

Energy Sustainable Florida Communities

In 2060 Florida's land consumed for urban development is projected to increase from 16 to 34% of the total state's land area. Through the regulation of land development and the built environment, local governments play a key role in mitigating and reducing the energy consumption and GHG emissions associated with current and future growth.

This project measures the energy sustainability capacity of local governments in Florida in terms of the level of adoption of green innovations, policies and practices fostering energy efficiency, conservation, and renewable energy. We investigate the influence that community political economic and environmental conditions have on local governments' adoption and diffusion of these practices, particularly those devised to implement Florida's Energy Bill (HB 7135) and Florida's Building Code Standards (HB 697)

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LOCAL GOVERNMENTS & ENERGY SUSTAINABILITY

MEASURING ENERGY SUSTAINABILITY

A index of energy sustainability that measures local government activity in the following dimensions:

- Energy & Climate Policy
- Comprehensive Plans & State and Federal Policy
- Zoning Regulations Subdivision Regulations and Permitting
- Land Use and Open Space
- Housing and Green Building
- Transportation
- Economic Development
- Energy Cost Reduction by Government
- Organization and Intergovernmental Relations
- Investing in Energy & Climate Change Competencies

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Energy Implementation by Local Government

- What explains variation among local governments' implementation of the Florida Energy Bill?
- What role do local governments play in fostering energy efficiency, conservation and renewable energy?

Adoption and Diffusion of Energy Policy Innovation

- How do community economic and environmental conditions influence innovation?
- How do political Institutions and interest groups influence innovation?
- How do Neighboring Government Initiatives influence innovation?

RESEARCH APPROACH

Multi-Level Analysis

Energy Sustainable Florida Communities Survey

A survey of local government planners and chief executive officers in Florida counties and in all cities with population >5,000

PROGRESS TO DATE

Literature Review Essay

Survey Instrument Pretesting and Review for Validity & Reliability

Focus Group of Local planners

External Reviews by Academics and Professionals

Conference Presentations

NSF Proposals for National Level Project

funded: Role of local governments in energy tech transfer

pending: Network Analysis of energy policy diffusion

