

COUNTY COMMISSIONER FERLITA ANNOUNCES REGIONAL ENERGY MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY FORUM FOR JANUARY 29TH

Hillsborough County Commissioner Rose Ferlita has announced plans for a regional Energy Management and Sustainability Forum to be held January 29, 2010 in Tampa. The announcement was made during a presentation at today's regular Board of County Commissioners meeting. The presentation introduced several other advancements underway in Hillsborough County, including the creation of an Office of Sustainability and a Climate Action Plan.

The forum, *E3: Energy, Environment and Economics*, will be held at the St. Pete Times Forum, a site already undertaking green initiatives of its own. The *E3* forum will provide regional fleet managers and facility managers an environment for sharing best practices and practical ways to save energy. There will also be discussions about carbon credits that communities and businesses can earn based on current green activities. These credits can be sold through an exchange to industries needing improvements in greenhouse gas reduction.

“We must come together regionally and talk about practical approaches in our sustainability efforts. It starts with sharing ideas and knowledge. From there, I hope leadership throughout the area can come together and share successes,” Commissioner Ferlita stated. “I am focused on smart environmental initiatives that will yield financial benefits to our County – we can do both.”

A web site offering more information about the *E3: Energy, Environment and Economics* forum will be online later this week (accessible from the county's web site www.hillsboroughcounty.org) for registration. The fee for registration is \$25 and covers parking, morning snack and lunch.