

WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Water

Increased demands on Florida's water supply are forcing many diverse interests to work with county government to plan the future of water policy in Florida. In an effort to achieve the best possible result, county government should continue to expand partnerships with the agricultural community, urban water users, regional government agencies, and environmental organizations to encourage water conservation, water resource, and water supply development projects. The primary goal of such water resource planning efforts should be ensuring resource availability for all reasonable beneficial uses, consistent with the protection of water and related natural resources.

- WES 1. The Florida Association of Counties supports the allocation of matching funds to county governments to restore impaired springs, estuaries, lagoons and other waterbodies in accordance with state policy and local needs.
- WES 2. The Florida Association of Counties supports state funding for water quality improvement projects designed to reduce nutrient pollution in Florida's impaired waterbodies, recognizing that multiple sources contribute to nutrient loading, including, but not limited to, wastewater and septic systems, industrial, agricultural, and residential water use.
- WES 3. The Florida Association of Counties supports efforts of the Water Management Districts to facilitate regional partnerships and prescribe regional resolutions to address the need of finding alternative water sources to accommodate the state's growing population.
- WES 4. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that enhance regional and local financial capacity to address water supply development with allocation flexibility in all available funding sources.
- WES 5. The Florida Association of Counties supports the funding of the Water Protection and Sustainability Program within the Department of Environmental Protection for the development of alternative water supplies, water quality improvement projects, and comprehensive water infrastructure needs.
- WES 6. The Florida Association of Counties supports the "Florida Green Industries Best Management Practices" as a basic level of water quality protection, with more stringent protections authorized to address water bodies in need.
- WES 7. The Florida Association of Counties supports the establishment of legislative and budget policies that better recognize the return on investment in Green Infrastructure funding projects in response to nuisance flooding, water quality degradation, extreme weather, sea level rise, and climate change.

- WES 8. The Florida Association of Counties supports the economically, technically and environmentally feasible use of reclaimed water.
- WES 9. The Florida Association of Counties supports state legislation to prohibit new well stimulation activities, including hydraulic fracturing (fracking).
- WES 10. The Florida Association of Counties opposes efforts to increase offshore drilling activities.
- WES 11. The Florida Association of Counties supports state funding to end the ocean outfalls in south Florida by the legislature's deadline of 2025.
- WES 12. The Florida Association of Counties supports prioritizing the reduction of the land application of human wastewater biosolids.
- WES 13. The Florida Association of Counties supports continued funding for research and mitigation for harmful algal blooms (HABs), including blue green algae, and red tide.
- WES 14. The Florida Association of Counties supports crediting new activities and regional projects and simplifying the process for existing activities to obtain nutrient removal credits towards a Basin Management Action Plans (BMAP).
- WES 15. The Florida Association of Counties supports repealing or modifying the preemption on local fertilizer ordinances in sec. 576.181, F.S.
- WES 16. The Florida Association of Counties supports developing strategies and prioritizing funding for regional efforts to protect Florida Estuaries and supports development of special state designation to estuaries and their watersheds in getting funding for water quality and resiliency projects.

Environment

Conservation and protection of Florida's natural resources is critical to managing growth, promoting economic development, and maintaining a healthy environment to ensure a high quality of life for Floridians.

- WES 17. The Florida Association of Counties supports the allocation of matching funds to county governments to purchase environmentally sensitive and endangered lands.

- WES 18. The Florida Association of Counties supports a comprehensive state climate change action plan, with energy policies and other initiatives to reduce greenhouse gases and to address ecosystem sustainability, long term water supply, flood protection, public health and safety, and economic prosperity.
- WES 19. The Florida Association of Counties supports state and federal recognition of adaptation and mitigation as critical to any climate change plan, and the funding necessary to assist local governments in developing and implementing these initiatives.
- WES 20. The Florida Association of Counties supports collaboration among regional coalitions focused on resiliency and climate change in order to maximize resources, share information, analysis, and best practices, and foster useful collaboration.
- WES 21. The Florida Association of Counties supports streamlining the permitting and regulatory processes for solar product manufacturers, installers, and consumers, and further supports reducing burdensome regulations that hinder solar market penetration.
- WES 22. The Florida Association of Counties supports the ability of counties to utilize electricity produced at county-owned facilities at other adjacent and non-contiguous county-owned properties without penalty, or in the alternative, be able to sell surplus power at market rate.
- WES 23. The Florida Association of Counties supports state designation of the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Conservation Area.
- WES 24. The Florida Association of Counties supports maintaining funding of the Small County Consolidated Grant Program and maintaining the waste tire fee as a dedicated revenue source for funding mosquito control, solid waste and recycling programs.
- WES 25. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that provide appropriate resources and incentives to local governments to achieve statewide recycling goals, and further supports comprehensive recycling initiatives that encourage increased participation of the residential, commercial, and industrial sectors.
- WES 26. The Florida Association of Counties supports the modification of the 75% Recycling Goal by 2020 in Section 403.7032, Florida Statutes.
- WES 27. The Florida Association of Counties supports the creation of a new dedicated and recurring statutory funding source for beach renourishment projects.