



## CHAPTER 6: CONSERVATION ELEMENT

**6-1: CONSERVATION GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND IMPLEMENTATION POLICIES.** This section stipulates goals, objectives, and implementing policies for the Conservation Element pursuant to ¶163.3177, F.S.

**GOAL 6-1: CONSERVATION.** The coastal community of Key West shall conserve, protect, and appropriately manage the City's natural coastal resources in order to enhance the quality of natural systems within the community.

**OBJECTIVE 6-1.1: PROTECT AIR QUALITY.** The City shall continue to enforce Land Development Regulations including performance standards which ensure that development meets or exceeds the minimum air quality standards established by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and shall continue to enforce regulatory programs to prevent and/or minimize non-point sources of air pollution (note: the City has no point sources of air pollution).

**Monitoring Measure: Achievement of air quality standards.**

**Policy 6-1.1.1: Combat Erosion and Generation of Dust Particles.** Land Development Regulations shall maintain performance standards which combat erosion and generation of fugitive dust particles. The regulations shall require that measures be taken on building sites or cleared areas which ensure that exposed, destabilized, or other altered soil is expeditiously covered with an acceptable erosion control material.

**Policy 6-1.1.2: Soil Erosion and Sedimentation.** The City shall continue to enforce Land Development Regulations that include performance criteria for soil erosion and sedimentation controls as well as nuisance abatement.

**Policy 6-1.1.3: Reduction of Greenhouse Gasses:** By 2015, the City shall achieve Commission goals of 15% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from 2005 base year per actions including but not limited to the City's Climate Action Plan. The City shall prepare Land Development Regulations that achieve these goals. By 2015, the City shall create a Level of Service (LOS) standard for greenhouse gas emissions. By 2017, the City shall set energy, water, transportation and solid waste efficiency standards to support the greenhouse gas LOS.

**Policy 6-1.1.4: Funding Mechanisms:** By 2016, the City shall create and seek funding for a Sustainability Fund to help underwrite greenhouse gas reduction actions. Implement best practices for use of carbon credits as a funding mechanism to reach and maintain greenhouse gas reduction goals.

**OBJECTIVE 6-1.2: WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY.** Maintain the environmental health of the Florida Keys Reef Tract to ensure that the ambient water quality of both near shore and reef waters is maintained and improved to the adopted standards for Class III Outstanding Florida Waters, or better, in order to protect the economic and social well-being of the citizens of the City of Key West.

Detrimental water quality impacts, including adverse impacts to the coral reef system shall continue to be combated by public facility improvements identified in the Public Facilities Element Goals, Objectives and Policies.

Implementation of the City of Key West Water Supply Facilities Work Plan shall ensure that adequate water supplies and public facilities are available to serve the water supply demands of the expected City population. The City shall coordinate the planning of potable water and sanitary sewer facilities, water supply sources, demands, education, other services and level-of-service standards with the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority, South Florida Water Management District, and through the Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan Update, as necessary.

The City shall enforce performance criteria designed to conserve and protect the quality of current and projected future water sources and surface water run-off.

The City shall continue to coordinate with the South Florida Water Management District for purposes of using resources available through the State's Surface Water Improvement Management (SWIM) program in order to enhance water quality, especially surface waters which are directed to the Atlantic Ocean or the Gulf of Mexico.

**Monitoring Measure: Achievement of water quality and quantity standards.**

**Policy 6-1.2.1: Water Quality, Surface Water Management and Land Use.** The City shall continue to enforce standards in order to protect the quality of the City's water resources and to conform to policies of the City of Key West Critical Area of State Concern Program.

**Policy 6-1.2.2: Regulate Wastewater Treatment Discharge to Preserve Water Quality.** The City shall continue to enforce Land Development Regulations in order to protect water quality and regulate wastewater treatment discharge. All new residential subdivisions as well as multiple family and multi-residential development shall be required to connect to the City's central wastewater system.

**Policy 6-1.2.3: Preserve and Enhance the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico and Canal Shorelines.** In order to stabilize areas susceptible to shoreline erosion, the City shall require that all new development preserve shoreline native vegetation and shall re-vegetate areas along shorelines demonstrating historically erosive tendencies. Where exotic vegetation is present, such vegetation shall be removed and shall be replaced with native plant species.

