



OFFICE OF RESILIENCE

MAY 2024 NEWSLETTER

COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS



Palm Beach County Celebrates Earth Day

In celebration of Earth Day, several Palm Beach County (PBC) departments held events and activities throughout the county. [Okeehetee Nature Center](#) and [Daggerwing Nature Center](#) hosted Earth Day celebrations with family-fun environmental activities, such as animal presentations, bird releases, guided nature hikes, and environmental education booths, which attracted over 2,200 attendees! [PBC Libraries](#) held Earth Day programs at multiple branches, including an upcycled garden buddies activity where participants made small animals out of recycled materials to place in a garden. The [PBC Cooperative Extension Office](#) hosted an Earth Day program at New Horizons Elementary School, where students assisted the staff in removing invasive plants on the campus and adding Florida-friendly plants to the landscape. Each student was also provided with their own air plant to take home. Furthermore, [PBC Environmental Resources Management \(ERM\)](#) staff organized

several trash clean-up events and participated in an Earth Day event at [Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens](#). Last but certainly not least, the PBC Environmental Protection Cross-Departmental Team worked collaboratively to prepare an Earth Day Proclamation, proclaiming April 22, 2024, as Earth Day in PBC. Awesome work, Team PBC!



Office of Resilience (OOR) Takes on South Florida City Nature Challenge

On April 26, 2024, OOR participated in the [South Florida City Nature Challenge](#) by planning a staff BioBlitz at Apoxee Trail, located in [Grassy Waters Preserve](#). The [City Nature Challenge](#) is an international competition between cities to document the most wildlife observations on [iNaturalist](#), with organizers scoring cities based on their total number of observations, species, and participants. Staff observed a variety of organisms, including plants, animals, and fungi. Organizations across South Florida worked together to plan BioBlitz events during this challenge, including [PBC ERM's](#) BioBlitz of [High Ridge Scrub](#) and [Lantana Scrub](#) natural areas. South Florida ranked higher than ever in the number of observations and different species, putting us in the top four percent in every category and placing us at #7 in most species observed. Way to go, South Florida!



Florida Nonprofit Coalition Awarded the Solar For All Grant for the State of Florida

A Florida nonprofit coalition composed of the [Solar and Energy Loan Fund \(SELF\)](#), [Solar United Neighbors \(SUN\)](#), and [The Nature Conservancy \(TNC\)](#) was recently awarded a \$156 million grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand solar energy in the state of Florida. Starting in October this year, the Solar For All grant will provide funds for grants and affordable financing for residential rooftop solar systems in low-income and disadvantaged communities throughout the state. These communities have traditionally had difficulty in installing solar because of high upfront costs. For more information about the grant, click [here](#).

SOLAR UNITED NEIGHBORS

Join the Palm Beach 2024 Solar Co-op!

Save money & stress by going solar in a group.

[SOLARUNITEDNEIGHBORS.ORG/PALMBEACH](#)

CLIMATE REALITY™
WEST PALM BEACH Sustainability
SIERRA CLUB FLORIDA CHAPTER | Loxahatchee Group
CITY OF Boca Raton OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY
LWV PALM BEACH COUNTY

Solar United Neighbors Launches PBC Solar Co-op

SUN has officially launched the Palm Beach 2024 Solar Co-op! SUN gives PBC homeowners the opportunity to join together to form a co-op, which then uses their bulk-purchasing

power to help homeowners get discounted pricing and quality installations for solar projects. SUN guides participants throughout the process. Co-op volunteers choose an installer on behalf of the entire group through an open and competitive bidding process. The selected installer provides everyone in the group with a personalized proposal for their consideration. By joining, there is no obligation to install. To learn more, register to attend a free Solar 101 webinar [here](#).

RESILIENCE RESOURCES

It's Time to Prepare for Hurricane Season!



