SOUTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE COMPACT COUNTIES
2022 STATE CLIMATE, ENERGY, AND RESILIENCE LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES

Approved by the Compact Leadership Committee – August 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 State 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 state legislation, regulations, and policies, the Compact Counties and other organizations adopting this document:

General Policies

OPPOSE preemption of local environmental policies and regulations pertaining to energy, climate, or resilience issues and any infringement on local home rule authority to plan for and adapt to future climate conditions.

SUPPORT development of a statewide climate action plan which includes greenhouse gas emissions reduction, adaptation, and resilience measures.

SUPPORT greater incorporation of adaptation and resilience strategies throughout state government activities, including:

Requirements for state agencies, water management districts, local governments, and regulated industries (e.g. electric utilities) to account for projected sea-level rise, coastal and inland flooding, potential storm surge, extreme rainfall, and extreme heat in all infrastructure and facility-siting decisions.

Closer coordination among state agencies to share data and implement solutions on climate and extreme weather preparedness, resilience, and adaptation issues.

State funding and assistance for local governments' adaptation activities, sufficient to meet the

state's significant resilience challenges, including: data development and technical analyses (such as vulnerability and risk assessments); integration of goals, objectives, and policies in Comprehensive Plans and the establishment and use of Adaptation Action Areas; design standards for infrastructure and development in local codes; and project implementation.

Climate, energy, and resilience investments in low-income and front-line communities that strengthen individual and community resilience.

Action to address climate-related public health challenges, including extreme heat.

Action to prepare the state's agricultural community for climate and extreme-weather disruptions.

Action to strengthen the economic resilience of the state to climate change.

Carbon Pollution Reductions

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

SUPPORT measures to reduce transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions through strategies such as vehicle electrification, development of vehicle emissions standards, policies to reduce vehicle idling, and reduction of vehicles miles traveled.

Energy

SUPPORT all opportunities for renewable energy deployment and energy conservation in Florida, including policies to create renewable energy purchasing options, such as community solar and energy co-ops, and energy conservation incentives, and to prioritize the siting of solar arrays on manmade structures, such as buildings, parking lots, and roadways, rather than on green spaces or agricultural land.

OPPOSE any changes that would eliminate or weaken existing policies that support renewable energy deployment and energy conservation in Florida.

SUPPORT solar-plus-storage installations, especially at emergency shelters and other critical facilities.

SUPPORT measures to move the state to 100% carbon-free electricity generation by 2050, stringent utility energy conservation targets, and meaningful renewable energy programs for electric utilities.

SUPPORT requirements that investor-owned utilities offer a competitively-priced official rate for energy-efficient street lighting and encourage coordination between utilities and local governments to convert older, inefficient streetlighting systems to more efficient ones.

SUPPORT incentives and pilot programs to assist local governments in diversifying their energy supplies and expanding their use of renewable energy.

SUPPORT policies, programs, and funding that prevent utility disconnections of income-constrained households.

SUPPORT legislation and policy to encourage electric utilities to maintain agricultural uses on solar generation facilities located in agricultural zoning districts.

Transportation

SUPPORT electric vehicles and electric vehicle charging infrastructure to serve the public, local governments, and private sector fleets, including grants, rebates, and other financing and funding,

including policies aimed at low-income residents.

SUPPORT the adoption of Complete Streets policies at the state and local levels, and the establishment of integrated local and regional networks of non-motorized transportation corridors (such as bike lanes).

SUPPORT additional local transit connectivity to existing and proposed regional transit systems (i.e., a "first and last mile strategy").

SUPPORT the planning and construction of transit-oriented developments.

SUPPORT programs to develop renewable, carbon-neutral sources of transportation fuel.

Oil and Gas Exploration and Production

OPPOSE any oil exploration and drilling in the state or off the coast of Florida, including the within Florida's territorial waters and the Everglades, including any form of extreme well stimulation, such as hydraulic and acid fracturing, and seismic surveying.

SUPPORT state opposition to oil exploration and drilling on federal lands in Florida and federal waters surrounding Florida and in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico.

OPPOSE preemption of local regulation of extreme well stimulation and oil and gas exploration and extraction.

Resilient Infrastructure and Planning

SUPPORT requirements for both coastal and non-coastal communities to include strategies to increase resilience, reduce energy use, reduce flood risk, and mitigate climate impacts in comprehensive plan elements, such as housing, infrastructure, conservation, land use, and transportation.

SUPPORT efforts to build and retrofit electric utility facilities to be more resilient to flooding and storm events.

SUPPORT statutory and regulatory changes that incorporate future flood risk from climate change and sea level rise into infrastructure planning, permitting, and investment.

SUPPORT greater use of natural and nature-based features to protect against storm surge and adapt to sea level rise.

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

Resilient Development and Redevelopment

SUPPORT incentives for green and resilient construction standards to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and/or mitigate insurance costs in existing and future building stock.

SUPPORT more specific performance-based green building requirements and higher resilience standards for state, regional, and local agencies in new construction and substantial reconstruction, as well as leased facilities owned by government.

SUPPORT higher energy, water, and resilience standards for new and existing buildings (including but not limited to energy conservation, renewable energy, drainage, flood elevation, wetproofing, and seawall requirements) to prepare for and lessen the impacts of future climate conditions through legislation, Florida Building Code amendments, and enhanced powers for local governments to enact local building code amendments.

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 the promotion and integration of climate change adaptation in disaster mitigation and recovery planning and projects.

SUPPORT full funding of resilient infrastructure projects identified under the state's Resilient Florida program and significant additional investments in resilience planning and resilient infrastructure, including consideration of formulas to distribute state funding to local governments, water management districts, and regional resilience entities.

SUPPORT integration of climate adaptation measures 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 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 reduce premiums for NFIP policyholders.

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 changes to the Florida Communities Trust program to provide authority and funding for local governments to acquire land to mitigate the effects of sea-level rise, reduce flood risk, and protect potable water supplies.

SUPPORT use of Land Acquisition Trust Fund appropriations under the terms of the Water and Land Conservation Amendment for regional and local priorities such as the Florida Forever land acquisition program, the Florida Communities Trust program, and management of public conservation lands to support nature-based resilience strategies.

SUPPORT protection and restoration of coral reefs, marine ecosystems, and nearshore habitats, such as mangrove forests, wetlands, floodplains, and other nature-based coastal protection.

SUPPORT the independence, authority, and finances of the state's Water Management Districts consistent with Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, to protect water resources in the State.

Funding and Financing for Climate and Resilience

SUPPORT additional funding for the DEP Office of Coastal Protection and Resilience and its local government assistance programs.

SUPPORT additional funding for the South Florida Water Management District to support resilient infrastructure investments.

SUPPORT creation of a green bank or state investment fund to finance renewable energy and energy efficiency projects.

SUPPORT funding for applied academic research into climate change and associated topics.

SUPPORT finance options for residents, businesses, and local governments, including grants, rebate programs, tax credits and Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs.

SUPPORT increased state funding for transit and transportation projects that reduce single-occupancy vehicle trips.

SUPPORT funding for alternative water supply development, adaptation and resilience planning, and no-regrets investments in water management, water supply, conservation land acquisition, transportation, and other infrastructure that provide hazard mitigation and improve immediate and long-term resilience.