

1000 Friends of Florida
Dr. John M. DeGrove Webinar
Sustainable Landscaping: Principles and Practices
November 1, 2018

Context

This presentation is titled Sustainable Landscaping: Principles and Practices. To begin with we would like to propose a few working definitions for sustainable landscaping.

The first is:

To provide equivalent value to society with landscaping while minimizing the use of inputs, primarily, water, nutrients, horticultural chemicals, labor, fuel and equipment.

The second definition builds on the first and is:

To increase the societal value landscaping provides by incorporating functional and environmental goals such as: stormwater management, water quality, wildlife habitat, heat reduction, energy efficiency, economic development and human health and well-being.

This presentation is a collaboration between myself and Dr. Jones. For the past 10 years, Dr. Jones and I have exchanged ideas and information on best practices, current research, and industry trends related to sustainable landscaping in Florida. Our collaboration is a partnership between academia and industry. We believe this intersection is critical to the development and eventual widespread adoption of sustainable landscaping practices.

In recent years, Dr. Jones and I have had the opportunity to work on several projects that have incorporated sustainable landscaping practices. These real-world case studies are helping us define a path forward for shifting the landscaping paradigm in Florida towards a more sustainable approach. Ultimately this is part of a broader conversation which includes all engaged industry professionals, academic and research professionals, and governmental agencies and non-profits interested in sustainable landscaping.

In this presentation we will begin by reviewing the current conditions and context, followed by a discussion of current industry best practices, selected case studies and research. In closing we will discuss next level ideas for moving the industry forward and creating a framework for the implementation of sustainable landscaping at an industry scale. Specifically, we will discuss how the development of quantifiable standards and third-party certification can create market incentive as well as regulatory accountability for sustainable landscaping.

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