



# OFFICE OF RESILIENCE

## NEWSLETTER

### **A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR:**

As we fight this pandemic, many people are experiencing extreme stress and unforeseen challenges. In the face of such challenges, our team in the Office of Resilience has been lifted up by stories of community resilience, scientific advancement, and government leadership. These local responses inspire hope and result in partnerships that are vital to building a more resilient Palm Beach County.

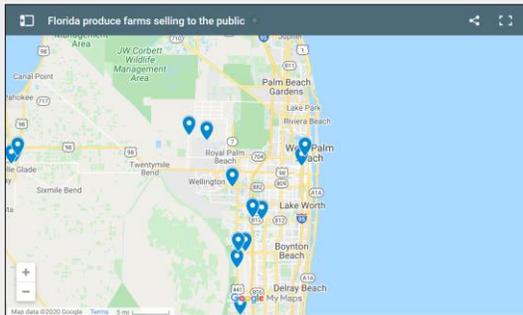
While daily tasks in the Office of Resilience may look different as we practice social distancing and assist with emergency response duties, our team is more dedicated than ever to ensuring a thriving Palm Beach County. The current situation

highlights the importance of proactively protecting our public and economic health from known threats while ensuring those most vulnerable are getting the resources they need. With staff working around the clock to bring resources and guidance to every member of our community, and local partners coming together to assist with various efforts, we are seeing Palm Beach County do just that.

The Office of Resilience will continue to research and implement bold new techniques to mitigate and adapt to a changing climate in Palm Beach County. We ask that you share this newsletter with your family and friends, follow our social media pages to stay up-to-date, and send us your ideas and feedback at any time. We're here to support you, and we wish you well during this time of extraordinary circumstances.

- Megan S. Houston, Office of Resilience Director

## County Highlights



### **Direct-To-Consumer Farm Programs**

With the COVID-19 pandemic mostly shutting down the hospitality industry, farms in South Florida have had a surplus of produce. At the same time, with the threat of

contracting COVID-19 in supermarkets and delays occurring with grocery delivery services, residents are looking to buy produce directly from farms without leaving their cars.

Farms all around Palm Beach County have set up direct-to-consumer programs, boxing up locally grown fruits and vegetables to sell to drive-up shoppers. The Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association is keeping track of such programs and has created a convenient map that can be found [here](#).



### **2020 Summit Postponed**

Palm Beach County was scheduled to host the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact Leadership Summit on October 13 to 14, 2020.

Unfortunately, the unforeseen circumstances of the coronavirus pandemic have led the County to postpone the Leadership Summit. The Climate Compact is assessing virtual options for Fall 2020, and the County looks forward to hosting the in-person Leadership Summit in 2021.



**LEED® for Cities and  
Communities Grant Program**

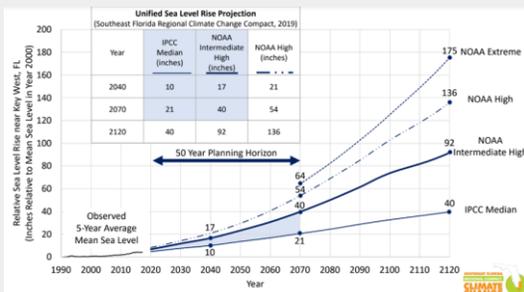
Palm Beach County has been selected to participate in the U.S. Green Building Council's 2020 LEED for Cities and Communities Grant Program!

Funded by a grant from Bank of America, the program helps local governments, planners and developers committed to

accelerating progress on climate change, resilience and social equity planning, measure and track performance using LEED.

Participants receive access to education resources and technical support as they pursue LEED certification. See the full list of 2020 participants [here](#).

\* USGBC® and the related logo are trademarks owned by the U.S. Green Building Council and are used with permission.



## Updates to the Regionally Unified Sea Level Rise Projection

In 2019, the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Compact released its second update to the Regionally Unified Sea Level Rise Projections for Southeast Florida. On May 5, 2020, the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners approved the County's use of the latest projection.



### **SolSmart Gold**

With a new expedited permitting process for small photovoltaic solar power systems, Palm Beach County is officially a SolSmart Gold community, achieving the highest SolSmart designation level in March of 2020.

Read more about this accomplishment and what it means for Palm Beach County, [here](#).



### **Coastal Resilience Partnership of Southeast Palm Beach County**

The Coastal Resilience Partnership of Southeast Palm Beach County, a local

partnership between seven municipalities in southeast Palm Beach County and the County, has held two stakeholder engagement workshops since January. The group is now working on a climate change vulnerability assessment with local engineering firm, Collective Water Resources. The assessment is expected to be complete by Spring of 2021.



### **Electric Vehicle Infrastructure**

This April, Palm Beach County's Office of Resilience and the Department of Planning, Zoning & Building held a public listening session to gather input on policies encouraging or requiring developers to prepare for electric vehicles. We discussed what type of chargers to encourage, whether to require installation of chargers or simply installation of the electrical infrastructure for chargers at new buildings, and where to require them. We plan to hold future listening

sessions with developers and property managers in May and property managers in June.

To provide general feedback or if you are a developer or property manager interested in participating in an upcoming listening session, contact Jake Leech at [pleech@pbcgov.org](mailto:pleech@pbcgov.org).



### **Community Services**

With the COVID-19 pandemic affecting millions of people around the globe, Palm Beach County's Community Services Department is doing what it can to alleviate economic pressure on the community.

