

Climate Change Task Force Meeting (CCTF)

Thursday, February 5, 2026

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Government Center Room 430 /zoom

Summary Minutes

Members Present

Co-chair: Commissioner Nan Rich

Co-chair: Commissioner Beam Furr

Cosio Carballo, Isabel

English, Baldwyn

Etessam, Shahin

Dahl, Robert

Gottlieb, Lee

Brown Grosvenor, Sheri

Jones, Elisa

McCarthy Bulman, Maura

Metayer Bowen, Nancy

Morris, Ken

Poole, James

Shuham, Caryl

Tejeda, Julio

Trupia, Peter

Vialpando, Lenny

Members Absent

Carbon, Albert

Gutsche, Robert

Kaltman, Adrienne

Kornahrens, Robert

Robson, Col. Steve

Root, Tara

Schafer, Alissa Jean

Murphy Salomone, Cindy

I. Welcome

Commissioner Furr welcomed the members of the task force.

II. Call to Order

Commissioner Furr called the meeting to order at 1:06 PM.

III. Roll Call

Roll was called. Seventeen (17) members were in attendance, and eight (8), were absent. A quorum was present.

IV. Approval of Minutes of February 5, 2026

A motion was made, seconded, and voted unanimously in favor of accepting the minutes of the February 5, 2026, meeting. *

V. Announcements

Commissioner Rich shared a recent cold weather event response. Starting on Monday night, January 26, 2026, a collaboration of people and organizations came together and helped to ensure that there were places where people could go to get out of the cold weather and off the street. The response started with assisting 60 individuals and grew to 211 people in various shelters. She thanked Broward Partnership for the Homeless, The Caring Place from Hollywood, the Salvation Army, Hope South Florida, and Patrice Paldino, Director of Broward County's Housing Options, Solutions and Supports Division (HOSS-D). All worked together to provide food, shelter, showering, clothing, and safety. This response activates when the temperature is below 50 degrees Fahrenheit.

Presentations and Discussion Items

A. Youth Climate Action Fund Grantee Presentations

1. Lakeside Sand Pine Preserve by Ryan Xu

Project Focus/Objectives: Trail improvements and educational programming at the preserve, encouraging preservation of this important habitat from human disturbance, and encouraging future investment, care and maintenance.

Site challenges: The project addressed issues such as illegal activity, off-trail trespassing, feral dogs, shrub encroachment, and invasive species.

Implementation: The project began with initial sketches and budgeting working with contractors, then progressed to installation of posts and signs. He hosted a volunteer workday as well.

Actions/Outcomes: A nature program was held and a mural was commissioned. The project reach included 23 trails blocked, 22 barriers, 26 signs installed, and 23 visitors educated. The city of Oakland Park now limits the park's operating hours to Saturdays to help manage clientele and encourage proper recreational use. The city also invested additional non-grant funds into the preserve for signage, the mural, and labor.

2. Recycling Rainwater by La'Chaundra Wallace, Youth Program Coordinator – City of Lauderdale Lakes and Abigail Joseph

Project Focus: Promoting sustainable water use and saving on household water bill by utilizing rain barrels.

Implementation: Provided participating residents with rain barrels to collect storm water runoff.

Outcomes: Shows that rainwater collection and reuse can increase water conservation, reduce impact on stormwater drains, and reduce water bills for activities like watering plants or a garden.

3. South Plantation High School Organic Waste Recycling and Composting by Sophia Busch, South Plantation High School

Project Focus: Moving away from passive, unsuccessful composting methods to active, managed composting.

Challenges: Previous passive composting at the school did not last as students would graduate and leave the selected compost site unattended. There was no quality control in this approach. Initial participation was also a challenge.

Implementation: Found educational materials and trained back of the house staff at the school. Student volunteers were also trained to assist with transporting and inspecting organic waste bins to the centralized waste holding site. Volunteers removed packaging, stickers, etc. before placing them into composting bins for transport. Also, as a part of this project, they fed school animals with food waste suitable for their diet. What could not be fed to the animals collected by two companies for composting off campus.

Education/Impact: Approximately 150 students were trained on proper sorting to avoid contamination (e.g., removing plastic and produce stickers). Between June and December, the program collected 4,940 pounds of organic waste, significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The school has committed to funding the program's continuation using internal budgets and being used as a pilot program across Broward County Public Schools.

