Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Energy Conservation: 
Development Impacts Under HB 697

by Paul D’Arelli, Ujjval Vyas, Pierce Jones and Dennis Gilkey

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University of Florida Program for Resource Efficient Communities: Land Development and Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Series

This 112-page policy analysis report is the first in an anticipated series that will attempt to help developers, built environment professionals, and local governments manage the coming changes associated with the need to address climate change and long-term energy use and resources in an environmentally and economically sustainable manner.

The report focuses on Florida’s new requirements under House Bill 697 to include energy efficient land use patterns, greenhouse gas reduction strategies and energy conservation in future land use elements of local comprehensive plans. It summarizes experiences from California under similar requirements and outlines potential ways that developers, built environment professionals, and local governments can comply with Florida’s bill. Recognizing that the Department of Community Affairs’ rulemaking is still evolving, the report gives the development practitioner and local government planner the most current information on DCA’s guidance for compliance, with anticipated updates to be made in future editions.

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