



# General Business Costs Working Group

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	Issue	EFMAC Action Item
Energy	Cost of fuel, electricity, natural gas Power costs increased 25% in one year	Look into ways to help encourage power companies to improve their overall fuel mix in order to diversify their generation portfolios and minimize the reliance on any one fuel. Increase awareness among Florida manufacturers of potential and planned fuel cost increases.
	Tax on natural gas is retroactive	There is a bill going before the legislature in the 2004 session to address the tax on natural gas. Encourage EFI to add this bill to their legislative agenda.

	<p>Inability to choose electricity provider, need a way to negotiate lower rates</p>	<p>Identify rate structures that may be more beneficial to manufacturers (leverage better efficiencies, attract companies to vacant buildings or enterprise zones, etc...). Encourage power companies in Florida to submit new rate tariffs to the PSC that incorporate the beneficial rate structures.</p> <p>Create a list or fact sheet identifying all of the Economic Development tariffs offered by Florida power companies and include information on how often the programs have been utilized.</p>
	<p>Power reliability is critical for production</p>	<p>Create a fact sheet to address this issue with statistics and lists of reliability programs available to Florida manufacturers. This fact sheet would be brief and include: options for obtaining better reliability, rate tariff alternatives (for companies that require a high level of reliability), etc...</p>
	<p>Is there a market for or incentive to use "green" energy created by excess power generation?</p>	<p>Consider ways to require power companies to offer power through renewable energy or that a certain percentage of their power needs come from renewable energy.</p> <p>Encourage EFI to support Senate bill #1492, "Renewable Electric Energy Production Act."</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Transportation Rail</p>	<p>Current lack of availability of rail cars, availability has been scaled back recently due to economic conditions</p> <p>On time is critical</p> <p>They are spending money on rail car upgrades</p> <p>Rail is a semi-monopoly and less competition means higher rates</p>	<p>Create a State incentive to manufacturers who buy their own rail cars. Maybe offer a sales tax exemption on the rail cars they purchase.</p> <p>Create a document with case studies on what other rail served companies have done to develop an efficient rail served operation. Include the contact information for the company in the case study. PCS Phosphate has offered to provide a case study.</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Transportation Trucking</p>	<p>Competitors pay less in truck fares. Is there a way to support long distance hauling?</p>	<p>Find a centralized source listing several trucking/logistic companies in order to provide Florida manufacturers with various competitive bids on trucking and backhaul rates.</p> <p>Use the case study suggestion from above but with trucking.</p>

<b>Transportation Local Roads</b>	Workforce comes from Seminole to Lake County, because schools are better in Seminole. How can these county roads be widened?	It is suggested that this issue be pursued on the County level.
<b>Transportation Ports</b>	No centralized port authority on the state level	Explore the creation of a state level port authority to help support the state's economic development efforts
<b>Affordable Housing</b>	Housing costs in some areas make it difficult to find/afford workers	Explore programs that would incent developers to tear down old vacant buildings in the city centers and build there first before moving to the suburbs and creating urban sprawl. Perhaps the Brownfield program could be modified to include such an incentive.
<b>Awareness</b>	Need to get the word out more on Florida and Enterprise Florida. There are several low cost ways to get the attention of people in manufacturing. Strive to keep existing manufacturers here first. Must let existing companies know that EFI can help.	Refer this issue item to the EFMAC Marketing subgroup.