

Florida League of Cities

A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC., SUPPORTING THE EARTH CHARTER, WHICH ENCOURAGES THE BUILDING OF A SUSTAINABLE WORLD BASED ON RESPECT FOR NATURE, UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS, ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND CULTURE OF PEACE, AND ENCOURAGING THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES TO ADOPT THIS AT THE CONGRESS OF CITIES AND EXPOSITION IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA, ON DECEMBER 4-8, 2001.

WHEREAS, the Earth Charter is a declaration of the fundamental principles for a sustainable future and an urgent call to build a global partnership for sustainable development; and

WHEREAS, for over a decade hundreds of groups and thousands of individuals throughout the world have been involved in the process of drafting an Earth Charter; and

WHEREAS, the principles of the Earth Charter present a conception of sustainable development and set forth fundamental guidelines for achieving it; and

WHEREAS, the Earth Charter is guided by a commitment to the principle of meeting our needs today, while at the same time enhancing the ability of future generations to meet their needs; and

WHEREAS, the Earth Charter sets forth an integrated approach to community development that addresses respect and care for the community of life, ecological integrity, social and economic justice, and democracy, non-violence and peace; and

WHEREAS, the Earth Charter offers principles that will be helpful to cities in addressing pressing issues and challenges:

In order to fulfill these broad commitments, it is necessary to:

I. RESPECT AND CARE FOR THE COMMUNITY OF LIFE

- Respect Earth and life in all its diversity.
- Care for the community of life with understanding, compassion and love.
- Build democratic societies that are just, participatory, sustainable and peaceful.
- Secure Earth's bounty and beauty for present and future generations.

II. ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY

- Protect and restore the integrity of Earth's ecological systems, with special concern for biological diversity and the natural processes that sustain life.
- Prevent harm as the best method of environmental protection and, when knowledge is limited, apply a precautionary approach.
- Adopt patterns of production, consumption and reproduction that safeguard Earth's regenerative capacities, human rights and community well-being.
- Advance the study of ecological sustainability and promote the open exchange and wide application of the knowledge acquired.

III. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

- Eradicate poverty as an ethical, social and environmental imperative.
- Ensure that economic activities and institutions at all levels promote human development in an equitable and sustainable manner.
- Affirm gender equality and equity as prerequisites to sustainable development and ensure universal access to education, health care and economic opportunity.
- Uphold the right of all, without discrimination, to a natural and social environment supportive of human dignity, bodily health and spiritual well-being, with special attention to the rights of indigenous peoples and minorities.

IV. DEMOCRACY, NONVIOLENCE AND PEACE

- Strengthen democratic institutions at all levels, and provide transparency and accountability in governance, inclusive participation in decision making, and access to justice.
- Integrate into formal education and life-long learning the knowledge, values and skills needed for a sustainable way of life.
- Treat all living beings with respect and consideration.
- Promote a culture of tolerance, nonviolence and peace; and

WHEREAS, the Florida League of Cities adopts this statement as a commitment to the stewardship responsibilities inherent in municipal governance and encourages member local governments to adopt the charter, and further encourages the National League of Cities to adopt these principles at the Congress of Cities and Exposition in December 2001.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:

Section 1. That the Florida League of Cities, Inc. supports the principles of the Earth Charter and the preservation of sustainable communities to provide quality of life for Florida's citizens.

Section 2. That Florida cities and National League of Cities are urged to formally review and debate the Earth Charter and its relationship to their work.

Section 3. That a copy of this resolution be provided to the Florida Congressional Delegation, the National League of Cities and other interested parties.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 75th Annual Conference, at the Wyndham Palace, Lake Buena Vista, Florida, this 25th Day of August 2001.

Scott Maddox, President
Florida League of Cities, Inc.
Mayor, City of Tallahassee

ATTEST:
Michael Sittig, Executive Director
Florida League of Cities, Inc.