



**PUTNAM COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

**EXHIBIT EE**

**CONSERVATION ELEMENT**

# PUTNAM COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

## E. Conservation Element Goals, Objectives and Policies

**GOAL E.1:** Conserve and protect the natural resources of Putnam County to help maintain an acceptable quality of life for its citizens.

**Objective E.1.1:** The air quality in Putnam County shall be maintained with no further degradation pursuant to federal and state laws and regulations.

**Policy E.1.1.1:** All development in the County shall be required to meet the ambient air quality standards established by state and federal agencies as a condition of continued operation or development approval.

**Policy E.1.1.2** The County will encourage alternatives such as composting and chipping facilities to the open burning of debris from land clearing.

**Policy E.1.1.3:** The County shall protect and enhance air quality by:

- A. Maintaining adopted roadway levels of service;
- B. Supporting alternative modes of transportation;
- C. Requiring efficient on-site circulation movement within new developments.
- D. Promoting mixed-use communities within new development which combine living/shopping/working in close proximity.
- E. Establishing a program to reduce the number of miles of unpaved roads through a paving program and closing unnecessary roadway rights-of-way.
- F. Providing incentives to minimize land clearing and planting additional trees.

**Policy E.1.1.4:** The County will work with Federal, State, and local agencies to ensure that when lead paint and asbestos is removed from structures, it is done in ways that protect the health of Putnam County's residents and water quality.

**Policy E.1.1.5:** The County will continue the radon information program that informs the public about areas where active radon control measures are recommended.

**Objective E.1.2:** The County shall implement the following policies that are to conserve, appropriately use and protect the quality and quantity of current and projected water sources and waters that flow into estuarine waters.

**Policy E.1.2.1:** The County shall coordinate with and seek assistance from FDEP in prohibiting the dumping of raw sewage from live-aboard vessels, recreational vehicles, passenger trains and other mobile facilities situated in or transiting through the County. The County shall require sewage pump-out facilities in the design of all new or redeveloped marinas and campgrounds allowing RV's. The County will assist the public by providing information regarding FDEP's Clean Vessel Act program.

**Policy E.1.2.2:** The County shall adopt state standards of Chapter 62-761, FAC, for all underground and above ground storage tanks and attached piping located within waterfront marinas and shall participate in on-going inspections of these facilities.

**Policy E.1.2.3:** The Department of Health shall annually monitor FDEP's routine inspection schedules for all package treatment plants as a means to ensure that these facilities continue to meet water quality standards for discharge.

**Policy E.1.2.4:** New waterfront development shall be designed so that stormwater runoff and erosion are retained on-site or are channeled so as to not degrade ambient water quality of adjacent waters.

**Policy E.1.2.5:** The County shall adopt and enforce regulations that require the preservation or restoration of a vegetated upland buffer or filter for any waterfront development. The buffer strip shall provide for sheet flow of the surface runoff, and shall be a minimum of 50 feet in width, except as provided in Sections A through F below. In addition, a minimum 25 foot upland buffer shall be maintained between development and jurisdictional wetlands. Development and land use activities excepted below in Sections A through F shall be allowed only when permitted by the land use designation; the impacts are limited to the minimum necessary to allow the permitted use of the property; and the site development or use is in compliance with the Department of Health, DEP, WMD, and COE regulations for permitting and mitigation. In addition, the County shall not approve any subdivision plats or non-residential site plans which would result in encroachment into the required buffers or insufficient buildable area to maintain required buffers. All new subdivision plats shall show the jurisdictional wetland line, the vegetated upland buffer from jurisdictional wetlands and the 50-foot water front buffer strip and setback.

A. Resource-based recreational facilities such as trails, boardwalks, piers, docks and boat ramps. Private water-related facilities such as, but not limited to, boathouses, docks and bulkheads as permitted by the applicable Federal, State, and local agencies.

B. Water dependent components of commercial development such as port facilities, marinas, fish camps, and commercial fishing and shell-fishing operations.

C. General Agriculture shall follow BMPs as provided in Policies A.1.4.9 and E.1.3.5 and E.1.2.8.

D. Silviculture shall follow the most recent editions of the best management practices and management guideline manuals of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry, as provided in Policy A.1.4.9 and identical Policy E.1.3.5.

