



OFFICE OF RESILIENCE

2024 JANUARY NEWSLETTER

COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS



Palm Beach County Hosts Florida Sustainability Directors Network Annual Meeting

The Palm Beach County Office of Resilience (OOR) hosted the Florida Sustainability Directors Network (FSDN) 2023 Annual Meeting, convening sustainability officers from across the state. This was the first in-person FSDN meeting in three and a half years and was the largest yet! Members gathered at the beautiful Okeeheelee Nature Center to discuss our successes and challenges and learn from each other how to best move forward in the Sunshine State. FSDN is the largest regional sustainability network, connecting staff working on climate change and sustainability for local governments in Florida.

Palm Beach County Awarded Over \$1 Million from the Resilient Florida Program to Conduct Flooding and Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessments for Six Municipalities

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) selected Palm Beach County (PBC) to receive a \$1,086,000 grant from the FDEP Resilient Florida Program to conduct flooding and sea level rise vulnerability assessments in partnership with six PBC municipalities. PBC OOR will partner with the Town of Cloud Lake, Town of Glen Ridge, Village of Golf, Town of Haverhill, Town of Hypoluxo, and Village of Palm Springs to identify the risks of flooding and sea level rise on critical and regionally-significant assets owned or maintained by the municipalities. These municipal assets include transportation assets and evacuation routes; critical infrastructure, such as water treatment facilities; community and emergency facilities, such as schools and fire stations; and natural, cultural, and historic resources. Once complete, these vulnerability assessments will make the municipalities eligible for implementation grants to fund the improvements needed to address current or future flood impacts. For more information about the FDEP Resilient Florida Program, click [HERE](#).

The PBC Office of Resilience is Growing!

The OOR team is excited to announce its expansion to four full-time staff members. OOR has promoted Natalie Frenberg to the newly created Environmental Program Supervisor position, which will primarily focus on developing funding strategies and partnerships for resilience and adaptation projects around the County. This new position increases OOR's capacity to collaborate with other County Departments, PBC municipalities, and local Community-Based Organizations on resilience initiatives. Together with our partners, OOR aims to identify and fund projects that both address the climate risks to the County and incorporate residents' priorities for our community.



PBC Hosted Broward Leaders Water and Climate Academy for a Field Trip to Green Cay Nature Center



On December 8, 2023, the [Broward Water Leaders Academy](#) program, designed by Broward County's Resilient Environment Department, visited Green Cay Wetland & Nature Center to learn how the PBC [Water Utilities Department](#) (WUD) uses constructed wetlands as percolation ponds for treated wastewater, returning billions of gallons of fresh water to the local water table. During this program, participants enjoyed a presentation by Ali Bayat, WUD Director, which included an overview of WUD's services in PBC and a discussion on the utility's plans to expand access to reuse water to benefit the County's current and future residents. Green Cay Nature Center staff shared additional information about the diversity of wildlife and birdlife found at Green Cay Wetlands and described how PBC Parks and Recreation and WUD partner in stewarding the property for the benefit of residents and visitors. For more information about Green Cay Nature Center & Wetlands, click [HERE](#).

RESILIENCE RESOURCES

Sustainable New Year's Resolutions

Happy New Year! One of the ways we can kick off the New Year on a fresh and eco-friendly start is by adopting sustainable New Year's resolutions. A few resources to help you integrate sustainable resolutions into your lifestyle include the [Department of Energy's Energy Saver tool](#) and the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Carbon Footprint Calculator](#). To discover ways to reduce your plastic consumption and incorporate alternatives into your routine, check out [Green Living Toolkit's Plastic Waste Reduction webpage](#).

For inspiration, here are some of OOR staff's own sustainable New Year's resolutions (from left to right):



"I aim to decrease plastic waste by limiting my use of single-use items at work and on the go," Arielle, Resilience & Sustainability Specialist.

"I strive to take more alternative modes of transportation by taking the bus, riding the train, and walking to work," Natalie, Environmental Program Supervisor.

"I seek to reduce the carbon footprint of my family's food by growing and expanding our backyard garden," Megan, OOR Director.

What are some of your sustainable New Year's resolutions? Take a photo and share it with us on our Instagram page [@resilientPBC](#).

NEWS

[State of Florida Awards \\$100 Million for Projects to Restore the Indian River Lagoon](#)

On December 18, 2023, the State of Florida announced the first awards through the Indian River Lagoon Protection Program. The state will be allocating \$100 million in state funding to support 21 priority water projects that aim to reduce the amount of harmful nutrients entering the lagoon and keep Florida waterways clean. To read the full press release, click [HERE](#).

