

## NEW STRATEGIES

Potential action items:

### Citizen Engagement - Call To Action

Call to  
Action



- **Certify Your Yard**

- Having a truly “green” and environmentally conscious landscape means your yard will be filled with more colors than just green. Expand the colors of your garden by focusing on biodiversity and introducing Florida native plants and flowers, edible plants, places for wildlife to thrive, and ways for ecosystems to flourish. Transition your yard from a low-biodiverse lawn into a wildlife sanctuary! [Dunedin Green Scene](#) has information on the certifications and types of landscapes you can transition to. These include Florida Friendly Landscaping, Ocean Friendly Landscaping, National Wildlife Federation Habitats, and landscapes with Florida native plants, edible food, rain gardens, and bioswales.

- **Florida Natives vs Invasives**

- Knowing the difference between Florida native species and species that are invasive can help you improve the state of your landscape. Visit the [Pinellas Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society](#) to learn about creative ways to incorporate beneficial species.

- **Preserve Trees**

- Learn about best practices for tree maintenance to increase the longevity and health of the trees on your property. Before removing any trees from your property, visit the [City's trees webpage](#). If you have further questions, contact the City's Certified Arborist for assistance.

- **Neighborhood Cleanups**

- An engaging community activity can be working with neighbors and friends to conduct cleanups on your street. For helpful resources, contact [Keep Pinellas Beautiful](#).

- **Reduce Light Pollution**

- Light pollution negatively affects many nocturnal species and impacts their ability to find food, migrate and travel, and hide from predators. Closing blinds at night, turning off unnecessary lights, changing outdoor lights to be on motion sensors, and switching to warmer-colored light bulbs can greatly improve natural habitats. To learn more, visit the [International Dark-Sky Association](#).

- **Minimize or Eliminate Synthetic Chemicals on Landscapes**

- Finding ways to minimize or eliminate the use of synthetic chemicals in your yard can greatly benefit the environment, preserve wildlife, and improve water and soil quality. Visit the [Pinellas County Extension Office](#) webpage for resources, online webinars, and engaging events around best practices. Remember to abide by the [Pinellas County Fertilizer Ban](#) from June 1st - September 30th.

## FUTURE IDEAS TO EXPLORE

- **National Park City**

- Dunedin will research global efforts for certification as a [National Park City](#). The City will learn how [London](#) became the first National Park City and how they are reversing the mentality from "having parks within a city" to "having a city within a park."



Photo Credit: The Conversation



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- **Fertilize Appropriately**

- Only apply fertilizer as needed and follow the [Pinellas County Fertilizer Ban](#) from June 1 through September 30. Excess fertilizer can cause nutrient runoff into nearby waterways resulting in algae growth, choking out native plants, and fish kills. Excess nutrient runoff into the ocean is the leading cause of Red Tide.

- **Only Rain Down the Drain**

- As all storm drains empty into local water bodies, including streams, estuaries, and the Gulf Coast, it is critical that only rain enters storm drains. Grass clippings, leaves, litter, oil, paint, and masonry products (pool installations, brick paver installations) can all cause extensive environmental harm. Visit [Only Rain Down the Drain](#) to learn more.

- **Marine and Beach Cleanups**

- Participating in or organizing cleanups for marine areas and beaches is an impactful way to make a change. This can be a fun activity with friends and family. Contact [Keep Pinellas Beautiful!](#)

- **Plastic Reduction**

- Reducing plastic use, especially single-use plastics, is an action you can take daily. Turn to page 74 for more details on waste reduction.



## FUTURE IDEAS TO EXPLORE

- **ECO-Tourism Incentives**

- The City will explore ideas for eco-tourism incentives and find case studies of implementing these programs for businesses to learn about best practices.





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- **Sharing is Caring**

- Community and neighborhood resource sharing allows for you to connect with neighbors, save money, and protect the environment. Work with your neighborhood to coordinate what can be borrowed, shared, and donated to one another. Hosting neighborhood share events or installing a little free library can be great ways to engage others.