**Policy 6-1.2.4: Protect Surficial Aquifer Recharge Areas.** The City shall continue to enforce Land Development Regulations which require retention of open space for all development in order to:

1. Preserve the quality and quantity of water resources within the freshwater lens. In updating its Land Development Regulations, the City will evaluate the need to study the function and condition of the freshwater lens;
2. Promote improved surface water management; and
3. Create natural or landscaped urban green space for enhanced community aesthetics and passive pedestrian activities.

**Policy 6-1.2.5: Protection and Conservation of Potable Water Supply.** The City of Key West has no wellfields and has no need for a wellfield protection ordinance. In order to comply with policies of the South Florida Water Management District directed toward conservation of potable water supply and to achieve a reduction in the current rates of water consumption, Land Development Regulations shall be amended to incorporate the following performance standards:

1. Where nonpotable alternative sources of irrigation water are available, potable water supplies

- may not be used to meet irrigation needs.
2. Require the use of high-efficiency water-saving plumbing fixtures on all new development.
  3. In order to reduce demand for irrigation water (which in turn often places greater demand upon potable water sources), at least fifty (50%) percent of all landscaping material obtained from off-site sources for use on any site should be native plant material adapted to soil and climatic conditions existing on the subject site. Further, at least thirty (30%) percent of all trees used in landscaping shall be native species adapted to soil and climatic conditions existing on-site in order to lessen water demand.
  4. The City will explore and pilot innovative concepts in reuse of water, including use of cisterns for collecting rainwater for use in spray irrigation. In addition the City shall study the feasibility of reuse of treated effluent (gray water).
  5. In order to reduce demand for irrigation water, rainwater collection and gray water reuse (if feasible) will be identified.

**Policy 6-1.2.6: Emergency Conservation of Water Sources.** The City shall coordinate with the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) in implementing emergency water conservation measures based on the SFWMD plans for management of the region's water resources.

**Policy 6-1.2.7: Protect and Conserve Salt Ponds, Outstanding Florida Waters.** In order to protect the Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Salt Ponds, the City shall continue to enforce Land Development Regulations designed to regulate against land development activities which adversely impact water quality, contribute to shoreline erosion and sedimentation, or otherwise threaten the long term existence of these water resources, tidal ponds, and freshwater wetlands. The intent of the regulatory measures shall be to conserve and protect these coastal resources from detrimental impacts of development.

**Policy 6-1.2.8: Water Supply Demand.** Implementation of the City Work Plan shall ensure that adequate water supplies and public facilities are available to serve the water supply demands of any population growth that the City may experience.

**Policy 6-1.2.9: Coordinated Water Supply Planning.** The City shall coordinate the planning of potable water and sanitary sewer facilities, water supply sources, demands, other services and level-of-service standards with the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority, South Florida Water Management District, and through the Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan Update, as necessary.

**Policy 6-1.2.10: Issue Response.** If in the future there are issues associated with water supply, conservation or reuse, the City will immediately contact the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority to address the corresponding issue(s). In addition, the City will follow adopted communication protocols with the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority to communicate and/or prepare an appropriate action plan to address any relevant issue(s) associated with water supply, conservation or reuse.

**Policy 6-1.2.11: Efficient Equipment and Appliances.** The City will encourage the use of high efficiency toilets, showerheads, faucets, clothes washers and dishwashers that are Energy Star rated and WaterSense certified in all retrofitted residential and commercial projects.

**Policy 6-1.2.12: Efficient Equipment and Appliances.** The City will require the use of high efficiency/ultra-low volume toilets, showerheads, faucets, clothes washers and dishwashers that are Energy Star rated and WaterSense certified in all new residential and commercial projects.

**Policy 6-1.2.13: Sub-metering for Multi-Unit Development.** The City shall require the use of sub-metering for all multi-unit residential developments which will include: separate meter and monthly records kept of all major water-using functions, such as, cooling towers and individual buildings, in all new and redeveloped multi-family residential projects.

**Policy 6-1.2.14: Landscape Guidelines.** The City will encourage the use of Florida Friendly Landscape guidelines and principals; gutter downspouts, roof runoff, and rain harvesting through the use of cisterns, rain barrels and directing runoff to landscaped areas; drip irrigation or micro-sprinklers; and the use of porous surface materials (bricks, gravel, turf block, mulch, pervious concrete, etc.) on walkways, driveways and patios.

**Policy 6-1.2.15: Water Savings Incentive Program.** The City will participate, when warranted, in the SFWMD's Water Savings Incentive Program (WaterSIP) for large-scale retrofits, as recommended by the Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan.