Are you ready for the 2024 hurricane season? The year's Atlantic hurricane season will officially begin on June 1, 2024. Prepare your home for the upcoming season to minimize the risk of flooding and storm damage. Take these steps to help you prepare for hurricane season:

- **Review and prepare your emergency supply kit:** Secure canned food, bottled or canned water, medications, tools, flashlights, batteries, cleaning supplies, important documents, and more. View PBC's Division of Emergency Management (DEM) emergency supply kit shopping list [here](#).
- **Know your hurricane evacuation zone and shelter location:** Click [here](#) to use PBC DEM's interactive mapping tool to check your hurricane evacuation zone and nearest shelter location.
- **Know your flood zone:** To best stay informed about flood risks in your area, it is helpful to know which flood zone you live in. Click [here](#) to view the County's flood zone lookup tool.

- **Download the PBC Disaster Awareness and Recovery Tool (PBC DART):** The PBC DART app provides information on how to prepare for a hurricane and allows you to report damage to your home or business after a storm hits. To download the application on an Android device, click [here](#). To download the application on an Apple device, click [here](#).
- **Write down emergency phone numbers:** Make sure these numbers are written down and saved into your cell phone.
- **Remove plant debris around your home and ensure that drainage ditches, swales, and gates are clear:** Debris can create blockages, contributing to flooding during storm events.
- **Clear your yard:** Bring lawn furniture, grills, bikes, and other items inside your home before a storm.
- **Put up shutters or plywood on your windows:** If a hurricane is expected to hit, protect your windows from shattering by installing shutters or nailing plywood to the outside of your window frames.

NEWS

[Biden-Harris Administration Announces Historic \\$20 Billion in Awards to Expand Access to Clean Energy and Climate Solutions and Lower Energy Costs for Communities Across the Nation](#)

On April 4, 2024, the Biden-Harris Administration announced selections for \$20 billion in awards to support a national financing network that will fund thousands of climate and clean energy projects throughout the country. Approximately 70 percent of the funds will be invested in low-income and marginalized communities. To read the full press release, click [HERE](#).

[Biden-Harris Administration Finalizes First-Ever National Drinking Water Standard to Protect 100 Million People from PFAS Pollution](#)

On April 10, 2024, the Biden-Harris Administration announced the first-ever national, legally enforceable drinking water standard to protect communities from exposure to polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS, or 'forever chemicals,' have been linked to human health issues, including cancers and immune and developmental damage to infants and children. To read the full press release, click [HERE](#).

[State of Florida Announces \\$1.5 Billion for Everglades Restoration and Water Quality Improvements in Fiscal Year 2024-25](#)

On Earth Day, Governor Ron DeSantis announced that \$1.5 billion of the Fiscal Year 2024–25 budget will be allocated towards Everglades restoration and water quality improvements. Funding will support the [Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan \(CERP\)](#), Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir, the C-51 reservoir, which will reduce freshwater discharges to the Lake Worth Lagoon, and water quality improvement projects throughout the state. To read the full press release, click [HERE](#).

[State of Florida Highlights Investments in Strengthening and Fortifying Florida](#)

On April 24, 2024, Governor Ron DeSantis signed new legislation to expand the [My Safe Florida Home Program](#). This program helps Floridians protect their homes against tropical storms and hurricanes. In addition to the \$200 million that will be allocated to the program in the next Fiscal Year, the governor signed legislation to establish the My Safe Florida Condominium Pilot Program and committed to signing \$50 million to fund beach renourishment projects. To read the full press release, click [HERE](#).

EVENTS

[Adventure Awaits – Invasive Weeds Removal Crew at Rosemary Scrub](#)

Location: Rosemary Scrub Natural Area, 2901 North Seacrest Boulevard, Boynton Beach, FL

Date: May 30, 2024, 9:00 AM–12:00 PM

Details: Get the joy of working with a local biologist as they remove some of the most invasive weeds in PBC. Water, snacks, gloves, and tools will be provided. For more information and to register, click [HERE](#).

[John Prince Park Tree Planting](#)

Location: Heart Trail, 2700 6th Avenue South, Lake Worth Beach, FL

Date: June 1, 2024, 9:00 AM–11:00 AM

Details: [Community Greening](#) has teamed up with the [Florida Forest Service](#) and [PBC Parks and Recreation](#) to plant over 100 new trees along the Heart Trail at [John Prince Park](#) in Lake Worth. Tools, gloves, water, and snacks will be provided, as well as a DJ. For more information and to register to volunteer, click [HERE](#).

