



SOUTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE COMPACT COUNTIES 2017 STATE ENERGY AND CLIMATE LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES

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 Energy and Climate Legislative Program each year since 2011.

Beginning with the 2017 legislative session, the Compact Counties have decided to issue their legislative program in two documents: *State Energy and Climate Legislative Principles* (this document) and *State Energy and Climate Legislative Priorities* (published separately).

General

OPPOSE preemption of local environmental regulations pertaining to energy, climate, or adaptation issues.

Sea Level Rise and Adaptation

OPPOSE any infringement on local home rule authority to plan for and adapt to future climate conditions, including sea level rise, changing precipitation patterns, and more extreme temperatures.

SUPPORT greater incorporation of adaptation strategies in state climate/energy policies, legislation, and appropriations.

SUPPORT legislation and policies requiring state agencies, water management districts, local governments, and industries regulated by the state (e.g. electric utilities) to consider projected sea-level rise, coastal flooding, and potential storm surge in all infrastructure and facility-siting decisions.

SUPPORT legislation, programs, and funding that support local governments' adaptation activities, including the establishment and use of Adaptation Action Areas.

SUPPORT legislation directing closer coordination among state agencies on climate and extreme weather preparedness, resilience, and adaptation issues.

Energy

OPPOSE legislation limiting the ability of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to craft a State Implementation Plan in response to the US Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan.

SUPPORT integrated resource planning/least cost planning for electric utilities to ensure that energy efficiency and renewable energy sources are fully considered as strategies for meeting future needs.

SUPPORT energy efficiency and renewable energy finance options, including the retention and strengthening of Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs, to advance local economic development, alternative and renewable energy technologies, and pollution reduction goals.

SUPPORT legislation to establish renewable portfolio standards, stringent energy conservation targets, and meaningful renewable energy programs for electric utilities.

SUPPORT rebate programs, tax credits, and other financial incentives that encourage property owners to invest in energy efficiency and renewable energy systems.

SUPPORT legislation allowing local or regional amendments to the Florida Building Code pertaining to energy, water, and resilience, and to allow such amendments to carry over into the next edition of the Code, subject to the normal review and modification procedures outlined in the Code.

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

SUPPORT legislation requiring investor-owned utilities to offer a competitively-priced official rate for energy-efficient street lighting (including, but not limited to, LED and induction lighting) to advance local governments' efforts to retrofit street lighting fixtures in order to reduce energy consumption and spending on electricity.

Solar Energy

OPPOSE any weakening of existing net metering policies.

SUPPORT the expansion of existing net metering policies to allow for off-site or "virtual" net metering.

SUPPORT legislation to exempt renewable energy systems from commercial property assessments and the tangible personal property tax.

SUPPORT legislation allowing Power Purchase Agreements.

Water

OPPOSE legislation centralizing management of water resources at the state level at the expense of the regional Water Management Districts.

SUPPORT legislation enhancing the authority and finances of the state's Water Management Districts, in recognition of their vital role in protecting water resources.

Oil and Gas Drilling

OPPOSE legislation authorizing any form of extreme well stimulation for the purpose of oil and gas resource extraction, including hydraulic and acid fracturing, near conservation land or drinking water aquifers, and OPPOSE legislation preempting local regulation of extreme well stimulation and oil and gas exploration and extraction.

OPPOSE legislation limiting the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's authority to block requests for offshore drilling in federal waters off Florida's coast.

SUPPORT continuation of prohibitions against leases or permits for oil or gas drilling within Florida's territorial seas and the Everglades, given the risks posed by exploration and drilling activities to the health and resilience of inland and coastal ecosystems and economies and the guarantee of additional harmful greenhouse gas emissions from continued dependence on fossil fuels.

Everglades Restoration and Conservation of Natural Resources

SUPPORT legislation and funding supporting complete implementation of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, advancement of the Central Everglades Planning Project, and storage and treatment in the Northern Everglades, recognizing that a restored Everglades ecosystem will make the region more resilient to sea level rise and extreme weather events and protect potable water supplies.

SUPPORT legislation amending the Florida Communities Trust program to provide authority and funding for local governments to acquire land that mitigates the effects of sea-level rise, reduces flood risk, and protects potable water supplies.

SUPPORT Land Acquisition Trust Fund appropriations under the terms of the Water and Land Conservation Amendment for regional and local priorities, including extreme-weather and climate resilience, shoreline protection and restoration, Everglades restoration, and water resource protection.

SUPPORT Land Acquisition Trust Fund appropriations for the Florida Forever land acquisition program, the Florida Communities Trust program, and management of public conservation lands.

Investment Priorities

SUPPORT funding for alternative water supply development through the Water Protection and Sustainability Program.

SUPPORT funding for adaptation 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.

SUPPORT legislation prioritizing non-structural, nature-based investments in coastal protection and flood control, including dunes, wetlands, marshes, reefs, mangroves, and other natural features, alone and in combination with built infrastructure.

SUPPORT prioritized funding for infrastructure investments in Adaptation Action Areas or other areas subject to the impacts of sea level rise.

SUPPORT increase in state funding for transit by raising the percentage of transportation trust funding for transit from 15 to 20 percent or by other methods.

Transportation

SUPPORT the deployment of electric vehicles in Florida, including statewide policies to streamline siting and permitting of electrical vehicle charging stations, the inclusion of electric vehicle models and specifications in the state contract system, and incentives and rebates for individuals and businesses.

SUPPORT funding for the siting and installation of electric vehicle infrastructure on public and private property and along the strategic intermodal state highway system and local roads.

SUPPORT legislation and funding supporting the expansion of alternative fuels for transportation in Florida, especially renewably-produced fuels such as biogas.

SUPPORT legislation that encourages the adoption of Complete Streets policies by the Florida Department of Transportation and local transportation agencies and the establishment of integrated local and regional networks of non-motorized transportation corridors (such as bike lanes).

SUPPORT legislation that would provide additional local transit connectivity to existing and proposed regional transit systems (i.e., a “first and last mile strategy”).

SUPPORT legislation that supports planning and construction of transit-oriented developments (TODs).