**Policy 6-1.2.16: Water Conservation Plan.** The City shall coordinate with the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority to submit a water conservation plan. Said plan shall be updated for the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority's approval every five years following submittal and Conserve Florida Guide generated reports shall be filed annually at the close of the fiscal year.

**Policy 6-1.2.17: Landscape Restrictions for Future Development.** The City shall require all future developments to comply with the landscape restrictions for irrigation, as enumerated in Section 74-297 of the City Code, as amended.

**Policy 6-1.2.18: Estimating Non-metered Water Usage.** The City shall cooperate with the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority in estimating non-metered water usage for regulatory reporting.

**OBJECTIVE 6-1.3: MAINTENANCE OF FLOODPLAIN.** The City shall continue to enforce Land Development Regulations which include performance criteria designed to protect the natural functions of the 100-year floodplain in order to protect and maintain its flood-carrying and flood storage capacity.

**Monitoring Measure: Achievement of stormwater drainage Level of Service Standard.**

**Policy 6-1.3.1: Enforce Policies to Maintain Floodplain.** The City shall continue to maintain its surface water management and flood damage prevention regulations. New development encroaching into the floodplain shall incorporate sufficient flood protection measures. The City's Stormwater Management and Flood Protection Ordinance shall maintain consistency with program policies of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The City shall continue to monitor new cost effective programs for minimizing flood damage.

**Policy 6-1.3.2: Land Purchase through Save Our Rivers Program or Other Available State and Federal Programs.** The City shall identify and recommend to the State and the South Florida Water Management District purchase of floodplains, wetlands, littoral zones, upland buffer areas, lands and migratory pathways that support threatened or endangered fish or wildlife, or other lands needed to retain or store water that would comply with program guidelines established under the Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) Program, the Save Our Rivers (SOR) Program or other land acquisition programs administered by the federal or state government.

**OBJECTIVE 6-1.4: PROTECT AND PRESERVE WETLANDS.** The City shall continue to enforce

Land Development Regulations which include performance criteria designed to protect and preserve wetlands from physical and hydrologic alterations.

**Monitoring Measure: Acreage of protected wetlands in the City.**

**Policy 6-1.4.1: Wetland Development Restrictions.** Wetlands (i.e., wetlands shall be determined based on hydric soils, hydrology, and wetland plant species identified by the DEP pursuant to Section 62-340.450, Florida Administrative Code) shall be protected from physical or hydrologic alterations in order to maintain natural functions. Wetland protection regulations shall be consistent with applicable State and federal regulatory policies affecting the specific sites. Wetlands have the following functions:

1. Wetlands serve important natural biological functions, including food chain production; and general habitat; and nesting, spawning, rearing, and resting sites for aquatic or land species;
2. Wetlands are an integral part of natural drainage systems impacting sedimentation patterns, salinity distribution, flushing characteristics, current patterns, and other environmental characteristics;
3. Wetlands can be significant in shielding other areas from wave action, erosion, or storm damage;
4. Wetlands serve as valuable storage areas for storm water and flood waters;
5. Wetlands can be prime natural recharge areas. Prime recharge areas are locations where surface water and groundwater are directly interconnected; and
6. Wetlands provide natural water filtration processes which serve to purify water.

No development is permitted within wetlands, except where state and/or federal agencies having jurisdiction provide for development rights.

**Monitoring Measure: Achievement of stormwater drainage Level of Service Standard.**

**Policy 6-1.4.2: Protection of Upland Buffer Areas.** The upland buffer is an area landward of the upland edge of a wetland (i.e., the upland/wetland jurisdictional line if applicable). The buffer area has a direct groundwater or surface water influence and provides an upland buffer which separates developed upland from a wetland area. The purpose of the buffer area is to ensure the continuing function of respective wetland communities, prevent pollutants from surface water runoff from entering the wetlands, and to enhance water quality. The City shall retain the right to prohibit development within the buffer area. Wetland protection regulations shall as a minimum be consistent with applicable State and federal regulatory policies affecting the specific sites. The boundary of an upland buffer area shall be established by field investigation and shall be consistent with South Florida Water Management District permitting standards for upland buffers adjacent to wetlands. The City shall research certification programs which encourage responsible business practices by plant professionals.

**Monitoring Measure: Achievement of stormwater drainage Level of Service Standard.**

**Policy 6-1.4.3: Dedication of Conservation Easements or Reservations.** The City shall continue to enforce Land Development Regulations designed to protect and preserve wetlands and upland buffer areas. The City shall utilize the Subdivision Ordinance and the Wetland Preservation Ordinance to provide for the dedication of conservation easements or reservations where the City finds that the dedication is reasonable in order to protect the value and function of a wetland. The City will explore using conservation easements to help preserve wetlands and natural areas.