[PBCLS BioBlitz Summer 2024](#)

Location: Online event

Date: June 1–July 31, 2024

Details: Join the [PBCLS BioBlitz Summer 2024 project](#) during the Summer Reading Program! A BioBlitz is a community science effort to record as many species within a designated location and time period as possible. Share your observations on the PBCLS BioBlitz Summer 2024 project. The project runs for all of June and July. Click [HERE](#) to join the project!

Destination STEM: Wildflower Seed Balls

Location: Hagen Ranch Road Branch Library, 14350 Hagen Ranch Road, Delray Beach, FL

Date: June 6, 2024, 2:30 PM–3:15 PM

Details: Help make your place in the world greener by creating Wildflower Seed Balls with recycled paper. The wildflower seeds were donated by the [PBC Cooperative Extension Office](#). This event is open to ages five and up. For more information and to register, click [HERE](#).

World Ocean Day Beach Clean-Up with the Coastal Stewards

Location: 5112 North Ocean Boulevard, Boynton Beach, FL

Date: June 8, 2024, 9:00 AM–12:30 PM

Details: Join the Coastal Stewards to celebrate World Ocean Day! Help ensure our beaches are pristine and secure havens for everyone's enjoyment while how litter impacts our coastal ecosystem. Enjoy a discovery session hosted by an environmental guest speaker after the clean-up! Refreshments will be provided. For more information and to register, click [HERE](#).

Lake Worth Beach Tree Giveaway

Location: Lake Worth Beach Community Redevelopment Agency, 1121 Lucerne Ave., Lake Worth Beach, FL

Date: June 15, 2024, 10:00 AM

Details: [Community Greening](#) has teamed up with the [Lake Worth CRA](#) to pass out free trees to [Lake Worth Beach](#) residents. This walk-up tree giveaway will include both native and fruit trees as options. One tree per household. For more information, click [HERE](#).

Invasive Species Chat with the Croc Docs

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

Date: June 21, 2024, 2:00 PM–2:45 PM

Details: Invasive species are all around us! Some of the most common species you can find in your backyard may not even be from Florida. Although these can be very interesting and fun to look at, it is important to understand what impacts they have on our native wildlife. Join the Croc Docs to learn about the invasive and native species found in South Florida! For more information, click [HERE](#).

Adventures of a Demigod: Demeter's Flourishing Flowers

Location: Gardens Branch Library, 11303 Campus Drive, Palm Beach Gardens, FL

Date: June 28, 2024, 3:15 PM–4:00 PM

Details: Channel your inner Goddess as we plant our own seeds and decorate beautiful pots for the upcoming harvest! This *Percy Jackson and the Olympians*-themed event is open to ages 10 and up. For more information and to register, click [HERE](#).

LOOK, LEARN, AND LISTEN

ARTICLES



[Ocean Spray Emits More PFAS Than Industrial Polluters, Study Finds](#)

By: Tom Perkins

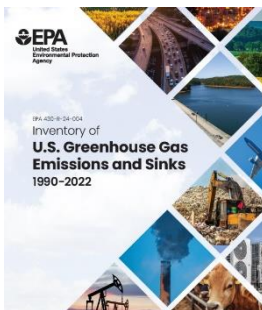
VIDEOS



[How the UN is Holding Back the Sahara Desert](#)

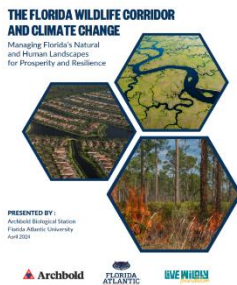
By: Andrew Millison

REPORTS



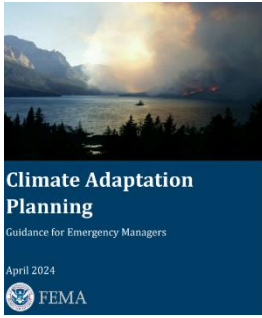
[Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2022](#)

By: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



[The Florida Wildlife Corridor and Climate Change](#)

By: Archbold Biological Station and Florida Atlantic University



[Climate Adaptation Planning: Guidance for Emergency Managers](#)

By: Federal Emergency Management Agency

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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
