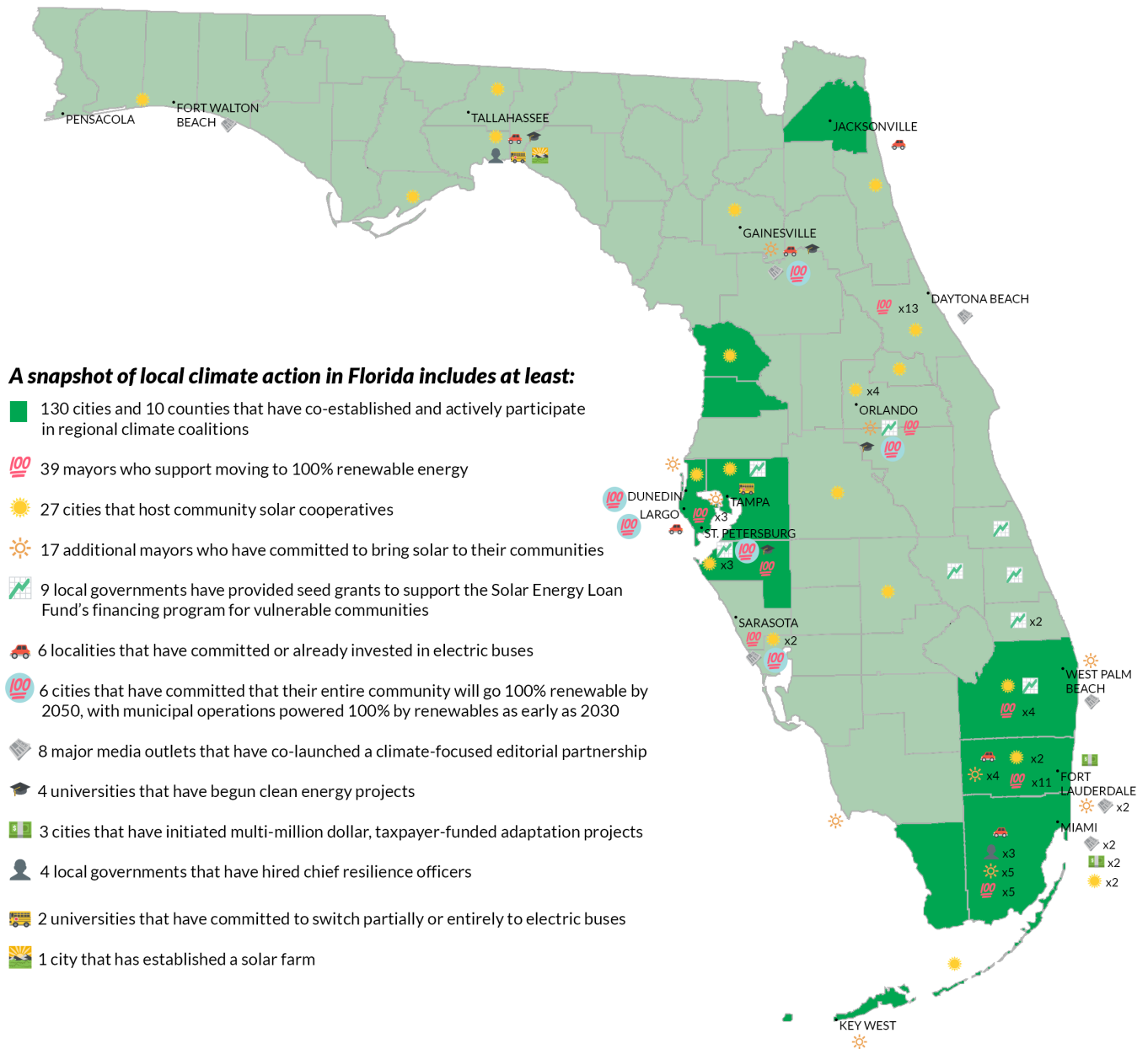


# Local Leaders #ActOnClimate

*In the absence of state and federal leadership, Florida cities and counties are taking the lead, launching clean energy initiatives and other local solutions to our climate crisis*

Florida is ground zero for climate change impacts, and Floridians are already feeling the effects of a warmer world. From mosquitoes and hurricanes to harmful algal blooms and sea level rise - Florida faces multiple threats. Despite all this evidence, the Trump Administration is rolling back clean air protections and giving polluters a free pass. The good news is that local institutions and organizations throughout Florida are embracing solutions to reduce pollution and address climate change.



## A snapshot of local climate action in Florida includes at least:

- 130 cities and 10 counties that have co-established and actively participate in regional climate coalitions
- 100 39 mayors who support moving to 100% renewable energy
- ☀ 27 cities that host community solar cooperatives
- ☀ 17 additional mayors who have committed to bring solar to their communities
- 🏠 9 local governments have provided seed grants to support the Solar Energy Loan Fund's financing program for vulnerable communities
- 🚌 6 localities that have committed or already invested in electric buses
- 100 6 cities that have committed that their entire community will go 100% renewable by 2050, with municipal operations powered 100% by renewables as early as 2030
- 📰 8 major media outlets that have co-launched a climate-focused editorial partnership
- 🎓 4 universities that have begun clean energy projects
- 🏠 3 cities that have initiated multi-million dollar, taxpayer-funded adaptation projects
- 👤 4 local governments that have hired chief resilience officers
- 🚌 2 universities that have committed to switch partially or entirely to electric buses
- ☀ 1 city that has established a solar farm

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## Ready for 100% Clean Energy

*Ready For 100 is a national movement of people working to inspire our leaders to embrace a vision of healthier communities powered with 100% clean, renewable energy by the year 2050.*

**The following cities have passed commitments to go 100% renewable:** St. Petersburg, Orlando, Sarasota, Largo, Gainesville and Dunedin (anticipated to pass its resolution 12/6/18). These resolutions by councils/commissions set dates as early as 2030 for municipal operations, and 2050 for the entire community.

*Additionally, the following cities have Mayors who support the Ready for 100 pledge.*

*Learn more at: <https://www.sierraclub.org/ready-for-100/campaign>*

### **Central Florida:**

- |               |                      |                   |
|---------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Daytona    | 8. Lake Helen        | 14. Ponce Inlet   |
| 2. DeBary     | 9. Largo             | 15. Port Orange   |
| 3. Deland     | 10. New Smyrna Beach | 16. Safety Harbor |
| 4. Deltona    | 11. Oak Hill         | 17. Sarasota      |
| 5. Dunedin    | 12. Orange City      | 18. South Daytona |
| 6. Edgewater  | 13. Orlando          |                   |
| 7. Holly Hill |                      |                   |

### **South Florida:**

- |                    |                    |                     |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Boynton Beach   | 9. Miami           | 17. Tamarac         |
| 2. Coral Gables    | 10. Miami Beach    | 18. Sunrise         |
| 3. Dania Beach     | 11. Oakland Park   | 19. West Palm Beach |
| 4. Davie           | 12. Palmetto Bay   | 20. Weston          |
| 5. Delray Beach    | 13. Pembroke Pines | 21. Wilton Manors   |
| 6. Fort Lauderdale | 14. Pompano Beach  |                     |
| 7. Lake Worth      | 15. South Miami    |                     |
| 8. Lauderhill      | 16. Surfside       |                     |

## Solar Co-Op Programs

*Solar United Neighbors of Florida is a non-profit organization that brings homeowners together to create bulk-purchasing prices for rooftop solar panels. The organization has multiple Co-Op purchasing programs available in the locations listed below.*

*Learn more at: <https://www.SolarUnitedNeighbors.org/florida/>*

### **North Florida:**

|                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| Alachua County | Okaloosa-Walton  |
| Franklin-Bay   | Seminole County  |
| Leon County    | St. Johns County |

## Central Florida:

Citrus County  
Highlands County  
Hillsborough County  
Manatee County  
North Pinellas County