**Monitoring Measure: Achievement of stormwater drainage Level of Service Standard.**

**OBJECTIVE 6-1.5: COMBAT SOIL EROSION.** The City shall continue to enforce Land Development Regulations designed to reduce the incidence of soil erosion caused by land clearing, breaches in stabilized shorelines, and lands having exposed soil without vegetative cover.

**Monitoring Measure: Reduced incidence of soil erosion.**

**Policy 6-1.5.1: Implementing Erosion Control.** The City shall continue to enforce Land Development Regulations which require that appropriate measures be taken during land clearing and building operations to ensure that exposed, destabilized or otherwise altered soil is expeditiously covered with an acceptable erosion control material.

**OBJECTIVE 6-1.6: PREVENTING POTENTIAL ADVERSE IMPACTS OF FUTURE MINING OF MINERALS AND MINERAL EXCAVATION ACTIVITIES.** No mining activities shall be permitted within the City since the City is characterized by natural systems which would potentially experience irretrievable losses from the impacts of such operations.

**Monitoring Measure: No permitted mining activities in the City.**

**OBJECTIVE 6-1.7: PROTECT NATIVE VEGETATION AND MARINE HABITATS.** The City shall continue to enforce Land Development Regulations designed to protect and retain major vegetative communities and marine habitats, including the beach and dune communities, the hardwood hammock community, tidal and freshwater wetlands, mangroves, near and offshore reefs, patch reefs, seagrasses, and other living marine resources.

**Monitoring Measure: Acreage of protected vegetative communities and marine habitats.**

**Policy 6-1.7.1: Implementing Protection of Vegetative Communities and Marine Habitats.** The City shall continue to enforce all adopted regulations which mandate restoration in order to compensate for loss of vegetation and to enhance stabilization of fragile slopes and/or shorelines impacted by development.

**Policy 6-1.7.2: Preservation of Native Plant Communities.** The City shall continue to enforce all adopted regulations which mandate that new development preserve, as a minimum, all wetlands and ninety (90) percent of hardwood hammocks. No development is permitted in wetlands, except where State and/or federal agencies having jurisdiction provide for development rights. Wetland protection regulations shall at a minimum be consistent with applicable State and federal regulatory policies affecting the specific sites.

**Policy 6-1.7.3: Removal of Undesirable Exotic Vegetation.** The City shall continue to enforce all adopted regulations which require that prior to the issuance of a certificate of occupancy for a new development, the owner/applicant shall remove all nuisance and invasive exotic vegetation from the site for which a development order or permit is requested. Invasive species lists should be referenced from the peer reviewed rankings by Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council and the Florida Keys Invasive Exotic Task Force.

**Policy 6-1.7.4: Protection of Manatee Habitats.** Although the City of Key West is not a prime area for manatee habitats, there have been sightings of manatees. The City shall continue to promote protection of manatee habitats in a manner consistent with guidelines of the State. For instance, the City shall continue to comply with the following State Guidelines:

1. The City of Key West shall assist Monroe County, the State, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other State and federal agencies, in developing an area-specific manatee protection plan and marina sighting plan in order to ensure long-range manatee and habitat protection.
2. Construction and expansion of multislip docking facilities and boat ramps shall be directed to locations where there is quick access to deep, open water, where the associated increase in boat traffic will be outside the areas of high manatee concentration, and where wetlands supporting manatee habitat will not be disturbed.
3. Permit applications for all boating facilities, including single family docks and dry storage, shall be evaluated in the context of cumulative impacts on manatees and marine resources.
4. The City shall assist the State in distributing State publications and educational materials on coastal and marine resource conservation, and manatees in particular, to boaters, and assist the display of such materials.
5. Slow or idle speed zones shall be adopted, with or without channel exemptions as appropriate, in areas frequented by manatees. Enforcement of speed zones should be improved.
6. The City shall assist the State in protecting manatees from injury and disturbance resulting from aquatic commercial and recreational activities.
7. Manatee food requirements shall be taken into account in all aquatic plant management activities where manatees may occur.
8. The City shall assist the State in ensuring the protection of habitat of special significance to manatees.

**Policy 6-1.7.5: Increase of Native Plant Communities:** The City shall increase use of native plants by creating an Urban Beautification Plan which calls for increased canopy cover, and highlights the use of natives, and flowering non-natives in discrete entry and accent locations.

