



Joint Statement on Collaboration for Regional Economic Resilience in Southeast Florida

Purpose

This statement establishes the initial foundation for a partnership among the Mayors of the four counties of the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact (Compact Mayors) and the regional economic development community within Southeast Florida (Economic Development Community) to cooperate on building regional economic resilience by focusing on the considerable benefits of public and private collaboration. The purpose of this statement is to outline a shared agenda for collaboration among the parties to secure the future prosperity for all who live, work, and play within Southeast Florida.

Background

Since its creation in 2009 by forward-thinking elected officials in Southeast Florida, the Compact has emerged as one of the preeminent regional climate change collaboration models nationally and globally. The collaboration and coordination across cities and counties and among national, state, and local government agencies has advanced our region toward greater climate resilience. The recognition that major global cities are more often than not a collection of multiple adjoining jurisdictions and that local climate policies must be coordinated regionally, represents a significant contribution by the Compact to the global urban sustainability and resilience movement.

For decades, the Economic Development Community of Southeast Florida has labored to build regional prosperity by bolstering local entrepreneurs, recruiting new employers to Southeast Florida, and working to proactively advance and protect the Southeast Florida brand as a compelling place from which to engage in global commerce. Our region affords an unparalleled quality of life driven by world class environmental amenities, a cultural diversity that strengthens our economic ties to the wider world, and an advanced economic ecosystem of banking, finance, and international trade assets that produced a Gross Regional Product of \$328.9 billion (USD) in 2016. Southeast Florida is the 11th largest regional economy in the nation, contributing more to national Gross Domestic Product than 31 of the nation's 50 states.

Together, the Economic Development Community and the Compact Mayors recognize that our respective efforts to foster greater regional resilience can only be achieved by working together. In forging greater public-private partnership, the Economic Development Community and the Compact Mayors seek to bolster our respective efforts to build resilience within Southeast Florida's shared infrastructure, built environment, economy, natural systems and within our communities and our people as our only viable path forward in securing a our future regional prosperity.

Since its establishment in 2010, the Compact collaboration has expanded to include a diversity of regional partners, including municipalities, academic institutions, governmental agencies, and non-profits, with collective focus coordinated implementation of the Compact's 2012 Regional Climate Action Plan. During the last five years, regional initiatives have expanded beyond organization processes and early emphasis on policy, planning, and agency operations to reflect the necessary transition to investments and infrastructure. Accordingly, in 2017 Compact partners undertook update of the Regional Climate Action Plan (RCAP 2.0) with the active participation of the Economic Development Community and a focus on economic resilience. The RCAP 2.0 document is substantially organized around this theme with an understanding that effective implementation will require the sustained engagement and collaboration of public and private sector partners.



Partnership Agenda

The Economic Development Community, Compact Mayors, and partners agree to the following partnership actions:

I. We will work together to expand business education on community and economic resilience.

- a. We will work together to promote proactive action by the business community to secure continuity of operations in the face of extreme weather and climate events.
- b. We will work together to build the business case for proactive investment in infrastructure necessary to protect commerce and our communities.
- c. We will work together to develop common sense public policy that better aligns public and private sector investment in our regional built environment with our shared goals of securing future prosperity.
- d. We will seek collaborative opportunities to commercialize the resilience innovations flowing from our joint efforts in order to create new economic opportunities for our region.

II. We will work together to identify and advocate for the state and federal investments needed for regional resilience in Southeast Florida.

- a. We will work together to advocate for federal and state government investments in the infrastructure assets that they each respectively own, operate and have a responsibility for maintaining within Southeast Florida.
- b. We will work together to seek appropriate recognition by state and federal government of the vital contributions made by Southeast Florida to the State of Florida and to the nation as a whole.

III. We will work together to communicate that Southeast Florida is leading the way in taking proactive, responsible, and informed measures, serving as a pioneer and model for resilience.

- a. We will collaborate in developing communications for audiences within our region regarding the importance of proactive resilience investments.
- b. We will collaborate in developing communications for national and global audiences that underscore that our region fully understands the risks we face, that we are taking proactive, responsible measures to address these risks, and that we working together like no other region in the nation to protect and expand our highly productive regional economy.

IV. We will encourage the broader participation of municipal and local business partners to engage in this effort.

Agreed, this day, December 14, 2017, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.