

TACKLING ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Forest landowners, University of Florida and Environmental Defense team up to reduce carbon footprint

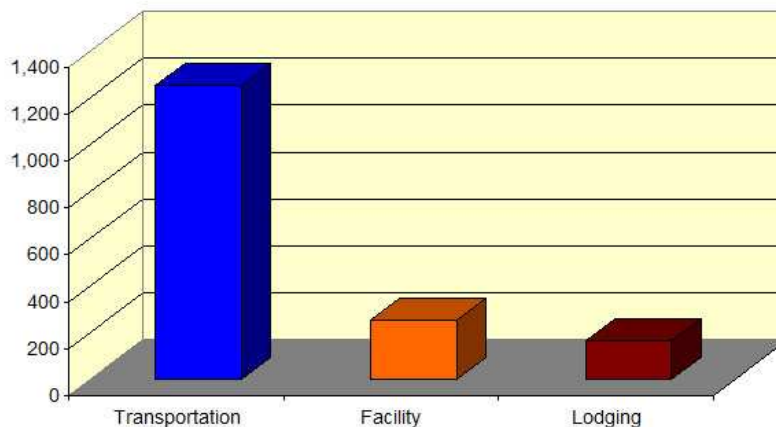
EVENT SUMMARY
FOR RELEASE 11.19.07

Vowing to make the UF vs. FSU game on November 24 a climate-neutral event, the Florida Forestry Association (FFA), University of Florida (UF) and Environmental Defense have teamed up to offset 1750 metric tons of carbon dioxide to be emitted into the Gainesville air on game day. The effort will be the first to offset greenhouse gases (GHG) created by a college football event.

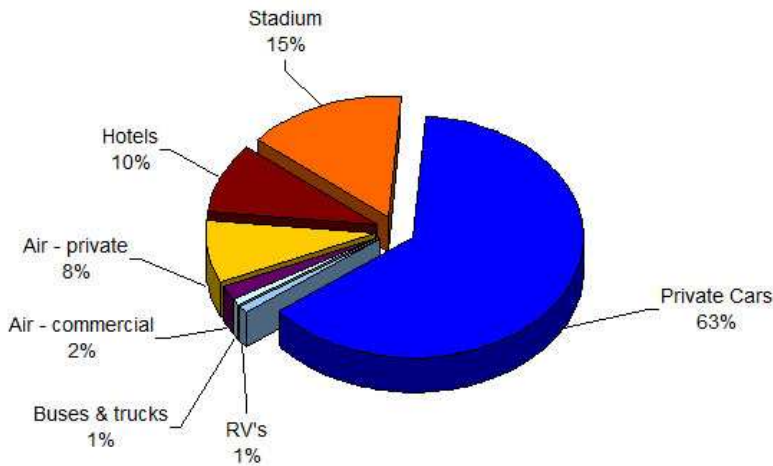
The Florida Forestry Association worked with the UF's Office of Sustainability and the International Carbon Bank and Exchange (ICBE) to calculate how much carbon would be emitted during the game. FFA contracted with UF's School of Forest Resources and Conservation to determine how much carbon could be sequestered in a managed forest tract. Well-managed pine forests in Florida absorb and store carbon in wood and soil. The research, supported by Environmental Defense, provided guidance on measuring the carbon that can be captured and stored by forests. The final step was to determine how many acres would be needed to offset the emissions.

On and off the field activities from fan travel to field lighting are projected to generate 1750 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions. To calculate the carbon footprint generated by the UF vs. FSU game, factors such as fan automobiles, RVs, bus and air travel, hotel and utility usage were considered. Crowd size was estimated at 88,000.

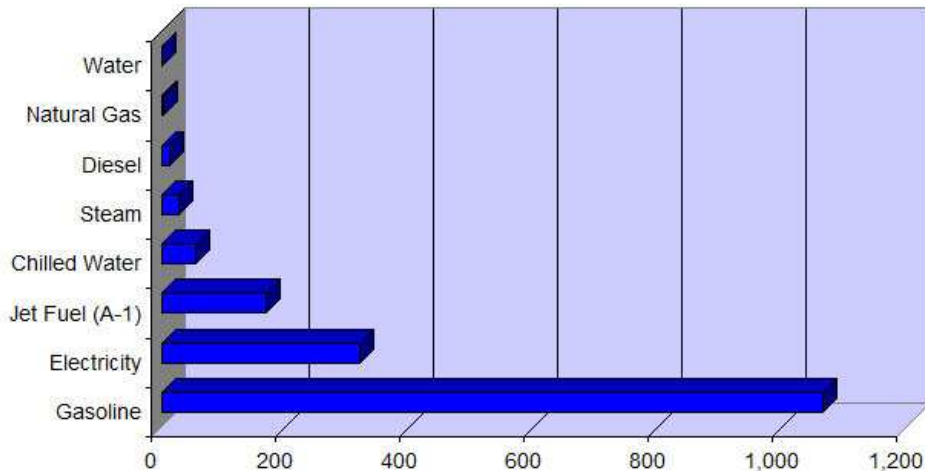
UF-FSU Footprint in tCO₂, by activity sector



UF-FSU Footprint ~ 1,750 tCO2



UF-FSU Footprint in tCO2, by resource consumption



To counter the expected emissions of the game, Environmental Defense is purchasing carbon offsets in an amount equal to the GHG generated by the game and its related activities. Subject to technical review, offsets will come from reforestation (tree planting) and improved management of forestlands in nearby Dixie County. The land is owned by long time UF supporters Jim and Winston Bailey and managed by Natural Resource Planning Services, Inc. (If needed, offsets from other sources will also be acquired; all offsets acquired by Environmental Defense will be permanently retired and never re-sold.)

