

Climate Change Task Force Meeting (CCTF)

Thursday, February 6, 2025

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Government Center Room 430 / zoom

Summary Minutes

Members Present

Co-chair: Commissioner Nan Rich
Co-chair: Mayor Furr
Brown Grosvenor, Sheri
Carbon, Albert
Coscio Carballo, Isabel
English, Baldwyn
Etessam, Shahin
Gottlieb, Lee
Jones, Elisa
Maran, Carolina, Alternate Tejeda, Julio
Metayer Bowen, Nancy
Morris, Ken
Poole, James
Schafer, Alissa Jean
Shuham, Caryl
Trupia, Peter
Vialpando, Lenny

Members Absent

Gutsche, Robert
McCarthy Bulman, Maura
Kornahrens, Robert
Kaltman, Adrienne
Robson, Col. Steve
Root, Tara
Welch, Sandra

I. Welcome

Mayor Furr welcomed the members of the task force.

II. Call to Order

Mayor Furr called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM.

III. Roll Call

Roll was called. Seventeen (17), members were in attendance, and seven (7), were absent. A quorum was present.

IV. Approval of Minutes of December 12, 2024

A motion was made, seconded, and voted unanimously in favor of accepting the

minutes of the December 12, 2024, meeting. *

V. Announcements

Mayor Furr announced the new Climate Change Action Plan passed by the Board of County Commissioners at the January 28, 2025, meeting. He thanked staff and Task Force members for assisting with the updates. Senator Rich also shared her thank you to everyone that participated.

Mayor Furr invited the new members (Mr. English, Ms. Bulman, and Mr. Poole) to introduce themselves to the Task Force.

Presentations and Discussion Items

A. Youth Climate Action Fund Microgrant Presentations: Monica Pognon, Director, Natural Resources Division

Mayor Furr advised the grant was provided by the Bloomberg Foundation. It began with conversations at COP 28. Some of the students who received grant awards made the following presentations of their completed projects:

- a. Monitoring Air Quality – Valentia Rovito, South Plantation High School
- b. Trees-A-Planty – Charlotte Rowe, South Plantation High School
- c. Build-A-Butterfly Garden – Ysabela Florendo Randovan, South Plantation High School
- d. City of Weston Food Waste Recycling and Composting Program – Jairo Gonzalez, Organics Recycling Foundation

Mayor Furr announced another award from the Bloomberg Foundation for \$100,000.

B. Protecting Broward's Heart: A-E Climate Resilience Campaign: Natalie Glusman and Janice McIntosh, Leadership Broward

Dr. Jurado provided an introduction and background for a project that was submitted to Leadership Broward for consideration. The project's focus is to develop a marketing strategy for Resilient Broward.

Ms. McIntosh introduced the marketing, communication and media strategy for Resilient Broward called "From A – E, Please Protect Me - Together, we protect what makes Broward extraordinary: Arts and Culture, Beaches, Community, Diverse Ecosystems and the Everglades".

Ms. McIntosh and Ms. Glusman reviewed the overall approach that includes the following areas: Business Partnerships, Media and Communication, Educational Initiatives, Community Events, and Public Engagement. Strategies include target

groups and core themes, key audiences and messaging, and media and press relations.

C. Sustainability Update: Monica Pognon, Director, Natural Resources Division

Ms. Pognon summarized the new Climate Change Action Plan sections and thanked everyone who assisted in the reviews and revisions. The electronic release is pending a final review. She also shared the dates for the next Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact Summit in West Palm Beach (December 16-17, 2025)

Ms. Pognon provided an update on Division programs, projects and partnerships related to the new Climate Change Action Plan that included:

- a. Manatees. The season is active and concludes March 31, 2025. There were 2,660 manatees observed during flight inspections.
- b. Expand Renewable Energy:
 1. Property Accessed Clean Energy (PACE). On January 28, 2025, Broward County Board of County Commission enacted revisions to the PACE ordinance to strengthen existing consumer protections. The Broward PACE Act goes into effect March 31, 2025. Next steps include new Interlocal Agreements with Program Administrators.
 2. Information about other financing options such as SELF is also shared with residents to encourage their research to find the best option for their specific situation and needs.
- c. Water Conservation.
 1. Special events coming up include the 7th annual Youth Climate Summit at Pompano High School on February 7, 2025, the 23rd Water Matters Day on March 8, 2025, the 13th annual P3-Eco-Challenge, and NatureScape meeting on February 20, 2025.
 2. Staff provide irrigation evaluations for many municipalities in Broward as a means to help conserve water. They create content for social media and other forms of marketing for residential irrigation rebates for residents in participating partner municipalities. Staff also educate the public about native planting through NatureScape meetings and water conservation in their home through the Conservation Pays program which is a Broward Water Partnership with municipalities as well. Natural Resources Division is also a partner with Broward County Public Schools (BCPS). Staff conduct water audits, custodial training,

and in classroom educational presentations. A GIS map is used to track and share with BCPS which schools are visited and the type of school visit.

- d. Youth Climate Action Fund Grant. Round two for \$100,000 was awarded. The applications are open from February 8 – March 8, 2025. Project completion date is October 31, 2025. The requirements are the same as the first grant.
 - 1. Youth must be aged 15 to 24.
 - 2. The project must align with Broward County's Climate Change Action Plan.
 - 3. Eligible organizations include youth-led organizations, youth-serving organizations, city agencies or departments, community organizations, non-profits, etc.
 - 4. Projects administered by youth-serving or other organization must be led by at least three individuals aged 15 to 24 who actively participate in decision-making and oversight.
- e. Air Program.
 - 1. Ozone season starts in March and runs through May. There is an App. called Air Now to monitor Ozone.
 - 2. Poster contest for the 2026 is now open. The theme is Level Up Against Climate Change.

