



City of Clermont

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NEWS RELEASE

City of Clermont Shares 3 Eco-Friendly Initiatives for Earth Day

CLERMONT (April 23, 2021) – In honor of Earth Day, the City of Clermont is sharing three of its latest eco-friendly initiatives.

“The City of Clermont has made champion-level changes for the betterment of the environment,” Interim City Manager Susan Dauderis said. “We’re proud of the unique advances we’ve made to help protect the earth.”

Lighting the Way

The City of Clermont has significantly reduced its carbon footprint by switching to LED lighting these past few years.

LED is 90% more efficiently than incandescent light, as well as more versatile and longer lasting. This results in a welcome bonus – a notable cost savings.

The City of Clermont converted all of its lighting to LED in the Downtown-Waterfront District, as well as at various city parks.

Downtown, about 335 lights were changed, lowering the city’s CO2 emissions by about 147,301.70 cubic pounds annually and creating a cost savings of \$25,914 per year.



Public Services employee Joe McMahon installs LED lighting at a city facility.

Felter Park already started switching its courts and fields, and conversions have begun at Hancock Park. The parks’ changes have saved the city around \$18,000 per year, which is equal to planting 28.33 trees. Several other parks are on deck.

The city is requiring any new lighting installed on city property to be LED.

‘Reel-y’ Smart Recycling

Anglers have a convenient way to recycle fishing lines in Clermont.

The city partnered with SeventyOne and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to install monofilament recycling bins at several Clermont locations in spring 2019.



SeventyOne Founders Cassidy Caldwell and Lorin Stewart are shown with a monofilament recycling bin at Clermont's 8th Street Pier.

Keeping lines out of the lakes reduces litter and prevents wildlife from ingestion or entanglement. Plus, the lines are recycled into park benches, tackle boxes and fish habitats – instead of going to landfills.

Within the city, bins are located at the 8th Street Pier, the Clermont Boat Ramp, the Lake Hiawatha bridge and dock, and the Palatlahaha Park boardwalk.

“Our company’s main objective is to protect the quality of water, and there was no better place to start our initiative than the Clermont Chain of Lakes,” co-founder Cassidy Caldwell said.

Charging Ahead

Electric vehicles’ popularity continues to rise, reducing the number of traditional vehicles and their carbon emissions.

The City of Clermont has been supporting those drivers with a special place to charge in downtown Clermont since fall 2019.

Four designated parking spaces have access to electric vehicle charging stations at City Hall, 685 W. Montrose St.

During an average month, about 50 charges are made at the City Hall site, delivering about 1,000 kilowatts – powering about 3,333 miles of travel.

“We see that the city is up-and-coming and we see all of the improvements happening here,” Clermont resident and electric vehicle driver Karen Celaya said. “This very much inspires us to come downtown more.”



Electric vehicles are spotted charging in April in the City Hall parking lot.

The city is part of Duke Energy Park and Plug’s free pilot program promoting the adoption of clean transportation from clean energy in local communities.

Duke’s criteria include having a safe, well-lit area, paved parking and adequate power in close proximity to the chosen site. The charging stations hook up to City Hall’s electric service, providing free charges to users.

Drivers access the stations by installing the *Greenlots* app on their smartphones through [Apple](#) or [Google Play](#). The charging station location also can be found through PlugShare at www.plugshare.com.

The City of Clermont has gone green in plenty of other ways. Here’s a glimpse:

- The city’s water reclamation facility conserves drinking water resources by converting wastewater into irrigation water.

- Automatic appliances have been installed in city facilities and restrooms for more efficient lighting, flushing, hand washing and drying.
- Departments have introduced digital processes that reduce paper use.
- Staff actively pursue grants for energy efficiency.

Of course, the city's recycling program also continues. Be a Champion recycler and check out the city's guide to recycling at <http://bit.ly/RecycleClermont>.

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About the City of Clermont. Clermont, Fla., is known as the Choice of Champions® due to its international reputation as a training ground for elite athletes and the community's celebration of the championship spirit. Founded in 1884 as a model town, the city of 44,000 is about 20 miles west of Orlando and is set among picturesque hills and pristine lakes. Clermont is the largest city in Lake County. More at www.ClermontFL.gov.