



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

***Approved by the Compact Leadership Committee – August 11, 2021
Approved by the Compact County Commissions – June 2022***

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 a whole-of-government approach to the climate crisis, commensurate to the urgency of the problem most recently highlighted by the Working Group I (Physical Science Basis) contribution to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Sixth Assessment Report, described as a “code red for humanity” by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres.

SUPPORT rapid reductions in greenhouse gas emissions of at least 50 percent below 2005 levels by 2030 and net zero by 2050, consistent with the Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement announced by the federal government in April 2021.

SUPPORT climate, energy, and resilience policies that reduce existing social and economic inequalities and prioritize investments in low-income and historically-disadvantaged communities, specifically the Justice40 Initiative to deliver at least 40 percent of the overall benefits of federal investments in climate and clean energy programs to disadvantaged communities.

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 and inland flooding, potential storm surge, extreme rainfall, and extreme heat 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.

Carbon Pollution Reductions

SUPPORT efforts to strengthen carbon emission standards for new and existing power plants; increase the social cost of carbon and widen its use; require consideration of secondary benefits in benefit-cost analyses of environmental regulations; increase energy- and fuel-efficiency standards for vehicles, appliances, equipment, and industry; strengthen energy efficiency and renewable energy goals for the federal government, including the Department of Defense; and tighten regulation of methane emissions.

SUPPORT measures to reduce carbon emissions economy-wide, including 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.

SUPPORT stronger US participation in international climate agreements and programs.

Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

SUPPORT legislation, policies, and funding to rapidly expand carbon-free electricity generation, short- and long-term energy storage, and long-distance electricity transmission, and to prioritize the siting of renewable energy systems and energy infrastructure on manmade structures, such as buildings, parking lots, and roadways, in order to minimize the impact on open spaces, environmentally-sensitive lands and landscapes, and agricultural land.

SUPPORT increased funding for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant and weatherization programs, as well as expansion of the eligible uses for program funds to include flood and wind protection and other resilience measures.

SUPPORT tax credits and deductions for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, including provisions to allow local governments to benefit from such incentives despite their tax-free status.

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.

SUPPORT restrictions on hydraulic fracturing and other harmful 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 action by the US Army Corps of Engineers to fully reassess the Central and South Florida Flood Control Project for future flood risk and resilience, including leveraging existing flood vulnerability assessments already advanced in the region.

SUPPORT use whenever possible of natural and nature-based features to protect against storm surge and adapt to sea level rise, including legislation requiring their use by the US Army Corps of Engineers.

SUPPORT adaptation of federal, state, and local roadways, railways, and other transportation routes for future climate conditions.

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 increased funding for federal disaster mitigation and recovery programs, including the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Flood Mitigation Program, Stafford Act, Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program, and Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program, greater transparency around eligibility and evaluation criteria, and requirements to integrate climate adaptation measures into pre-disaster mitigation projects and post-disaster rebuilding projects funded by these programs.

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 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.

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 to protect public lands, collect weather-related data, and link climate- and habitat-related 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.

SUPPORT funding increases for federal climate, energy, transportation, resilience, planetary observation, earth science, weather, coastal and marine management, public health, industrial policy, and research and development, and any other programs that lower greenhouse gas emissions, build community resilience to extreme weather and other disruptions, promote environmental justice, and protect natural resources.

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.