E. Mining activities shall be prohibited within 500 feet from a formally identified State meandered water body. Mining excavation shall not occur within 500 feet of a natural water body; except that when the water body has not been meandered by the State and it is located entirely within the property boundaries of the mining operation, the setback for actual excavation areas may under certain conditions be reduced to 50 feet consistent with regulations of Article 3 of the adopted Land Development Code.

F. Essential public services and appurtenant structures.

**Policy E.1.2.6:** Residents of waterfront developments shall be made aware, through public education, of the various techniques available to protect water quality including maintenance of vegetated upland buffers, maintenance of littoral zones rather than use of bulkheads, maintenance of septic tanks, and controlled application of pesticides and fertilizers.

**Policy E.1.2.7:** Surface water withdrawals shall not reduce surface water levels below the minimums established by the St. Johns River and/or Suwannee River Water Management Districts. The County shall coordinate with the water management districts in reviewing land use requests to prevent excess withdrawals from lakes with established minimum surface water levels.

**Policy E.1.2.8:** Agricultural runoff shall meet State Water Quality Standards to maintain ambient water quality in accordance with the requirements of Rule 62-302, FAC, and shall meet the FDEP's Best Management Practices (BMPs) for non-point source pollution management.

**Policy E.1.2.9:** The County shall adopt and enforce regulations that require that new development and redevelopment be designed so that stormwater runoff is retained on-site or is channeled so as to control erosion and maintain ambient water quality in accordance with the requirements of Rule 62-302, FAC, which otherwise can adversely affect adjacent surface water bodies and wetlands.

**Policy E.1.2.10:** The County shall recommend to the SJRWMD and the SRWMD that water bodies having water quality problems be included in the SWIM program for further analysis to determine pollution sources and feasible techniques to upgrade water quality.

**Policy E.1.2.11:** The County shall continue to enforce its prohibition of additional sewage wastewater effluent discharges into the St. Johns River pursuant to criteria in the adopted Land Development Code.

**Policy E.1.2.12:** Water conservation measures shall be promoted for all water users including domestic, public, institutional, industrial, and agricultural. The County shall make available at County offices water conservation materials published by the FDEP, SJRWMD and SRWMD.

Water conservation measures endorsed by the County include the plugging of unused flowing artesian wells, landscape watering restrictions during periods of drought, the use of drought resistant vegetation (xeriscaping) and building code criteria including the use of water-saving devices required when upgrading residential, commercial or industrial plumbing systems.

Emergency water conservation measures enacted by the SJRWMD and endorsed by the County include the "Water Shortage Plan" (Chapter 40C-21, FAC) and the "Water Conservation Rule" (Chapter 40C-2, FAC).

**Policy E.1.2.13:** Recharge functions in Areas of High Recharge Potential to the Floridan Aquifer as defined by the County as 8 inches or more per year and as identified by the SJRWMD and SRWMD shall be protected through the establishment of criteria in the Land Development Code including retention of runoff and maximum permitted coverage of impervious surfaces per lot.

**Policy E.1.2.14:** Groundwater quality within Areas of High Recharge Potential to the Floridan Aquifer as defined by the County as 8 inches or more per year and as identified by the SJRWMD and SRWMD shall be protected through prohibition of possible polluting land uses such as: landfills, hazardous waste sites, and auto salvage and junkyards; along with limitations for siting septic tanks and underground tanks which store hazardous or potentially polluting substances through the implementation of Land Development Code.

**Policy E.1.2.15:** Potable water wells as defined in Chapter 62-521, F.A.C. shall be protected from adverse impacts of new development by requiring a minimum 500-foot radial setback (wellhead protection area) around each wellhead. Proposed uses shall comply with the ground water protection measures in wellhead protection areas as specified in Chapter 62-521.400, F.A.C.

**Policy E.1.2.16:** Existing non-conforming facilities located within any designated 500 foot wellhead protection zone of a public water wellfield in the County shall be subject to the non-conforming use provisions of the Land Development Code.

**Policy E.1.2.17:** Putnam County shall use the latest version of the Flood Insurance Rate Maps provided by FEMA to determine the location of areas of special flood hazard which include the 100-year floodplain and floodways within the 100-year floodplain. The County shall provide specifications for regulating development and land use activities within these areas in its Land Development Code. The specifications will include the following minimum standards:

A. Development and land use activities listed below shall be allowed in areas of special flood hazard and are subject to meeting the requirements provided in Sections B and C below.

1. New residential development shall be limited to the lowest density of the future land use category in which the property is located except for lots existing on

December 19, 1991 at 5:00 p.m. which cannot meet this requirement. These lots will be considered lots of record and may be developed with one residence.

