# **Embracing Earth Month All Year**

The City has long been a pioneer among municipal governments in adopting environmentally sustainable practices. For Tallahassee, sustainability is our community's ability to meet present and future needs through the proper stewardship of environmental, economic and social resources. The City's efforts span across every department and include many community partners. Below are highlights of several programs. Learn more at Talgov.com/Sustainability.

A few years ago, the City committed to transition Tallahassee to a 100 percent net clean, renewable energy future by 2050, with milestone markers along the way. To achieve this bold goal, a plan is being developed in collaboration with local residents and organizations to guide these long-term efforts.

Creating greener transportation options is part of that goal. To that end, StarMetro is actively converting its fleet to all-electric, with roughly one-third of its buses currently transitioned. The Fleet department also maintains a biodiesel program that turns used cooking grease donated by the community into fuel.

As the capital of the Sunshine State, the City is proud to have the largest airport-based solar farm in the world at Tallahassee International Airport. It generates 62-megawatts of solar power, which provides energy to homes, businesses and City buildings.

The City's Energy Smart PLUS (e+) program has helped residents save energy and money through rebates, grants and loans for decades. Since 2008, the City has issued more than \$30 million in incentive payments to customers through the e+ program. This has generated over 500,000 megawatt hours in customer energy savings and over \$55 million in savings on their utility bills.

Sustainability is also rooted in how we care for our environment. The City, through its Neighborhood Affairs division, routinely helps community groups organize litter cleanups and beautification projects. Through its Think About Personal Pollution (TAPP) program, the City provides education and grants to help protect local water bodies. From picking up pet waste to planting rain gardens, TAPP focuses on actionable efforts. The City also actively works to address EPA-designated brownfields, which are properties where the presence or potential presence of contamination hinders redevelopment or reuse.

Collectively these and many other sustainability programs in use by the City helped it achieve a LEED Gold certification through the U.S. Green Buildings Council's LEED for Cities and Communities. This is an international rating system that provides a framework for communities to benchmark their sustainability and resilience performance relative to peers across the globe. Tallahassee is one of just over 120 LEED-certified cities and communities in the world.

As we celebrate Earth Month, think about how you, too, can contribute to Tallahassee's long-term sustainability. Share your ideas with us on social media by tagging **@CityofTLH.** 

### **Do Great Things for Our Community**



When you ask residents what they love about living in Tallahassee, there's a good chance you'll hear the word "community." Whether it's in our active neighborhoods, thriving business sector or government offices, the spirit of goodwill and

cooperation gives Tallahassee a special feeling. At the City, we couldn't agree more. For the City of Tallahassee's 4,000-plus employees, our city is our home. We take pride in keeping the community safe and beautiful while ensuring residents receive reliable, affordable services. If you love Tallahassee and are looking for a career with community impact, join our team. Visit **Talgov.com/Jobs** to view open positions.



## It's Fair Housing Month



The City of Tallahassee supports fair housing and recognizes April as National Fair Housing Month.

Did you know that Congress passed the Fair Housing Act in April 1968 immediately following Dr. King's assassination? Amended

in 1988, the Act guarantees equal housing opportunities for all people and makes it illegal to discriminate based on race, color, national origin, gender, religion, family status or disability.

If you have been denied your housing rights, you may have experienced unlawful discrimination. For more information, please visit **Talgov.com/Housing**.

#### **Enjoy Golf at Gaither**



At the ripe age of 65, Jake Gaither Golf Course is upping its game, so you can focus on yours! There are new cart paths, golf carts, landscaping and more. Check it out and enjoy spring in Tallahassee at 801 Bragg Drive. Learn more about the course's history as told by the people who helped make it at YouTube.com/CityofTLH.

#### **Answer the call!**

The City's Gas Utility will be conducting a customer survey starting in May. Your participation will help Gas continue to provide best-in-class service. Learn more at **Talgov.com/Gas**.



BEST IN THE NATION

NATURAL GAS UTILITY

For all City of Tallahassee utility related inquires, please call 850-891-4968 or visit **Talgov.com**.

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Visit **Talgov.com** for the current list of Tallahassee City Commission, Community Redevelopment Agency, Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency and Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency meetings and workshops. Call the Department of Communications at 850-891-8533 for more information and view the current meeting agendas online at **Talgov.com**. Follow @CityofTLH on Twitter for City news.