



Summer 2017

Compact Currents is a quarterly newsletter from the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact highlighting the progress of the Compact, the counties, and the municipalities in Southeast Florida.

What's New with the Regional Climate Action Plan 2.0



Members

of the public, nonprofits, and local government help shape the RCAP 2.0.

The [Regional Climate Action Plan 2.0](#) (RCAP 2.0) is nearly complete! In the next few weeks, the final public draft of RCAP 2.0 will be published for [public comment](#). Everyone—local government staff, key stakeholders and partners, and members of the general public—is invited to share their feedback, which is indispensable in making the RCAP 2.0 relevant to, and reflective of, all stakeholders and communities in the region.

The [RCAP](#), developed in 2012, serves a fundamental role in coordinating climate adaptation efforts among local and regional governmental agencies in Southeast Florida. The RCAP is updated every five years to reflect lessons learned on what has and hasn't worked, as well as any new issue requiring a collaborative, regionally coordinated response.

Incorporating insights and lessons learned since the publication of the original 2012 RCAP, this year's update of the RCAP 2.0 includes:

- **New Sections**

- **Equity:** The RCAP 2.0 has an increased focus on equity to guide municipalities and counties in Southeast Florida to create equitable climate policies, programs, and decision-making processes that consider local socio-economic and racial inequities and ensure every resident can participate and prosper. Following the RCAP 2.0 public review period this spring—which gathered valuable input from local government staff, nonprofit and business representatives, and the general public—the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact engaged participants at the [Catalyst Miami Anti-Poverty Summit](#) and the [South Florida Climate Change Equity Solutions Summit](#) to receive their feedback on the RCAP 2.0.
- **Economic Resilience:** The goal of this new chapter is to establish a regional resilience strategy that connects elected and business leadership and includes funding mechanisms to guide, incentivize, protect, and promote both public and private investments and the economic integrity of the region.
- **Public Health:** In early 2014, the [Florida Institute for Health Innovation](#)—a Compact partner—completed a [health impact assessment](#) (HIA) of the recommendations in the 2012 RCAP. The resulting HIA report recommended integrating public health planning with municipal and regional planning to prepare Southeast Florida for the broader impacts of climate change. The new Public Health chapter focuses on the report’s conclusion that RCAP recommendations for adaptation and mitigation policies and strategies must recognize the need to prepare for and address the health effects of sea level rise and heatwaves.

- **Streamlined recommendations** provide clear guidance to make the RCAP 2.0 an easy-to-use tool for local and regional governmental

agencies.

- **A richer online implementation guide** will be searchable, making it more usable across sectors.

The RCAP 2.0 will be released in December at the [9th Annual Southeast Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit](#) in Fort Lauderdale. [Stay up to date on the RCAP 2.0 revision timeline, including the upcoming dates for the final public comment period.](#)

Compact Resources

Past the Pledge Checklist

Across the region, municipalities big and small, coastal and inland, are recognizing the importance of creating climate resilience plans, but many communities are unclear where and how to begin. That's why we've recently updated our [Past the Pledge](#) checklist, to make it even easier for any local government to chart its climate change mitigation and adaptation path forward. For Southeast Florida municipalities, the Compact is a forum for information, [resources](#), and [knowledge exchange](#).

Fall King Tide Planning

As fall approaches, it's time for local governments to start planning for [fall king tide events](#). Based on their experience with flooding caused by these seasonal extreme high tides, the City of Fort Lauderdale developed the [King Tide Toolkit](#) to provide coastal municipalities with communication concepts, terminology, information, and outreach examples.



Case Study

Local Communities and Faith-Based Organizations Collaborate on Climate Resilience

This story is an abridged version of an [article](#) by Rising Together Project Director [Jan Booher](#). Photos are courtesy of Jan Booher.

Statewide faith-based organization [Unitarian Universalist Justice Florida](#) (UUJF) pairs congregations with nonprofits in vulnerable communities to implement outreach projects focused on building climate resilience, protecting public health, and strengthening communities as temperatures and sea levels rise. The initiative—Rising Together: Temperature, Water, Health, and Strength—provides multilingual education and outreach about preventing or responding to the [public health effects of climate change](#), documenting existing climate impacts in the community, and connecting with the public officials and municipal staff responsible for community health and safety.

Three Rising Together outreach projects have been completed in the Palm Beach County municipalities of [Boca Raton](#), [Delray Beach](#), and [West Palm Beach](#).

The 2016 Boca Raton and Delray Beach Rising Together pilot projects—funded by an [EPA Environmental Justice Small Project Grant](#) to the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Boca Raton—resulted in an online [Community ReACT Toolkit](#).

UUJF further developed the outreach materials and methods in the toolkit, allowing the Rising Together pilot projects to be replicated in [Sarasota](#), [Naples](#), and [Fort Myers](#) in 2017, with an ongoing project in Hernando County.



