

# Graduate Student Research Day 2012

## Florida Atlantic University

### COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

#### **Pine Jog Sustainability Plan Research Project**

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Background: Pine Jog Environmental Education Center is located on Summit Boulevard in West Palm Beach. It is situated on 135 acres of natural habitat. Founded in 1957, it is one of the oldest nature centers in the nation. Pine Jog serves over 25,000 students, 750 teachers and 12,500 adults/families annually from Palm Beach and surrounding counties. The Center offers environmental education programs for children and youth at the K-5 and 6-12 levels, as well as professional development programs for area teachers. A significant strategic goal for the Pine Jog Center is to be recognized as a model and resource for sustainability in Florida. Purpose: The purpose of this research study is to review the current Pine Jog Sustainability Program, determine the current level of compliance with best practices, make recommendations for improvements, and document these recommendations in a Sustainable Operations and Maintenance Manual. Research was initiated by reviewing the current Pine Jog Sustainability and Strategic Plans. The next step was to complete a needs assessment based on interviews with the Executive Director and other Pine Jog staff. Method: Based on the needs assessment, this research project includes the following components: 1) Review of the Sustainable Practices Operating and Maintenance Procedures, including an audit of current practices to determine the current level of compliance and potential recommendations for improvement. 2) Deliverable of an updated Sustainable Operations and Maintenance Procedure Manual. Results/Conclusions: This is a work in progress with some preliminary findings.

# Pine Jog Sustainable Operations and Maintenance Manual

Capstone Study In Environmental Education  
Anne Henderson SCE 6196

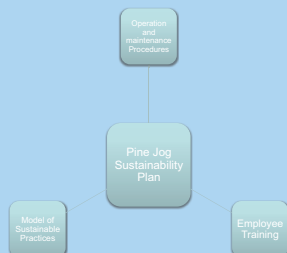
## Purpose

To update a Sustainable Operations and Procedures Manual that governs the sustainable practices of the staff at Pine Jog Environmental Education Center.

**Why Its Important:** Although Pine Jog Environmental Education Center is a LEEDS GOLD certified building, a building is only as efficient as its occupants. Operations and Maintenance Procedures are the discipline through which the long-term goals of sustainability for an organization can be achieved; to optimize energy efficiency, resource conservation and pollution prevention while meeting the comfort, safety and health needs of Pine Jog Staff.

## Research Questions

- Is the current Sustainable Operations and Maintenance Manual effective in guiding the sustainable practices of Pine Jog Environmental Education Center employees?
- Is there adequate training to support employees in these practices?
- Does the current manual support the center's strategic goal of serving as a model of sustainability for the outside community?

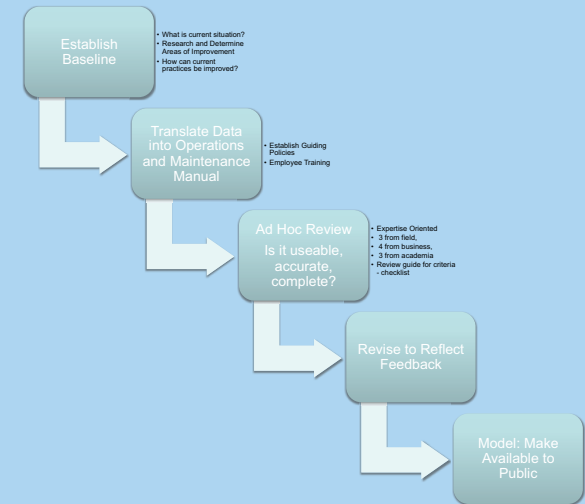


## Background

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## Method



## Evaluation Approach:

This evaluation is a Formative Review, Expertise –Oriented review. Ad Hoc Reviewers will evaluate manual and provide feedback.

Reviewers: 3 Sustainability Professionals, 4 Potential Users, 3 FAU Academics

Instrument: Operations Manual Checklist

Results: This project is in evaluation phase. Results to be determined

