

## Community Partnership for Energy Planning

Progress Energy Florida is committed to providing a transparent and open discussion about the electric infrastructure needs throughout its 35-county service territory. In an effort to provide a meaningful dialogue, the company is using an innovative public outreach process called the Community Partnership for Energy Planning. The process helped Progress Energy gather input and recommendations from local governments and communities.

Progress energy hired the STAR Group LLC, a nationally recognized facilitation firm to engage local residents, business leaders, government officials, and public interest groups in an open process designed to produce recommendations on how to address energy challenges in Florida.

A leadership team was formed in three separate geographic regions (Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco and Polk counties; Citrus, Hernando and Levy counties; and Lake, Marion and Sumter counties) to identify key community representatives in each area and to oversee the public outreach.

A committee of the leadership teams helped UtiliPoint International Inc. to develop an extensive background report. This report was provided to all participants to describe key challenges affecting Florida's energy future.

Participants in each of the three regions – including Progress Energy staff – met in fall 2007 in an intense, two-day meeting called a Utility Search Conference™. Conference participants worked together in a series of large- and small-group exercises to discuss key issues and to develop recommendations for Progress Energy's consideration. At the end of the conference, senior executives from Progress Energy met with the participants to respond to the group's recommendations.

Following the conferences, Community Working Groups of about 25 people were formed in each region. Each working group further refined the recommendations developed at the region's conference and will continue help Progress Energy conduct further education and outreach within the communities. The groups' results, along with transmission information, were presented to local communities for discussion through a series of open house meetings in early 2008. This dialogue with the community has provided input to Progress Energy's planning process and the identification of preferred corridors in June 2008. These preferred corridors are the paths that were studied further for the specific routes and final placement of the transmission lines.

The Community Working Groups are continuing to work with Progress Energy as the company studies potential routes. Additional information about potential routes is being presented at open houses in late 2008.

Progress Energy will continue to use input developed at the open houses and ongoing feedback from the working groups in its transmission planning throughout the project.

For more information, please visit our web site at [www.progress-energy.com/energyplanning](http://www.progress-energy.com/energyplanning)