In each community, Rising Together projects identify residents' concerns through a neighborhood canvas, so faith and nonprofit leaders can reach out to and open dialogue with relevant municipal departments. Residents' observations about flooding—collected and summarized in the community survey reports in [Boca Raton](#) and [West Palm Beach](#)—are being used to inform stormwater management reviews. Local elected officials and municipal staff in both Boca Raton and West Palm Beach have been responsive to their communities' flooding and drainage concerns and have supported community education efforts by offering their expertise to vet outreach materials and attend final project community meetings.

Partner Updates



This summer, the **City of Boynton Beach** completed its participation in the [Resilience Dialogues](#). The city received technical assistance from a team of local and national experts facilitated by the [Institute for Sustainable Communities](#) for two weeks earlier this year. The key outcomes from the process were captured in a [final synthesis report](#).

“The City of Boynton Beach received such a tremendous gift from the Resilient Dialogues organizers and the subject matter experts. The most important thing I took away was how to communicate with all interested parties and stakeholders that it is very easy to include sustainability in all projects and the activities we do, as well as to be mindful of creating a resilient city. This is the new way to operate and continue making our city a better place to live and conduct business.”

-Angela Prymas, P.E., Boynton Beach Utilities Stormwater Supervisor

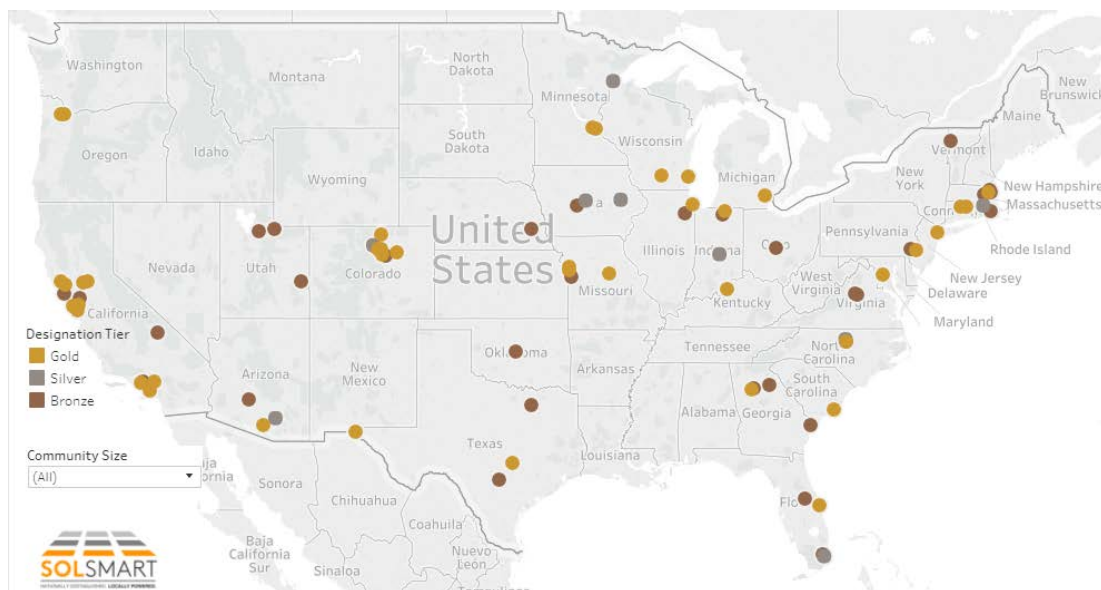
Resilience Dialogues is a public-private collaboration that builds climate-resilient communities through facilitated dialogues among scientists, practitioners, and community leaders that explore a community’s risks from climate variability and change to create relevant solutions. The program is coordinated by the [U.S. Global Change Research Program](#) and the American Geophysical Union’s [Thriving Earth Exchange](#).

Two neighboring communities, **Boca Raton** (May 23, 2017) and **Highland Beach** (June 6, 2017), signed the Compact [Mayors’ Pledge](#), joining a [group of 34 municipalities](#) committed to supporting the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact and the [Regional Climate Action Plan](#). These two communities entered into a micro-regional dialogue with their neighbors in southeast Palm Beach County, opening with discussions about sea walls, king tides, and other vulnerabilities. This initial meeting marks one of the [first steps these communities are taking as part of their commitment to mitigate and adapt to climate change](#).

In June, the [City of Miami Beach hosted the U.S. Conference of Mayors' 85th Annual Meeting](#). Across the country, cities are showing leadership in promoting renewable electricity, low-carbon transportation, and energy efficiency, [according to a survey](#) jointly conducted by the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the [Center for Climate and Energy Solutions](#). The survey, released at the conference, also found overwhelming interest among cities to collaborate with the private sector to accelerate climate efforts. This trend toward private sector collaboration is the theme of this year's [Compact Climate Leadership Summit](#).



