



CITY OF  
TALLAHASSEE

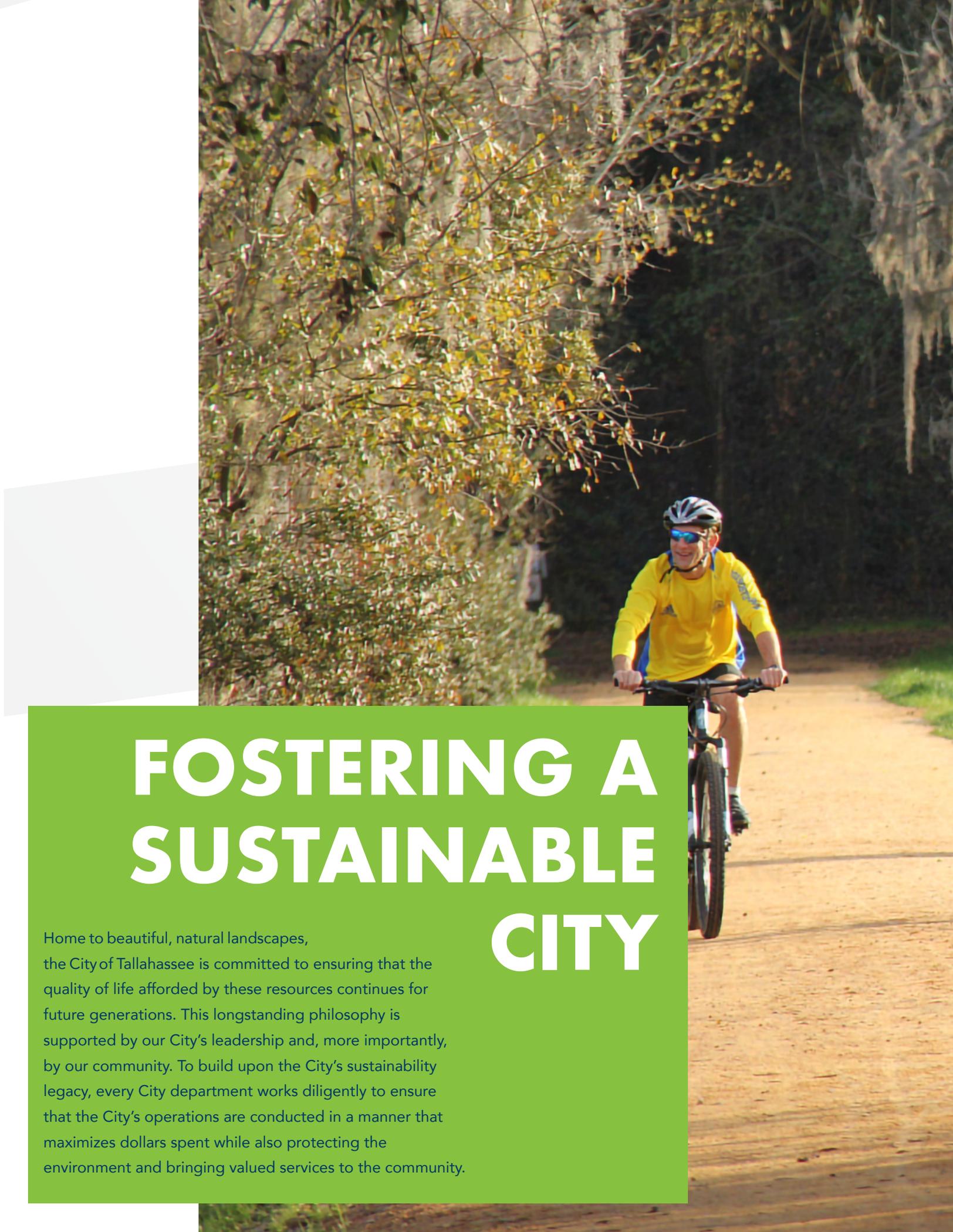
# 2022 SUSTAINABILITY SPOTLIGHT

# contents

FOSTERING A SUSTAINABLE CITY	4
LEADERSHIP	6
EDUCATION	8
HEALTH	9
ECONOMICS	10
NATURAL RESOURCES	11
ENERGY	12
WASTE MANAGEMENT	14
LAND DEVELOPMENT & MOBILITY	15



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# FOSTERING A SUSTAINABLE CITY

Home to beautiful, natural landscapes, the City of Tallahassee is committed to ensuring that the quality of life afforded by these resources continues for future generations. This longstanding philosophy is supported by our City's leadership and, more importantly, by our community. To build upon the City's sustainability legacy, every City department works diligently to ensure that the City's operations are conducted in a manner that maximizes dollars spent while also protecting the environment and bringing valued services to the community.