Among other assistance programs, residents who are eligible can now access emergency rental and utility assistance online by calling the following phone numbers or visiting the website below:

**Phone number for rent:**

561-904-7900

**Phone number for utilities**

**LIHEAP:** 561-355-4792

**Phone number for seniors**

**EHEAP:** 561-355-4746

**Online**

**website:** [www.pbcgov.com/OSCARSS](http://www.pbcgov.com/OSCARSS)

To learn more about everything the  
Community Services Department is  
doing during this pandemic, watch [this  
video.](#)

**Visit our website for more information**

**State and Regional Spotlight**



The following includes several bills that passed both the House and the Senate during Florida's 2020 legislative session. These bills still need to be transmitted to the governor before they can become law.

- **CS/CS/SB 178 - Public Financing of Construction Projects**
  - will require the state, local governments, or any other public entity to conduct a Sea Level Rise Impact Projection (SLIP) Study before construction of any state-funded project in a coastal building zone
- **CS/SB 7018 - Essential State Infrastructure**
  - includes language requiring FDOT to develop a master plan for electric vehicle charging infrastructure along the State Highway System
- **CS/SR 1572 - Climate Change**
  - expresses the Legislature's support for the adoption of policies that will prepare this state for the environmental and economic impact of climate change, sea-level rise, and flooding, and recognizes the important role that resiliency and infrastructure will play in fortifying this state.



The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), has named their first District Resiliency Officer, Carolina Maran, Ph.D., P.E.

Dr. Maran will be responsible for leading the District's resilience efforts to support SFWMD's mission, coordinating research and data needs, and developing and implementing District-wide resilience goals.

Read more about the new District Resiliency Officer, [here](#).

## Quiz Time!

### How much do you know about the air we breathe?

Test your knowledge of air quality and pollution with this quiz from NASA!

[NASA Air Quality](#)



## Did You Know?

### April was Water Conservation Month!

Did you know that the largest uses of water inside the home are to flush the toilet and to run showers/baths?

According to the Palm Beach County Water Utility Department, in 2018 the average daily per capita water use was 107 gallons per day (gpd). The good news? This is almost 20 gallons less than in 2017 (122 gpd) ! Can we keep the conservation trend going?

With more than 1.4 million people living in Palm Beach County, every drop counts.

Use the calculator linked below to determine your daily water use and potential savings:

[South Florida Water Management District  
Water Conservation Calculator](#)





We first celebrated Earth Day in 1970 when 20 million Americans united to fight for our environment.

In 2020, the focus of Earth Day was climate action, and with technology allowing socially distanced communities to come together as one, millions of people tuned in to celebrate Earth Day 2020 live, a global event hosted by the Earth Day Network.

If you missed the event, or would like to read more about it, you can read more, [here](#).

Hurricane Season starts on June 1.

Did you know Palm Beach County's Public Safety Department has a dedicated Emergency Preparedness site with a step-by-step plan for safely preparing for a hurricane?

See the website [here](#), and do your part to prepare now!

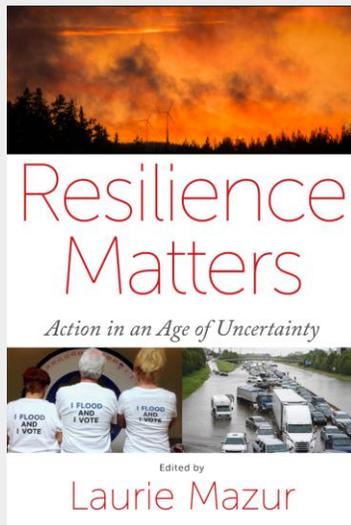
#### Be Prepared for Hurricane Season

- 1 Make A Plan
- 2 Build A Kit
- 3 Get Involved
- 4 Be Informed

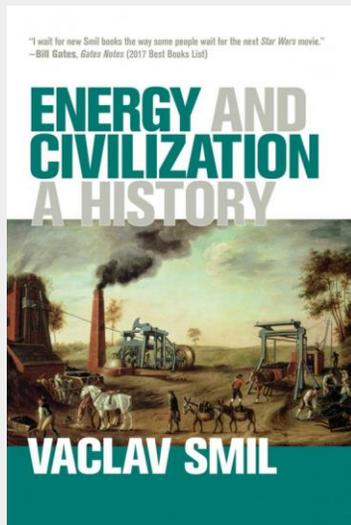
See what our team is reading:



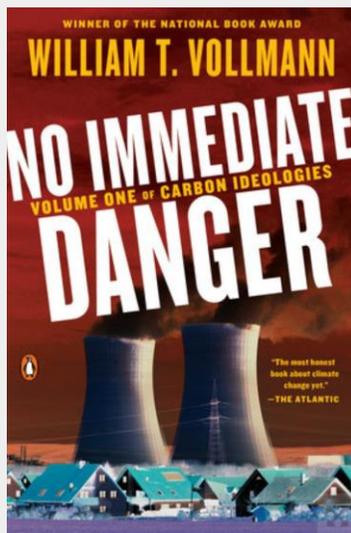
Case Study:  
Will Mortgages and Markets Stay Afloat in Florida?  
McKinsey Global Institute



Book:  
Resilience Matters:  
Action in an Age of Uncertainty  
By: Laurie Mazur



Book:  
[Energy and Civilization](#)  
By: Vaclav Smil



Book:  
[No Immediate Danger:  
Volume One of Carbon Ideologies](#)  
By: William T. Vollmann

Do you have ideas, speaking event requests, or other feedback?  
[Email us at ResilientPBC@pbcgov.org](mailto:ResilientPBC@pbcgov.org)





PBC Office of Resilience · 2300 N Jog Rd # 4 · West Palm Beach, FL 33411-2750 · USA