



Bringing Communities Together

Baker • Clay • Duval • Flagler • Nassau • Putnam • St. Johns

NEWS RELEASE

**Date: October 14, 2009
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Jennifer Hewett-Apperson
Communications Specialist
(904) 279-0885, ext. 104**

What comes after Reality Check First Coast? Clay County Check!

**Monday, October 26, 2009, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Clay County Agricultural Center
2463 S.R. 16 West, Green Cove Springs**

On May 21, 2009, Reality Check First Coast brought nearly 300 leaders from the public, private and nonprofit sectors together in groups to discuss, analyze and develop growth scenarios for the 1.6 million new people and 650,000 new jobs expected to be added to our region by 2060. At the Reality Check First Coast event, regional leaders were challenged to rethink where and how to grow the First Coast in a way that adds value to the local economy, while preserving our environment and quality of life. By placing Lego® bricks on large-scale regional maps, Reality Check First Coast participants constructed growth scenarios and were able to review and compare the growth patterns created in the exercise.

The first implementation step is co-sponsored by Region First 2060, the partnership that put on Reality Check First Coast, and the Regional Community Institute of Northeast Florida, Inc., which is creating a regional vision at the request of the Northeast Florida Regional Council. This step will be to share the results of the Reality Check First Coast exercise, and then repeat it in each of the seven counties (Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns) that make up the Northeast Florida region. Seven "County Checks" will be conducted during the months of October and November. These County Checks will allow participants to learn about Reality Check First Coast and share the experience of thinking about how the region should grow. In addition, it will allow for planners to gather a county perspective on regional growth.

Registration is open through October 22nd for Clay County Check at http://www.regi.biz/RCFC_Registration.html. There is no charge to participate in County Checks, but pre-registration is required. Please contact Jennifer Hewett-Apperson at (904) 279-0885, extension 104, if you would like additional information regarding the County Check events. Additional information about Reality Check First Coast, including results of the multi-county event held on May 21, 2009, may be found at www.realitycheckfirstcoast.com.