



OFFICE OF RESILIENCE

2024 FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS

The Office of Resilience Welcomes New Staff

The Office of Resilience (OOR) is growing! Stessy Cocerez and Javian Greene recently joined the Office of Resilience as Resilience and Sustainability Analysts. OOR staff are excited to welcome them to the team and expand the county's capacity to implement resilience and sustainability initiatives.



Stessy Cocerez has a background in strategic planning, data analysis, program evaluation, and report development. Stessy wishes to leverage her diverse skillset and background to contribute to the development and implementation of resilient and sustainable solutions for the community.

Stessy holds a B.S. degree in Geography, with a concentration in Environmental Studies, from Florida State University and a M.S. degree in Geographic Information Systems from Johns Hopkins University. Stessy was born in New Jersey but has called Palm Beach County home since she moved here with her family at a young age. Prior to joining OOR, Stessy worked as a Program Evaluator for the Palm Beach County Community Services Department for the last eight years.



Javian Greene has a background in grant management, finance, and accounting, with coursework in and a passion for sustainability. He utilizes his background in finance and sustainability to build community resilience to climate impacts by managing resiliency grants, overseeing clean energy finance programs, and assisting with resilience and sustainability projects.

Javian holds a B.S. in Business Administration—Management with a minor in Sustainability from the Florida Institute of Technology. He earned his credential as a LEED Green Associate from the U.S. Green Building Council, and is currently obtaining his M.S. in Sustainability from Everglades University. Prior to his role with the County, Javian was the Director of Finance for the YWCA of Palm Beach County. He has a passion and commitment to helping others and building strong and resilient communities through social, environmental, and economic action.



OOR Kicks off Community Workshops to Share Findings from the Initial Climate Risk Assessment

As mentioned in earlier newsletters, Palm Beach County is developing [Countywide Climate Risk Assessment](#). The Risk Assessment will assess threats due to climate change, such as extreme heat, agricultural impacts, wildfires, and extreme flooding events, and develop a

preliminary Resilience Action Plan for the community. The Risk Assessment covers Palm Beach County's (PBC) unincorporated area and western municipalities.

On February 21, 2024, OOR kicked off another round of community outreach for the [Countywide Climate Risk Assessment](#) in the City of Belle Glade. These outreach meetings present the findings of the draft climate risk assessment and seek community feedback. During the Belle Glade workshop, the consultant team highlighted the critical assets they identified and categorized assets located in inland flooding hot spot areas. Additionally, the team shared findings related to extreme heat and wildfires. The workshop also included live surveys to enable public participation and receive feedback.

In addition to Belle Glade, the County is hosting an upcoming workshop in Pahokee on March 13, 2024. For more information about the Climate Risk Assessment and Action Plan, click [HERE](#).



PBC Facilities Development and Operations Welcomes Electric Truck Ford Lightning

Palm Beach County Facilities Development & Operations (FDO) recently welcomed a new vehicle to its fleet! FDO has acquired the F150 Lightning, a fully electric version of the F150 pick-up truck. FDO plans to gain hands-on experience with electric vehicles (EV) by testing the F150 Lightning as a shop truck.

RESILIENCE RESOURCES

Try out Rewiring America's Personal Electrification Planner Tool



Transitioning to electric appliances can help you save money, improve home air quality and comfort, and make a positive climate impact. Lower your carbon footprint and reduce your monthly energy bill with [Rewiring America's](#) newly introduced [Personal Electrification Planner](#) tool. This free tool allows you to create a personalized plan to help you go electric based on your individual home, lifestyle, and priorities. Click [HERE](#) to try it today!

NEWS

[State of Florida Awards \\$20 Million for Water Quality Improvement Projects in Biscayne Bay](#)

On January 8, 2024, the State of Florida awarded \$20 million to strengthen ongoing efforts to restore water quality in Biscayne Bay. Projects include, but are not limited to, wastewater improvements (septic-to-sewer) and stormwater management projects. To read the full press release, click [HERE](#).

[Biden-Harris Administration Announces Availability of \\$32 Million in Grant Funding to Tackle Air Pollution at Schools and Deliver Cleaner Air for America's Children](#)

On January 11, 2024, the Biden-Harris Administration announced grant funding of up to \$32 million to address air pollution in schools nationwide. The funding opportunity will help protect children's health by providing resources to organizations that help K-12 schools in low-income, disadvantaged, and Tribal communities. The aim of the grant funding is to assist these communities with developing and adopting comprehensive indoor air quality management plans that reduce indoor air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions in schools. To read the full news release, click [HERE](#).

[U.S. Department of Energy Announces \\$131 Million to Boost America's Battery Supply Chain and Supercharge Electric Vehicle Innovation](#)

On January 18, 2024, the U.S. Department of Energy awarded more than \$131 million to selected projects to advance research and development for EV batteries and charging systems, and to provide funding for a consortium to address critical priorities for the next phase of widespread EV commercialization. To read more, click [HERE](#).

[EAA Reservoir Stormwater Treatment Area Ribbon Cutting](#)

On January 25, 2024, a ribbon cutting was held for the completion of the first of three (3) treatment cells in the 6,500-acre Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Stormwater Treatment Area. The EAA Reservoir will help store and send clean water south to the Everglades and Florida Bay, replenish Florida's aquifers, and mitigate harmful discharges to the Caloosahatchee River, St. Lucie River, and the Indian River Lagoon. To read the full press release, click [HERE](#).