2. The following may be permitted in land use categories that allow non-residential development or land use activity:

a. Resource-based recreational facilities such as trails, boardwalks, piers, and boat ramps. Private water-related facilities such as boathouses, docks and bulkheads as permitted by the applicable Federal, State, and local agencies.

b. Water dependent components of commercial development such as port facilities, marinas, fish camps, and commercial fishing and shell-fishing operations.

c. General Agriculture shall protect wetlands and water bodies by following BMPs as provided in Policies A.1.4.9 and E.1.3.5 and E.1.2.8.

d. Silviculture shall follow the most recent editions of the best management practices and management guideline manuals of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry as provided in Policy A.1.4.9 and identical Policy E.1.3.5.

e. Mining activities shall be prohibited within 500 feet from a formally identified State meandered water body. Mining excavation shall not occur within 500 feet of a natural water body; except that when the water body has not been meandered by the State and it is located entirely within the property boundaries of the mining operation, the setback for actual excavation areas may under certain conditions be reduced to 50 feet consistent with regulations of Article 3 of the adopted Land Development Code.

f. Essential public services and appurtenant structures.

3. The following uses shall be prohibited in areas of special flood hazard:

a. Land uses requiring the storage, disposal, generation or use of hazardous waste.

b. Landfills

c. Underground storage of toxic materials

d. Auto salvage yards

e. Junkyards

B. The County will incorporate the following requirements into the Land Development Code in compliance with FEMA regulations:

1. Residential structures in all areas of special flood hazard must be elevated consistent with the requirements of the County Land Development Code and Florida Building Code..
2. Non-residential structures in all areas of special flood hazard must either be elevated consistent with the requirements of the County Land Development Code and Florida Building Code or flood-proofed as certified by a registered professional engineer or architect.
3. New construction, fill, and other improvements are prohibited in the floodway unless certification (with supporting technical data) by a registered professional engineer is provided demonstrating that encroachments shall not result in any increase in flood levels of the base flood discharge.

C. Development in areas of special flood hazard shall comply with the following:

1. Applications for subdivision approval shall include a soils map indicating the location on the property of soil types identified by U.S. Soil Conservation Service, descriptions and a map showing any portions of the property located in areas of special flood hazard as required by Land Development Code.
2. Development proposals for sites larger than 5 acres or greater than 50 lots shall provide base flood elevation data as currently required by federal regulations and the County's Land Development Code.
3. Dredging and filling of lands within floodplains shall not be permitted to adversely impact upon the natural functions of the 100-year floodplain, and shall be carried out, only in strict accordance with state or federal permits.
4. All proposed development shall be located or clustered on the portions of the site outside areas of special flood hazard wherever possible.
5. No hazardous waste shall be generated, stored, or disposed of within the 100-year floodplain.
6. Use of septic tanks in the 100-year floodplain and floodways will be restricted by the County Health Department in compliance with Department of Health Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal System standards.

D. Requests for future land use map amendments in the 100 year floodplain shall demonstrate that the proposed use will not result in any increase in flood levels of the base flood discharge or reduce other water resources related benefits of the floodplain.

E. The County encourages the clustering of development on upland portions of properties and areas outside the 100-year floodplain. More intense developments will be directed away from flood prone areas.

**Policy E.1.2.18:** Development in and adjacent to wetlands and water bodies shall be subject to the following:

A. The County through its subdivision regulations shall require all new lots to have adequate area to meet the 25 foot upland buffer of native vegetation as also required by Policy D.1.6.4 and the water body buffer requirements of Policy A.1.4.12 and identical Policy E.1.2.5. All new subdivision plats and non-residential site plans must show the mean or ordinary high water line of water bodies, jurisdictional wetlands and the required buffers of Policy D.1.6.4., and identical Policies A.1.4.12. and E.1.2.5. If the new lot will be serviced by an onsite septic system it must comply with the following:

1. The usable land requirements and wetland and water body setbacks as required by the Department of Health standards for Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems.
2. If the new lot is within 500 feet of the mean or ordinary high water line of a water body, it must have 100 feet of frontage along the water body; and when developed, the septic system must meet the special design standards currently provided in the Land Development Code and the system must be set back a minimum of 100 feet from the mean or ordinary high water line.

B. The County shall ensure the protection of wetlands by requiring structures and other site improvements to be located outside of wetlands and the upland buffer of native vegetation required by Policy D.1.6.4. except as provided below. All exceptions are applicable only when the land use designation on the property permits the development or land use activity listed below; site characteristics are such that wetland impacts cannot be avoided; the impacts are limited to the minimum necessary to allow the permitted use of the property; and the site development or use complies with DOH, DEP, WMD, and COE regulations for permitting and mitigation.

1. Residential lots of record existing on or before the adoption of the comprehensive plan on December 19, 1991 at 5:00 p.m. which do not contain sufficient uplands to permit development of a residence without encroaching into wetlands, may be developed with one residential dwelling.
2. Resource-based recreational facilities such as trails, boardwalks, piers, and boat ramps. Private water-related facilities, such as boathouses, docks and bulkheads, as permitted by the applicable Federal, State, and local agencies.
3. Water dependent components of commercial development such as port facilities, marinas, fish camps, and commercial fishing and shell-fishing operations.
4. General Agriculture shall maintain the natural hydrology and function of wetland areas in accord with the most recent version of USDA SCS guidelines established in the 1985 Food Securities Act and amended in 1990; and by following BMPs published by FDEP and the Florida Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services for the use.



5. Silviculture shall follow the most recent editions of the “Silviculture Best Management Practices” published by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry.

6. Mining activities shall be prohibited within 500 feet from a formally identified State meandered water body. Mining excavation shall not occur within 500 feet of a natural water body; except that when the water body has not been meandered by the State and it is located entirely within the property boundaries of the mining operation, the setback for actual excavation areas may under certain conditions be reduced to 50 feet consistent with regulations of Article 3 of the adopted Land Development Code.

7. Essential public services and appurtenant structures.

C. Transfer of density from wetlands to the upland portion of a site shall be permitted by establishing flexibility in the lot area requirements in the various zoning districts established in the Land Development Code. The wetland area will be included in calculating the density applicable to a property if the wetlands are preserved and development occurs on uplands outside the buffer requirements. Surface water bodies will not be included in calculating the density applicable to a property.

D. Wetland and water body protection shall be considered when the County evaluates variance requests for setback modifications that would move development away from wetlands and water bodies.

E. Development in the area adjacent to water bodies shall be limited according to vegetated buffer and use restrictions adopted in the future Land Use Element and other applicable elements of the Plan. Development in water bodies shall be allowed only for uses permitted by DEP, WMD and COE, as applicable.

**Objective E.1.3:** The County shall implement the following policies that are to conserve, appropriately use, and protect minerals, soils, and native vegetation communities including forests.

**Policy E.1.3.1:** Existing working mining sites and sites with potential for future mineral extraction shall be identified and land uses or future land use map amendments that may diminish the long-term economic viability of the mineral resources shall be prohibited within or adjacent to these sites through the control of development densities and/or intensities as designated within the Future Land Use Element and Future Land Use Map.

**Policy E.1.3.2:** The County shall annually review mining operation progress with FDEP and other federal and state agencies to ensure that lands disrupted by mining operations are restored to aesthetically pleasing and physically useful condition at the completion of such operations through enforcement of the reclamation regulations of FAC and conditions specified in the Master Mining Plan Permit as required by the adopted Land Development Code.

**Policy E.1.3.3:** Existing agricultural areas shall be protected from premature conversion to non-agricultural uses through maintenance of densities as identified on the Future Land Use Map and consistent with Future Land Use Element Policies. The County shall analyze land use changes and development activities proposed adjacent to existing agricultural areas and ensure compatibility with agricultural uses.

**Policy E.1.3.4:** Developers shall be required to apply erosion control practices to reduce soil erosion from wind and water during and after construction activities. Controls shall be implemented as specified in Land Development Code and shall include such techniques as spreading hay or other mulch materials over potential erosion areas, lining drainage swales with sod, burlap or other appropriate material, spraying non-polluting binding materials over the site, etc.

**Policy E.1.3.5:** The County shall inform the Division of Forestry, the Department of Environmental Protection and the Agricultural Soil and Water Conservation District of violations to ensure that agriculture (row crops, ranching, etc.) and silviculture follow Best Management Practices (BMPs), as contained in the publication “Silviculture Best Management Practices”.

**Policy E.1.3.6:** The County shall protect environmentally sensitive areas and native vegetative communities as follows:

A. Proposed mining activities shall be required to submit their reclamation plan to the County prior to its approval by the State Bureau of Mines, so that the County can submit any comments regarding the reclamation plan to the Bureau for consideration.