- **BYOB**

- Bring Your Own Bucket/Bag (BYOB) is a campaign focused on picking up litter wherever you are – the beach, downtown, your neighborhood, or a park. Whether you are participating in a group cleanup event or cleaning up individually, you will always be ready with your handy bucket or bag.

- **Continue the Conversation**

- Share what you learn about protecting the environment with family and friends in a way that is meaningful and inspiring.



## FUTURE IDEA TO EXPLORE

- **City of Dunedin App**

- Explore the development of a smartphone application that centers around anything and everything related to the City of Dunedin in order to create a sense of community and as a way to welcome visitors. The app could reflect everything displayed on the City's website, with the addition of local restaurant and hotel information. The app may also encompass a map feature that would highlight green spaces and trails, infrastructure, businesses, events, and other important community information. Notifications and updates could be used to keep residents and visitors alike in the know.





Potential action items:

### Call to Action

## Citizen Engagement - Call To Action

- **Neighborhood Gardening**
  - A rewarding task can be working with neighbors on gardening projects. Get creative and make neighborhood vegetable garden beds that everyone can use or help a neighbor certify their yard. For more information on landscape certifications, turn back to page 35.
- **Give to Local Homeless Shelters**
  - Support your community by volunteering or donating to a local homeless shelter. Call local shelters first to best understand their current needs.
- **Prepare for Heat Events**
  - Understanding what heat events are is the first step in preparation. Heat events are periods of time where heat levels and weather are too extreme to safely work or play outside. Making a heat event plan is an excellent way to be prepared. Visit the [CDC's Extreme Heat Guidebook](#) for helpful resources and suggestions.
- **Reduce Pollutants**
  - Common pollutants that are overlooked include noise and light pollution. Find engaging ways to reduce the impact of noise and light pollution in your neighborhood and within the Dunedin community. Riding your bike more often and turning off unnecessary lights is a great way to start! See page 35 for more information on light pollution.

## FUTURE IDEA TO EXPLORE

- **Recipe for Community**
  - Based on a program from the City of Toronto, [Recipe for Community](#) helps engage neighborhood residents of all ages to improve the sense of belonging and safety in their communities. The initiative brings together donors, sponsors, and residents to invest in four key community “ingredients”: food, convening, youth engagement, and neighborhood beautification. Actions may include gardening workshops, vegetable planting days, food nutrition training, community events, and neighborhood resource sharing.





*Potential action items:*

### Citizen Engagement - Call To Action



- **Reflective and Light Colored Roofs**

- Selecting a roof with a light color or reflective material will reduce the absorption of heat from the sun's rays and keep your home or workplace cooler. This will in turn reduce your energy consumption and help you save money on your energy bills.

- **Window Upgrades**

- Investing in upgraded windows will increase the durability and efficiency of a building's structure. Although window upgrades can have large upfront costs, they do have cost-saving benefits over the long run. [Tax credits](#) and rebates may be available depending on the timeframe that windows are installed.

- **Thermal Insulation**

- An impactful and cost-efficient way to reduce energy consumption is to install higher than normal levels of thermal insulation. This can be installed in the attic or the walls and will increase the energy efficiency of your home or workplace.

- **Recycled and Green Building Materials**

- When building or refurbishing your home or workplace, try to find products and materials that have been recycled, such as recycled steel or recycled wood. You can also look for products with lower environmental impacts such as bamboo, cork, and hempcrete. The materials make your building and the planet a healthier place to live.

- **Upcycled Furnishings**

- Furniture can be reused and upcycled over and over again. When furnishing or updating your home or workplace, look for items that can be reused. There are various organizations that provide platforms to find used furniture and items. Extending the life expectancy and use of these items helps reduce the demand for virgin materials to be sourced. Have fun and get creative in giving items a second life!

## FUTURE IDEA TO EXPLORE

- **Sustainability Matrix for Residential Projects**

- Explore ways to incentive residential green buildings through the City's Sustainability Matrix. Currently, the matrix applies to larger developments that trigger Design Review, but expanding the program to include residential projects would increase sustainability in development. Creating a voluntary program for residents to complete the matrix and include incentives such as rebates and fee reductions could greatly increase the number of residential sustainable homes in Dunedin.