# OUR PATH

The 2022 City of Tallahassee Sustainability Spotlight provides a glimpse into some of the City's sustainability achievements over the past year.

In 2013, the City Commission adopted the Tallahassee GreenPrint, a strategic framework to guide the City toward greater sustainability. Since then, the City has adopted a Strategic Plan and a Community Resilience Plan, and it will soon have a Clean Energy Plan. As you read through this spotlight, you will see the GreenPrint's eight original goals, as well as relevant focus areas. These goals and focus areas continue to guide new and ongoing initiatives to position the City as a global sustainability leader.

***A sustainable community is one that thrives over the long-term, meeting its current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to do the same.***

# 1 LEADERSHIP

GOAL: Foster a culture of sustainability and enhance the City's role as a regional, national, and international leader in the field.



FOCUS AREAS

Integrating Sustainability

Employee Participation

Evaluating and Benchmarking

Community Partnerships

## Sustainability in Our Plans

Planning is integral to the operation of many City departments. The following highlights some of the plans that either focus on or prominently feature sustainability:

- Canopy Roads Management Plan
- Southside Action Plan
- Tallahassee Community Resilience Plan
- Tallahassee International Airport Master Plan
- Tallahassee-Leon County Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan
- Tallahassee-Leon County Economic Development Strategic Plan
- Urban Forest Master Plan

## Sustainability Together

Whether small or large, partnerships can help ensure that our community continues to move forward in a sustainable manner.

- The City of Tallahassee is an active member of the **Capital Area Sustainability Compact**, which partners the City with seven of the area's largest organizations.
- The City hosted 17 neighborhood leaders in its **2021 Neighborhood Leadership Academy**, which included sessions on topics such as Economic Development, Sustainability, Resilience, Public Safety, and Community Engagement.



Staff greets residents at Southside Action Plan drive through event



## Neighborhood Leadership Academy



2021 Neighborhood Leadership Academy





# LEED GOLD CERTIFIED

In June 2021, the City of Tallahassee earned recognition as a Gold Level LEED Certified City by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC).

USGBC's LEED for Cities and Communities is an international rating system that provides a framework for communities to benchmark their sustainability and resilience performance relative to peers across the globe. The LEED framework aligns with many of the City's strategic goals and objectives identified in both the Five-Year Strategic Plan and the Community Resilience Plan.

To earn the LEED Gold certification, the City conducted an in-depth, cross-departmental data analysis and evaluation related to its strategic sustainability and resilience efforts. Thanks to the scope and breadth of its sustainability programs, the City received, at the time of its certification, the highest number of points for any municipality in the current version of the rating system.

USGBC reviewers assessed the City across a range of metrics. The following are some of the accomplishments that helped the City earn LEED Gold certification:

- **Natural Systems and Ecology** - The City was awarded the maximum points available for its ecosystem assessments, green space availability, and natural resource conservation.
- **Transportation and Land Use** - The reviewers awarded points to the City regarding its transportation performance related to its alternative transportation network and accessibility of its public transit system.
- **Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions** - Reviewers awarded maximum points for energy and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions management.
- **Innovation** - The City received maximum points for innovation related to City Farm TLH, the Clean Energy Resolution, Green Fleet operations, and Think About Personal Pollution (TAPP).
- **Regional Priority** - The City received regional priority credits for its significant efforts to better protect Wakulla Springs.



*Tallahassee is a*  
**LEED Gold City**



# 2 EDUCATION

GOAL: Educate the community on the issues and practices of environmental and economic stewardship and social equity.



FOCUS AREAS

Sustainability Training

Internal Sustainability Network

Community Awareness

Local School, College and University Collaboration

## City Employee Training

Sustainability training for City employees is critical to maintaining efficient and sustainable operations.

~660

City employees received environmental training from the City's Environmental and Regulatory Compliance Division.

The City also continues to maintain its ISO 14001 Environmental Management System certification for operations in underground utilities. The certification requires environmental awareness training that addresses stormwater management, recycling, and waste disposal.

## City Sustainability Team

The City hosts Sustainability Representative Team meetings biannually. The team includes members from every City department, and meetings focus on coordinating citywide projects and sharing sustainability updates and best practices.

## Outreach to the Community

Various strategies are used by the City to keep residents informed about its many sustainability efforts and successes. In 2021, this outreach included:

120

sustainability-related social media posts published

3+

videos that promote sustainability practices aired daily on WCOT

15

news articles published that highlight Tallahassee's sustainability achievements



# 3 HEALTH

GOAL: Improve overall health and wellness in the community.



FOCUS AREAS

Recreation Opportunities

Wellness Infrastructure

Environmental Health Awareness

Urban Farms and Community Gardens

## Parks and Recreation Programming

A wide array of recreational opportunities is offered by the City. More than **257,000** participants enjoyed recreational programs in 2021. The City offers:

- 92** parks
- 8** community centers
- 2** service centers/resilience hubs
- 1** teen center
- 1** senior center



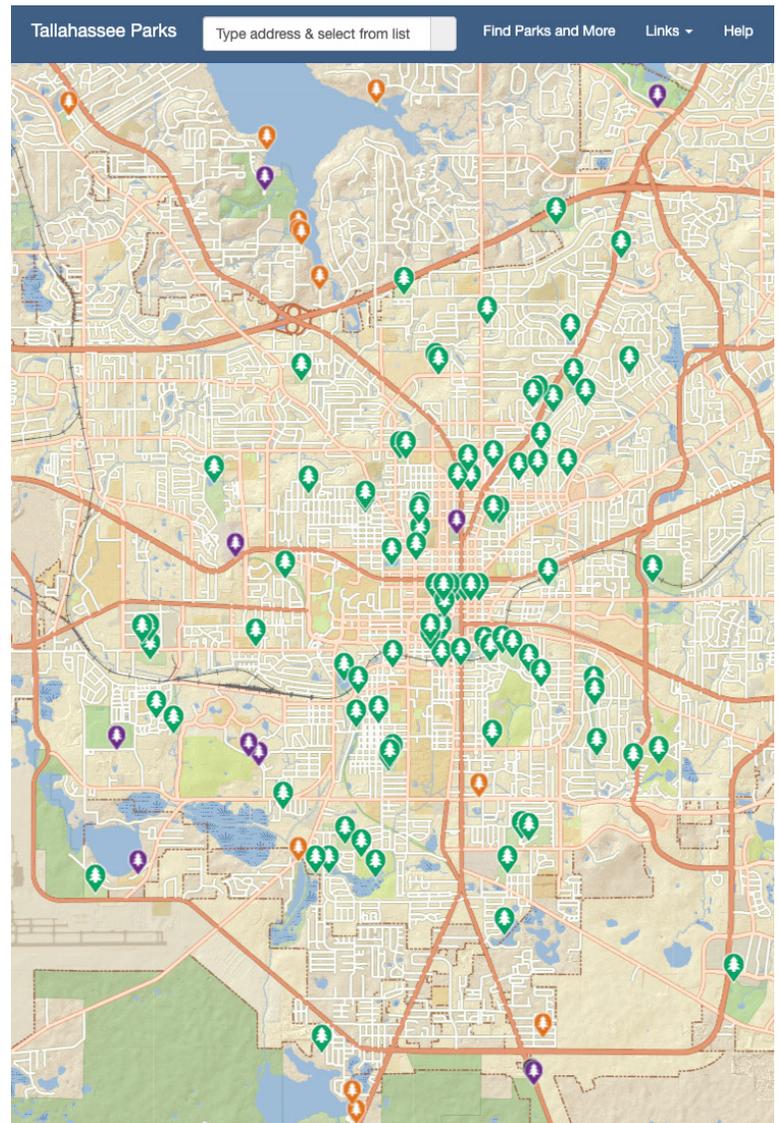
## Lead Abatement

The City tests and mitigates for lead-based paint hazards for older residential structures through its Housing Rehabilitation Program. In 2021, the City assessed five residential structures for lead.