D. Resilience Update and Compact Highlights: Dr. Jennifer Jurado, Chief Resilience Officer, Resilient Environment Department

- a. Resilience Plan Update. Board workshop held on February 4, 2025, to review the Broward Resilience Study. There seems to be a general interest for staff moving forward with many of the policy recommendations that would help support implementation on areas that provide guidance for planning and supporting infrastructure investments in the community.
- b. Economic Resilience Collaboration. Meeting to be held on February 26, 2025, at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts. The goals are to broaden private sector engagement on resilience, socialize resilience study findings and needs, promote economic resilience opportunities, and set the stage for active private sector components at the 2026 summit.

- c. Underwater Broward. Unveiled the underwater installation for the Government Center East building elevation number to raise awareness for raising water levels. It has been a partnership with Xavier Cortada and has expanded in 2025, to five more school engagements, a new bus wrap, participation in the annual Water Matters Day, and to Youth Leadership Broward.
- d. Urban Institute Grant. Staff completed an application focused on community engagement after being invited to apply for a 12-month pro-bono data, research and capacity support grant provided by the Urban Institute to advance transformative climate action. The geographic focus area is the Broward Municipal Services District and adjoining neighborhoods sharing high flood and heat risk coupled with higher social vulnerability index.
- e. Carbon Conscious Business Program. Staff is reaching out to the business community to promote the program. There will be an exhibition table at the Broward and Beyond Business Conference held by the Office of Economic and Small Business Development.
- f. Extreme Heat. The following initiatives launched: County-wide geospatial analysis of urban heat islands, community engagement and public survey to assess individual preparedness and personal experience related to extreme heat, published the “Beat the Heat” storymap, applied for the “NIHHIS Center for Heat Resilient Communities” grant, and ongoing conversations with the County’s Medical Examiner on heat related illnesses and gaps in a reporting mechanism and possible interventions.

Heat Resilience Priority Opportunity focus includes: launch a “Take the Temp” campaign, develop a public health heat dashboard, collaborate with municipalities to map public cooling centers, implement an annual heat campaign and road show, develop an urban thermal comfort map, pursue discounted pool entry on heat days, and standardize and promote guidelines for tracking and reporting of heat related illnesses/deaths.

- g. Compact Summit and Efforts. The 16th annual summit was held in Key West and included the traditional compact officials panel and the County Administrator’s panel. The 17th annual summit will be held in Palm Beach on December 16-17, 2025. The Compact priority efforts for 2025 includes: resilient redesign exercise to develop and refine resilience and adaptation strategies for resilient development, EV planning implementation workshop to dispel misconceptions about EVs in flood-prone areas, addressing fire risks and best management practices for EV battery disposal and waste management, and personal resilience adaptation guidebook to provide strategic guidance for property owners to private property resilience.
- h. Resilience Engagements. The recent and forthcoming engagements include: Lighthouse Point commissioner workshop, Pompano Beach community workshop, Hollywood Civic association, Lincoln Institute Policy Forum, St. Gregory Methodist Church speaker series, Greater Everglades Ecosystem

restoration, Leadership Broward, Leadership Hollywood, Collier County Forum, NOVA Coastal Resilience conference, Resilient Cities – Resilience Finance, and Greater Pompano Beach Board of Directors.

E. Legislative Update: Marty Cassini, Director, the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs/Boards, County Administration

- a. President Trump paused the Inflation Reduction Act money coming out and the Bipartisan Infrastructure law.
- b. The Federal Office and Management and Budget initially issued a memo that all grant monies were going to be paused and reviewed to ensure they were in line with the agency orders but rescinded it the next day.
- c. Monica Pognon advised that the Air Monitoring money is expected to move forward due to the regulatory requirements; however, money was taken for the construction of another environmental justice site in Pompano Beach.
- d. The grants office is checking in across the County for potential impacts.
- e. There was an executive order to withdraw from the Paris Climate Change Accord and there is a moratorium on wind turbines.
- f. Federal government against a deadline on March 14, 2025, for the debit ceiling.
- g. There is not much else known at this point.
- h. The Governor's recommended budget includes the following related to environmental projects: \$805 million for Everglades restoration which includes, (\$613 million for CERP, \$64 million for the EA reservoir, and \$120 million for estuary), \$100 million for beach renourishment, \$26 million for coral reef restoration, \$500 million for water quality which includes (\$275 million for the water quality improvement grant program, and \$60 million for total maximum daily loads), \$84 million for algal bloom response and \$60 million for alternate water supply.

VI. Member Updates / Topics of Interest

Baldwyn English announced FPL celebrates 100 years this year and this year eclipsed the 100 number mark of solar arrays online throughout their territories in the state, the amount of natural gas they have been able to avoid from an economic standpoint is over \$1 billion dollars saved.

VII. Other Business and Discussion

Mayor Furr asked Task Force members to think about topics they want to cover in future meetings. Albert Carbon requested a transportation presentation focused on the Light rail and Commuter rail impacts, specifically trip impacts once they are online.

Elisa Jones recommended continued and additional connection with various groups to further environmental education and community focus.

Adjourned at 3:39 PM.

Next meeting: Thursday, May 8, 2025, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM.