

Sustainable Community Development Step 5: Identify Sources of Help¹

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Overview

This document contains lists of resources for developing a sustainable community. There are two lists, one containing national resources and a second containing Florida resources.

Identify Sources of Help

State, federal, and private programs may be available to assist your community in developing, funding, and implementing sustainability projects. The following list, while by no means exhaustive, provides links to resources that may assist your community in identifying technical and funding assistance for a sustainability initiative.

National Resources

- EPA's Office of Sustainability Ecosystems and Communities: This office is involved in developing and supporting demonstration projects, tools, and policies that support community-based environmental protection activities. In addition, the EPA created and updated "A Guidebook of Financial Tools: Paying for Sustainable Environmental Systems"; a directory of means to fund environmental protection and restoration activities. <https://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPDF.cgi/P100179D.PDF?Dockey=P100179D.PDF>
- US Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration: The EDA's mission is to generate jobs, help retain existing jobs, and stimulate industrial and commercial growth in economically-distressed communities. Their website provides grant requirements and program and funding information. <http://www.eda.gov>
- EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response: This office is involved in brownfields cleanup revolving loan fund programs that provide financial assistance for the environmental cleanup of brownfields and also funds assessment demonstration pilot programs to assess brownfields sites and facilitate cleanup. <http://www2.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-office-solid-waste-and-emergency-response-oswer>
- US Department of Housing and Urban Development: This department provides funding for community revitalization and development. <http://www.hud.gov/>
- Department of Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service: This department provides information about fish and wildlife habitat protection in Florida. <http://www.fws.gov/>
- US Department of Agriculture's Community Facilities Grant Program: Community Programs provides grants to assist in the development of essential community facilities in rural areas and towns of up to 20,000 in population. <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program>

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- US Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service: NRCS can provide grants for land conservation, water management, community development, and environmental needs. <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>
- US Department of Agriculture's Water and Waste Programs: This program provides loans and grants for water waste disposal, solid waste management, and technical assistance. <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/uwp-revolvingfund.html>
- International Council for Local Environmental Initiative's Local Sustainability Project: This project provides technical and financial support to local-level initiatives to address sustainable development and poverty alleviation and environmental problems. <http://www.iclei.org/>
- Local Government Commission's Leaders for Livable Communities: Local Government Commission supports local policymakers through nationally recognized events, low cost technical assistance and policy guidance on climate change, energy, water, and community design. <https://www.lgc.org/>
- EPA's Office of Research and Development: This entity provides information about environmental research grants. <http://www2.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-office-research-and-development-ord>
- US Department of Transportation's Livability: This initiative supports development of transit facilities and services that promote more livable communities. <http://www.dot.gov/livability>

Florida Resources

- Florida Department of Economic Opportunity <http://www.floridajobs.org>
- Florida Energy Extension Service <http://www.floridaenergy.ufl.edu/>
- Florida Housing Coalition <http://www.flhousing.org/>
- Florida House Institute for Sustainable Development <http://www.i4sd.org>
- Florida Main Street <http://www.flheritage.com/preservation/mainstreet/>
- Florida-Friendly Landscaping <https://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu>
- Keep Florida Beautiful <https://www.keepfloridabeautiful.org/>
- University of Florida's Powell Center for Construction and Environment <http://www.cce.ufl.edu/>
- University of Florida's Sustainable Living http://solutions-foryourlife.ufl.edu/sustainable_living/