## Pilot City Farm and Community Gardens

The City continues to pursue its Five-Year Strategic Plan objective to improve food access for residents by investing in our urban food infrastructure.

- 1** pilot urban farm
- 7** community gardens
- 13** Southside Farmers Market days hosted in 2021



Location of parks in Tallahassee



# 4 ECONOMICS

GOAL: Support a robust green-sector economy.



FOCUS AREAS

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

Capital Projects and Sustainability Integration

Local and Sustainable Businesses

Education and Training for a Green Economy

## Single-use Plastics Policy

As part of an effort to reduce the impacts of plastics on the environment and promote biodegradable alternatives, the City Commission passed Policy COT-170 in June 2021. The policy bans the use of most single-use plastics on City property and at City events.

## Urban Farming and Entrepreneurship Training

During 2021, two cohorts (totaling **23** residents) completed the City Farm TLH Urban Farming and Entrepreneurship Training Program. Eleven of the program participants went on to begin paid apprenticeships.



Graduates from Cohort 2 of the City Farm TLH Urban Farming and Entrepreneurship Training Program



## Supporting a Sustainable and Equitable Economy

The Office of Economic Vitality (OEV), an intergovernmental organization, implements multiple efforts to bolster green businesses and support economic equity in the community.

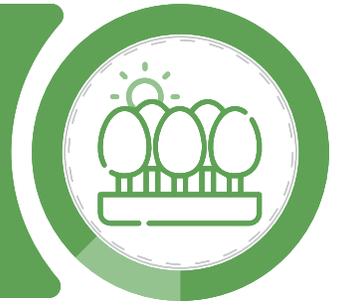
In partnership with FloridaMakes, the **Big Bend Manufacturers Association (BBMA)** provides the Big Bend Region with a manufacturing centered cooperative intended to help area organizations capitalize on new markets and grow existing markets. BBMA takes a holistic view of sustainability, helping regional manufacturers implement their environmental, social, and governance (ESG) goals.

OEV's new economic development strategic plan directly supports the growth and innovation fostered at local universities and laboratories, highlighting the cutting-edge research and diverse array of assets that make the local community a leader in developing new and sustainable technologies across all industries.



# 5 NATURAL RESOURCES

GOAL: Preserve, conserve, protect and manage the area's natural resources in a manner that supports the community's economic and social vitality.



FOCUS AREAS

Water Resources

Air Quality

Nontraditional  
Pollution

Natural Areas  
and Urban Tree  
Canopy

## Ground and Surface Water Protection

City staff are dedicated to protecting our ground and surface water resources through a variety of proactive efforts, including:

**2,300+**

inspections of restaurants, development projects, and commercial and industrial facilities to ensure proper handling and disposal of waste.

## Lakes Monitoring Program

The lakes monitoring program conducts biological and water quality monitoring within select lakes. The program uses the data to assess the condition and monitor the trends of each lake to inform decisions related to stormwater and watershed management.

The City currently monitors **17** waterbodies at **29** locations as part of the program.

## Think About Personal Pollution (TAPP)

The TAPP program is designed to educate individuals on ways that small personal changes in home and yard practices can help protect local water resources.

Recent public service announcements have focused on yard debris, fertilizer, and Wakulla Springs.



## Urban Forestry

Fostering a healthy urban tree canopy improves air quality, reduces stormwater runoff, and helps mitigate the heat island effect. In 2021, these efforts included:

**1,000** native trees planted in Governor's Park for Arbor Day 2021

**300+** trees planted on residential property through the Adopt a Tree program

**23** new memorial trees planted

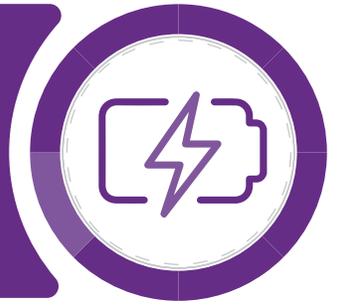
**150** trees added along FAMU Way

The City completed its first Tree Matrix, which is a guide for selecting proper trees for urban spaces. The City also launched the **Urban Forestry at Home** outreach effort to provide tree care information to residents.



