



# OFFICE OF RESILIENCE

JUNE 2024 NEWSLETTER

## COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS



### **Office of Resilience (OOR) Staff Attend Southeast Sustainability Directors Network (SSDN) Annual Meeting**

Palm Beach County (PBC) OOR staff were thrilled to attend [SSDN](#)'s Annual Meeting held in Charlotte, North Carolina, from April 30–May 3, 2024. SSDN connects local government sustainability professionals throughout the southeast region to accelerate, scale, and implement sustainable best practices so that communities are equipped to adapt to and mitigate climate change. This conference was a great opportunity to learn about hot topics in sustainability and resilience from our counterparts in the southeast and to network with other local government staff working towards similar goals for their communities.



## OOR Director Presents at the National Adaptation Forum

From May 14–16, 2024, OOR Director Megan Houston attended the [National Adaptation Forum](#) in Saint Paul, Minnesota. While there, she participated in a panel on conducting effective climate adaptation. She discussed how [climate risk assessments](#) can be used to set resiliency goals and support metrics that assess adaptation efficacy, such as dollars invested in resiliency improvements. She also highlighted how existing and future climate risk assessments will be incorporated into PBC’s capital construction planning process, which requires County project planners to consider and disclose resiliency and sustainability principles and complete a resiliency and sustainability checklist.



## Palm Beach County Water Utilities Department (PBC WUD) Awarded State Grant Funding For Water Reuse Projects

Great news! PBC WUD was awarded \$5.7 million in grant funding from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for two water reuse projects. PBC WUD was previously awarded \$2.7 million for the south Palm Beach County reclaimed water pipeline,

as well as \$3 million for the Green Cay Wetlands Surficial Aquifer System. The Green Cay Wetlands Surficial Aquifer System is a component of [Green Cay Phase II](#), a project that seeks to expand the popular [Green Cay Nature Center and Wetlands](#) by creating a new park and Reclamation Education & Center for Advanced Purification. For more information, click [HERE](#).



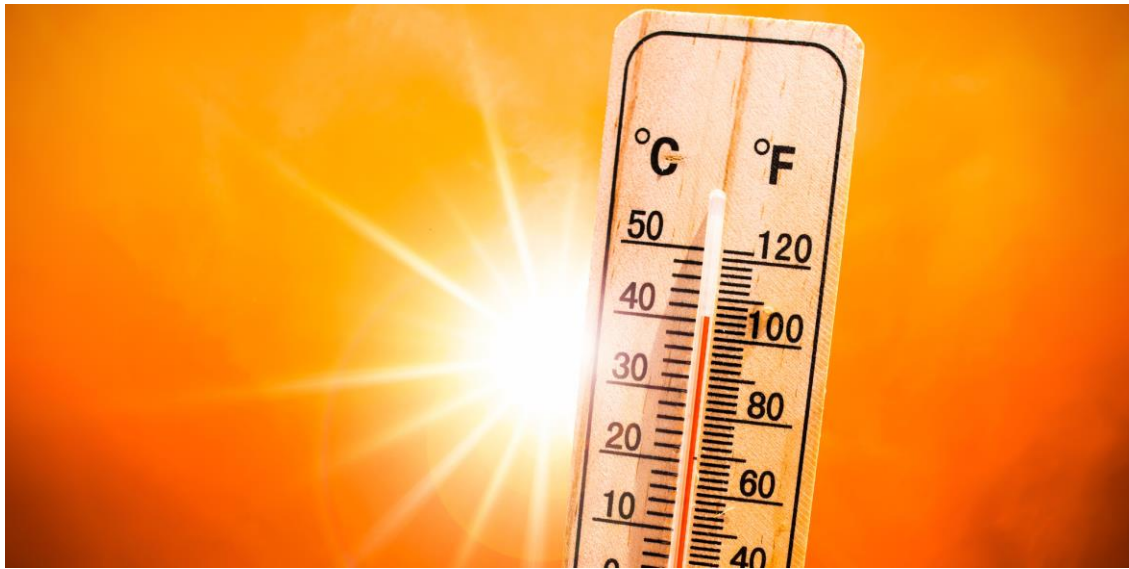
## Save the Date: Southeast Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit 2024

The 16th Annual Southeast Florida Climate Leadership Summit will be held December 16–18, 2024, at the [Casa Marina Resort](#) in Key West, FL. Hosted by [Monroe County](#) and organized by the [Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact](#), this regional gathering fosters collaboration and discussions on increasing climate resilience in Southeast Florida. Registration is now open. The Compact is currently accepting checks, and credit card payment options will be available soon. For more information and to register, click [HERE](#).

