



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES

COMMISSIONER NICOLE “NIKKI” FRIED

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 25, 2020

TO: Kelley Burk Smith, Director, Office of Energy
Tony Morgan, Deputy Director, Office of Energy

FROM: Joseph Smith III, Business Process Consultant, Organizational and Strategic Development

SUBJECT: Florida Advisory Council on Climate and Energy Virtual Meeting Report

FACCE members in Attendance

- Dr. Amy Albee-Levine, Dean of Workplace Development, Lake-Sumter State College
- Megan Houston, Director, Palm Beach County Office of Resilience
- Doug Kettles, Director, Central Florida Clean Cities Coalition
- Luis Nieves – Ruiz, Economic Development Manager, East Central Florida Regional Planning Council
- Frank Stewart, Manager, FM Stewart & Company
- Steve Chriss, Director of Energy Services, Walmart
- Andrew Sauber, Director of Corporate Sustainability, Florida Crystals
- Emily Gorman, Sierra Club Organizing Representative and Miami Climate Alliance Steering Committee Chair
- Temperince Morgan, Executive Director, The Nature Conservancy, Florida Chapter
- Susannah Randolph, Senior Campaign Representative, Florida, Sierra Club Beyond Coal Campaign
- Mark Bubriski, Director of State Regulatory Relations, NextEra
- Luz B. Aviles, Vice President of Customer Experience & Sales, Orlando Utilities Commission
- Tony Guillen, Director of Engineering and Operations, Talquin Electric
- Keith Rizzaedi, Professor of Law, St. Thomas University School of Law
- Morgan Higman, Doctoral Candidate, Florida State University
- Dr. Jennifer Languell, President, Trifecta Construction Solutions
- Jeremy Susac, Vice President of Government Affairs, Lennar
- Patricia “Pat” Steed, Executive Director, Central Florida Regional Planning Council

- Sean Sullivan, Executive Director, Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
- William Blake, Director Alternative Fuels, Tampa Electric Company
- Anddrikk Frazier, President & CEO, Integral Energy
- Berdell Knowles, Task Force Leader, Association of Blacks in Energy
- Jennifer Szaro, President and CEO, Association of Energy Services Professionals

Overview

On June 3rd, 2020, The Office of Energy facilitated the inaugural meeting of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS/department) Florida Advisory Council on Climate and Energy (FACCE). The GoToMeeting was scheduled from 10:00AM – 12:30PM. ([Agenda](#)) Workgroup participants included invited industry and business leaders. ([FACCE Members](#)) Staff from the Office of the Commissioner, Division of Administration, and Energy Office leadership were present as subject matter experts.

The meeting furthered the sharing of information and engaged the participants in collaborative brainstorming discussion.

Meeting presentations included:

- Welcome from Kelley Smith Burk, FDACS Director, Office of Energy
- A video overview of FDACS.
- Ethics and Sunshine Law questions and answers with FDACS General Counsel, Steven Hall.
- Remarks from the FDACS Commissioner, Nikki Fried.
- Overview of the [Office of Energy](#), Tony Morgan.
- Overview of the [Florida Energy and Climate Plan](#), April Grover Combs.
- Administration's Organizational and Strategic Development ([OSD](#)) section staff facilitated a discussion on the Transportation Sector of the FDACS Energy Plan.
- OSD facilitated comments from the Public and the meeting was adjourned by Kelley Smith Burk, FDACS, Office of Energy.

[FACCE Virtual Meeting Audio Recording - June 3, 2020.](#)

Florida Advisory Council on Climate and Energy Virtual Meeting - June 3, 2020

Briefings for the [Florida Electric Vehicle \(EV\) Roadmap](#), and the [Florida Alternative Fuel Resiliency Plan](#) were provided to Council members prior to the meeting as guiding discussion points. Council members were also asked to review Section IV, Clean, Safe, and Sustainable Transportation for Florida of the [Florida Energy and Climate Plan](#) in order to be prepared for a thoughtful discussion on how our state can modernize energy policy, diversify energy sources, increase energy efficiency, and create opportunities for our most vulnerable citizens in the transportation sector. Responses were documented, reviewed and summarized where applicable by the OSD Section to identify the common themes that are to be considered by the Council and department leadership.

Facilitated Discussion on the Transportation Sector

Overall Comments

- The Energy Plan is a living document and will continue to be developed based on collaboration, priorities, needs, and changes. It is available at fdacs.gov/Divisions-Offices/Energy.
- Greenhouse gas reductions should be a priority.
- Solutions must be financially feasible.
- There should be a focus on more renewables and less fossil fuels to address climate issues.

Transportation Planning

- In 2019, the Tampa Bay Clean Cities Coalition (TBCCC) and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) partnered to investigate Tampa Bay's preparedness to natural disasters and evaluate the role that alternative fuels can play in regional planning efforts. The FDACS OOE received an award from the U.S. Department of Energy to leverage the work already completed in the Tampa area in order to complete the Florida Alternative Fuel Resiliency Plan which will inventory the entire state's alternative fuels and resources and develop a plan for enhanced integration in emergency planning.
- Disaster mitigation should include solar, battery, and all other available resources.
- There are Clean Cities Coalitions throughout the state, but some regional areas do not have them. The Florida Regional Councils can offer coordination in areas where there is need.
- When planning for emergency management and evacuation routes, rural areas that are located inland will be critical.
- Strategies for reducing mileage through initiatives like telecommuting and reducing single occupancy vehicles could be championed by this group.
- Some energy waste can be attributed to driving habits.

Focusing on Natural gas (NG) and compressed natural gas (CNG) growth versus electricity.

- There has been work and success with NG and CNG investment and infrastructure.
- FDACS is looking for FACCE continuing discussion on the future of energy in the state. Looking not just at past and current, but also innovation and moving forward.

Biofuels

- How can biofuel usage be enhanced?

Electric Vehicle (EV) Technology

- Battery technology is advancing rapidly towards cost parity with conventional vehicles.
- From a fleet perspective, heavy haul freight is increasing with EV technology.
- Businesses and organizations encouraging the use of available EV technology is a valuable strategy.
- All alternative solutions should be considered with the grid and renewables.
- The current state EV grid can handle approximately 20% of total vehicles.
- Impacts on local distribution grids must be considered.
- Coordination with power service providers are an important element of any energy plan.

- Rate designs and demand charging have to be managed as EV technology increases.
- Not all electric vehicles are battery contingent.
- FDACS, Office of Energy is poised to continue working with the Department of Transportation on SB 7018 EV infrastructure plan development.

Public Comments

“Where can the public find the energy plan.”

“Wanted to know from the group if sustainable aviation fuels were being considered and incentivized in Florida as a means of reducing the emissions and subsequent carbon emissions by Florida airports and the airlines that service them.”

“Where do you see the role of combined heat and power in the overall plan.” “As you probably know it contributes a great deal to resiliency as well as overall efficiency and the transition to more renewables.”

“I am not exactly clear if the state intended is a part of this process to set some electric transportation goals in terms of the number of vehicles. I know that is a little bit outside of the charging infrastructure roadmap, but I think it is a trend we are seeing in other states as they are developing their plans.” “If you do establish a specific vehicle goal you can align greenhouse gas emissions reductions goals.”

*The Division of Administration and its OSD Section is poised to assist in the continued success and develop of the FACCE initiative. We are available for consult, facilitation, further action planning, meeting preparation, or other organization as needed.

Facilitators

- Kelley Smith Burk – Director/Office of Energy
- Joseph Smith – Business Process Consultant/OSD
- Hakeem Holmes – Business Process Consultant/OSD