News



[Miami-Dade County and the Village of Pinecrest](#) have earned [SolSmart](#) bronze and silver designations, respectively, for their efforts to accelerate solar energy

adoption in their communities. SolSmart provides no-cost technical assistance to help local governments reduce barriers to solar energy growth, and recognizes localities' actions to reduce solar soft costs through a tiered designation program. As cities, counties, and towns—with the help of SolSmart's team of national and local experts—cut red tape to make it faster, easier, and cheaper for homes and businesses to go solar, they earn bronze, silver, or gold designations.

Upcoming Events

[Sea-level Rise and Flooding: Planning and Law for Local Governments](#)

Thurs. Sep. 21 | [Mary V. McDonald Wilson Center](#), West Palm Beach, FL

Hosted by [Thomas Ruppert](#) of [Sea Grant Florida](#), this workshop is open to local government managers, attorneys, engineers, floodplain managers, planners, consultants, and interested NGOs and citizens. The workshop will:

- Provide a brief overview of sea level rise and flooding projections.
- Outline key infrastructure and financial challenges in flooding and sea level rise adaptation.
- Show examples of proactive local government assessment of vulnerabilities through data collection and analysis.
- Outline key legal issues and potential and actual local government responses.
- Present detailed information on recent state law changes.
- Provide a forum for interaction with presenters and other attendees.

[Register here by September 19.](#)

Second Annual Energy Efficiency Day

Thurs. Oct. 5

National [Energy Efficiency Day](#) is a collaborative effort between hundreds of regional and national organizations, governments, business, utilities, and individuals working to promote energy efficiency as a cheap, quick solution to meet energy needs, cut consumer energy bills, and reduce pollution. The goals of Energy Efficiency Day are to raise awareness of energy issues and what we can do to fix them, help individuals and businesses save money through energy efficiency, and unite people who are passionate about cutting energy waste and conserving resources. [Cities are asked to show their support](#) by hosting a public light bulb swap, issuing a proclamation, and amplifying the event on [social media](#). The [Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance](#) offers [sample language](#) and social media support for interested participants. Contact [Judy Knight](#) for more information about participating.

9th Annual Southeast Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit



Dec. 14-15 | Broward County Convention Center, Fort Lauderdale, FL

Join innovative thinkers and leaders from business, government, higher education, and nonprofits as they exchange ideas and dialogue at panel discussions and networking events at the [9th Annual Southeast Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit](#). This year's theme—"the Business of Resilience"—reflects the importance of having the private sector, local government, and residents all be in the business of resilience, for the long-term health of our community, economy, and environment.

Previous summits have attracted 500+ attendees, dozens of exhibitors, and highlighted major regional projects and cutting-edge tools. Early confirmed speakers for the 2017 summit include Congressman Ted Deutch (D) and the county executive of King County, Washington, Dow Constantine, who is nationally renowned for his leadership on resilience and climate issues. Several panels will feature representatives of prominent businesses and important economic sectors in Southeast Florida. The early registration fee—available through September 30—is \$125. On October 1, the fee will increase to \$150.

[Register here.](#)

[The Compact Calendar](#) is the central location for climate change events happening in Southeast Florida, so [check back regularly](#) for updates. Have an upcoming you would like to share with the public? [Submit your event](#) to the Compact Calendar.

Compact Announcement

It is with mixed emotion that we announce the departure of Compact staff Nancy Schneider and thank her for her vital work on the Compact for the last several years. Please see a special note from Nancy below.



For the past three and a half years, I've had the pleasure to serve the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact, as staff to the Compact Staff Steering Committee, and the 109 local governments in our region. It has given me a bird's-eye view of the wide network of devoted individuals dedicated to preserving our environment and our unique South Florida lifestyle, but more importantly, it has afforded me the opportunity to meet and work with many of you.

It is now a time for a change, so at the end of the year I will be leaving my position and embarking on a new life (still here in Florida). Thank you to all with whom I had the pleasure to work.

Sincerely,
Nancy

Nancy will continue to serve in her current role through the end of December as we recruit her replacement. Please see the job description below for more information on this position, and stay tuned for updates as we fill this role.

Job Opportunity

Senior Program Officer, Institute for Sustainable Communities

The [Institute for Sustainable Communities](#) seeks a Senior Program Officer (SPO) to lead a project team and be responsible for the support of the ongoing design, development, and implementation of the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact. The SPO manages the Compact's secretariat functions with direction from the Director of Urban Resilience and the Compact's Staff Steering Committee. The position is responsible for high-quality coordination between the Compact parties, other key stakeholders, and ISC staff to deliver a series of capacity-building activities to advance regional resilience, sustainability, and emission reduction objectives; stakeholder engagement and outreach; program analysis to identify promising practices for application in the region; program design and implementation; and monitoring and evaluation. This position is located in Southeast Florida, and extensive travel within the region (Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe, and Palm Beach Counties) and some travel outside the region are required. [Apply here.](#)

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