



## **SOUTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE COMPACT COUNTIES 2014 FEDERAL ENERGY AND CLIMATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**

### Background

Southeast Florida is one of the most vulnerable areas in the country to climate change and sea level rise. Recognizing their shared challenges, Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe counties (Compact counties) adopted the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact (Compact) in 2010. The Compact includes a commitment to develop and advocate for joint state and federal legislative policies. Therefore, the Compact counties have adopted a *Federal Energy and Climate Legislative Program* each year since 2011.

The following federal policies and priorities form the *Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact Counties 2014 Federal Energy and Climate Legislative Program*:

### Infrastructure Investments

SUPPORT – the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2013 (WRRDA) and specific support for provisions:

- Authorizing Everglades restoration projects, either by name or by reference to those projects for which Chief's Reports have been completed.
- Creating a procedure for later authorization of projects under review at the time of passage of the Act, such as the Central Everglades Planning Project.
- Allowing non-federal sponsors to receive reimbursement or in-kind credit for project expenditures incurred before the execution of a Project Partnership Agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers.
- Creating an evaluation procedure for federal shore protection projects nearing the end of their 50-year federal authorization and allowing the Assistant Secretary of the Army to extend the authorization for an additional 15 years.
- Supporting the potential use of nonstructural alternatives, such as dunes, wetlands, marshes, reefs, mangroves, and other natural features.
- Creating a Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Authority (WIFIA).

SUPPORT – federal legislation that would create and fund a national infrastructure bank or other new infrastructure funding source to finance projects needed by state and local governments to adapt to climate impacts and address aging infrastructure. Emphasis should be placed on investments in water management, water supply, transportation, and other projects that make urban infrastructure more resilient to extreme weather events and rising sea levels.

SUPPORT – legislation that creates incentives for the consideration of climate impacts, including sea level rise, in federal aid for transportation, water, and other infrastructure projects.

SUPPORT – the use of emissions reduction and climate adaptation performance measures and standards to evaluate infrastructure investments, including transportation and water projects.

SUPPORT – federal programs that shift priorities toward public transit and non-motorized travel, including reinvestment in existing infrastructure and communities, support for public transportation and transit-oriented development, and congestion management strategies other than new road building.

#### Adaptation and Resilience

SUPPORT – Congressional recognition of adaptation as a critical climate change issue in the development of all legislation and appropriations priorities.

SUPPORT – specific recognition in federal legislation of land use designations made by local governments for the purposes of building community resilience, such as the Adaptation Action Areas (AAAs) defined in Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, and the development of regulations that give priority consideration to local land use designations for climate-resilient investments.

SUPPORT – federal grants, technical support, and other services to aid community planning that incorporates sustainability and climate adaptation practices.

SUPPORT – reform of the Stafford Act to allow greater flexibility in disaster reconstruction efforts to ensure that properties and infrastructure are not merely rebuilt to their previous condition, but to higher, more resilient standards (where appropriate).

SUPPORT – funding for weatherization programs provided by the U.S. Department of Energy to harden buildings against windstorm impacts.

SUPPORT – continued funding for the Federal Emergency Management Administration's (FEMA) natural hazard mitigation programs to include mitigation for hazards associated with climate change impacts.

SUPPORT – the continued eligibility of funding for activities to adapt to climate change and extreme weather events under the Federal-Aid and Federal Lands Highway programs, including vulnerability/risk assessments, highway project development, environmental review and design, construction of projects or features to protect existing assets, and evaluation of life cycle costs.

#### Program Cuts and Restrictions

OPPOSE – reduction in funding for critically important conservation, public health, and environmental protection efforts that reduce carbon emissions, support climate preparedness, build resilience to extreme weather, and protect the nation's natural resources.

#### Climate and Energy Research

SUPPORT – creation of a National Climate Service within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) as a means of providing climate-related science and technical products needed by state and local governments to prepare for the potential impacts of global climate change.

SUPPORT – continued funding for the US Global Climate Change Research Program and the completion of its National Climate Assessment process currently underway under the auspices of the US Global Change Research Act of 1990.

SUPPORT – funding to ensure that the Joint Polar Satellite System (JPSS) is launched as quickly as possible.

SUPPORT – funding for a “gap-filling” weather satellite to provide critical data between the end of the current polar satellite’s lifetime and the launch of the next-generation Joint Polar Satellite System.

SUPPORT – funding for advanced energy research programs.

#### Energy and Emissions

SUPPORT – reauthorization of and renewed funding for the Department of Energy’s Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program.

SUPPORT – continued funding for the U.S. Department of Energy to support the Southeast Florida Clean Cities Coalition and funding for implementation of projects developed under the Clean Cities Community Readiness and Planning for Plug-in Electric Vehicles and Charging Infrastructure, Funding Opportunity Number, DE-FOA-0000451 (Drive Electric Florida & US-1 Corridor Pilot Project).

SUPPORT – continued funding for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to support the Southeast Diesel Collaborative and the National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program.

#### Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE)

SUPPORT – federal legislation that supports local Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs, specifically by removing barriers to PACE and similar programs for residential properties.

#### Oil Exploration and Drilling

OPPOSE – oil exploration and drilling in federal waters on Florida’s Outer Continental Shelf.

#### Everglades Restoration

SUPPORT – the Everglades for the Next Generation Act, which would expedite implementation of projects related to the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan.

SUPPORT – continued focus on Everglades restoration as an essential component of protecting regional water supply and building regional climate resilience.

#### Tax Policy

SUPPORT – renewal of tax incentives for renewable energy production.

SUPPORT – the elimination of federal subsidies for oil and gas production.

SUPPORT – renewal of the recently-expired Section 179D of the Internal Revenue Code, which allows deductions for energy efficiency improvements in commercial buildings, and an increase in the per-square-foot value of the deduction from the previous value of \$1.80.

SUPPORT – legislation that affirms equal treatment of pretax spending programs for transit and parking and makes future increases in the transit program maximums automatic (as the parking maximum increases already are).

#### Other

SUPPORT – amending the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to allow multi-peril coverage from a national catastrophic insurance fund.