**Monitoring Measure: Achievement of stormwater drainage Level of Service Standard.**

**OBJECTIVE 6-1.8: PROTECTING FISHERIES, WILDLIFE AND WILDLIFE HABITATS** The City shall continue to enforce Land Development Regulations which include performance criteria which prevent disturbance of seagrass beds, wetlands, mangroves, uplands and other habitats of endangered or threatened species. The performance criteria shall protect fisheries, wildlife, and wildlife habitats from the adverse impacts of development by regulating the location, density, and intensity of those activities which cause the adverse impact. The City shall continue to enforce these Land Development Regulations and shall coordinate with Monroe County, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the South Florida Water Management District, South Florida Regional Planning Council and the State in promoting protection of fisheries, wildlife, and wildlife habitats. The City shall enact or support certification programs which encourage environmentally responsible practices by businesses operating in or near natural areas.

**Monitoring Measure: Inclusion of performance criteria and protection mechanisms in the Land Development Regulations.**

**Policy 6-1.8.1: Manage the Impacts of Development on Fisheries.** The City shall continue to implement procedures for coordinating with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the South Florida Water Management District, as appropriate, in reviewing the implications of development proposals, including proposed subdivisions and site plan review petitions. Such coordination shall be designed to assist in identifying potential adverse impacts of proposed development on marine habitats and fisheries, especially the coral reef tract. The City shall continue to implement Land Development Regulations

which are designed to preserve the water quality and which protect marine grassbeds, tidal wetlands, mangroves, freshwater wetlands, and the coral reef tract in order to preserve marine habitats and fisheries.

**Monitoring Measure: Achievement of stormwater drainage Level of Service Standard.**

**Policy 6-1.8.2: Protect Wildlife and Wildlife Habitats.** The City shall continue to enforce Land Development Regulations which restrict development activities known to adversely impact endangered, threatened, or rare wildlife and wildlife habitats as well as wildlife and wildlife habitats of special concern. The regulations shall ensure that standards are incorporated to ensure preservation of habitats supporting threatened and endangered species. The City shall further protect wildlife and wildlife habitats by promoting public acquisition and the dedication of conservation easements or reservations as specified herein in Policy 6-1.4.3. The City shall continue to distribute educational pamphlets designed to promote knowledge and awareness of endangered and threatened species.

**Policy 6-1.8.3: Prevention of Invasive Exotics.** The City shall create Land Development Regulations to help protect wildlife and wildlife habitats from invasive exotic plants and animals. This will be done by prioritizing preventative policies, as well as building capacity for early detection rapid response actions for those species deemed highly invasive, with the exception of decorative plant species used in discrete entry and accent locations on public land and property, and implementing a comprehensive integrated pest management system. The City shall research certification programs which encourage responsible business practices by plant professionals.

**OBJECTIVE 6-1.9: PROTECT CONSERVATION LAND RESOURCES.** The City shall continue to enforce Land Development Regulations which ensure that designated conservation land resources, are protected based on locally determined criteria which further the goals, objectives and policies of the Conservation Element.

The Future Land Use Map series delineates conservation land resources defined as upland and wetland vegetative communities, coastal shoreline resources, and the 100 year flood plain.

All conservation land resources shall either remain undeveloped or shall undergo "restricted development." The term "restricted development" means those development options provided for pursuant to development rights and restrictions stipulated in the Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Regulations as may be hereinafter amended.

**Monitoring Measure: Acres of designated conservation lands.**

**Policy 6-1.9.1: Designation of Environmentally Sensitive Areas.** Coastal shoreline resources, wetlands, and upland habitats shall continue to be managed, protected and preserved through the regulatory framework. The Future Land Use Map series identifies these environmentally sensitive systems.

**OBJECTIVE 6-1.10: HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT.** The City shall continue to coordinate with Monroe County as well as appropriate State and regional agencies in developing effective plans for managing hazardous waste. The City shall prohibit storage or disposal of hazardous waste in a manner which adversely impacts natural resources.

**Monitoring Measure: Interlocal agreements for handling hazardous waste, and continued**

**prohibition of hazardous waste disposal in the City.**

**Policy 6-1.10.1: Detection and Elimination of Non-Stormwater Discharges.** The City shall continue to detect and eliminate non-stormwater discharges to protect marine habitats and near shore water quality.