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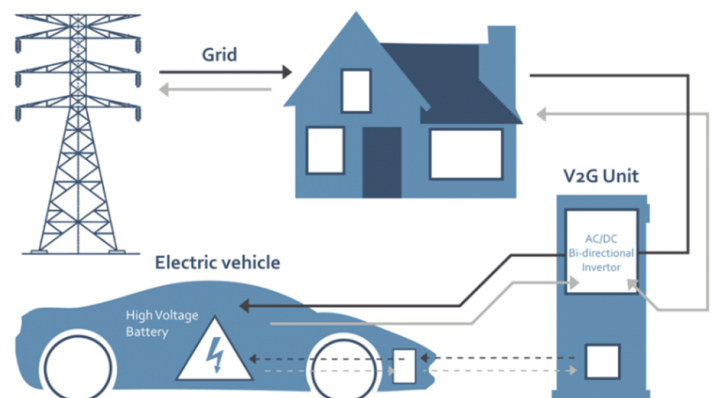
Potential action items:

### Citizen Engagement - Call To Action



- **Telecommuting and Teleworking**
  - Encouraging telework and virtual meetings greatly helps to reduce the carbon dioxide, time, and transportation costs of employees and attendees, which can lead to higher productivity, more efficient practices, and a healthier planet.
- **Keep Your Transport Green and Clean**
  - For short trips, try walking, biking, or another non-vehicle mode of transport. It's a great way to get fresh air and some exercise! Another option to reduce your environmental footprint is to carpool or take the bus when going to work, school, running errands, or attending events. Finally, switching to electric modes of transportation such as electric vehicles, electric golf carts, e-bicycles, and scooters reduces dependency on fossil fuels. A few resources include:
    - [Dunedin's Multimodal Transportation Master Plan](#)
    - [Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority \(PSTA\)](#)
    - [Pinellas Trails Map](#)
- **EV Charging at Businesses and Multi-Family Complexes**
  - Installing electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at your business or multi-family complex encourages employees, customers, and residents to reduce their carbon footprint. This can positively impact the number of people visiting your business or the livability of a residential complex.
- **Rideshare for Events**
  - When attending an event in Dunedin, consider participating in a rideshare program, such as [Dunedin's Special Events Rideshare Program](#).

## FUTURE IDEA TO EXPLORE

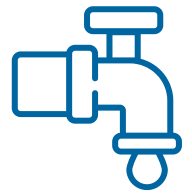


- **Vehicle to Grid Technology (V2G)**
  - Explore ways vehicle to grid (V2G) technology may be incorporated into City projects and planning. Electric vehicles currently plug into an outlet and pull energy from the source to charge the vehicle. New technology is being developed which allows electric vehicles to plug into an inverter to return electricity back to the grid. This technology could expand the functional use of electric vehicles, equipping them with the ability to be moveable generators and batteries.

## NEW STRATEGIES

Potential action items:

### Citizen Engagement - Call To Action



- **Rain Barrel**

- Collecting rainwater in barrels is a creative and sustainable way to save water resources for the purpose of landscape irrigation. Rain barrels reduce potable water use, reduce erosion and stormwater runoff, and save you money on your water bill! Visit [Dunedin's rain barrel webpage](#) to find helpful resources and setup information.

- **Florida Water Star**

- Florida Water Star is a water conservation certification program for new and existing homes and commercial developments. Standards and guidelines for water efficiency are included for indoor fixtures and appliances, landscape design, and irrigation systems. Learn more by visiting the [Florida Water Star webpage](#).

- **What to Flush?**

- Did you know that 99% of sanitary sewer overflows are caused by "flushable" wipes? Despite what packaging claims, never dispose of wipes through the toilet. Know what to flush and what not to flush by visiting the [City's Wastewater webpage](#).

- **FOG - Fats, Oils, Grease ... Oh my!**

- Never pour fats, oils, or grease down the drain as they can cause clogged sewer lines, leading to unsanitary back-ups, sewage overflows onto streets, foul-smelling odors, and costly damage to our sewer system. You can be part of the solution by collecting and recycling your cooking fats, oils, and grease in containers and emptying the containers at the residential [cooking oil drop-off site](#) which is open 24/7. Take your containers with you, reuse them, and repeat!

