



CULTIVATING A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

“A sustainable community manages its human, natural and financial capital to meet current needs while ensuring that adequate resources are available for future generations,” according to the Institute for Sustainable Communities. This focus at the City of Tallahassee is driving changes in policy, operations, community-building and more.

For example, in 2021, the City adopted a Green Building policy that established energy-efficient, sustainable and healthy building standards for City-owned building renovation and new construction projects. This policy was quickly implemented with positive results. During demolition of the former Northwood Centre last year, 83.35 percent of materials were recycled.

Greening the City’s fleet is another major initiative. In line with the City’s five-year strategic plan, 30 percent of StarMetro’s fleet has transitioned to electric, with the goal of reaching an all-electric bus fleet by 2035. The City is also actively transitioning light-duty vehicles to electric. Actions to reach these goals, matched with adherence to professional best practices for environmental standards, paved the way for the City’s Fleet department to attain the Government Green Fleet Award as the top-ranked city in the Southeast and 15th in the nation.

Cultivating a sustainable community requires holistic effort. As such, the City began development in 2019 of a Clean

Energy Plan to help chart a path for the community to reach a 100 percent net clean, renewable energy future. Following multi-year community engagement, analysis and planning efforts, the Clean Energy Plan is nearing completion.

These broad efforts are only part of the puzzle. Below are five actions you can implement to reduce your impact on our environment and conserve natural resources.

- Insulate your home. This includes having adequate ceiling insulation, as well as sealing gaps around windows and doors.
- Repair water leaks quickly. A hot water leak is especially important to fix as it also wastes energy.
- Set your thermostat wisely. The smaller the difference between the outdoor and indoor temperature, the less your cooling/heating system needs to work.
- Divert waste from the landfill by composting food scraps; recycling paper, plastic, glass and metal; and donating, repurposing or re-homing gently used items.
- Walk, bike, carpool or use public transportation whenever possible.

If you’d like help identifying ways to save energy, water and money at home, schedule a free energy audit with the City of Tallahassee Utilities by calling 850-891-4968. Together, through actions big and small, our community can be a sustainable place to live for generations.

Sustainability Tip

Set your thermostat as high as comfortably possible in the summer.

The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temperatures, the lower your overall cooling bill will be.



FAIR HOUSING MONTH

The City of Tallahassee supports fair housing and recognizes April as National Fair Housing Month. Did you know that Congress passed the Fair Housing Act in April 1968 immediately following Dr. King's assassination? Amended in 1988, the act guarantees equal housing opportunities for all people and makes it illegal to discriminate based on race, color, national origin, gender, religion, family status or disability. If you think you have been denied your housing rights, you may have experienced unlawful discrimination. For more information, please visit [Talgov.com/Housing](https://www.talgov.com/Housing).



TALLAHASSEE LINEMEN SHINE



The annual Florida Lineman Competition, held last month, brought together electric lineworkers from across the state together to demonstrate their skill and knowledge in the craft of line work. Competitors took on various challenges such as replacing crossarms and insulators on utility poles, replacing blown arrestors, crossing poles and completing a simulation of rescuing injured lineworkers. With a talented field of competitors, the City of Tallahassee proudly brought home the 2023 Overall Journeyman Team Winners Cup! City teams also took home second, fourth and fifth place (out of 22) in the Journeyman Event and sixth, 11th and 17th (out of 77) in the Apprentice Event.

FLUSHING FACTS

On average, the City of Tallahassee treats more than 5 billion gallons of wastewater each year, averaging about 16 million gallons per day. To get this wastewater from your home to the treatment plant, the City operates and maintains about 1,050 miles of sewer lines. Our maintenance teams have a huge task that's vitally important to the health of our community and our natural environment. You can help keep the lines clear by only flushing toilet paper and...well, you know.



THANK YOU, 911



The second full week of April is celebrated as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. Locally, these professionals provide the steady, reassuring voice on the other end of the line when we dial 911. The Consolidated Dispatch Agency (CDA) provides a lifeline, connecting the public and first responders and ensuring the right help quickly gets to residents during their time of need. Each interaction is an opportunity to make a difference and perhaps to save a life. Take a moment, April 9-15, to say "thank you" to these dedicated public servants. Learn more about the CDA at tlccda.org.

For all City of Tallahassee utility related inquiries, please call 850-891-4968 or visit [Talgov.com](https://www.talgov.com).

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Insight is published monthly to inform citizens about City services and related items of interest. If you require an accommodation because of a disability in order to participate in a program, service or activity, please contact the City's ADA/Title VI Coordinator at least two business days prior to the event at 850-661-3235 or Kathleen.Wright@Talgov.com. For persons using a TDD, please call 711. Sign language interpreters require 10 days advance notice.



MEETINGS IN MAY

Visit [Talgov.com](https://www.talgov.com) for the current list of Tallahassee City Commission, Community Redevelopment Agency, Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency and Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency meetings and workshops.

Call the Department of Communications at 850-891-8533 for more information and view the current meeting agendas online at [Talgov.com](https://www.talgov.com). Follow [@CityofTLH](https://twitter.com/CityofTLH) on Twitter for City news.