



SOUTHEAST FLORIDA
REGIONAL COMPACT

CLIMATE
CHANGE



SOUTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE COMPACT COUNTIES 2024 STATE CLIMATE, ENERGY, AND RESILIENCE LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES

Approved by the Compact Leadership Committee – June 14, 2023

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 annually adopt a State Legislative Program.

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 and land use policies and regulations pertaining to energy, climate, resilience issues, or redevelopment standards 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.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions 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 Efficiency, Renewable Energy, and Electrification

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 ensure the siting of solar arrays follows best practices and minimizes environmental impact.

SUPPORT legislation, policies, funding, financing, rebates and incentives to expand energy efficiency.

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, and adopt 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 street lighting 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.

SUPPORT efforts to advance the electrification of buildings and transportation, and modernize the electricity grid for safety, reliability, and carbon-free electricity generation.

SUPPORT legislation and policies requiring utilities to collect aggregated whole-building data from a jurisdiction's largest buildings, and provide this data to building owners, managers, and local government representatives to aid benchmarking.

SUPPORT the adoption of the most recent building energy codes and transition to net zero energy codes.

Transportation

SUPPORT electric vehicle adoption and the provision of electric vehicle charging infrastructure commensurate with projected electric vehicle growth to serve the public, local governments, and private sector fleets, including grants, rebates, and other financing and funding, and policies aimed at multi-family housing and low-income residents.

SUPPORT strategic planning to ensure sufficient charging infrastructure along evacuation routes.

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.

OPPOSE any limitations on the funding made available for transit.

SUPPORT the integration of resilience and greenhouse gas reduction principles into transportation planning and design.

Oil and Gas Exploration and Production

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

OPPOSE 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 incentives for 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 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 future climate conditions.

SUPPORT the local match and coordination between the South Florida Water Management District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the restudy of the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project.

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 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), and the provision of technical and financial resources for local governments to implement community-wide flood risk reduction that increases resilience, improves their CRS scores, and reduces premiums for NFIP policyholders.

SUPPORT the affordability, access, coverage, and overall reform of hazard and wind-storm insurance offered within and by the State of Florida.

SUPPORT efforts to increase resilient affordable housing stock.

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 providing budget and implementing authority to relevant agencies to advance transportation electrification, renewable energy deployment, energy efficiency and conservation, and resilience goals.

SUPPORT existing funding programs such as Resilient Florida, Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC), and Hazard Mitigation grants, and increased funding to support local governments' resilience planning and implementation.

SUPPORT additional funding for local governments and 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 that ensure consumer protections and transparency.

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, flood control, water supply, conservation land acquisition, transportation, and other infrastructure that provide hazard mitigation and improve immediate and long-term resilience.