



OFFICE OF RESILIENCE

2023 OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS



OOR Director Megan Houston Interviewed by the Palm Beach Civic Association

On September 18, 2023, Office of Resilience (OOR) Director Megan Houston joined [Studio 33480](#) with the [Palm Beach Civic Association](#) to discuss the County's climate change initiatives. Megan spoke about the County's [Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Resilience Action Plan](#) and highlighted the Climate Risk Community Survey. This questionnaire is designed to help the County determine community priorities to inform future planning. To watch the full interview, click [HERE](#). To fill out the survey, click [HERE](#).



OOR Presents at Florida Resilience Conference - Critical Collaborations for Resilience

On September 28, 2023, OOR Director Megan Houston spoke at the Second Annual [Florida Resilience Conference](#) held in Fort Lauderdale, FL, on Critical Collaborations for Resilience. Deb Drum, Director of the County's [Environmental Resources Management Department](#), and Lindsey Nieratka, Sustainability Manager for the [City of Boca Raton](#), joined Megan on this important panel. They discussed how collaboration amongst county departments and municipal partners has helped Palm Beach County advance coordination on grants, regional planning, and other local initiatives to make the County more resilient.

WATTS UP?: A GUIDE TO ENERGY EFFICIENT LIVING

How to save
energy,
water, and
MONEY!!



Palm Beach County
Office of Resilience

OOR Hosts DIY Energy Efficiency Training for PBC Residents

On October 3, 2023, OOR hosted a workshop on DIY energy efficiency improvements at the [Greenacres Branch Library](#). The presentation covered no-cost, low-cost, and investment-level ways residents can save on their energy and water bills, as well as available funding resources. For more information on upcoming PBC Library events, click [HERE](#).



OOR Hosts Workshop on Solar Energy in PBC

On September 12, 2023, OOR held a community workshop on solar energy at the [West Boynton Branch Library](#). Resilience and Sustainability Analyst Benjamin Delin provided

residents with information on how they could pursue solar panel installations at their homes while addressing common concerns and frequently asked questions. Topics discussed included basic solar panel information, costs for solar, solar tax credits, best practices for procuring a contractor, and the benefits of installing solar panels. [For more information on solar energy in Palm Beach County, click HERE.](#)



Palm Beach Declares October 2023 as National Energy Awareness Month

On October 3, 2023, the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners declared October as [National Energy Awareness Month](#). Palm Beach County residents can participate in energy efficiency efforts by learning more on the U.S. Department of Energy's [Energy Saver Website](#) and incorporating energy-saving habits into their daily lives. Palm Beach County offers multiple programs to help residents save energy at home, including the HVAC Replacement Program and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. For more information on these programs, visit the Palm Beach County Community Services page [HERE](#).

RESILIENCE RESOURCES



Spooky Sustainability Tips

As Halloween approaches, so too do all the candy, costumes, and spooky decorations. While the haunted holiday brings many smiles and laughter, it also generates scary amounts of waste, including candy wrappers, plastic decorations, single-use costumes, pumpkin scraps, and more! However, there are ways to have a more eco-friendly holiday— Follow these tips to celebrate Halloween more sustainably:

- [Make your own up-cycled costume](#) or purchase one secondhand (e.g., from thrift shops).
- Host a costume swap with friends, neighbors, and family.
- Purchase candy with minimal plastic packaging.
- Give your child reusable treat containers to gather candy (e.g., pillowcases, reusable shopping bags).
- Make decorations with upcycled or reusable items.
- Use all parts of your pumpkins (e.g., bake a pie, cook the seeds, compost scraps, etc.).

You can also participate in [Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center's](#) "Unwrap the Waves" candy wrapper recycling program. This initiative helps students and community members recycle used candy wrappers. For a list of participating locations, click [HERE](#).

NEWS

State of Florida Invests \$141 Million to Protect Florida's Natural Resources

On September 18, 2023, the State of Florida approved a \$141 million investment to enlarge Florida's Wildlife Corridor by more than 42,000 acres. The Florida Wildlife Corridor is an important statewide network of connected lands and waters that provide vital linkages for wildlife habitat. This investment will enhance Everglades restoration efforts and protect Florida's natural resources. For the full press release, click [HERE](#).

Secretary Haaland Announces New Policies to Strengthen Climate Adaptation and Resilience Efforts

On September 28, 2023, the U.S. Department of the Interior announced new policies to fortify the Department's ability to meet its objectives despite a changing climate. These policies—focusing on climate adaptation and resilience—will mark the first-ever measure to incorporate the climate crisis into all Department operations. To read the full press release, click [HERE](#).

Department of Energy Announces More Than \$167 Million in Grid Resilience Formula Grants to States and Tribes across the Country

On September 28, 2023, the U.S. Department of Energy announced that 11 states, 2 territories, and 20 Tribal nations will receive \$167.7 million to build grid resilience to withstand climate-related impacts. In particular, Florida will receive \$30 million to bolster labor standards and protections for workers who are responsible for carrying out grid reliability and resilience projects. The grant funding will also help to reduce the energy burden and costs for disadvantaged communities with inadequate electric grid infrastructure. For more information, click [HERE](#).

Florida Hit by Canadian Smoke from Historic Wildfire Season

On October 3, 2023, the majority of Florida was covered with a cloud of Canadian wildfire smoke. Air quality reached “unhealthy” levels in certain areas of the state and visibility also deteriorated. The smoke originated from Canada and traveled southward by remnants of tropical storm *Ophelia*. Scientists predict that wildfires will continue to intensify and become more common because of climate change. For more information about the Canadian smoke in Florida, click [HERE](#).

EVENTS

Managing Pollution of Urban Waters: Sources and Solutions

Location: FAU Student Union, 1995 Dade Avenue #1973, Boca Raton, FL

Date: November 2, 2023, 5:30 PM (lecture), 6:30 PM (reception)

Details: Join distinguished professor and researcher Sarah E. Hobbie, Ph.D. for a talk on the dramatic influence of nutrient pollution in urban waterways. Managing excess nutrients remains a major obstacle to improving ecosystem service benefits of urban waters, which Hobbie is studying in the Twin Cities metropolitan area in Minnesota. Hobbie will describe the critical work with regulators to target specific sources of nutrient pollution. Advancing ecosystem-level understanding of urban watersheds generates insights that promote novel solutions to solving urban water quality challenges that impact communities around the world. For more information and to register, click [HERE](#).

Wildflower Walk – Let’s Get Botanical

Location: Loxahatchee Slough Natural Area, 11855 Bee Line Highway, West Palm Beach, FL

Date: November 3, 2023, 9:30 AM–12:00 PM

Details: Join Stacey Matrazzo of the Florida Wildflower Foundation, as she teams up with PBC Environmental Resources Management staff to explore fall wildflowers. Total walking distance will be approximately two miles, will involve walking on natural surfaces, and may involve getting your feet (but not your knees) wet. Please bring water and wear comfortable clothing you don’t mind getting a little dirty. For more information and to register for this free event, click [HERE](#).

LagoonFest 2023

Location: 201 Fern Street, West Palm Beach, FL

Date: November 4, 2023, 9:00 AM–2:00 PM

Details: Attendees will have the opportunity to enjoy wildlife presentations, participate in kayak clean-up tours, scientist-guided tours of the Lake Worth Lagoon aboard the Hakuna Matata Catamaran and Aqua Adventures. In addition, there will be exhibitor booths, demonstrations, a Kids Zone with face painting, lawn games, kids casting, gopher tortoise burrow, artful crafts, and more! Pick up your FREE Lake Worth Lagoon calendar with spectacular photos featuring local, professional photographers. Enjoy the parade of mascots and be ready with your camera for photo ops with the mascots for your memorable selfies. For more information about this free event, click [HERE](#).



Butterfly and Pollinator Gardening & Plant Clinic

Location: Royal Palm Beach Branch Library, 500 Civic Center Way, Royal Palm Beach, FL

Date: November 4, 2023, 10:00 AM–11:15 AM

Details: Join IFAS-certified Master Gardener Brian Forcheimer for an overview of butterfly and pollinator gardening—on the type and difference of host plants versus nectar plants, and which plants attract specific pollinators. The butterfly lifecycle is also discussed. Bring small samples of unwell plants to the short plant clinic after the course for a consult! Register [HERE](#).

America Recycles Day 2023

Location: Solid Waste Authority Education Center, 6751 North Jog Road, West Palm Beach,

FL

Date: November 5, 2023, 9:00 AM–1:00 PM

Details: Join the Solid Waste Authority (SWA) and the Palm Beach County community for the America Recycles Day event. Activities include: Waste-to-energy and recycling tours, arts and crafts, exhibitors, Kids zone, recycling passport game, food trucks, heavy equipment expo, accepting new unwrapped toys, SWA Plastic Bag Xchange2 Program, and a free tree giveaway. For more information about the SWA event, click [HERE](#). For more information about the free tree giveaway and the varieties of trees available, click [HERE](#).

Wildlife Celebration at Green Cay Nature Center

Location: Green Cay Nature Center, 12800 Hagen Ranch Road, Boynton Beach, FL

Date: November 11, 2023, 9:00 AM–3:00 PM

Details: Wildlife Celebration is a FREE event for all ages to educate the public, encourage an appreciation for nature, foster a respect for wildlife, and have fun! In 2023, the importance of water is the focus of World Migratory Bird Day. This year, Green Cay Nature Center invites you to see why water is fundamental to sustaining life on our planet—especially bird life! This is an official International Migratory Bird Day event. For information, click [HERE](#).



15th Annual Southeast Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit

Location: Miami Beach Convention Center, 1901 Convention Center Drive, Hall B Miami Beach, FL

Date: November 16–17, 2023

Details: Miami-Dade County, the City of Miami Beach, and the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact partners invite you to the 15th Annual Climate Leadership Summit at the Miami Beach Convention Center on November 16th and 17th, 2023. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

LOOK, LEARN, AND LISTEN

ARTICLES



[“We’re not doomed yet’: climate scientist Michael Mann on our last chance to save human civilization”](#)

By: Damian Carrington

PODCASTS



[Our Swoolest Ancestor, Climate Fungi-pocalypse, Terrifying Bananas](#)

By: The Weirdest Thing I Learned This Week

REPORTS



[How the Inflation Reduction Act Can Improve Lives and Livelihoods in Florida](#)

By: Auburn Bell, Cathleen Kelly, and Yoca Arditi-Rocha

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!



Palm Beach County Wants to Hear from You! Please Take This Survey!

As we approach 2024, Palm Beach County is seeking public input to help identify what is most important to our residents.

A countywide survey, available in English, Spanish, and Creole, is now available and will remain open until December 1, 2023. The data collected will provide valuable feedback for county staff to ensure that objectives and processes are in alignment with what is important to our residents.

To participate in the survey, click on this link: <https://arcg.is/0XfnaS1>
or scan this QR code with your mobile device:



Please contact Keith Clinkscale at 561-355-4075 or kclinkscale@pbcgov.org for more information.
To request this survey in an alternative format, please email pbcaccessibility@pbcgov.org.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

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