**OBJECTIVE 6-1.11: INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION FOR MANAGING CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES.** Continue to implement the intergovernmental coordination mechanism in order to manage natural resources and assist in implementing appropriate laws, ordinances, and plans of existing federal, State, regional and local agencies sharing responsibilities for managing natural resources within the City.

**Monitoring Measure: Interlocal agreements and/or intergovernmental coordination mechanisms with agencies with jurisdiction over natural resources.**

**Policy 6-1.11.1: Implementing Policies for Intergovernmental Coordination in Managing Conservation Activities.** Policy 5-1.12.1 in the Coastal Management Element identifies policies for coordinating planning issues surrounding natural resources within the City. These policies shall continue to be applied in managing intergovernmental activities associated with protecting, conserving, and preserving natural resources within the City. The City shall contact professionals with expertise in conservation resources, including the Urban Forester, Soil Conservationist, Agricultural Extension Agent and other similar professionals who may be employed with the County or the State in managing conservation issues including but not limited to protecting unique vegetative communities located within the City as well as other portions of Monroe County.

**Monitoring Measure: Achievement of stormwater drainage Level of Service Standard.**

**OBJECTIVE 6-1.12: CONTINUING EVALUATION OF THE CONSERVATION ELEMENT EFFECTIVENESS.** The City shall use the following policies as criteria in evaluating the effectiveness of the Conservation Element.

**Monitoring Measure: Achievement of implementing policies.**

**Policy 6-1.12.1: Review the Impact of Changing Conditions on Conservation Policy.** The City shall monitor and evaluate significant changes, including climate change, in the characteristics of natural resources within the City. Policy implications of such changes shall be examined and corrective measures shall be pursued. Conservation policies shall be refined as needed in order to remain responsive to evolving problems and issues.

**Policy 6-1.12.2: Schedule, Budget and Implement Programmed Activities.** The timely scheduling, programming, budgeting and implementation of programmed conservation activities identified in this Element shall be evidence of the City's effectiveness in carrying out a systematic program for implementing conservation goals, objectives, and policies.

**Policy 6-1.12.3: Coordinate with Public and Private Sectors.** While continually implementing and evaluating the Conservation Element the City shall maintain a process of intergovernmental coordination as well as coordination with private sector groups interested in conservation policy and programs. The effectiveness of this approach shall be evaluated by the success of coordination mechanisms in resolving conservation problems and issues.

**Policy 6-1.12.4: Achieve Effective Resolution of Conservation Goals, Objectives and Policies.** The effectiveness of the Conservation Element shall be measured by the City's success in achieving conservation goals, objectives and policies. The Conservation Element incorporates a systematic planning process for identifying conservation problems and issues and implementing corrective measures.

**OBJECTIVE 6-1.13: IMPLEMENTING POLICIES FROM THE 2011 CITY OF KEY WEST STRATEGIC PLAN.** The City adopts the following conservation policies from the 2011 Strategic Plan:

**Monitoring Measure: Achievement of the implementing policies.**

**Policy 6-1.13.1: Conduct an Environmental Scan.** By 2014, the City shall conduct an Environmental Scan to provide a baseline for future environmental audits.

**Policy 6-1.13.2: Develop an Environmental Education Plan.** By 2015, the City shall develop and implement a comprehensive environmental education plan for residents and visitors which focuses on protecting and enhancing the environment.

**Policy 6-1.13.3: Community-wide Environmental Agenda.** By 2014, the City shall collaborate with state, Monroe County and partners to develop a community-wide Environmental Action Plan, including measurable goals and timetables.

**OBJECTIVE 6-1.14: CARBON SEQUESTRATION THROUGH PLANTS.** As part of an overall landscaping plan to increase beautification and walkability, the City shall incorporate greenhouse gas sequestration goals and priorities to meet the City's Climate Action Plan goals.

**Monitoring Measure: Inclusion of greenhouse gas sequestration goals in landscaping and urban design plans.**

**OBJECTIVE 6-1.15: PLANNING FOR RESILIENCY AND ADAPTATION IN NATURAL AREAS.** The City shall research and pilot conservation actions which enhance the resiliency and adaptation of fisheries, wildlife and wildlife habitats. This may include identification of Adaptation Action Areas.

**Monitoring Measure: Identification of Adaptation Action Areas and implementation of pilot conservation projects.**

**OBJECTIVE 6-1.16: PROMOTION OF RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP.** The City shall research and implement business certification programs which encourage responsible conservation practices.

**Monitoring Measure: Implementation of business certification programs.**