



The SNRE Program in Land Use

Florida is a bellwether growth state, with its population projected to grow by 11.5 million over the next 25 years, doubling by 2050, and soon becoming the third largest state in the nation. This unprecedented growth is occurring in the middle of hurricane alley, where 80 percent of the population lives within 50 miles of a coastline. SNRE decided to make its top priority the creation of a Land Use Dynamics program, based on the premise that how land is occupied is the single most important determinant of sustainability.

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Growth Pressures on Florida Counties

In response to Florida's exploding population growth, UF researchers studied the impacts of growth pressure in four counties and looked at ways local communities can positively contribute to sustainable natural resource use and planning. [More >>](#)



Hydrologic Observatory for Suwannee Watershed

A group of University of Florida researchers has positioned UF as a leader of a multi-institution research team working to create a hydrologic observatory in the Suwannee River watershed. [More >>](#)

Perspectives

Programs Show Strong Growth

We are pleased to report on our progress in developing programs related to land use dynamics in Florida. We have partnered with New College of Florida in the proposed creation of a land use institute and have created an interdisciplinary faculty work group on-campus to help us design a new Land Use Dynamics program. Another major effort has reached completion since the first newsletter. SNRE has finalized its first strategic plan, the "SNRE Action Plan for 2006-2011."

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Program Puts Budding Researchers into Public School Science Classes

An innovative educational program that places University of Florida graduate students in area middle schools to run hands-on science labs is now being funded by the National Science Foundation for a second round, a move that gives the program the potential of becoming a permanent component of graduate training in the sciences.

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Biomass as Energy Source

As a surge in oil and natural gas prices brings new momentum to the search for alternative energy sources, second-semester PhD student Brian Becker researches biomass as a viable energy source. [More >>](#)

Faculty Focus

The School of Natural Resources and Environment welcomes Martin Gold as an associate director for special projects. Gold is spearheading the new Land Use Dynamics program. [More >>](#)