

Partners for Places Project Lessons Report

Project Name: *Yes in Our Backyard: Community-led Initiatives*

- **Year Complete:** 2013
- **Local Government:** Miami-Dade County, FL
- **Local Foundation:** Health Foundation of South Florida

Project Purpose

To catalyze community-led, community-funded healthy, environmental initiatives with an urban agriculture and health focus that support GreenPrint, Miami-Dade County's design for a sustainable future.

Key Lessons Learned

Lessons learned about tools and tactics through the project that other sustainability directors could use to advance their work.

After deep assessment of the resources invested and outcomes achieved, ioby found ultimately that the establishment of a local office and hiring local staff was too intensive an investment for the outcomes achieved. In the future, mandated training in project recruiting, community organizing and organizational development would likely improve outcomes.

Lessons for developing a collaborative process between a local government sustainability director and local place-based foundation(s).

Many government sustainability offices may benefit from learning more about the philanthropic milieu of their particular communities through contacts at foundations and similar organizations (even if they are not directly partnering on projects together). This helps to better identify the potential partners that their community holds.

Additional Information and Resources

Consulting partner ioby maintains a blog which provides updates for ongoing efforts of this project [here](#).