Well-managed pine forest can store large amounts of carbon dioxide. For example, over a 10-year period in the middle of a management cycle, 18 acres of pine plantation forest –about 14 football fields worth – will take up and store the same amount of carbon dioxide as will be emitted by the November 24th game.

Florida slash pine plantation carbon balance calculations
values are in metric tons C per hectare

year	age	silviculture	fluxpaper	harvestc	nee	cbalance
1998	0	-0.095	0	0	-12.5	-12.595
1999	1	-0.101	0	0	-9.1	-9.201
2000	2	0	0	0	-4.7	-4.7
2001	3	0	0	0	-0.2	-0.2
2002	4	0	0	0	0.9	0.9
2003	5	0	0	0	1.9	1.9
2004	6	-0.268	0	0	2.9	2.632
2005	7	0	0	0	3.9	3.9
2006	8	0	0	0	4.9	4.9
2007	9	0	0	0	5.9	5.9
2008	10	0	0	0	6.5	6.5
2009	11	0	0	0	6.3	6.3
2010	12	0	0	0	6.8	6.8
2011	13	0	0	0	6.3	6.3
2012	14	0	0	0	6.5	6.5
2013	15	0	0	0	6.5	6.5
2014	16	0	0	0	6.5	6.5
2015	17	0	0	0	6.5	6.5
2016	18	0	0	0	6.5	6.5
2017	19	0	0	0	6.5	6.5
2018	20	-0.268	0	0	6.5	6.232
2019	21	0	0	0	6.5	6.5
2020	22	0	0	0	6.5	6.5
2021	23	0	0	0	6.5	6.5
2022	24	0	0	0	7.5	7.5
2023	25	0	0	0	6.4	6.4
2024	26	0	0	0	6.5	6.5
2025	27	0	0	0	6.5	6.5
2026	28	0	0	0	6.5	6.5
2027	29	0	0	0	6.5	6.5
2028	30	-0.456	37.9653	-65.4575	6.5	-21.4481

For plantation established in 1999:
10 years from 2008-2017

Total C fixed	64.9	metric tons C/ha
Total C fixed	238.0	metric tons CO2/ha
Total C fixed	96.3	metric tons CO2/ac

Acres to fix 1750 tons CO2	18.2	acres
Football fields to fix 1500 tons CO2	13.8	football fields

The purpose of this initiative is to show the vital role that forests play in helping combat climate change. Going climate neutral means UF will counteract the greenhouse gases such an event produces by investing in climate friendly projects that either reduce carbon dioxide emissions elsewhere or increase storage of carbon dioxide. Storing carbon in renewable forest resources is a down-to-earth way of achieving this goal.

About Green House Gas Emissions (GHG)

The standard for measuring greenhouse gas emissions is the metric ton. It is a unit of weight equal to 1000 kilograms, or 2204.6 pounds.

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is the most prevalent greenhouse gas due to human activity emitted from the burning of fossil fuels. Fossil fuels are used in everything from the electricity production to automobiles. Greenhouse gases trap heat in the atmosphere. Natural greenhouse gases give Earth its habitable temperature. However, as humans increase the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere by burning fossil fuels, these gases trap excess heat and are major contributors to global warming.

In addition to making the game itself a carbon-neutral event, this initiative also demonstrates that forest landowners, environmental groups and the University of Florida are concerned about climate change and are willing to take action together.

“Private forest landowners own more than 60 percent of Florida’s forests, and well-managed forests play a vital role in combating climate change, says Jeff Doran, Executive Vice President, Florida Forestry Association. The faster a tree grows, the more carbon dioxide it removes. Since Florida’s climate provides optimal growing conditions, our forests can be very efficient scrubbers of greenhouse gases,” Doran concluded.

“Florida’s 1,300 miles of coastline mean we’re the state that is most vulnerable to climate change, so it’s especially fitting that this is the first NCAA game to help tackle the problem,” said Jerry Karnas, Florida Climate Project Director for Environmental

Defense. "Only one team will emerge victorious from the UF v. FSU game next weekend, but either way this is a big win for Florida and our environment."

"This is a way for us to highlight the fact that even routine college events like football games generate large amounts of greenhouse gasses," said Dedee DeLongpré-Johnston, the Director of UF's Office of Sustainability. "We also want to show that we can help to counteract these emissions, and that Florida's forests have value beyond their usefulness for paper products." "This project is a great public kick-off for our plans to make UF a carbon neutral campus. We hope it raises awareness of the emissions generated by big events. At 18 acres for one game, we can do some quick calculations to see that we would need 126 acres to be managed for 10 years just to offset our football program for one year."

In addition to forest products like lumber and paper that contribute \$16.6 billion to Florida's economy each year, well-managed forests also provide critical environmental services that benefit us all. The Florida Forestry Association hopes the "Green Bowl" at Florida Field on November 24th will inspire Floridians and people throughout the world to choose low-carbon options in their own lives.

Additional information is available at www.sustainable.ufl.edu