



Senate Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee Chair Sen. Lee Constantine (R-Altamonte Springs) attends an ESC meeting in Tallahassee.

Chair: Michelle Belaire
 Vice-Chair: Doug Mann
 Lobbyist: Keyna Cory

Council Priorities

In 2010, the ESC will focus on issues relating to:

Water Quality

- Encourage state and federal elected officials to oppose the enactment of unscientific numeric nutrient content levels in Florida's bodies of water. This proposal will cost hundreds of millions of dollars and stifle any economic development in Florida.
- Oppose the enactment of "Springs Protection" legislation, which will cost residents and businesses incredible amounts of money in order to comply with septic tank regulations not scientifically based.
- Encourage the Legislature to appropriately fund alternative water supply programs.

Recycling

- Develop a "Plan to Increase Florida's Recycling Rate and Reduce Waste" in response to the state's arbitrary 75 percent recycling goal.
- Oppose efforts to enact a tax on retail plastic bags as Florida's business community is already doing a lot to encourage consumers to use reusable bags.
- Oppose efforts to enact a "bottle bill" or solid waste disposal tax in order to raise possible funds for recycling efforts.

Environmental Sustainability

Environmental issues such as recycling, water quality and product stewardship are of immense importance to the business community. These issues impact businesses everyday and nearly every industry is affected. Despite these implications, proposals that seek to tighten water quality criteria, tax retail plastic bags and implement beverage container deposit laws may hurt current recycling efforts. Compared to other states, a regulatory climate such as this will put Florida in a severely disadvantaged position when it comes to retaining or attracting businesses.

AIF's newest council, the Environmental Sustainability Council (ESC), has been created to address these issues and educate policy makers about their impact on Florida's economic and natural environment. AIF members have been active leaders on many environmental issues over the years, including proactive solutions to reduce, re-use and recycle. By participating and creating cost-effective recycling programs, Florida can realize an increase in its recycling rate and businesses can save money while protecting Florida's natural resources. Recycling can also provide additional economic development that Florida needs.

The impact of new water quality standards will affect every major industry — agriculture, landscaping, power generation, silviculture, mining, seaports, development, small businesses, even tourist attractions and recreational facilities. As of late, the state of Florida has been singled out by the federal government to comply with arbitrary and unreasonable "numeric nutrient criteria" for water quality standards.

Council Position

The ESC is committed to supporting proposals that use best practices and proven business techniques for protecting our state's natural resources and its environment. Florida's business community utilizes some of the most cutting edge processes for recycling, re-using, and diverting waste and these techniques can be leveraged by state government for the benefit of all Floridians.