



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES

COMMISSIONER NICOLE “NIKKI” FRIED

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 16, 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 August 25, 2020 Virtual Meeting Report

FACCE members in Attendance

- Dr. David Norton, Director of Florida Energy Systems Consortium and Vice President of Research of, University of Florida
- 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
- 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
- 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 August 25, 2020, the Office of Energy facilitated a virtual 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 – 12:00PM. ([Agenda](#)) Workgroup participants included invited industry and business leaders ([FACCE Members](#)). Staff from the Division of Administration and Office of Energy leadership were present as subject matter experts.

The virtual meeting focused on Research, Development, Demonstration, and Deployment as well as Energy Education, Vocational Training, and Workforce Development within the state. FACCE members participated in a facilitated discussion on the how these sectors can help our state modernize energy policy, diversify energy sources, increase energy efficiency, and create opportunities for our most vulnerable citizens.

Meeting presentations included:

- Welcome and Roll Call, Kelley Smith Burk
- Overview of Chapter 8. Research, Development, Demonstration, and Deployment from the [Florida Energy and Climate Plan](#), April Grover Combs
- Presentation on Research, Development, Demonstration, and Deployment by Dr. David Norton, Director of Florida Energy Systems Consortium and Vice President of Research, University of Florida
- FDACS Organizational and Strategic Development ([OSD](#)) section staff facilitated a discussion on Research, Development, Demonstration, and Deployment
- Overview of Chapter 6. Expand Energy Education, Vocational Training, and Workforce Development from the [Florida Energy and Climate Plan](#), Tony Morgan
- Presentations on Energy Education, Vocational Training, and Workforce Development by Dr. Amy Albee-Levine, Dean of Workplace Development, Lake-Sumter State College and Jennifer Szaro, President and CEO, Association of Energy Services Profession
- [FDACS OSD](#) section staff facilitated a discussion on Energy Education, Vocational Training, and Workforce Development
- FDACS OSD facilitated comments from the Public and the meeting was adjourned by Kelley Smith Burk
- [FACCE Virtual Meeting Presentation](#)
- [FACCE Virtual Meeting Video Recording](#)

Facilitated Discussion on Research, Development, Demonstration, and Deployment

Guiding Questions:

1. How does the state assist in the commercialization of new technologies and innovation created in Florida's University System?
 2. What is the best way to foster collaboration between industry and universities?
 3. What is the best way to leverage and engage federal resources?
- Funding for Start-ups and Innovations Hubs
 - Overall funding is crucial for successful research projects and moving those projects to the deployment phase.
 - FDACS would be a good place for funding for energy start-ups.
 - It is important to look at all funding sources for energy projects, not just U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Department of Agriculture.
 - State matching funds are needed for federal projects which require anywhere from 20 to 50 percent match.
 - Working with National Labs and Applying for Funding
 - Establish connections with the National Labs so when opportunities arise we have relationships and plans in place to be competitive.
 - Understand what research the National Labs and Federal agencies like U.S. Department of Energy want to accomplish. Also, see how our state can benefit from that research.
 - The Federal application process can be difficult. We need to be prepared.
 - When applying for funding, we need to be able to respond quickly. To do this, we need to have ideas in place.

Recommendation: Proposes FSEC take the lead on an economic study that analyses the shift towards carbon neutrality and market opportunities for Florida's economic growth building a business case for a low-carbon future for the state.

Facilitated Discussion on Energy Education, Vocational Training, and Workforce Development

Guiding Questions:

1. How do we create workforce development programs that meet industry needs and maintain sustainable enrollment?
 2. How do we foster collaboration between relevant agencies to leverage energy education, vocational training, and workforce development activities?
 3. How can Florida engage industry to develop relevant workforce development programs?
- Getting More Individuals Involved in Energy
 - We are not reaching children soon enough, especially the girls.

- o The energy industry needs to be more appealing.
 - o There needs to more training for teachers as well as more energy education kits.
 - o Renewable energy policies are needed to help increase and keep energy jobs.
 - o Need to ensure we are targeting all Floridians including minorities.
- Strategies for Energy Workers
 - o Invest in cradle to grave solutions for workers.
 - o Provide career path line and career change options for energy workers.
 - o More training is needed for state and local government employees.
 - o Listen to industries in the state - there is a continuing shortage of technicians for alternation fuel vehicles.

Public Comments

“Is there any effort to create a statewide energy career strategic plan utilizing the Florida College System and career systems?”

Facilitators

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