

# Developing Leaders for a Sustainable Future

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# Program Overview

- ▶ Statewide program led by Dr. Kathleen Ruppert
- ▶ Designed to teach participants how to take ACTION
- ▶ Emphasis on teaching how to be environmentally, socially, and economically responsible
- ▶ Program design is flexible to accommodate local issues, demographics, different cultures, etc.
- ▶ Brevard County's primary issue: Indian River Lagoon



# Brevard County Sustainables

- ▶ Twenty-five participants attended 12 weekly 2-hour sessions
- ▶ Participants learned about:
  - ▶ Consumerism, food systems, energy, water, climate change, transportation, community leadership & engagement
- ▶ Participants learned HOW:
  - ▶ To identify barriers to change
  - ▶ Critique information (is it sound science? Is the source credible? Are there citations/references?)
  - ▶ How to navigate local government to be agents of change

The screenshot shows the website for Sustainable Floridians SM, a program by UF/IFAS Extension Brevard County. The header features the program name and a navigation menu with links for Home, About, Contact, and News. A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Blogs:** A list of various topics including Families and Consumers, 4-H, Lawn and Gardening, Horticulture Professionals, Household Pests, Agriculture, Marine Sciences, and Communities.
- Sustainable Floridians SM:** A section for the current session, Session 1 - Orientation and Introduction, held on 8/20 at Lagoon House with Linda Seals as the instructor. It lists reading materials (Sustainable Living Handbook), homework (Consumption Log), and suggested reading (Back to Our Common Future).
- Session 2 - Why Should We Care?:** A section for the next session, held on 8/27 at Lagoon House with Linda Seals as the instructor. It lists reading materials (PowerPoint Notes, NWEI Book) and suggested reading (Wicked Issues Defined, etc.).
- UF Resources:** A sidebar with links to Sustainable UF, Program for Resource Efficient Communities, Living Green, and Institute for Sustainable Energy.

# The Results

- ▶ Knowledge gained: 8.7% (pretest=70.9%, posttest=79.6%)
- ▶ After the class, 88% (22) wanted to:
  - ▶ Meet monthly to network and share information; perform as an ad hoc advisory committee
  - ▶ Be kept apprised through newsletters or blogs of issues, opportunities, programs, and projects throughout the county
  - ▶ Participate in monthly educational programs to continue learning about sustainability



