
Conservation Element Goals, Objectives and Policies

Goal 1: Regulate the development and use of land in such a manner as to maintain and enhance environmental quality.

Objective 1 – Air quality and Greenhouse Gas Reduction: In general, protect air quality. In particular, promote improved air quality for the region.

Policy 1.1 – Support Miami-Dade County's efforts to conduct regular monitoring of air quality.

Policy 1.2 – Educate residents and business owners on the cost and environmental effects of automobile idling.

Policy 1.3 – Facilitate more efficient transportation services and facilities (including public transit facilities, bicycle facilities and pedestrian facilities) by pursuing the objectives and policies set forth in the Transportation Element.

Policy 1.4 – Enforce all adopted measures to contain and stabilize exposed or destabilized soil surfaces at construction sites to prevent erosion and the degradation of ambient air quality caused by the generation of dust particles.

Policy 1.5 – Require oxygen nourishing landscaping as a part of new private development.

Policy 1.6 – Provide oxygen nourishing landscaping for public grounds.

Policy 1.7 – Maintain, and improve where appropriate, zoning or other development code regulations which protect existing trees in a way consistent with the standards of the broader community.

Policy 1.8– The zoning code shall allow for use of alternate, renewable sources of energy including the use of solar panels.

Policy 1.9 – In accordance with Section 255.2575, F.S. the Town will construct all future municipal buildings to meet the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system, the Green Building Initiative's Green Globes rating system, the Florida Green Building Coalition standards, or a nationally recognized, high-performance green building rating system as approved by the Florida Department of Management Services.

Policy 1.10 – The Town shall maintain and improve adopted Design Guideline provisions which encourage the use of the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system, the Green Building Initiative's Green Globes rating system, the Florida Green Building Coalition standards, or a nationally recognized, high-performance green building rating system for both residential and commercial properties. Within two (2) year of adoption of this element, the Town shall explore incentives for use of green building standards in new development and redevelopment.

Policy 1.11 – Within two (2) years of the adoption of this element the Town shall consider the feasibility of requiring all new single family and multi-family structures to meet the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system, the Green Building Initiative’s Green Globes rating system, the Florida Green Building Coalition standards, or a nationally recognized, high-performance green building rating system as approved by the Florida Department of Management Services.

Policy 1.12 – The Town shall coordinate with and support the efforts of the South Florida Regional Planning Council and Miami-Dade County in pursuing a grant to conduct a neighborhood-wide building retro-fit program. The Town shall coordinate and support the implementation of the program if the funding is provided.

Objective 2 – Water quality: Conserve, appropriately use, and protect the quality and quantity of current and projected water sources and waters that flow into estuarine waters or oceanic waters.

Policy 2.1 – For site plan approval, the Town shall require that surface water management systems be designed and operated consistent with the Town’s adopted drainage level of service.

Policy 2.2 – The Town shall construct the Stormwater Treatment Trains and Rehabilitation projects specified in the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Agreement No. S0374.

Policy 2.3 – The Town shall coordinate and cooperate with all applicable local, regional, state and federal agencies relating to the protection and enhancement of the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve.

Policy 2.4 – The Town shall coordinate and cooperate with all applicable local, regional, state and federal agencies relating to the protection of Atlantic Ocean coastal waters, particularly relating to beach renourishment projects.

Policy 2.5 – The Town shall implement the stormwater improvement projects specified in the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Agreement No. LP6768.

Policy 2.6 – The Town shall cooperate and coordinate with the applicable agencies to assure that solid and hazardous wastes generated within the Town are properly managed to protect the environment and near shore waters. The Town shall report any hazardous waste violation they may become aware of to the appropriate jurisdictional agency.

Policy 2.7 – The Town shall adhere to the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System-Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (NPDES-MS4) Permit and shall implement the permit conditions including monitoring of outfalls and improving stormwater management practices.

Objective 3 – Water quantity: Conserve, appropriately use, and protect the quality and quantity of current and projected water sources.

Policy 3.1 – The Town shall maintain or improve an emergency water conservation ordinance based on both the South Florida Water Management District model ordinance and any specific South Florida Water Management District requirements of the emergency in question.

Policy 3.2 – The Town shall assess projected water needs and sources for the 20-year planning period by creating and maintaining a 20-Year Water Supply Facilities Work Plan. Future water supply planning shall emphasize the efficient use of water resources and where possible and financially feasible, utilize alternative water sources.

