

## Dr. Nancy Foster Florida Keys Environmental Complex has the Power

No, the beach grass growing on the roof of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Lower Region office isn't the result of a landscaping error. The building's roof is actually a design element that helps manage storm water and save energy. The sanctuary's environmentally friendly office building has many "green" features--native plants were used when landscaping the grounds and cistern water is used when flushing toilets to help conserve water, and native landscaping also lessens the need for fertilizers and pesticides. In addition, recyclable and sustainable growth products were incorporated into the construction of the building.

The many green features of the sanctuary office and other buildings that are part of the Dr. Nancy Foster Florida Keys Environmental Complex, managed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, are the reasons why NOAA was awarded the *You Have the Power* award in 2007 by the Federal Energy Management Program. The 2.94-acre complex in Key West houses offices, a maintenance building, docks and the Florida Keys Eco-Discovery Center, a public outreach facility that opened in 2006.

The *You Have the Power* awareness campaign was created by the Federal Energy Management Program in 1997 to implement the National Energy Policy Conservation Policy Act as amended by the Energy Policy Act and the energy provisions of Executive Order 13423. The campaign encourages federal agencies to play a leadership role in using energy wisely, conserving natural resources and protecting the environment.



**Plants native to the lower Florida Keys were used in landscaping the Dr. Nancy Foster Florida Keys Environmental Complex. Photo: Leigh Espy**

## Marathon Boat Yard Designated as First Clean Boatyard in Keys



**The Marathon Boat Yard and Marathon Boats and Yachts are two marine businesses that were recently recognized by the Clean Boating Partnership. For more information, visit [cleanboatingpartnership.org](http://cleanboatingpartnership.org)**

In June 2007, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the Clean Boating Partnership designated the Marathon Boat Yard as the first Clean Boatyard in Monroe County and Marathon Boats and Yachts as the first Clean Marine Retailer in the county. The facilities, owned and operated by Bruce and Sherry Popham, were recognized because they use best management practices that are designed to keep Florida's waterways clean. These practices include enclosing bottom painting areas to prevent leakage into nearshore waters, implementing recycling and water reuse practices and developing emergency plans.

Bruce and Sherry Popham have a long history of community service and environmental leadership with the Clean Marina program. Bruce served as past chair for the Clean Boating Partnership and currently chairs the outreach committee. Sherry has facilitated meetings for the partnership. Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary also has the benefit of Bruce's leadership as he currently chairs the sanctuary advisory council.

The Clean Boating Partnership developed the Clean Marina, Clean Boatyard, Clean Marine Retailer and Clean Boater programs to safeguard Florida's natural resources and promote environmental education among Florida's marine industries and recreational boaters. The partnership includes marina and boatyard owners, the Marine Industries Association of Florida, Florida Sea Grant, the U.S. Coast Guard, Coast Guard Auxiliary and Florida's Department of Environmental Protection.

The Marathon Boat Yard is the 25th boatyard to be recognized as a Clean Boatyard in Florida and Marathon Boats and Yachts is only the third Clean Marine Retailer in the state. "Marathon Boat Yard and Marathon Boat and Yachts are taking the initiative to protect Florida's waterways," said FDEP South District Director Jon Iglehart. "Their commitment to the environment protects the