B. In the process of reviewing site plans, the County shall assess the compatibility of land use activities and development on parcels adjacent to the Ocala National Forest, Wildlife Management Areas, State or Private Preserves, or other public-owned natural resource areas.

C. The County shall maintain and distribute a recommended native plant listing and other educational materials available from the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Water Management District, Florida Department of Agriculture (Division of Forestry) and other state or federal agencies to increase public awareness of the need to utilize native plant species in the developed landscape and eliminate exotic nuisance plants from existing developed areas.

D. For all new development at a minimum vegetative buffers and 80 percent of landscaping of a site required by Comprehensive Plan policies and/or the implementing land development regulations shall utilize native plant species, and exotic invasive plant species shall be prohibited. Areas required to have vegetative buffers shall preserve all existing native vegetation if present within the required buffer. All other unvegetated areas within the required vegetative buffer shall be planted with native vegetation which is adapted to that particular environment whether it is xeric, mesic or hydric.

E. The County shall use the most current information and data from the SJRWMD and The Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) to identify Slope Forests, Seepage Streams, Spring Run Streams, and Sandhill Upland Lakes which shall not be designated with a more intense future land use designation than already exists.

F. Development proposed on sites containing the longleaf pine-xeric oak vegetative community shall preserve a minimum of 25 percent of this communities' vegetation except for single-family residential development on existing lots of record.

G. Where feasible and appropriate, the County shall advocate purchase of lands for conservation of environmentally sensitive areas and native vegetative communities, open space and/or recreation using funds available through grants, state and federal funds and/or private organizations. The County shall also consider adopting its own land-buying program to purchase environmentally sensitive areas.

H. The County will develop a plan to restore or enhance degraded natural areas on lands acquired by the county for conservation, public outdoor recreation and open space where financially feasible and appropriate. This will include establishing a program for the removal of invasive exotic vegetation with annual monitoring.

**Policy E.1.3.7:** In the process of reviewing land use actions including comprehensive plan amendments and rezonings, the County shall assess the compatibility of future land use activities and development on parcels adjacent to the Ocala National Forest, Wildlife Management Areas, State or Private Preserves, or other State and Federal natural resource areas.

**Policy E.1.3.8:** The County shall ensure that land use changes or development activities proposed adjacent to recreational sites are compatible with the recreation land use.

**Policy E.1.3.9:** The County shall negotiate interlocal agreements with adjacent local jurisdictions and state/federal agencies to conserve and protect unique vegetative communities that are located within and extend beyond the immediate County line.

**Policy E.1.3.10:** Putnam County shall coordinate with the North Florida Prescribed Burn Council and other appropriate entities including the U.S. Forest Service, the Florida Division of Forestry, the St. Johns River Water Management District, and the Nature Conservancy, in promoting prescribed burns on public lands, including county-owned lands. Promotional efforts shall include developing a public education program for local governments and the public to inform them about the importance of conducting periodic prescribed burns. Educational brochures shall be made available to the public at City Halls, the County Courthouse, Agricultural Extension offices etc., and periodic workshops and seminars shall be held prior to each burning season.

**Policy E.1.3.11:** Putnam County shall coordinate with federal, state and local agencies or nonprofit environmental organizations in managing natural areas and open space.

**Objective E.1.4:** The County shall implement the following policies that are to conserve, appropriately use and protect marine and wildlife habitat.

**Policy E.1.4.1:** Future development sites in Putnam County containing plant or animal species listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, FWC, FDEP, or the Florida Department of Agriculture as endangered, threatened or as species of special concern, shall comply with the management criteria of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, FDEP and the FWC.

**Policy E.1.4.2:** The County shall coordinate with appropriate governmental entities to protect environmentally sensitive lands that extend into adjacent counties and municipalities.

**Policy E.1.4.3:** The County shall protect marine and wildlife habitat, including habitat of listed species, through acquisition, the establishment of public or private conservation easements, purchase of development rights, or through other available means as deemed appropriate.

**Policy E.1.4.4:** Where feasible and appropriate, the County shall advocate purchase of lands for conservation of marine and wildlife habitat, open space and/or recreation using funds available through grants, state and federal funds, matching funds and/or funds from private organizations. The County shall consider adopting a land-buying program to purchase natural areas, recreation and open space.