Orlando – Winter Park  
Polk County  
Sarasota (2)  
Space Coast  
St. Petersburg (3)

Volusia County  
West Orange

## South Florida:

East Broward County  
Miami (2)  
Palm Beach County

Upper Keys  
West Broward County

## Solar Mayors

*Environment America's "Mayors for Solar Energy" is a group of Mayors who support embracing more solar to power their communities. The following 17 mayors from Florida joined the national list of 70 mayors across the country. To learn more visit*

<https://environmentamerica.org/resources/ame/mayors-solar-energy>

Coconut Creek  
Coral Gables  
Cutler Bay  
Dania Beach  
Gainesville  
Key West  
Naples

Orlando  
Pinecrest  
Pinellas Park  
Pompano Beach  
Safety Harbor  
South Miami  
Sunrise

Surfside  
West Palm Beach  
Wilton Manors

## Clean Transportation

The following municipalities have invested in electric bus systems:

- Pinellas unveiled two zero-emission electric buses this year, with up to 10 more in the works.
- Miami-Dade is committed to 50% electric transit by 2035 (i.e. 400 new electric buses, or 25 /year to be added to fleet).
- Broward County has ordered 30 electric buses, staff plans to for entire fleet to go 100% electric. These buses will be charged with transit agency's own solar power.
- Gainesville has obtained \$2M from federal Low No grants for electric buses that will serve UF students; expected late 2019-early 2020.
- Jacksonville (JTA) also has been awarded federal Low-No grant funds for its first electric bus.
- Tallahassee, whose Star Metro agency has operated 4 electric buses for 6 years, in process of adding more, plans to have a 33% electric fleet by 2020.

## Clean Energy Finance Programs

*The Solar and Energy Loan Fund is a non-profit green bank started by former St. Lucie County Commissioner Doug Coward, who wanted to reduce barriers for clean energy. SELF offers low-interest loans to homeowners in Florida who want to invest in efficiency or renewables. SELF is a Community*

These resources were created by Environment Florida Research & Policy Center, the CLEO Institute, Sierra Club, and Florida Conservation Voters.

*Development Finance Institution so 70% of the lending goes to help low-to-moderate income homeowners. Self operates in 87 jurisdictions in Florida and to date they have helped over one thousand families finance more than \$8.4 million in total lending.*

The following municipalities have invested seed grants to support SELF clean energy and sustainability lending programs for vulnerable communities.

- City of Stuart
- City of St. Petersburg
- City of Orlando
- Hillsborough County
- St. Lucie County
- The Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council
  - Palm Beach County
  - St. Lucie County
  - Martin County
  - Indian River County

## **Regional Resiliency Coalitions**

### **South Florida Regional Climate Compact**

Founded in 2009, The Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact was one of the first resiliency coalitions not just in the state of Florida, but around the world. The coalition consists of Broward County, Miami-Dade County, Monroe County, and Palm Beach County. In October, they held their 10<sup>th</sup> Annual summit.

### **Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition**

The newly created Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition includes 25 local governments. The local governments signed a MOU on Oct. 8, 2018 and agree to share resources and make a plan to address sea level rise and help prepare for hurricanes.

## **Additional Resiliency Activity**

### **Miami-Dade County**

Miami-Dade residents are already spending significant tax dollars to address the growing epidemic of sea level rise and chronic flooding, including \$500 million for pumps on Miami Beach and \$200 million for stormwater infrastructure projects in the City of Miami.

### **Orlando-Central Florida**

In 2018, the East Coast Regional Planning Council passed a resolution to create a Resiliency Coalition.

### **Naples/ Lee County**

Collier County has received a \$1 million grant from NOAA to better understand sea level rise and climate change. The vulnerability assessment will be spearheaded by Florida Gulf Coast University professor Dr. Michael Savarese.

These resources were created by Environment Florida Research & Policy Center, the CLEO Institute, Sierra Club, and Florida Conservation Voters.

# Local Climate Change Challenges

The just-released 2018 update to the National Climate Assessment, “NCA4 Vol. II,” offers more proof that Florida faces increasingly dire consequences if we fail to rapidly cut greenhouse gas emissions. Warmer wetter weather is already taking its toll on Florida.

**CHALLENGES FACED STATEWIDE:** Communities statewide in Florida are already feeling the impacts of climate change.

- Florida’s homes and businesses are facing flood threats, that will continue to grow... There are 64,000 homes in Florida that will not survive a typical 30-year mortgage due to chronic high-tide flooding, according to the Union of Concerned Scientists
- Florida’s coastal communities have been forced to elevate roads, raise seawalls, improve drainage, and upgrade wastewater systems.
- All too often, immigrants and communities of color bear the brunt of climate impacts, which are amplified by the growing problems of extreme heat and climate gentrification.

## CHALLENGES FACED IN SPECIFIC REGIONS WITHIN FLORIDA

**The Keys | Coral Reefs & Tourism:** Warmer water temperatures are contributing to widespread bleaching and mass extinction of coral reefs. More than 90% of certain local corals in Southeast Florida have already died, and many of the remaining coral reefs in Florida will be lost in the coming decades.

**The Everglades | Invasive Species & Sea Level Rise:** Climate-driven sea level rise continues to push saltwater into areas that were previously freshwater, changing the feeding locations of wading birds. Warming temperatures throughout the region have encouraged the proliferation of invasive species with devastating effects for native plant and animal populations.

**Miami / South Florida | Sea Level Rise & Chronic Flooding:** \$2 billion in annual property taxes, along with 494,000 homes in Miami-Dade County, will be at risk from chronic flooding by the end of the century. South Florida is due for one to two feet of sea level rise by 2060, endangering more than \$14 billion of real estate. Miamians are already spending significant tax dollars to address this epidemic, including \$500 million for pumps on Miami Beach and \$200 million for stormwater infrastructure projects in Miami.

**Central Florida & South Florida | Extreme Heat:** The four warmest years on record in Florida have all occurred since 2014, and the costs of damages from extreme weather events like hurricanes are skyrocketing. Heat waves from rising temperatures are putting a drag on the economy, and

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even worse, taking lives. According to Climate Central, in 2050, the City of Tampa is expected to experience 145 “Danger Days” per year, when the heat index exceeds 105 degrees.

**Central Florida & South Florida | Vector-Borne Illness:** Higher temperatures will lead to a longer, more aggressive season (including year-round virus transmission) for Zika-carrying mosquitos in South Florida and for mosquitos who are known to carry a range of dangerous diseases from dengue fever to chikungunya virus to malaria and even deadly encephalitis. In 2016 the CDC reported that Florida had 218 cases of the Zika virus.

**Tampa Bay Region & Southwest Florida | Blue-Green Algae & Red Tide:** In July 2018, Gov. Rick Scott declared a state of emergency for seven Florida counties in response to the proliferation of blue-green algal blooms in waterways throughout the state. Meanwhile, the worst red tide in decades has caused respiratory illness and left droves of dead animals on Florida’s Gulf Coast. A record-breaking number of sea animals have died as a result of Red Tide and the algal blooms, including over 200 sea turtles, 100 manatees, and dozens of dolphins.

**The Panhandle | Extreme Weather:** Hurricane Michael caused 45 deaths and at least \$14.58 billion (2018 USD) in damages. Lives and livelihoods were uprooted as hundreds of homes were flattened and trees felled over a wide swath of the panhandle. Hurricane Michael was the strongest storm to hit the area since records were first kept, rapidly intensifying from a Tropical Storm to a Cat 4 in just 48 hours.

**Jacksonville & St Augustine | Storm Surge & Chronic Flooding:** Torrential rains and storm surge from increasingly intense hurricanes have swelled the St. Johns River to historically high levels -- inundating the lowest-lying areas of the city. According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, three feet of sea level rise is already damaging the historic forts and buildings in St Augustine, America’s oldest city.