EVENTS

[Palms in the South Florida Landscape: Get your Palm Reading with Dr. Roberts](#)

Location: West Boynton Beach Branch Library, 9451 Jog Road, Boynton Beach, FL

Date: March 5, 2024, 2:00 PM–3:00 PM

Details: Dive into the allure of palms in South Florida's landscape! This enriching lecture from a UF/IFAS Commercial Horticulture Extension Agent reveals the diversity, care, and

beauty these majestic trees bring to your tropical oasis. For more information and to register, click [HERE](#).

[Forest Bathing Guided Tour](#)

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

Date: March 6, 2024, 9:30 AM

Details: Slow down, awaken your senses, and connect with nature with Adria, a certified Forest Therapy Guide. You will learn about nature's beings at the Green Cay wetlands and experience forest bathing. Inspired by the Japanese practice of shinrin-yoku, forest bathing is a research-based practice designed to promote health and wellbeing through immersions in natural settings. If you are interested in a tour, call Green Cay at 561-966-7000 during operating hours to reserve your spot. Walk-ins are welcome, but there is a max of 15 participants. Ages 15+. FREE entry.

[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 sixth 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 discusses the challenges posed by climate change and actively seeks to drive positive and transformative outcomes. For more information and to purchase tickets, click [HERE](#).

[Restoration and Transformation of Our Landscapes and Public Areas – How Community Engagement Creates Sustainability and Impact](#)

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

Date: March 7, 2024, 6:00 PM–7:00 PM

Details: Join CJ McCartney, a Master Gardener and member of the Board of Directors of the Florida Wildflower Foundation, for an enlightening discussion on restoration and community engagement. This program is part of Ann Norton Sculpture Garden's Conservation Conversations series. For more information and to purchase tickets, click [HERE](#).

[Aspen Ideas: Climate](#)

Location: Miami Beach Convention Center, [1901 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, FL](#)

Date: March 11–13, 2024

Details: The Aspen Institute and the City of Miami Beach are hosting a climate conference that will bring together policymakers from around the world, scientific experts, corporate leaders, inventors, innovators, artists, young leaders, and influencers. The conference aims to provide a platform for participants to interact, learn, and collaborate with individuals who are taking critical actions to address climate change. 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 PM–7:30 PM

Details: PBC OOR will present the 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](#).

[Container Gardening: Cooking and Storing the Yummy Family Harvest!](#)

Location: West Boca Branch Library, [18685 State Road 7, Boca Raton, FL](#)

Date: March 23, 2024, 2:00 PM–3:00 PM

Details: Share pictures of your garden and receive simple recipes with a storage container. Includes a tour of the West Boca Library Micro-Farm. For information and to register, click [HERE](#).

[Climate Book Discussion](#)

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

Date: March 23, 2024, 2:00 PM–3:00 PM

Details: A discussion of [Parable of the Sower](#) by Octavia E. Butler, a speculative fiction novel set in a post-apocalyptic world heavily affected by climate change and social inequality. For more information and to register, click [HERE](#).

[Composting: Create your Own Black Gold](#)

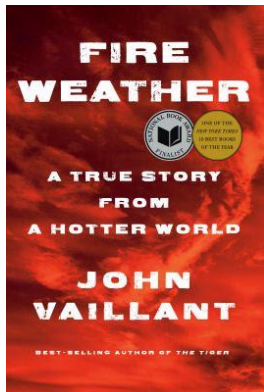
Location: Royal Palm Beach Branch, [500 Civic Center Way, Royal Palm Beach, FL](#)

Date: March 30, 2024, 10:00 AM–11:00 AM

Details: Join a UF/IFAS Master Gardener to learn about composting—a natural way of returning needed nutrients to the soil—for your garden. For more information and to register, click [HERE](#).

LOOK, LEARN, AND LISTEN

BOOKS



[Fire](#)

By:

John

[Weather](#)

Vaillant

ARTICLES



[Record Number of Manatees Take Refuge at Florida's Blue Spring State Park](#)

By: Jan Wesner Childs



[Two Broods of More Than a Trillion Cicadas Will Emerge in the U.S. This Year](#)

By: Solcyré Burga

REPORTS



[Practitioner perspectives on climate mobilities in South Florida](#)

By: Katharine J Mach, Jennifer Niemann, Rosalind Donald, Jessica Owley, Nadia A Seeteram, A R Siders, Xavier I Cortada, Alex Nyburg, Adam Roberti, Ian A Wright



[Agriculture 2040/2070](#)

By: 1000 Friends of Florida and University of Florida Center for Landscape Conservation Planning

PODCASTS



[Sustainability Defined](#)


By: Jay Siegel & Scott Breen



[Fifth National Climate Assessment \(NCA5\) Companion Podcast](#)

By: U.S. Global Change Research Program


ADDITIONAL RESOURCES




We want to hear from you!

Report Flooding in PBC

Scan this QR code to report areas that frequently flood in your community:



Data from this survey will be used by the PBC Office of Resilience in our climate change planning efforts!

A photograph showing a paved road that has been completely submerged under floodwater. The water is calm, reflecting the sky and the road surface. The road appears to be a two-lane road with a yellow center line.

OOR Wants to Hear From You—Please Take the Flood Reporting Survey!

Which areas frequently flood in your community? Help OOR document flooding in PBC by filling out this brief survey. Data from the questionnaire will be used in our climate change planning efforts. To complete the survey, either scan the QR code or click [HERE](#).

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)



Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners

Maria Sachs, Mayor, Maria G. Marino, Vice Mayor, Greg K. Weiss,
Michael A. Barnett, Marci Woodward, Sara Baxter, Mack Bernard
Verdenia C. Baker, County Administrator

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS OR OTHER FEEDBACK?

CONNECT WITH US AT



See archived newsletters [HERE](#).

Was this newsletter forwarded to you? Sign up for our newsletter [HERE](#).

Want to change how you receive these emails?