- **Smart Irrigation Controllers**

- Updating irrigation controllers to smart and efficient systems that coordinate with upcoming weather is an excellent way to reduce water consumption and in turn, your water bills!

## FUTURE IDEAS TO EXPLORE



- **Greywater Systems**

- Explore ways to incorporate greywater systems into municipal, commercial, and residential projects as means to provide sustainable water sourcing and responsible use of water resources. Greywater can be an alternative to using fresh water and is the method of recycling used water to be utilized further within facilities or for landscape irrigation needs.

- **Sea Level Rise**

- With the current NOAA projections of sea-level rise, Dunedin is a vulnerable coastal community with projected impacts to public property, private property, roadways, utilities, and infrastructure. The City of Dunedin will need to implement findings from the Vulnerability Assessment and look to measures such as hardening, planned retreat from repetitive loss areas, and other improvements as technology and knowledge emerge surrounding sea level rise.

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- **Reduce Food Waste**
  - According to the book [Drawdown](#), reducing food waste is the third most crucial action in fighting climate change. Visit the Dunedin Green Scene to learn more.
- **Aim for Zero Waste Goals and Use the 8 R's of Sustainability**
  - Learn about the 8 R's of Sustainability and how to implement them into your daily life. An example of this is remembering to bring reusable bags for shopping trips.
- **Waste Audit**
  - Conducting a waste audit in your home or workplace can give you a detailed idea of any wasteful practices you have. A waste audit consists of collecting and saving your garbage, recycling, and compost for a certain period of time (usually a week). At the end of the week, sort through the waste with personal protective equipment (gloves and goggles) and separate items into categories that make sense for your audit. Once items are separated, focus on the categories with the most waste and devise plans to reduce your consumption.
- **Dunedin Sustainability School**
  - Visit the online [City of Dunedin Sustainability School](#) for classes on recycling right, zero waste, composting, and more!
- **Take the Pledge!**
  - Visit [Reduce your Use Tampa Bay](#) to take the pledge! This pledge is open to residents and businesses.
- **Compost at Home!**
  - Take the [Dunedin Does Compost](#) video course and receive a free compost bin.
- **Free Recycling Training**
  - Schedule a free recycling presentation from city staff for your employees and staff by contacting 727-298-3215 ext. 1324. Use the interactive online [Room by Room Recycling Guide](#) for more recycling education.
- **Correct Disposal of Chemical and Electronic Waste**
  - Properly dispose of hazardous waste through the Pinellas County [Household Electronics and Chemical Collection Center \(HEC3\)](#) program. Click here for the drop-off schedule.

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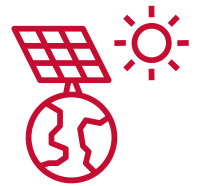
- **Develop a Regional Food Waste and Organics Program**
  - Partner with surrounding municipalities to develop a regional food waste program that emphasizes source reduction. This will coincide with a food recovery system that prioritizes food to be given to donation centers first, then used as animal feed, then industrial uses and composting, and finally incineration or landfilling as a last resort.
- **Develop a Regional Zero Waste Goal and Plan**
  - Achieving a Zero Waste status must be accomplished in cooperation with regional partners. Dunedin staff will assist with planning efforts of [Pinellas County's Zero Waste goal](#). The Pinellas Partners in Recycling (PPR) group can be a case study and serve as an example of the taskforce needed to establish this program.