# 6 ENERGY

GOAL: Provide a safe, reliable, efficient, and cost-effective energy system that moves the City toward a net-zero carbon operation and 100 percent clean renewable energy.



FOCUS AREAS

Energy Efficiency

Clean Energy Generation

Clean Fuel Vehicles

Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

## Energy Efficiency Incentives

The City offers customers financial incentives to reduce energy consumption and foster greater efficiency.

Participation in Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) included:

- 3,200+** Energy Star Rebates
- 450+** Energy Efficiency Grants
- 3,500+** Residential Energy Audits
- 90+** Commercial Energy Audits
- 360** Residential loans totaling \$2.7 million
- 3** Commercial loans totaling over \$25,000

## City Green Fleet

The City has made significant strides in transitioning to a clean fuel fleet by increasing the number of electric, hybrid, and CNG vehicles in its fleet.

**76 ELECTRIC**

**75 CNG**

**45 HYBRID**

To date, the City has installed 44 EV charging stations for its fleet vehicles.

## Solar Power

The City continued to pursue its clean energy goals in FY21 with multiple investments into solar power generation.

- 109M kWh** delivered from City Solar Farms
- 229** solar systems installed by residents and connected to the City's electric grid (net metered)
- 7.6M kWh** estimated electricity generated by the City's Solar Net Metering Program, which is expected to have avoided an estimated 3.1 million lbs. of greenhouse gas emissions



# CLEAN ENERGY RESOLUTION

In 2019, the City Commission took the bold and visionary step to issue a resolution that details the City's intentions to achieve 100% net clean, renewable energy by 2050.

The resolution identifies two key milestones:

- 2035: Achieve 100% net clean, renewable energy in City operations
- 2050: Achieve 100% net clean, renewable energy community-wide

# CLEAN ENERGY ROADMAP

In 2020, the City initiated a comprehensive planning process to develop the roadmap that will guide the City toward meeting the goals of the Clean Energy Resolution.

## ENERGY INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN (EIRP)

Combines public feedback with demand and supply solution sets to identify pathways forward to meet the energy needs of the City.

## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Provides opportunities for community input, feedback, and education.



## CLEAN ENERGY ROADMAP

Policy recommendations and assessment of impacts to energy equity, environment, public health, and job creation.

# A FOCUS ON ENGAGEMENT

In 2021, the planning process included significant outreach to ensure that input from community members and stakeholders is broad and diverse. The City focused on community conversations to generate input that will be incorporated into the Clean Energy Roadmap:

- April 2021 - The City hosted a series of virtual information sessions that drew more than 300 participants.
- October and November 2021 - The City hosted six charrettes that were attended by more than 40 stakeholders.
- December 2021 - The City engaged more than 100 residents in a series of community forums.



# 7 WASTE MANAGEMENT

GOAL: Decrease the amount of solid waste generated within the City's solid waste service area.



FOCUS AREAS

Education and Awareness

Waste Reduction

Reuse

Recycling

## Solid Waste Resources for Customers

The annual Customer Service Guide is distributed to every City residential utility customer. It details best practices for managing household waste, recycling, and other items.

## Composting

The City continues to investigate methods to divert food waste from the landfill. In August 2021, the City partnered with a local vendor to launch a Pilot Composting Program at the Renaissance Building.



**Biodiesel**

**6,300 gallons**

of biodiesel were produced by the City in 2021. This biofuel is made using used cooking oil provided by residents and businesses.

## Cash for Trash

The City's annual Cash for Trash program provides an opportunity for residents to dispose of garbage that should not typically be put in the waste bin. In 2021, the program served more than 700 customers and collected:

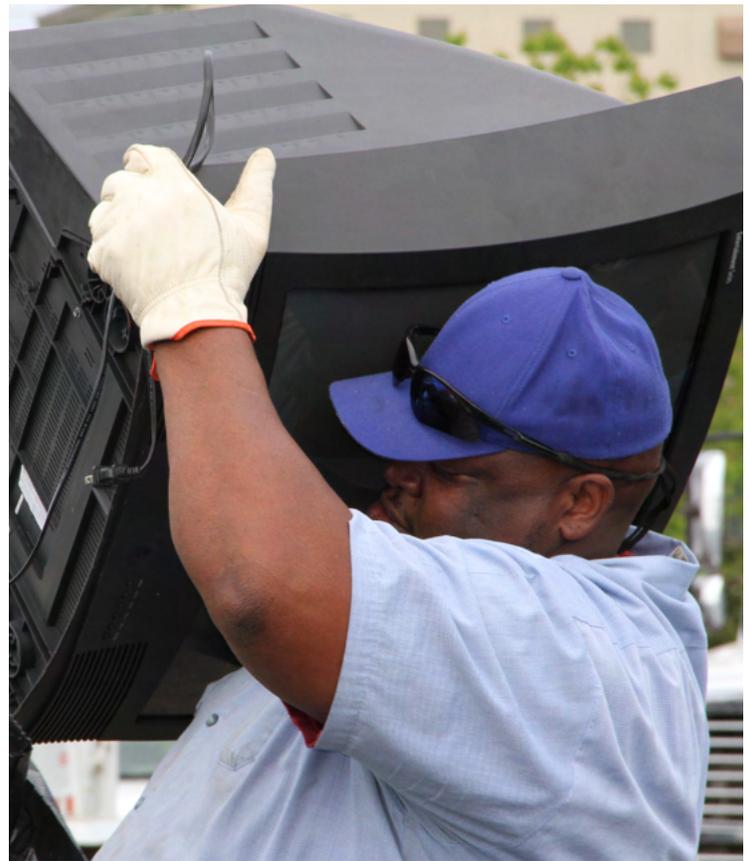
**14 tons** of metals

**6 tons** of electronics

**7 tons** of tires

**16 tons** of bulk waste

**20 tons** of household hazardous waste



## Filling the Recycle Bin

Recycling helps divert waste from the landfill while saving resources. The City provides weekly single-stream recycling collection for residents and guidance on what items are recyclable.



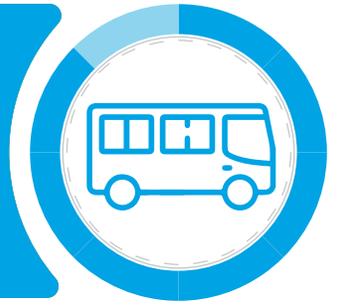
**12,270+ tons**

of material were recycled by the City in 2021



# 8 LAND DEVELOPMENT AND MOBILITY

GOAL: Facilitate land development patterns, transportation options, and building practices that support the City's sustainability goals.



FOCUS AREAS

Mobility District and Other Urban Areas

Green Building

Green Industry and Infrastructure

Alternative Transportation

## Green Building Policy

In July 2021, the City Commission adopted a Green Building Policy that established green, energy efficient, sustainable, resilient, and healthy building standards and expectations for City-owned building renovation and new construction projects.

## Trails and Bike Paths

To increase alternative transportation options, the City implemented new bike and pedestrian projects, including:

**1,500 ft** bike lane and sidewalk installation along FAMU Way

**1,500 ft** multi-use path at the Capital Cascades Trail along FAMU Way

The City also installed a climbing bike lane on E. College Avenue between Calhoun Street and Franklin Blvd.

## Public Transit

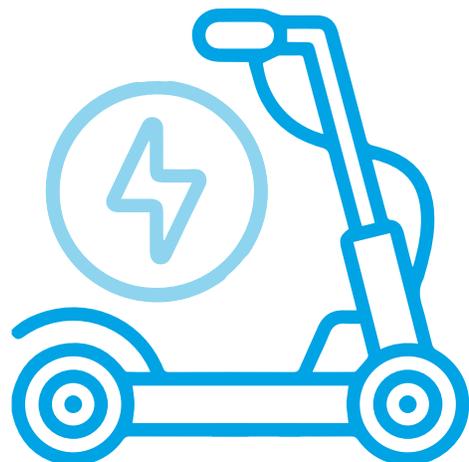
StarMetro, the City's public transit system, continues to help reduce congestion, save energy, and provide a cost-effective transportation option for residents.

**2 million+** passenger trips in FY21  
**1.8 million+** miles traveled by StarMetro passengers in FY21

## Micromobility

Alternative transportation options continued to grow in the City in 2021.

**183,200+** e-scooters rides (covering 225,500 miles)  
**4,700+** protected bike lane trips  
**130,500+** pedestrian and **42,800+** cyclist trips across the Cascades Connector Bridge





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