

Host to read brief description of category:

This category relates to renewable energy use, sources, community-wide access, and energy conservation strategies. Energy production and consumption strategies are valuable components for achieving reduced carbon footprints (carbon neutrality is the attempt to offset, or balance, pollution with conservation or restoration), lowering greenhouse gas contributions, and resource consumption. More responsible use of energy can improve quality of life conditions like health and well being, air quality, and affordability of housing.

Hillsborough County sustainability actions already implemented:

- We retrofitted existing government buildings for better energy conservation (solar panels, LED lighting retrofits on buildings and infrastructure).
- We built a central water chiller plant for more efficient cooling of multiple downtown government buildings.
- We built and operate the Resource Recovery Facility (since 1987), which makes energy out of your garbage and reduces landfill waste.
- We collaborate on programs to help homeowners save on energy costs. The Solar Energy Loan Fund (SELF) brings low-cost financing options to Florida for low- and moderate-income properties. Solar United Neighbors (SUN) Solar Cooperative provides education and financial support through group pricing.

For further learning:

- Watch: [Hillsborough County Chiller Plant](#)



Host to read brief description of category:

In 2009, 45% of government greenhouse gas emissions came from solid waste, which lower air quality. This category includes reducing consumption and waste output as well as waste management techniques such as recycling, composting, and waste-to-energy.

Hillsborough County sustainability actions already implemented:

- We implement curbside recycling collection.
- We maintain the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program with collection points for hazardous waste, paint, and electronic waste (e-waste).
- The Falkenburg Resource Recovery Waste to Energy Facility processes up to 1,800 tons daily of municipal solid waste to divert it from landfills, and provides energy to nearby locations.
- We maintain a public education campaign about waste reduction, recycling, and litter prevention.

For further learning:

- Watch: [The Recycle Life Cycle](#)

Waste



Host to read brief description of category:

This category addresses issues of transportation and movement such as public transportation, electric vehicle charging, safe bicycle and walking paths, and roads.

Hillsborough County sustainability actions already implemented:

- The Hillsborough Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) produced the State of the System Report which looks at trends related to the performance of the transportation system in our county. This includes the state of repair for bridges and roads, our bus system, safety conditions, congestion, and different ways to travel (walk, bike, bus, drive, etc.).
- We initiated the Garden Steps Initiative to help create community gardens with easy pedestrian and bicycle access in Tampa food deserts, areas with limited access to affordable and nutritious food options.
- We adopted Vision Zero which aims to reduce traffic fatalities and serious injuries to zero.
- We provide Sunshine Line door-to-door transportation and bus passes for elderly, low-income, and people with disabilities who do not have, or cannot afford, their own transportation for medical and social service appointments, grocery trips, health, wellness, personal business and more.
- We added traffic safety crossing devices powered by solar with battery storage to operate and maintain safety even during power outages.

Transportation



Host to read brief description of category:

This category can include items that would increase the quality of life within your community. This includes programs addressing health & safety, equity, education, and prosperity.

Hillsborough County sustainability actions already implemented:

- We implement tree preservation programs, land conservation, and monitoring air quality for compliance.
- We engage in public outreach to share information on air quality and its impacts on our environment and well-being.
- We are a member of the Tampa Bay Clean Cities Coalition to reduce emissions from fossil fuels.
- We have a number of health care service initiatives to address special needs, community health assistance, senior recreation, human trafficking, and community gardens.
- We have a number of social services programs for family and youth empowerment, financial assistance (ie: utilities, medical, etc.), housing services, health care coverage, homeless shelters, veterans services, and childcare.
- We provide education and training programs for the community.

Quality of Life

TOPIC
INTRODUCTION
CARD



Host to read brief description of category:

This category relates to many aspects of water management including stormwater, flooding, water quality, and water quantity.

Hillsborough County sustainability actions already implemented:

- We are implementing the One Water Program to coordinate management of all types of water (including drinking water, swimming/fishing water, stormwater, groundwater, etc.) within Tampa Bay.
- We installed bottle filling stations at county facilities.
- We collect and recycle condensation from air handlers for use in chiller plants downtown and at the Sheriff's complex.
- We conduct educational outreach about water conservation and leak detection, and offer rebates for low-flow faucets and reusable water bottles.
- We make use of reclaimed water at the Falkenburg Resource Recovery Facility and other locations.
- We implemented the South Hillsborough Aquifer Recharge Program (SHARP): a groundwater protection program designed to prevent saltwater from contaminating fresh water supplies.

For further learning:

- Watch: [Sources and Cycles: Balancing Water Needs](#). Interview with Tampa Bay Water Supply Manager Allison Adams.
- Watch: [Tampa Bay Water](#)

Water

SUSTAINABILITY TALKS

TOPIC INTRODUCTION CARD



We understand that not all aspects of a sustainable community are represented yet. The existing 5 categories serve as a way to organize ideas, but what other components might contribute to a healthier and more sustainable future for the people, planet, and prosperity of Hillsborough County?

Here we ask you to explore any important ideas that you would like to include.

Wildcard