

THINKING, PLANNING, SPEAKING, ACTING TOGETHER REGIONALLY FOR SUCCESS.



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Become an Envision Strategy Partner with Envision Coastal Alabama's 2009-2010 Leadership Team

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Envision Strategy Partners In Action

Economy

Coastal Economy Outlook: Current Answers to Local Questions on the Coastal Economy

The Coastal Economy Outlook, sponsored by Envision Coastal Alabama, the USA Center for Real Estate Studies, the Baldwin County Economic Development Alliance and the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, provided powerful insight on the most important economic factors facing coastal Alabama. The topics presented reflected current trends and pressing issues impacting the coastal economy from both a local, regional and national perspective.

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Chair Sheila Bair served as the keynote for the 2008 Coastal Economy Outlook. In her presentation, Bair discussed current credit markets, federal regulations and restrictions and the impact on the Southeastern economy.

Education

Southwest Alabama Workforce Development Council - Region 9: A Regional Workforce System

Formed in May of 2008, the Southwest Alabama Workforce Development Council – Region 9 (SAWDC-9) is an eight-county organization designed to bring together K-12 education, higher education and technical training programs, federal workforce dollars and industry to the same table to solve many of southwest Alabama's workforce issues.

Under the direction of Jim Kellen, Envision co-chair for education, the organization's mission is to develop strategic partnerships which attract, educate and train students and workers to better meet employer needs and to foster economic growth in a global marketplace.

Environment

GreenCoast 2008: Building healthy places to live and work

GreenCoast 2008, the premiere green build conference on the Northern Gulf Coast, was produced by Smart Coast in collaboration with the U.S. Green Building Council – Alabama, Mississippi, and Northern Gulf Coast, Florida Chapters. Smart Coast is a regional non-profit organization promoting balanced development and a healthy Gulf Coast region. The GreenCoast conference featured interactive education sessions on commercial and residential design and construction as well as public topics related to sustainability.

Equity

HOUSING:

Affordable Housing: Creating housing opportunities one block at a time - DASH for the Gulf Coast

The HillsDale community has assumed the motto "forging a future" to describe its neighborhood revitalization efforts. Located in west Mobile adjacent to the University of South Alabama, this once-vibrant neighborhood is embarking on a plan to reclaim its sense of community and attract new residents.

Spearheaded by the residents and supported by DASH (Dependable, Affordable, Sustainable Housing) for the Gulf Coast, a NeighborWorks® affiliate, the revitalization plan will build 220 new homes and renovate 24 existing homes in the neighborhood. The total investment is estimated at almost \$27 million.

Baldwin Housing Alliance

The Baldwin Housing Alliance was formed in January 2008, with the vision that every resident will have access to safe, secure, decent, and affordable housing. The mission of this 501(c)(3) registered non-profit is to educate and to provide access to affordable, safe, quality housing to the growing community of Baldwin County utilizing resources in governmental organizations, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), philanthropic and private sectors.

TRANSIT:

Park That Car and "Try Transit" - The Wave's Try Transit Week

Commuters are turning to The Wave Transit System as the alternative to driving their cars and paying very high prices for gasoline. They have found the Wave to be inexpensive, safe and reliable. People are saving on gasoline as well as parking fees, and are saving on the wear and tear on their cars. To encourage this trend, the Wave Transit organized "Try Transit Week." The purpose of this ongoing event is to promote public transit as a viable alternative for those that have traditionally overlooked the bus as useful transportation solution.

Baylinc: Working Together to Connect Communities and Lives

Due to the public's high demand and increased ridership, Baylinc, a joint transportation effort between the Baldwin Rural Area Transportation System (BRATS) and The Wave Transit System of Mobile began a third route in June 2008.

Local, state and federal elected officials, chambers of commerce, the Baldwin County Public Transportation Coalition, members of transportation task forces, community leaders and many other transit stakeholders from both sides of Mobile Bay are all credited for the years of hard work to get a third Baylinc system running. The new route will travel from Fairhope, Daphne and Spanish Fort to Bienville Square in downtown Mobile.

Envision Coastal Alabama's 2009- 2010 Leadership Team

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As Envision Coastal Alabama enters its second decade, this bi-county partnership continues to unify, strengthen and enhance efforts to promote a successful regional planning initiative. Through volunteer support and involvement, Envision strategies have resulted in a community development framework greatly impacting the landscape of coastal Alabama.

Developed to better define the community's vision for future growth, the four E's –Environment, Economy, Education and Equity – remain the focal point of the Envision strategy. These key focus areas have fostered a collaborative planning process that continues to promote coastal Alabama as the most vibrant community in this region.

Unparalleled leadership and volunteer support have always served as the driving force behind Envision's ongoing success. It is the combined efforts of our numerous "Envision Strategy Partners" that has positioned this region one step closer to realizing its vision for a better tomorrow.

Once again, Envision Coastal Alabama is fortunate to have another great team of Partners committed to advancing the objectives of this regional strategy. Inside, get to know our Partners. See a sampling of what they are up to and learn more about how you can join us.

To prepare for the 2009-2010 year, Envision's E-Team co-chairs are recruiting team members and defining their target projects. If you are interested in working on one of the focus areas, please contact the E-chairs listed or Envision Coastal Alabama at (251) 431-8628 or on-line at www.envisioncoastalalabama.org.