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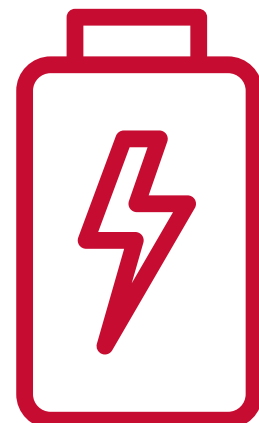
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- **Reduce Energy Use**
  - Visit the [Dunedin Green Scene](#) and the [Dunedin Sustainability School](#) for upcoming lessons and resources on energy reduction. Turning off lights when not in use, unplugging items, and switching lights to LED lightbulbs is a great way to start reducing your energy consumption and keep money in your pocket!
- **Landscaping for Energy Efficiency**
  - Did you know that your landscaping can play a part in your energy bill? Energy.gov states, "a well-placed tree, shrub, or vine can deliver effective shade, act as a windbreak, and reduce your energy bills. Carefully positioned trees can save up to 25% of the energy a typical household uses." When developing a landscape plan, consider using the resources from [ENERGY.GOV](#).
- **Home Energy Audits**
  - Many utility companies offer resources, toolkits, and energy audits from your home or workplace. Contact your local utility provider for more information. Some utility companies offer mobile apps that can be downloaded to your smartphone where you can see your energy usage in real-time and make adjustments as needed.
- **Solar Power**
  - Solar power may be a feasible option for your home or workplace and may bring long-term financial savings. Use the [Google Project Sunroof Tool](#) to see if solar is a viable option for your building. If so, explore ways to receive tax credits, apply for the [City's Solar Rebate Grant Program](#), and the opportunities for participating in a solar co-op.
- **Energy Star Appliances**
  - Opting for efficient appliances that have an [Energy Star](#) rating will reduce energy use in your home or workplace, saving you money on your utility bills.

## FUTURE IDEA TO EXPLORE

- **Battery Storage**
  - The City will research solar energy battery storage and other forms of alternate energy storage. Staying up to date on current or emerging technology will be key in finding best solutions for City operations and community projects.



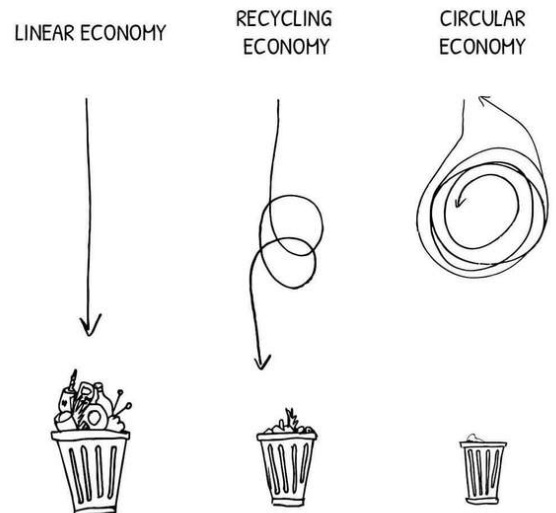
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- **How Many Earths does it take to Sustain Your Lifestyle?**
  - Use the [Footprint Calculator](#) to figure out how many Earths it would take to sustain your current lifestyle. You may be shocked by how many resources Americans use every single day! Use techniques outlined in this resource to take action in reducing your footprint.
- **Clothing or Item Swap**
  - Host an Item Exchange or Swap with neighbors, friends, or family to promote item-sharing and cost savings. You can get creative and swap various items such as clothing, kitchen gadgets, furniture, books, or even landscaping equipment.
- **Celebrate with Experiences**
  - Spending time with others and creating memories with them is a gift like no other. Consider gifting experiences instead of stuff for the next birthday or holiday you celebrate.
- **Shop Local**
  - Support local businesses and industries when you can! Items that are sourced locally can drastically decrease the carbon footprint of your consumption.
- **Local Vacations**
  - Florida is a beautiful place to explore and by taking vacations closer to home, you can greatly reduce transportation fuel needs. Taking vacations in the area also supports local businesses and the local or regional economy. Visit the [Florida State Parks](#) webpage to get ideas for your next trip!
- **Circular Economy**
  - Learn about what the circular economy is and explore ways your business can improve its operations to promote an economy that is based on sustainability.



## FUTURE IDEA TO EXPLORE

- **Repair Stations**
  - The City will find case studies where Repair Stations have been successful in educating the community on repairing items instead of disposing of them. Explore programs that have developed incentives for businesses or schools to create these types of programs.