**Policy E.1.4.5:** The County shall request technical assistance from State agencies to study the feasibility of designating viable wildlife corridors, greenways, trails and connections of these to County facilities as identified in the Putnam County Strategic Conservation Plan, Putnam County Master Trails Plan, the Putnam County Parks and Recreation Master Plan and by the St. Johns River Greenprint Program. Once identified, the County shall work with environmental groups, acquisition programs and applicable agencies to acquire wildlife corridor and greenway properties as conservation designated land, open space and outdoor recreation areas. The County shall also endeavor to protect appropriate lands through other means such as conservation easements, development standards or maintenance of low density land uses.

**Policy E.1.4.6:** The County shall develop a master plan, including the Putnam County Strategic Conservation Plan, the Putnam County Master Trails Plan, the St. Johns River Greenprint Program, and the Putnam County Parks and Recreation Master Plan, to link existing and new conservation, open space and outdoor recreation areas. Land acquisition efforts will focus on establishing new linkages and enhancing existing corridors, greenways and recreation trail systems, including the acquisition of acreage for destination areas and trailheads.

**Policy E.1.4.7:** The County shall post informational signage regarding manatees at all county owned and maintained public boat ramps.

**Policy E.1.4.8:** In coordination with public and private conservation entities, the County shall identify, enhance and promote greenways and wildlife corridors to link existing public lands and facilities as identified in the Putnam County Strategic Conservation Plan, the Putnam County Master Trails Plan, the Putnam County Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and the St. Johns River Greenprint Program for conservation, habitat preservation and recreation purposes.

**Policy E.1.4.9:** The County shall ask the SJRWMD and FDEP to identify the stormwater drainage from County maintained roads and facilities that is causing degradation of the St Johns River and its tributaries. Upon identification, the County shall apply for State and federal funds to improve stormwater management and restore degraded aquatic ecosystems caused by stormwater runoff.

**Policy E. 1.4.10:** The County shall advocate the purchase of uplands, whether by the SJRWMD, State land-buying programs, local land buying programs or other means, needed to protect groundwater resources.

**Objective E.1.5:** The County shall implement the following policies and continue to require that large and small quantity generators of hazardous waste shall properly dispose of their waste in accordance with federal and state law.

**Policy E.1.5.1:** Commercial generators of hazardous waste (as defined by the FDEP) shall have on-site facilities to contain and store hazardous waste in a safe manner prior to disposal by a certified handler.

**Policy E.1.5.2:** County residents and small quantity generators of hazardous waste shall be informed in accordance with Sections 403.7234 and 403.7225, FS, and through distribution of public education materials of hazardous waste disposal locations and proper methods of disposal.

**Policy E.1.5.3:** Landfills shall be monitored by the County to eliminate the illegal disposal of hazardous waste.

**Policy E.1.5.4:** The County shall prohibit landfilling of waste tires and batteries and require the proper disposal of hazardous waste including used automobile and truck tires and batteries as well as household hazardous waste so as to halt illegal dumping or other disposal, and protect the natural resources of the county.

**Policy E.1.5.5:** The County shall coordinate and participate with FDEP and/or EPA in any available public educational programs or grants which will help to educate County residents and businesses regarding hazardous waste, and their proper disposal.

**Objective E.1.6:** The County shall implement the following policies to enhance the conservation of energy resources.

**Policy E.1.6.1:** The County shall encourage development with site-produced renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power, and bio-mass.

**Policy E.1.6.2:** To help offset carbon emissions from the use of fossil fuels and other carbon-based fuels, the County shall continue to preserve and protect mineral, soils, and native vegetation including forests.

**Objective E.1.7:** The County shall assess and address water conservation and reuse as part of the planning and development process.

**Policy E.1.7.1:** The County shall encourage energy efficiency in all new construction and renovation by education regarding the ENERGY STAR program of the US Environmental Protection Agency and the US Department of Energy.

**Policy E.1.7.2:** The County shall encourage resource efficiency in all new construction and renovation by education regarding the Water Star<sup>SM</sup> program. Florida Water Star<sup>SM</sup> is a voluntary certification program for new and existing residential and commercial developments that encourages water efficiency in household appliances, plumbing fixtures, irrigation systems and landscapes.

**Policy E.1.7.3:** As County public buildings and premises are built or upgraded, the County shall use ENERGY STAR rated or comparably efficient appliances or systems unless precluded by other requirements, and shall seek Florida Water Star certification in such projects where possible.