

# Sustainable Sandhills Program Update

## For SS Board meeting 1/12/2010

### Community Action Teams (CAT's)

- SS CAT Coordinator **Amanda Blue's** last day was on January 8, 2010.
- **Brenda Johnson**, SS's new Green Growth Planner, will be handling CAT's in **Cumberland, Harnett and Hoke counties**. Her first day on the job was January 4, 2010. Brenda and Amanda spent 2 days working together in that overlapping week with job training and turnover for the CAT coordination portion of Brenda's position (one-half of her time will be dedicated to those three CAT's).
- A **new full-time CAT Coordinator** will be hired in February to handle CAT's in Moore, Lee, Scotland, Richmond and Montgomery Counties.
- In 2009, CAT's in **Moore and Cumberland counties** became well-established. Bi-monthly CAT meetings alternate with film screenings in both these counties. The CAT meetings and the film screenings are well-attended.
- In 2009, CAT's in **Harnett and Lee counties** were kicked off, but both of those are still in the early stages of development. An effort to network and engage with these communities will be our focus in early 2010. A number of speaking engagements with civic groups (Kiwanis, Rotary) have been made in these two counties in January and February.
- By the end of 2010, CAT's in **all eight counties** of our region will be active! New CAT's in **Hoke, Scotland, Richmond and Montgomery counties** will be initiated in the second and third quarters of the calendar year.
- Upcoming CAT meetings, film screenings and civic group speaking engagements:
  - **Moore County**
    - 1/14/10, 630pm – Moore County screening of **Coal Country**
    - 2/16/10, 630pm – Moore County CAT meeting
    - 3/11/10, 630pm – Moore County screening of **Addicted to Plastic**
  - **Cumberland County**
    - 1/20/10, 630pm – Cumberland County screening of **Coal Country**
    - 2/18/10, 630pm – Cumberland County CAT meeting
    - 3/17/10, 630pm – Cumberland County screening of **Addicted to Plastic**
  - **Lee County**
    - 1/20/10, noon – Lee County Kiwanis Club (Brenda Johnson)
    - 2/1/10, 700am – Lee Sunrise Rotary Club (Jon Parsons)
  - **Harnett County**
    - 1/21/10, 630pm – Lillington Rotary Club (Brenda Johnson)
    - 2/4/10, 1130am – Dunn Rotary Club (Brenda Johnson)

### Air Quality Program

- SS Staff Lead is **Heidi Johnson, Green Business Coordinator**.
- The **Combined Air Team (CombAT)** is a collaboration between Sustainable Sandhills, the Cumberland County AQ Stakeholders and the Fort Bragg Air Team. CombAT will meet on

1/19/10 at 130-3pm to choose 5 carbon emission reduction projects from a list of 15-20 that were generated at their last meeting on 11/17/09. Those 5 projects will be submitted to the USEPA in order to qualify for their **Sustainable Skylines Initiative**.

- A UNC-CH intern completed an **Automobile Idling Study** at 10 Cumberland County Schools as part of her senior “capstone” project. Her faculty advisor saw enough promise in the work that she is assembling a team of interns to continue the work in the winter term.

### **Awareness & Education Program**

- SS Staff Lead is **Heather Brown, Development Director**.
- **Regional Sustainability Symposium** set for 3/31/2010 at Doubletree Hotel in Fayetteville. Co-hosted with FSU, 3 concurrent session tracks, draft agenda attached.
- **Urban Farm Tour** planned for mid-April.
- SS **eBlasts** continue bi-weekly.

### **Green Business Program**

- SS Staff Leads are our 3 **Green Business Coordinators: Jodi Hajosy** (Cumberland private sector), **Heidi Johnson** (Cumberland government and institutions; Hoke, Harnett, Robeson - all sectors) and **Kea Meacham** (Moore, Lee, Richmond, Scotland all sectors).
- **Kea Meacham** from Moore County is working as a contractor through June 2010 and will devote approximately ½ time to the program in 4 counties. She began work in mid-December.
- A **redesigned GBP brochure** will be ordered in February.
- **Cumberland County Schools “Go Green” Initiative** will certify the first group of schools in January. The group of 22 schools participating in this first year of the program is 25% of the district’s schools.

### **Green Growth Program**

- SS Staff Lead is **Brenda Johnson, Green Growth Planner**. Brenda is our newest full-time employee and began work on 1/4/2010. She will devote ½ time to a grant-funded 2 year project that will implement the NC Wildlife Resource Commission’s **Green Growth Toolbox** in the Sandhills region.
- Brenda and Jon Parsons attended a 2 day **Train-the-Trainer** workshop on December 21-22, 2009 for the **Green Growth Toolbox** in Asheboro.
- An informational session on the **SS Land Suitability Maps** was held on 12/10/2009 in Aberdeen. 24 people attended.
- Four more info sessions on the **Suitability Maps** are scheduled for January 2010.
  - 1/21/10, 10-1130am – Harnett County
  - 1/21/10, 2-330pm – Robeson County
  - 1/28/10, 10-1130am – Hoke County
  - 1/28/10, 2-330pm – Richmond County
- SS support of **FirstHealth’s “Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities”** program will begin in mid-January. SS’s deliverables on this project include a series of workshops in March on the

environment's influence on childhood obesity rates in 5 communities in Moore and Montgomery counties – Aberdeen, Southern Pines, Robbins, Mt. Gilead and Candor.

### **Green Living & Design Program**

- SS Staff Lead is **VACANT**.
- SS's Low Income Weatherization project is funded by a private \$3500 donation. The project will be worked in Harnett, Hoke and Lee Counties this spring. We have recruited a class of 30+ FSU students to assist with the project, and will target the EMC's in those 3 counties as partners: South River, Lumbee River and Central EMC's.

### **Local Food & Culture**

- SS Staff Lead is **Kea Meacham, Green Business Coordinator**.
- SS's **CSA and Local Food Survey** was featured at a CSA Training in Carthage that was attended by more than 75 farmers and other interested parties from multiple counties in the region.

### **Solid Waste Reduction Program**

- SS Staff Lead is **Jodi Hajosy, Green Business Coordinator**.
- SS staff is assisting the City of Fayetteville in the design of a **Multi-Family Residential and Commercial Recycling program**. SS staff and SFB planners designed a survey to elicit input from a targeted group of 50+ stakeholders. Final report with recommendations is due to Fayetteville's City Council in February.

### **Grants and Earned Income**

- SS Staff Lead is **Jon Cupp, Grants Coordinator**.
- Jon Cupp from Cumberland County is working as a contractor through June 2010 and will devote approximately ½ time to grant writing. He began work on 1/4/2010.
- We are targeting a pair of applications to the **NC Green Business Fund**. Pre-proposals are due January 19. Our proposals will be to expand our **Green Business Program** and the **Green Building emphasis of our Green Living & Design Program**. Each proposal will include support for one new professional full-time staff position. [ARRA]
- We are also awaiting an RFP from the State Energy Office for "**Energy Efficiency for New Site-Built Homes, Manufactured Homes and Multi-Family Apartments.**" [ARRA]
- Work on the **Municipal Solid Waste study for BRACRTF** is expected to kickoff in late-January. SS will serve as a subcontractor to Booze Allen Hamilton on that project, which should conclude no later than April 2010. Estimated income \$10k.
- Work on **two CTC subcontracts and one Plexus subcontract** continues.