

Florida Gold Coast Sustainable Community Planning for Electric Vehicle Charging and Infrastructure Project Summary / Abstract File

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Objective: To support the goal of putting 1 million electric drive vehicles on the road in the US by 2015, the proposed planning effort aims to prepare the Region's communities for successful and accelerated deployment of plug-in electric drive vehicles (EVs) and infrastructure.

Major Participants: The major participants (known collectively as the EV/Infrastructure Alliance) include the South Florida Regional Planning Council and its Florida Gold Coast Clean Cities Coalition in alliance with Florida Power & Light Company (FPL), its partners (The Curtis Group, Hertz, General Motors and CALSTART), and stakeholder local governments. The project area is defined by Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, and Indian River Counties (Region). All seven counties, plus the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the cities of Boynton Beach, Coral Springs, Delray Beach, Miami Beach, Port St. Lucie, Stuart, West Miami, and West Palm Beach, committed in-kind staff services.

Description: This project will develop plans aimed to address technical, commercial, market and regulatory barriers to a supportive EV infrastructure and vehicle adoption. Key planning efforts will be undertaken by five teams (plus a steering committee) using a variety of resources including multiple data sources and best practices analyses to:

- identify opportunities to standardize/streamline local and state government policy, regulations and permitting to facilitate EVSE deployment;
- target large public and private fleet operators to analyze life-cycle costs for conversions of their fleets and accelerated deployment of electric vehicles;
- establish criteria to select, site and prioritize public EVSE – including range-extenders along major transportation corridors. In addition team will develop best practices and recommendations for EVSE policy for multi-family residences;
- develop education and outreach plans for large fleet operators, elected officials, permitting officials, consumers and other key stakeholder groups. In addition the team will develop the branding and “look and feel” that will unite the Region's EV-related communication efforts;
- plan for a future demonstration project along the US-1 mass transit corridor in Miami-Dade County involving the deployment of self-serve rental/car share EVs, mass transit EVs and charging infrastructure, public charging stations, and opportunities for integrated smart grid and renewable solar technologies.

These efforts are consistent with the US Department of Energy Clean Cities' goal to reduce US petroleum use by 2.5 billion gallons per year by 2020. In particular, the proposed planning effort is aligned with building reliable alternative fueling infrastructure and developing alternative fuel infrastructure corridors. Funds awarded will be used solely for planning purposes and not for the purchase and/or installation of any charging infrastructure.

Project Impact: The project is expected to result in comprehensive plans and recommendations, which are readily releasable to inform, facilitate and expand the penetration of EVs and charging infrastructure in this Region and beyond.