[President Biden Announces Billions to Deliver World-Class High-Speed Rail and Launch New Passenger Rail Corridors Across the Country](#)

On December 8, 2023, the Biden-Harris Administration announced \$8.2 billion in new funding for 10 major passenger rail projects throughout the United States, including the first world-class high-speed rail projects in American history. Selected projects include building a new high-speed rail system between California and Nevada, creating a high-speed rail system connecting Los Angeles and San Francisco, delivering upgrades to rail corridors in Virginia, North Carolina, and the District of Columbia, and upgrading and expanding capacity at the Chicago Union Station in Illinois. For more details, click [HERE](#).

[Biden-Harris Administration Takes Action to Accelerate America's Clean Transportation Future](#)

On December 14, 2023, the Biden-Harris Administration announced new public and private commitments to increase access to electric vehicles (EVs), save taxpayer dollars, and tackle the climate crisis. New Federal employee travel guidelines were released, directing Federal agencies to prioritize sustainable transportation for official and local travel domestically and internationally. Additionally, stakeholders across sectors announced new commitments to build and encourage sustainable travel. To read more, click [HERE](#).

[An EV Just Became the First Vehicle to Drive from the North to the South Pole](#)

On December 15, 2023, Chris and Julie Ramsey finished their 10-month journey from the North to the South Pole. The couple traveled more than 17,000 miles in a modified Nissan Ariya EV, the first vehicle ever (gas or electric) to drive from the North to the South Pole. To read more about the Ramseys' adventure, click [HERE](#).

[Takeaways from COP 28](#)

The 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference, or COP 28, was held from November 30 through December 12, 2023, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Member nations approved a roadmap for "transitioning away from fossil fuels," a first for a United Nations climate

conference. Negotiators agreed to triple renewables capacity and double energy efficiency by 2030 and commit \$3.5 billion to replenish the resources of the Green Climate Fund. Additionally, the World Bank committed to providing \$9 billion annually to finance climate-related projects (2024 & 2025). Read more about COP 28 [HERE](#).

EVENTS

[Night Stalkers](#)

Location: Green Cay Nature Center and Wetlands, [12800 Hagen Ranch Rd, Boynton Beach, FL](#)

Date: January 31, 2024, 6:00 PM

Details: Ages 9+. \$5/person (Reservation required, limit 20). Join a naturalist on a night-time boardwalk tour looking at nature from the point of view of its nocturnal residents. Flashlights are recommended but not required. Sign up [HERE](#).

[Restoration and Conservation of Habitats and Native Plants – The Importance of Conservation for Endangered and Imperiled Native Plants and Wildlife](#)

Location: Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens, [253 Barcelona Road, West Palm Beach, FL](#)

Date: February 1, 2024, 6:00 PM–7:00 PM

Details: Join George D. Gann, Executive Director and Chief Conservation Strategist of the Institute for Regional Conservation, for an informative talk on the importance of conservation for endangered and imperiled native plants and wildlife. This program is part of Ann Norton Sculpture Garden's Conservations Conversations series. For more information and to purchase tickets, click [HERE](#).

[Herb Gardening and Growing in Containers](#)

Location: West Boynton Beach Library, [9451 Jog Road, Boynton Beach, FL](#)

Date: February 6, 2024, 2:00 PM–3:00 PM

Details: Unlock the joys of herb gardening in containers! Join our green-thumb lecture from a UF/IFAS Urban Horticulture Extension Agent to learn essential tips for cultivating delicious herbs in limited spaces. For information and to register, click [HERE](#).

[Plant-a-Palooza Winter Plant Sale 2024 - Mounts Botanical Garden of Palm Beach County](#)

Location: Mounts Botanical Garden, [531 North Military Trail, West Palm Beach, FL](#)

Date: February 10–11, 2024, 9:00 AM–4:00 PM

Details: Mounts Botanical Garden's Winter Plant Sale features the highest quality of well-known plant growers and experts from across Florida. Visitors have the opportunity to fully engage in the world of plants and learn new gardening techniques, discover what's trending in floral design, and enjoy Mounts Botanical's tranquil tropical oasis all at the same time. For information and tickets, click [HERE](#).

[Great Backyard Bird Count](#)

Location: Online event

Date: February 16–19, 2024

Details: All bird watchers, new or experienced, are invited to participate in the worldwide Great Backyard Bird Count, a four-day challenge originally initiated by the Ornithology Department of Cornell University. This global effort supports research, education, and conservation. Share

your bird sightings and observations with the PBCLA Great Backyard Bird Count 2024 iNaturalist project. Click [here](#) for more information and to join the project.