### RESILIENCE RESOURCES

## Staying Safe During Extreme Heat





As we experience unrelenting heat here in South Florida, it is important to understand the dangers of heat-related illnesses. In the past few weeks, heat indices, or “real feel” temperatures, from between 100 to 108 degrees Fahrenheit (F) have occurred throughout the County. Heat Advisories occur when the Heat Index is at or above 108F for at least two hours, and Excessive Heat Warnings occur when the Heat Index is at 113F or higher for at least two hours. Extreme heat can lead to both heat exhaustion and heat stroke illnesses. The County advises residents to practice heat safety during these hot and humid days. You can reduce your risk of heat-related illnesses by:

- **Never leaving people and pets in a parked car**—Temperatures in a parked car can rise quickly, which can cause illness or death, especially for children, vulnerable adults, and pets. If you see a person or pet in a parked vehicle on a hot day, call 9-1-1 immediately;
- **Limiting time outside**—avoid being outside during the midday heat and spend more time inside when possible;
- **Using public spaces**—take advantage of public spaces with air conditioning when possible. Use this time to read a book or surf the internet at one of the great library locations within the County ([PBC Library Map HERE](#)); visit a local splash pad, pool, community center, or neighborhood clubhouse. Plan your shopping for the middle of the day to stay cool when it is hottest out;
- **Staying hydrated**—drink plenty of water, even if you don’t feel thirsty. Avoid caffeine, as it can cause dehydration. Replace salts lost from sweating by drinking beverages with electrolytes; and
- **Limiting sun exposure**—apply sunscreen if you are going to be in the sun. Wear a wide-brimmed hat to protect your face against direct sunlight.

Additional Heat Safety Resources:

- [Heat Forecast Tools](#), National Weather Service
- [Extreme Heat](#), Federal Emergency Management Agency
- [Heat Illness Prevention](#), Occupational Safety and Health Administration

- [National Integrated Heat Health Information System](#), Heat.gov
- [Preventing Heat-Related Illness](#), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- [Extreme Heat Safety](#), American Red Cross

## NEWS

### [Federal Government Announces \\$71 Million Investment to Advance American Solar Manufacturing and Development as Part of Investing in America Agenda](#)

On May 16, 2024, the [U.S. Department of Energy](#) announced \$71 million in funding to grow the U.S. solar energy supply chain. Selected projects will address gaps in domestic solar manufacturing capacity and open new markets for solar technologies. To read more, click [HERE](#).

### [Federal Government Announces More Than \\$300 Million in Brownfield Grants Through Investing in America Agenda to Rehabilitate and Revitalize Communities](#)

On May 20, 2024, the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#) (EPA) announced over \$300 million in grant awards to assist States, Tribal Nations, local governments, and non-profit organizations with assessing and cleaning up contaminated brownfield sites throughout the nation. The funding will help clean up and convert brownfields (once-polluted, vacant, and abandoned properties) into “community assets,” helping to generate jobs and “spur economic revitalization in overburdened communities.” To read the full press release, click [HERE](#).

### [Federal Government Announces Recipients of nearly \\$900 Million for Clean School Buses Under President’s Investing in America Agenda](#)

On May 29, 2024, the U.S. EPA announced selections for the Clean School Bus Program rebate competition, which provides funds for school districts to replace older, diesel fueled school buses with clean ones—92% of which will be electric. Florida school districts were among those selected, including the Miami-Dade County school district, who will be receiving \$19.75 million to upgrade their fleet. To read the full press release, click [HERE](#).

### [New Law Bans Intentional Balloon Releases in Florida](#)

On June 24, 2024, Governor Ron DeSantis signed a bill banning the intentional release of balloons outdoors. Those who partake in a balloon release will be fined a civil penalty, with exceptions for children aged six and younger or individuals who release balloons for

scientific or meteorological purposes. The law goes into effect July 1, 2024. For more information, click [HERE](#).

## EVENTS

### [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!

### [Mia's Summer Shell-A-Bration](#)

**Location:** Manatee Lagoon, [600 North Flagler Drive, West Palm Beach, FL](#)

**Date:** June 29, 2024, 10:00 AM–3:00 PM

**Details:** Dive into a world of summer excitement at Mia's Summer Shell-A-Bration! Join [Manatee Lagoon](#) for this free, family-friendly event to celebrate and protect our beloved manatees. From exciting activities to refreshing treats, there's something for everyone to enjoy. For more information, click [HERE](#).

### [Florida Mango Fest](#)

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

**Date:** June 30, 2024, 9:30 AM–5:00 PM

**Details:** Learn how to master mangoes in your own yard with [UF/IFAS Palm Beach County Extension](#) and Florida's fabulous mango growers. There will be guided mango tastings, mango talks, mango growers, fruit and tree vendors, and food trucks. For more information and to register, click [HERE](#).

### [Everglades Buffet Boardwalk Tour](#)

**Location:** Grassy Waters Preserve, [8264 Northlake Boulevard, West Palm Beach, FL](#)

**Date:** June 30, 2024, 9:30 AM–10:30 AM <https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/palm-beach/>

**Details:** Join [Grassy Waters Preserve](#) staff on a relaxing, easy-paced hike on the Cypress Boardwalk Trail to discover and sample some of the remarkable plants that the area's original Native American inhabitants used for medicine and food. This is a free event, but reservations are required. To reserve a spot, call 561-804-4985. For more information, click [HERE](#).

### [Caring for your South Florida Lawn](#)

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

**Date:** July 6, 2024, 10:00 AM–11:00 AM

**Details:** Learn about lawn care with a UF/IFAS Master Gardener. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

### [BioBlitz Photography Walk](#)

**Location:** Hagen Ranch Road Branch Library, [14350 Hagen Ranch Road, Delray Beach, FL](#)

**Date:** July 9, 2024, 9:30 AM–10:45 AM

**Details:** Are you interested in becoming a citizen scientist? Join [PBC Libraries](#) for a photography walk to search and identify plants and animals! Using the [iNaturalist](#) app, you will explore what species are in your neighborhood to support conservation. To register, click [HERE](#).

### [Boca Raton Tree Giveaway](#)

**Location:** Patch Reef Park, [2000 Yamato Road, Boca Raton, FL](#)

**Date:** July 13, 2024, 9:00 AM

**Details:** In honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the [Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District](#), [Community Greening](#) has teamed up with the [City of Boca Raton](#) to pass out free trees to [Boca Raton](#) residents. This walk-up tree giveaway will include both native and fruit trees as options. Two trees per household. For more information, click [HERE](#).

### [Adult Craft–Recycled Magazine Coaster](#)

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

**Date:** July 18, 2024, 1:30 PM–3:00 PM

**Details:** Repurpose old magazines into a personalized, eco-friendly coaster. For more information and to register, click [HERE](#).

### [Craft: DIY Hydroponic Jars](#)

**Location:** Wellington Branch Library, [1951 Royal Fern Drive, Wellington, FL](#)

**Date:** July 24, 2024, 1:00 PM–2:30 PM

**Details:** Set up your own Hydroponic Mason Jars and enjoy caring for plants in stylish setups. To register, click [HERE](#).

### [Running Wild – 3.5 Mile Trail Run at Loxahatchee Slough Natural Area](#)

**Location:** Loxahatchee Slough Natural Area, [11855 Bee Line Highway, West Palm Beach, FL](#)

**Date:** July 24, 2024, 6:15 PM–8:30 PM

**Details:** This guided trail run will take participants through some of Palm Beach County's most scenic trails. It is free and open to everyone. For more information, click [HERE](#).

## LOOK, LEARN, AND LISTEN

### ARTICLES



#### [10 Big Biden Environmental Rules, and What They Mean](#)

By: Coral Davenport



[Sea Levels are Starting to Rise Faster: Here's How Much South Florida is Expecting](#)

By: Alex Harris



[Instead of Taking Millions for Their Land, Texas Family Makes a Park Instead](#)

By: Andy Corbley

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## PODCASTS

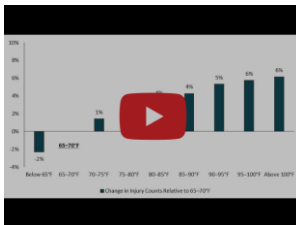


[Did Trees Kill the World?](#)

By: Vox

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## VIDEOS



[Impact of Excessive Heat on the Frequency of Work-Related Injuries](#)

By: Workers Compensation Research Institute (WCRI)

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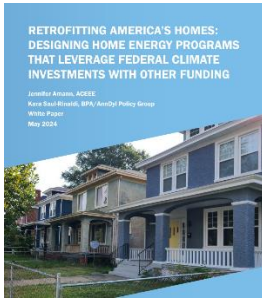
## REPORTS



[Critically Eroded Beaches in Florida](#)

By: Florida Department of Environmental Protection





[Retrofitting America's Homes: Designing Home Energy Programs That Leverage Federal Climate Investments With Other Funding](#)

By: Jeniffer Amann & Kara Saul-Rinaldi

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**



[\*\*Climate Change Adaptation Resource Center \(ARC-X\)\*\*](#)

Attention local governments! The EPA's Adaptation Resource Center (ARC-X) is an interactive tool to help local governments and decision-makers learn more about climate

change. Users can also acquire information about the risks posed by climate change to areas of concern (e.g., air quality, public health, etc.), as well as adaptation strategies, successful case studies, and EPA funding opportunities. To access this tool, click [HERE](#).

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)



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