



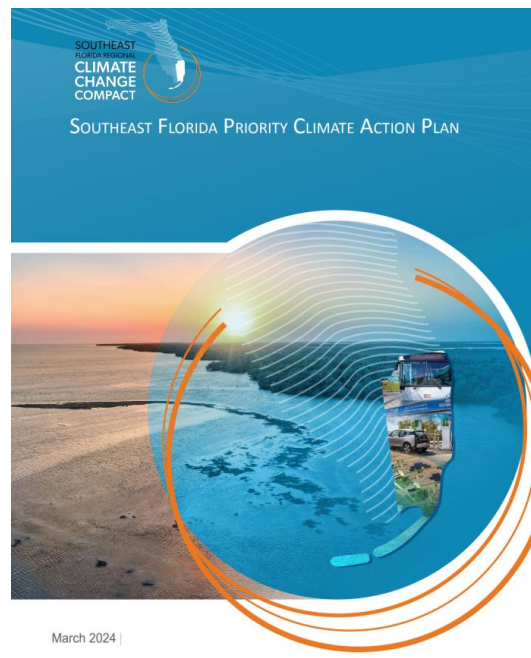
OFFICE OF RESILIENCE

2024 MARCH NEWSLETTER

COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS

Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact Completes Priority Climate Action Plan

On March 1, 2024, the [Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact](#) submitted the Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Funded by the [EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant \(CPRG\) program](#), the PCAP is a greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction plan for the four-county Southeast Florida region (Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe counties), its municipalities, and the Miccosukee and Seminole Tribal Government jurisdictions. The PCAP outlines the sectors that contribute the most to GHG emissions and potential measures to reduce these emissions. The EPA requires a PCAP for eligible entities to apply for up to \$500 million of the \$4.6 billion in EPA CPRG implementation funding to implement GHG reduction measures that the PCAP identifies. Click [HERE](#) to view the PCAP.





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

Palm Beach County (PBC) has been actively working with a team of consultants on a Climate Risk Assessment and Resilience Action Plan, which evaluates the impact of climate threats on unincorporated PBC and the western PBC communities. In July and August of 2023, the team held workshops to inform residents about the purpose of the Climate Risk Assessment and gain insight about which climate impacts the residents are already experiencing. In February and March of 2024, the team held workshops to share the Climate Risk Assessment's preliminary findings. Through engaging discussions and interactive polls, the community residents have demonstrated their awareness of climate change impacts and support for proactive community planning.

RESILIENCE RESOURCES

Join the South Florida City Nature Challenge!

This Earth Month, we would like to showcase a very exciting event occurring here in South Florida. Annually, the California Academy of Sciences and the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County hosts the [City Nature Challenge](#), an international competition between cities to document the most wildlife observations. The City Nature Challenge is a four-day global “BioBlitz” to record as many organisms as possible within this time frame. The challenge is two-fold—the first part runs from April 26–April 29, 2024, when participants will document as many plants, animals, and other living things as they can. During the second part, running from April 30–May 5, 2024, participants will identify what they found. Winning cities will be announced on May 6, 2024.

Participating is simple! To contribute here in Southeast Florida:

1. Visit [iNaturalist](#) to join the [South Florida City Nature Challenge project](#) (#CNCsoflo). iNaturalist is a citizen-science app where users can upload nature observations and receive assistance in identifying what they saw from scientists, experts, and other nature lovers.
2. Capture a photograph of any wild plant, animal, fungi, or life form in Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade, or Monroe counties. (Please do not upload photographs of captive/cultivated plants and animals, e.g., your dog!)
3. Find and take pictures of as many organisms as you can within the four-day interval.
4. Upload your observations onto iNaturalist. Record the location.

City Nature Challenge organizers will score the cities based on their total number of observations, species, and participants. Learn more about the natural world around you, spread the word, and help our region get to the top! Go #CNCsoflo!

[Governor Ron DeSantis Highlights Florida's Successful Efforts to Protect Florida's Manatees](#)

On February 6, 2024, Governor DeSantis highlighted state efforts to protect Florida's manatees and improve water quality. Since 2019, the state has invested over \$50 million in manatee programs and \$1.8 billion in water quality improvements. As a result, Florida's manatees in 2023 had the lowest mortality rate since 2017. To read the full press release, click [HERE](#).

[Lowering Home Energy Costs through the Inflation Reduction Act](#)

On February 12, 2024, the Biden-Harris Administration announced new measures to expand education, outreach, and federal resources about Inflation Reduction Act home energy programs available for consumers, local officials, and advocates. To view the full press release, click [HERE](#).

[EPA Invests \\$3 Billion into Clean Ports](#)

On February 29, 2024, the EPA opened the \$3 billion Clean Ports Program to fund zero-emission equipment, infrastructure and climate planning at U.S. ports. The grant program aims to advance environmental justice by decreasing diesel pollution from U.S. ports in neighboring communities, while creating job opportunities. To view the full press release, click [HERE](#).