Policy 3.3 – The Town shall submit a Water Conservation Plan to the County’s Water and Sewer Department’s Water Use Efficiency Section, pursuant to the Miami-Dade County Code Section 32-83.1. The Plan shall be updated for the County’s approval every five years following submittal, and Conserve Florida Guide generated reports shall be filed annually at the close of the fiscal year.

Policy 3.4 – The Town shall participate in the development of the Regional Water Supply Plan in conjunction with the South Florida Water Management District.

Policy 3.5 – The Town shall conserve potable water resources and implement reuse programs and potable water conservation strategies and techniques consistent with the Miami Dade County 20-Year Water Supply Facilities Work Plan.

Policy 3.6 – The Town shall ensure coordination between land use and future water supply planning by implementation of the 20-Year Water Supply Facilities Work Plan within 18 months of the adoption of the Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan, as required by Chapter 163, Florida Statutes.

Policy 3.7 – The Town shall continue to decrease potable water consumption and achieve at a minimum a 5% per capita reduction in water consumption by the year 2011, from the rate of 165 gallons per capita per day documented for 2007 in the Town’s 20 year Water Supply Plan.

Policy 3.8 – The Town shall work towards the further education of the public regarding various methods of water conservation at the household and small business level.

Policy 3.9 – The Town shall support water conservation goals through the support and enforcement of landscape and irrigation ordinances, inclusive of all applicable Miami-Dade Ordinances.

Objective 4 – Vegetative communities and soils, wildlife habitat and wildlife: Conserve, appropriately use and protect native vegetative communities for their own sake and to protect soils, wildlife habitat and wildlife.

Policy 4.1 – The Town shall encourage and educate the public in the planting and maintenance of trees.

Policy 4.2 – The Town shall require the owner/applicant to remove all Class I and II invasive exotic vegetation, as recognized by the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council, from the subject site as a condition for new development or redevelopment.

Policy 4.3 – The Town shall maintain a survey of vegetation on property for which it has maintenance responsibility. The Town administration shall make recommendations for enhancing native vegetation.

Policy 4.4 – The Town shall evaluate the feasibility of incorporating recommendations derived from the implementation of Policy 4.3 above into the Capital Improvements Budget or the operating budget.

Policy 4.5 – The Town shall strictly enforce the adopted landscape standards which require the preservation of existing native species, the removal of invasive species and the promotion of native plant materials.

Policy 4.6 – The Town shall continue to coordinate and cooperate with the County, the State and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the protection of the beach dune system which is nesting habitat for marine turtles.

Objective 5 – Floodplain protection: Protect and conserve the natural functions of existing floodplains.

Policy 5.1 – The Town shall maintain and improve land development code provisions governing floodplain protection. *Floodplain protection regulations* shall be consistent with applicable standards promulgated by the South Florida Water Management District, the South Florida Regional Planning Council, the Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resource Management, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and/or other agencies with relevant jurisdiction and/or information. The Town shall revise as necessary and enforce flood hazard reduction regulations. In addition, the Town shall participate in the Community Rating System of the National Flood Insurance Program.

9J-5.013 Objective and policy requirements not applicable to the Town of Surfside: Rule 9J-5 of the Florida Administrative Code requires communities to adopt as part of their Conservation Element objectives and policies which address various issues, except where those issues are not reasonably applicable to a particular community. The following objective and policy provisions of Rule 9J-5 are deemed by the Town of Surfside to be inapplicable:

9J5.013 (2) (b) 3 Conserve, appropriately use and protect minerals and native vegetative communities.

9J5.013 (2) (c) 2 Conservation, appropriate use and protection of areas suitable for extraction of minerals.

9J5.013 (2) (c) 6 Protection and conservation of the natural functions of existing [soils], fisheries, wildlife habitats, rivers, bays, lakes, [floodplains], harbors, wetlands including estuarine marshes, freshwater beaches and shores, and marine habitats.

9J5.013 (2) (c) 7 Protection of existing natural reservations identified in the recreation and open space element.

9J5.013 (2) (c) 8 Continuing cooperation with adjacent local governments to conserve, appropriately use, or protect unique vegetative communities located within more than one local jurisdiction.

9J5.013 (2) (c) 9 Designation of environmentally sensitive lands for protection.

9J5.013 (3) (a) Protection and conservation of wetlands.

9J5.013 (3) (b) Protection and conservation of wetlands.