

CHAPTER 7. CONSERVATION ELEMENT

CONSERVATION ELEMENT GOAL

Regulate the development and use of land in such a manner as to maintain and enhance environmental quality.

Objective 1: Air quality.

In general, protect air quality. In particular promote improved air quality for the region.

Monitoring and Evaluation: The Village shall annually review the assessment of air quality impact analysis results from regional, state and federal agencies. Progress towards meeting this objective shall also be measured by the implementation of the following policies.

Policy 1.1:

The Village shall support Miami-Dade County's efforts to conduct regular monitoring of air quality.

Policy 1.2:

The Village shall require new development to provide adequate means of vehicular ingress and egress to minimize idling time. This policy shall not be interpreted as preventing or restriction measures designed to arrest or retard the movement of traffic for safety or security reasons.

Policy 1.3:

The Village shall pursue the reverent objectives and policies set forth in the Transportation Element in order to facilitate more efficient transportation services and facilities (including public transit facilities, bicycle facilities and pedestrian facilities).

Policy 1.4:

The Village shall take appropriate local action and cooperate with appropriate regulatory agencies in order to control the emission of fumes and vapors from all hazardous waste facilities so that these facilities support the Lowest Achievable Emission Rates. Vapor control systems shall be required to reduce hydrocarbon emissions from vehicles being filled at gas stations.

Policy 1.5:

The Village shall require landscaping as a part of new private development.

Policy 1.6:

The Village shall provide oxygen re-nourishing trees and other landscaping for public grounds.

Policy 1.7:

The Village shall maintain and improve, where appropriate, zoning or other development code regulations, which protect existing trees in a way consistent with the standards of the broader community.

Objective 2: Water quality.

In general, conserve and protect the quality and quantity of current and projected water sources and waters that flow into estuarine waters or oceanic waters. The “In particular” portion of Future Land Use Element Objective 5 is incorporated herein by references.

Monitoring and Evaluation: The Village shall monitor the extent to which water resources are conserved, appropriately used and protected. Progress towards meeting this objective shall also be measured by the implementation of the following policy.

Policy 2.1:

Policies 5.1 through 5.10 of the Future Land Use Element are incorporated herein by reference.

Objective 3: Water quantity.

In general, conserve, appropriately use and protect the quality and quantity of current and projected water sources and waters that flow into estuarine waters or oceanic waters. In particular, achieve a reduction in per capita water consumption in the event of a water supply emergency.

Monitoring and Evaluation: The Village shall monitor the level of service standards in the Village’s Comprehensive Plan and consumption and conservation standards in the Village’s land development regulations.

Policy 3.1:

Emergency water conservation regulations shall be consistent with applicable standards promulgated by the South Florida Water Management District model ordinance and any specific South Florida Water Management District requirements of the specific emergency.

Policy 3.2:

The Village shall assess alternatives to conserve existing water supplies.

Policy 3.3

The Village shall maintain and improve the land development code and other regulations that include the following:

- water conservation-based irrigation requirements
- water conservation-based plant species requirements derived from the South Florida Water Management District’s list of native species and other appropriate sources
- lawn watering restrictions

- use of ultra-low volume water saving devices new construction as required by the Florida Building code
- other water conservation measures, as feasible.

Objective 4: Vegetative communities and soils, wildlife habitat and wildlife.

Conserve, appropriately use and protect native vegetative communities for their own sake and to protect soils, wildlife habitat and wildlife.

Monitoring and Evaluation: Progress towards meeting this objective shall also be measured by the implementation of the following policies.

Policy 4.1:

Policy 1.1 and policies 2.1 through 2.7 of the Coastal Management Element are incorporated herein by reference.

Policy 4.2:

Certain exotic pest plants identified by the State of Florida and Miami-Dade County shall not be sold, propagated, or planted within the Village. If existing on a site to be developed or redeveloped, they shall be removed prior to development.

Policy 4.3:

The Village shall maintain information pertaining to the vegetation on property for which it has maintenance responsibility. The Village administration shall make recommendations for enhancing native vegetation.

Policy 4.4:

The Village shall evaluate the feasibility of incorporating recommendations derived from the implementation of aforementioned Policy 4.3 into the Capital Improvements Budget or the operating budget.

Objective 5: Floodplain protection.

Protect and conserve the natural functions of existing floodplains.

Monitoring and Evaluation: The Village shall maintain and improve land development code provisions governing floodplain protections. Progress towards meeting this objective shall also be measured by the implementation of the following policies.

Policy 5.1:

Floodplain protection regulations shall be consistent with applicable standards promulgated by the South Florida Water Management District, South Florida Regional Planning Council, the Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resource Management, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and/or other agencies with relevant jurisdiction and/or information.

Policy 5.2:

The Village shall remove any and all of the plant types named in Policy 4.2 above from the floodplain properties owned by the Village or from which the Village has maintenance responsibility.

Objective 6: Climate change.

Miami Shores will work to achieve a sustainable climate resilient community. The village recognizes that individual effort is important however, the issue goes beyond one municipality and will require a worldwide concerted effort to address climate change and its effects.

Policy 6.1:

The Village will coordinate with other municipalities, the county, and regional agencies to create, develop and implement a suite of planning tools for potential climate change mitigation, resilience and adoption.

The City will participate in the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact and other intergovernmental and interagency efforts to address potential climate change and its impacts.

Policy 6.2:

The Village will investigate ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from government operations and will monitor and track progress towards this goal.

Policy 6.3:

The Village will support and promote alternative and renewable energy for residential, commercial, and municipal properties by working with the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact and other intergovernmental and interagency efforts to reduce regulatory incentives for renewable and alternative energy installations.

Policy 6.4:

The Village will consider a program for the installation of alternative fuel and electric vehicle charging stations in new public and private parking lots

Policy 6.5:

The Village encourages construction that meets or exceeds Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards, Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC) standards, or Green Building Initiation (GBI) Green Globes rating standards.

Policy 6.6:

The Village will consider as part of Capital Improvement Planning, raising roads in flood susceptible areas to reflect potential sea level rise.

Policy 6.7:

The Village will continue to investigate and implement fuel alternative for fleet vehicles that improve mileage and reduce greenhouse gases.

Policy 6.8:

The Village will reduce the dependence on cars by promoting the use of bicycles for transportation within and through the Village by implementing appropriate recommendations of the Miami Shores Village Multimodal Mobility Study, 2015.

Policy 6.9:

The Village, in coordination with other agencies, shall promote species diversity, the planting of native landscapes, and sustainable urban forest landscape practices to protect the health and resiliency of natural systems to potential climate change.

Policy 6.10:

The Village, will continue to encourage and where appropriate require the planting of native and other drought tolerant trees known to sequester and store high levels of carbon on available public and private lands.

Policy 6.11:

The Village will conduct a climate change study to assess vulnerability, and to develop a plan for hazard mitigation and climate adaptation that will improve community sustainability and resiliency.

The Village will utilize the results of the climate change study to develop policies, strategies and standards that will serve as guidance for climate change related planning efforts and will adopt a Climate Action Plan that contributes to making Miami Shores Village a sustainable, climate resilient community.

The village will continue to work locally and regionally with our partner communities of interest to monitor and address climate change issues.