[Lake Worth Beach Rolls Out Electric Vehicle Ride Service](#)

Recently, the City of Lake Worth Beach rolled out a prototype electric vehicle ride service program within the city limits. Fares are \$1 per person. Use promo code "BEACH" to receive your first three rides for free. For more information, click [HERE](#).

EVENTS

[Great American Cleanup 2024 Projects in Palm Beach County](#)

Location: County-wide

Date: Month of April

Details: During the month of April, [Keep Palm Beach County Beautiful Inc.](#) and the [Solid Waste Authority](#) will coordinate the Great American Cleanup, a project of [Keep America Beautiful](#), in Palm Beach County. Click [HERE](#) for a list of clean-up events throughout the County!

[Solid Waste Authority \(SWA\) & Sustainability](#)

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

Date: April 4, 2024, 2:00 PM–3:00 PM

Details: Explore SWA's innovative approach to waste management. Uncover their comprehensive system featuring transfer stations, recycling facilities, renewable energy plants, landfills, and more. Learn about recyclable items in Palm Beach County and discover their commitment to sustainability, including the [SWA Greenway Trail System](#). To register, click [HERE](#).

[Upcycled Garden Buddy](#)

Location: Acreage Branch, 15801 Orange Boulevard, Loxahatchee, FL

Date: April 11, 2024, 2:00 PM–3:30 PM

Details: In honor of Earth Day, make a fun little critter out of recycled materials for your garden. To register, click [HERE](#).

[Evening Guided Beach Walk & Shell Hunt](#)

Location: Coral Cove Beach Park, 19450 County Highway 707, Tequesta, FL

Date: April 12, 2024, 5:00 PM–6:30 PM

Details: Come join experienced PBC Environmental Resources Management (ERM) scientists on a leisurely interactive beach walk where guests will identify and collect items that wash ashore and understand the living and nonliving factors of our beaches, the importance of dune vegetation, and more! This event is open to all ages; children aged 6–16 need to be accompanied by a parent or chaperone. For information and to register, click [HERE](#).

[Movie & Discussion: The Last Green Thread](#)

Location: Online event

Date: April 13, 2024, 11:00 AM–12:00 PM

Details: Did you know Palm Beach County is part of the [Florida Wildlife Corridor](#)? Join Palm Beach County Libraries and Alex Freeze, Collaborative Conservation Manager with the Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation, to view The Last Green Thread, a short film about this beautiful, crucial, but fragile wilderness corridor that urgently needs our support to exist for future generations. To register, click [HERE](#).

[City Nature Challenge at High Ridge Scrub Natural Area](#)

Location: High Ridge Scrub Natural Area, 7300 High Ridge Road, Lake Worth, FL

Date: April 27, 2024, 8:30 AM–10:30 AM

Details: This event is part of the [City Nature Challenge](#) BioBlitz! The data you collect will be shared on [iNaturalist](#) and will help us show off South Florida's amazing biodiversity by photographing and cataloging wildlife (including birds, insects, fish, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and more), plants, fungi and any other living organisms you can find! For more information and to register, click [HERE](#).

[Plant-a-Palooza Spring Plant Sale 2024](#)

Location: Mounts Botanical Garden, 531 North Military Trail, West Palm Beach, FL

Date: April 27–28, 2024, 9:00 AM–4:00 PM (April 27), 9:00 AM–3:00 PM (April 28)

Details: Mounts Botanical Garden's Spring Plant Sale features the highest quality of well-known plant growers and experts from across the State of 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. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to purchase tickets in advance.

[City Nature Challenge at Lantana Scrub Natural Area](#)

Location: Lantana Scrub Natural Area, 1250 Southwinds Drive, Lantana, FL

Date: April 29, 2024, 9:30 AM–11:30 AM

Details: This event is part of the [City Nature Challenge](#) BioBlitz! The data you collect will be shared on [iNaturalist](#) and will help us show off South Florida's amazing biodiversity by photographing and cataloging wildlife (including birds, insects, fish, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and more), plants, fungi and any other living organisms you can find! For more information and to register, click [HERE](#).

LOOK, LEARN, AND LISTEN

ARTICLES



[Learn to grow sustainable food gardens anywhere, join the free UF/IFAS Extension Broward Community Garden Hub project on April 13](#)

By: Lourdes Mederos



[Lobster catch dips to lowest level since 2009 as fishers grapple with climate change, whale rules](#)

By: Patrick Whittle



[Europe is not prepared for the growing climate extremes it faces, its first risk assessment finds](#)

By: Carlos Mureithi and Dana Beltaji

REPORTS



[Polar bear energetic and behavioral strategies on land with implications for surviving the ice-free period](#)

By: Anthony M. Pagano, Karyn D. Rode, Nicholas J. Lunn, David McGeachy, Stephen N. Atkinson, Sean D. Farley, Joy A. Erlenbach & Charles T. Robbins

VIDEOS



[State of the Global Climate 2023](#)

By: World Meteorological Organization

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