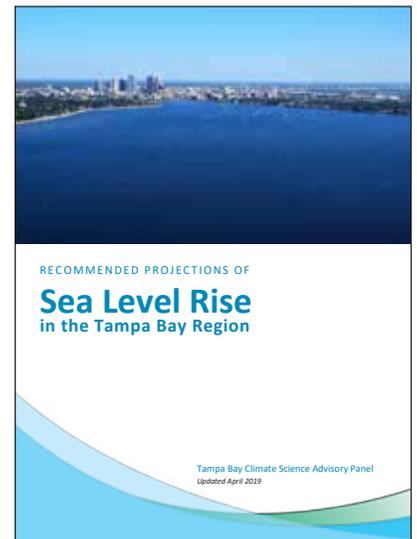
The Wastewater / Stormwater Partnership is a joint initiative of the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners, Pinellas County municipalities, and other agencies to identify wastewater and stormwater solutions for the county. Partnership goals and opportunities include:

- Avoid and mitigate spills, overflows, and releases of sewage into the environment, particularly water bodies
- Increase capacity and resiliency of collective sewer system and wastewater treatment infrastructure
- Seek opportunities to address drainage and stormwater issues that impact the sewer system

www.pinellascounty.org/partnership/

Tampa Bay Regional Climate Science Advisory Panel (CSAP)

Formed in 2014, the CSAP is a network of scientists and resource managers in the Tampa Bay collaborating on science-based recommendations for local governments and regional agencies as they respond to climate change, including associated sea level change. The CSAP first released a recommended projection of sea-level rise in the Tampa Bay region in 2015, with the most updated report in 2019. Pinellas County's Public Works Director, Kelli Hammer Levy, is a founding member of the CSAP and was a lead author of its reports.



Pinellas Sustainability and Resilience Network (PSRN)

Formed in late 2019, the PSRN is a collaborative and innovative group of representatives from municipal governments in Pinellas County working together toward a sustainable and resilient future for our region. This group of local professionals tackles operational implementation and coordination of the strategic goals and objectives established by our elected officials, organizational leadership, and state and regional partnerships. They pursue practical approaches to meet the diverse needs of our individual communities, guide long-term sustainability strategies, embed sustainability across the organization, and develop science-based metrics and performance indicators.

LOOKING FORWARD



The County successfully developed programs, projects, and policies to enhance environmental stewardship, implement green technologies, address and mitigate vulnerabilities, and plan for hazards. We continue to pursue enhanced integration and improvements of our work, services, and future actions.

- Completing and implementing the **Sustainability and Resiliency Action Plan**
- Development and adoption of the **new Comprehensive Plan**
- Conducting a new **Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory**
- Aligning goals and leveraging resources through the newly established **Pinellas Sustainability and Resilience Network**
- Developing an **Energy & Water Conservation Program** to establish a framework for achieving County operational departments' energy and water consumption reduction goals.
- Supporting the development of a **Regional Resilience Action Plan** through the Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition
- Developing a new **sustainability and resiliency web page** to inform residents and visitors about the County's efforts
- Ongoing mitigation efforts for the COVID-19 pandemic through the **CARES Program**
- Evaluating **green vehicle options** for our fleet
- Implementing and integrating the results of the **critical infrastructure vulnerability assessment** into departmental processes and programs
- Entering the **Duke Energy Florida's Clean Energy Connection Program** that will offset 40% of the County's energy consumption through solar power generation.

Acknowledgements

Board of County Commissioners

Commissioner Dave Eggers, District 4
Commissioner René Flowers, District 7
Commissioner Pat Gerard, District 2
Commissioner Charlie Justice, District 3
Commissioner Janet C. Long, District 1
Commissioner Kathleen Peters, District 6
Commissioner Karen Williams Seel, District 5

Sustainability and Resiliency Leadership Committee and Action Team (LCAT) members

Leadership Committee

Jill Silverboard, Deputy County Administrator,
Program Sponsor
Kelli Hammer Levy,
Public Works Director,
Leadership Committee Chair
Hank Hodde, County Administration,
Action Team Lead
Megan Ross, Utilities Director
Stephanie Kapfenstein, Utilities
Josie Benwell, Public Works
Barbra Hernandez,
Marketing & Communications Director
Andrew Pupke,
Facilities & Real Property Management Director
Paul Sacco, Solid Waste Director
Paul Cozzie,
Parks & Conservation Resources Director
Mike Meidel, Economic Development Director
Joe Lauro, Administrative Services Director
Cathie Perkins, Emergency Management Director

Action Team

Hank Hodde, County Administration, Team Lead
Ramona Madhosingh-Hector,
Pinellas County Extension
Natasha Dickrell,
Public Works Environmental Management
Chris Moore,
Assistant to County Administration/
Lealman CRA Manager
Robert Mills, Solid Waste
Smita Ambadi,
Housing & Community Development
Aubrey Phillips, Office of Management & Budget
Lyle Fowler, Parks & Conservation Resources
Doug Templeton,
Human Services Consumer Protection
Don Moore, Fleet Management
Libby Bolling, Marketing & Communications
Lisa Foster, Floodplain Management
Karim Molina-Oyola, Office of Asset Management

Sustainability and Resiliency Communications Committee

Barbra Hernandez, Marketing & Communications
Kelsey Grentzer, Marketing & Communications
Libby Bolling, Marketing & Communications
Tony Fabrizio, Marketing & Communications
Shane Kunze, Office of Management & Budget
Smita Ambadi,
Housing & Community Development
Ramona Madhosingh-Hector,
Pinellas County Extension
Carla Mitchell, Public Works





Toward a Sustainable and Resilient Pinellas

December 2020 | Office of the County Administrator

For more information contact:
Hank Hodde, Sustainability & Resiliency Coordinator
hhodde@pinellascounty.org

Pinellas County complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. To obtain accessible formats of this document or for any accommodation, please call (727) 464-4062 (V/TDD).