



SOUTHEAST FLORIDA  
REGIONAL COMPACT

CLIMATE  
CHANGE



## SOUTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE COMPACT COUNTIES 2021 FEDERAL ENERGY, CLIMATE, AND RESILIENCE LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES

*Approved by the Compact Leadership Committee – August 2020*  
*Approved by the four Compact County Commissions – December 2020-March 2021*

### **Background**

Southeast Florida is one of the most vulnerable areas in the country to climate change and sea level rise. Recognizing their shared challenges, Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties (“Compact Counties”) adopted the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact (“Compact”) in 2010. The Compact includes a commitment to develop and advocate for joint state and federal legislative policies. Accordingly, the Compact counties have adopted a Federal Legislative Program each year since 2011.

The Compact Counties and other organizations adopting this document recognize that the local impacts of global climate change are among the greatest challenges facing southeast Florida in the present and future. Consequently, adapting to climate impacts, mitigating additional damage by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and building community and economic resilience are among the highest priorities for action at all levels of government.

Since 2017, the Compact Counties issue their legislative program in two documents: *Legislative Principles* (this document) and *Legislative Priorities* (published separately).

Concerning federal legislation, regulations, and policies, the Compact Counties and other organizations adopting this document:

### **General Policies**

SUPPORT government-wide goals and priorities to plan for extreme weather resilience, preparedness, and risk management, and to ensure that consideration of extreme weather events is incorporated into agencies’ everyday activities.

SUPPORT requirements that federal agencies and projects receiving federal funding consider projected sea-level rise, coastal flooding, and potential storm surge in all infrastructure and facility-siting decisions.

SUPPORT increased access to agency climate science and data by the public and local governments for use in planning.

SUPPORT language in federal infrastructure bills that defines “resilience” and “vulnerability” to extreme weather events in the context of planning, design, and investment.

SUPPORT climate, energy, and resilience policies that reduce existing social and economic inequalities and prioritize investments in low-income and historically-disadvantaged communities.

OPPOSE restrictions on the use of climate change information by the Department of Defense and other national security agencies or these agencies' efforts to prepare for climate impacts.

OPPOSE efforts to weaken the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, or other fundamental federal environmental laws that help to restrain greenhouse gas emissions or make the nation resilient to climate impacts.

### **Carbon Pollution Reductions**

OPPOSE efforts to weaken carbon emission standards for new and existing power plants; restrict the use of or lower the social cost of carbon; eliminate secondary benefits from the calculation of benefits of environmental regulations; lower or eliminate energy- and fuel-efficiency standards for vehicles, appliances, equipment, and industry; reduce or eliminate energy efficiency and renewable energy goals for the federal government, including the Department of Defense; or weaken regulation of methane emissions in oil and gas production.

SUPPORT a national price on carbon emissions, especially revenue-neutral and public-dividend proposals.

SUPPORT aid to state and local governments to determine sources of greenhouse gas emissions, develop reduction plans and strategies, establish targets, and accomplish reductions.

OPPOSE any weakening or withdrawal of US participation in international climate agreements.

### **Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy**

SUPPORT reauthorization of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program.

SUPPORT tax credits and deductions for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

SUPPORT recognition of Property Assessed Clean Energy programs as local government assessment programs, but that also enhance consumer protections and transparency.

SUPPORT Department of Energy programs and resources that provide tools for management of energy, such as Energy STAR Portfolio Manager.

OPPOSE efforts to federalize net metering policies.

### **Oil and Gas Exploration and Production**

OPPOSE oil and gas exploration and production in federal lands in Florida, including the greater Everglades ecosystem, in federal waters on Florida's Outer Continental Shelf, off the eastern seaboard of the United States, and east of the Military Mission Line in the Gulf of Mexico, especially the expansion of lease sales for oil and gas drilling within the boundaries of Florida's territorial seas in the Department of Interior's five year National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program and any efforts to extract payment from states that oppose expansion in their territories for the royalty value of potential leasing areas that remain unopened.

OPPOSE seismic surveying for oil and gas within the Everglades, any other federal lands, and surrounding critical areas.

OPPOSE efforts to ease restrictions on hydraulic fracturing and other oil and gas extraction activities.

SUPPORT allowing local governments to act during oil spill events as first responders and to be reimbursed for their actions to protect their resources and restore damaged areas, and to ensure that the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund can address Spills of National Significance where there is no financially viable or legally responsible party.

### **Resilient Infrastructure and Planning**

SUPPORT non-structural and structural investments in flood control for storm surge and sea level rise adaptation.

SUPPORT adaptation of federal, state, and local roadways for expected sea level rise.

SUPPORT recognition of local government land-use designations for community resilience, such as Adaptation Action Areas, and prioritized infrastructure investment funding for these areas.

### **Natural Disaster Risk Reduction, Adaptation, and Resilience**

SUPPORT and maximize linkages between natural disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation measures, recognizing that the two areas share a common concern of future risk and vulnerability and a common goal of resilience.

SUPPORT requirements that climate adaptation measures be integrated into pre-disaster mitigation projects and post-disaster rebuilding projects funded through the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Flood Mitigation Program, Stafford Act, and Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program.

SUPPORT greater federal investment in planning and projects that reduce state and local governments' future risk and vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change and require that local governments' local mitigation strategies be tied to vulnerability analyses and assessments.

SUPPORT increased funding for federal mitigation and recovery programs.

SUPPORT efforts to reauthorize, improve and strengthen the National Flood Insurance Program with provisions that limit premium rate increases and protect affordability, encourage greater program participation, expand the Increased Cost of Compliance Program, emphasize and increase funding for mitigation, and develop accurate flood maps.

SUPPORT local government participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and in the Community Rating System (CRS), provision of technical and financial resources for local governments to implement community-wide flood risk reduction and floodplain protective measures that increase their resilience and improve their NRS scores to reduce premiums for NFIP policyholders.

SUPPORT a strong Federal Flood Risk Management Standard informed by climate science.

SUPPORT funding for weatherization and resilience programs to harden buildings against flooding and wind impacts.

### **Resilient Water, Coastal and Land Resources**

SUPPORT complete implementation of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, including but not limited to projects such as, the Central Everglades Planning Project, Everglades Agricultural Area

reservoir, storage and treatment in the Northern Everglades projects that protect east and west coast estuaries and projects that restore natural flows to Florida Bay.

SUPPORT programs through the Department of Interior, National Park Service, NOAA and EPA that evaluate climate impacts and develop agency responses protecting public lands, weather-related data and link climate and habitat related to data to public health.

SUPPORT nature-based investments in coastal protection, including coral reefs, and specifically the reauthorization of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000.

### **Funding and Financing for Climate and Resilience**

SUPPORT the explicit inclusion of resilience funding in budgets of federal agencies such as FEMA, EPA, NOAA, HUD, and DOT.

OPPOSE funding reductions of, and SUPPORT increased funding for, critically important conservation, public health, energy efficiency, renewable energy, grid modernization, research, and environmental protection programs to reduce carbon emissions, support climate preparedness, build community resilience to extreme weather and other disruptions, and protect the nation's natural resources.

OPPOSE any defunding or diminishment of the US Global Change Research Program, National Climate Assessments, NASA earth science and planetary observation programs, National Weather Service, National Hurricane Center, other atmospheric and ocean research programs, weather- and climate-monitoring satellite programs, federal research on physical and dynamic meteorology and climatology, coastal and marine management programs, energy efficiency and renewable energy programs, advanced energy research programs, and any other climate-related programs.

SUPPORT funding to downscale global and national climate models to regional and local levels and to develop reliable future climate and sea level rise scenarios for regional and local use.

SUPPORT the continued eligibility of funding for activities to adapt to climate change and extreme weather events under the Federal-Aid and Federal Lands Highway programs.

SUPPORT funding for public transit and non-motorized travel.

SUPPORT a national infrastructure bank or other new infrastructure-funding source and prioritization of resilient projects supported by local governments for such funding.

SUPPORT continued funding of Clean Cities Programs and diesel pollution reduction programs.

SUPPORT robust federal tax credits to property owners who make resilience, hardening, risk reduction, and energy efficiency improvements to their properties.