[Palm Beach County Natural Areas Festival](#)

Location: Winding Waters Natural Area, [6161 Haverhill Road, West Palm Beach, FL](#)

Date: February 17, 2024, 2:00 PM–7:00 PM

Details: Celebrate the beauty and wildness found throughout the 31,000-acre Natural Areas System in Palm Beach County at this family-friendly FREE event! The event will include a fire demo, Smokey Bear, wildlife presentations, guided hikes, kayak tours, a trail run, a wildflower painting kid zone, food trucks, native plant vendors, a sunset celebration, and more. For more information and to register for tours, click [HERE](#).

[Belle Glade Climate Risk Assessment Community Workshop](#)

Location: Belle Glade Library, [725 Northwest 4th Street, Belle Glade, FL](#)

Date: February 21, 2024, 6:00–7:30 PM

Details: PBC OOR will present its draft climate risk assessment data for community feedback. Light dinner and refreshments will be served. To learn more about the climate risk assessment, click [HERE](#).

[Climate Book Discussion](#)

Location: Main Library, [3650 Summit Boulevard, West Palm Beach, FL](#)

Date: February 24, 2024, 2:00 PM–3:00 PM

Details: Join for a discussion about the book [The Great Displacement](#) by Jake Bittle, which explores the personal stories of those displaced by natural disasters. For more information and to register, click [HERE](#).

[Refashion Weekend | Saturday Shopping Extravaganza](#)

Location: Resource Depot, [2508 Florida Ave, West Palm Beach, FL](#)

Date: February 24, 2024, 10:00 AM–3:00 PM

Details: Dive into a treasure trove of sustainable fashion, including gently used women's clothing, shoes, and accessories. Explore two floors of fashion finds, with individually priced designer boutique items on the first level and the Fill-A-Bag section on the second level. \$30/per person. Your ticket includes your first Fill-A-Bag. For more information and to purchase tickets, click [HERE](#).

[Unincorporated PBC Climate Risk Assessment Community Workshop](#)

Location: Westgate Community Center, [3691 Oswego Ave, West Palm Beach, FL 33409](#)

Date: February 28, 2024, 6:00–7:30 PM

Details: PBC OOR will present its draft climate risk assessment data for community feedback. Light dinner and refreshments will be served. To learn more about the climate risk assessment, click [HERE](#).

[Climate Correction Conference](#)

Location: The Celeste Hotel, [4105 North Alafaya Trail, Orlando, FL](#)

Date: March 7–8, 2024

Details: The VoLo Foundation is hosting the 6th annual Climate Correction Conference in Orlando, FL. This event is focused on driving innovative solutions to address climate change. Participants can expect a dynamic and engaging event that not only discusses the challenges posed by climate change but actively seeks to drive positive and transformative outcomes. For more information and to purchase tickets, click [HERE](#).

[Pahokee Climate Risk Assessment Community Workshop](#)

Location: Pahokee Marina Conference Room, [360 East Main Street, Pahokee, FL](#)

Date: March 13, 2024, 6:00–7:30 PM

Details: PBC OOR will present its draft climate risk assessment data for community feedback. Light dinner and refreshments will be served. To learn more about the climate risk assessment, click [HERE](#).

LOOK, LEARN, AND LISTEN

ARTICLES



[Florida discontinues manatee winter feeding program after seagrass conditions improve](#)

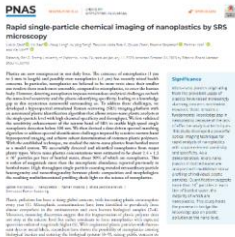
By: Curt Anderson



[Flooding drives millions to move as climate migration patterns emerge](#)

By: Michael Phillis and Camille Fassett

REPORTS



[Rapid single-particle chemical imaging of nanoplastics by SRS microscopy](#)

By: Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



[Resource Depot's Go Green for Business](#)

How green is your business? What measures can you take to make it more sustainable and eco-conscious? Discover all this and more with Resource Depot's [Self-Assessment Tool](#). Resource Depot recently partnered with the Palm Beach Chamber of Commerce and the Palm Beach North Chamber of Commerce to help change mindsets about waste and reuse in PBC businesses. Each chamber provides recognition for current chamber members that complete Resource Depot's Self-Assessment Tool. Click [here](#) for more information and access to the Self-Assessment Tool.

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)



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Michael A. Barnett, Marci Woodward, Sara Baxter, Mack Bernard
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