4. Immersing into ER Immersion Day by Valentina Rovito and Jordan Pagan, South Plantation High School

Project Focus: Teaching students about impacts of climate change and educating them on how they can help

Methodology: Created an event called Immersion Day that was aimed at teaching younger students about climate change. The agenda contained

seven parts including a presentation, a reading of Our House is on Fire, student sessions, a pre-test, learning modules in 15-minute rotations (global warming, saltwater intrusions, virus spreading, storm intensification, loss of biodiversity and transportation), a post-test, and a pledge to the planet.

Outcomes: Student post-test score increased from 50% to 70%. This shows increase in knowledge on climate change and ways to help. The event participants included 72 students, 25 student volunteers, and five (5) teachers.

5. 3-Bay Aerated Static Pile Composting System by Emma Birnbaum, Ana Maria Cortina, and Julia Soto, North Broward Preparatory

Project Focus: Improving sustainability and composting on campus.

Implementation: Partnered with Filthy Organics who brought materials to create a composting program. Upper and lower school cafeterias removed trash cans to encourage students to leave waste on the plate. Initially, cafeteria staff sorted through plates left by the students on the conveyor belts and placed compostable materials in the designated areas. Additional pilot programs were launched and included student separation of compostable food waste and use of the onsite compost system as well as use of Filthy Organics collection of food waste.

Impacts/Outcomes: The system actively gives students hands-on experience by helping to sort the food waste from trash. The program encourages collaboration by having various parts of the school and students working together. Compost is being used on various areas of the school campus including baseball fields, lawns, ornamental plants and gardens. As of August of 2024, 167,000 pounds had been composted.

6. Sparking Sustainability by Christopher Evans, North Broward Preparatory

Project Focus: Integrating sustainable farming at school, educating students about the lifecycle of chickens and the interdependent relationships between people and animals.

Implementation: Built a chicken coop. and secured an area at the school to house the chickens using sustainable materials. Integrated education about sustainable farming and the life cycle of chickens into the middle school science curriculum based on the age level of the student. Different levels had different responsibilities of care as well.

Future Plans: Working with the school and interested students to plan for continuation of care for the chickens and teaching the curriculum developed about sustainable farming.

7. Shoreline Protection by Diana Ryabova, Hollywood Hills High School

Project Focus: Protecting, preserving, and restoring coastal ecosystems for future generations to enjoy their beauty and benefits.

Implementation: 250 students volunteered to assist with the project overall. Some with planting sea oats into pre-staged baskets in preparation for the planting event, others with the planting event directly. On planting day, 36 students and four chaperones were divided into four specialized teams. Three teams focused on planting 400 sea oats. One team gathered seaweed from the shoreline which was repurposed as fertilizer.

Challenges: Transportation of students to the planting site. One bus had to be cancelled. While on site, the wind was gusting making planting and seaweed collection more difficult.

Future Plans: Volunteers will monitor the growth of the planted sea oats and expand efforts to maintain the dune as needed. Project leads are working to find successors for this effort and to encourage student participation in conservation work similar to this project.

8. Sand Dunes Restoration – Pompano Beach by Westminster Academy

Project Focus: Sand dune conservation, education, pollution removal, planting and proper signage.

Implementation: Project was implemented in four stages. Stage one was site cleaning by removing trash, debris and invasive species. Stage two included research for the right plant and purchase of the selected plant. Stage three was the planting event. Stage four was monitoring and reporting on the dune.

Outcomes: 250 native plants were planted by 40 high school volunteers. This planting has restored approximately one acre of dunes.

Future Plans: Volunteers will monitor the sand dune stability and health by collecting data. The data will be analyzed and shared in hopes of expanding to new locations.

B. Resilience Update: Dr. Jennifer Jurado, Chief Resilience Officer, Resilient Environment Department

Dr. Jurado provided an update on Resilience Projects and Initiatives that included:

- a. Resilient Cities Forum
 1. The prominent themes included urban resilience governance, data solutions to address climate, health and equity, resilience in practice featuring lessons from the UK, resilience financing and green infrastructure, and visioning resilient urban features.
 2. Transportation was easily accessible.
 3. Host city has been conducting large scale, complicated infrastructure projects, examples on the Thames River.
- b. 2025 Compact Summit
 1. First time Palm Beach has been able to host in person in many years.
 2. Keynote speaker was Michael Grunwald.
 3. FAU students participated
 4. Commissioner Furr served as Broward's elected official. He focused on local leadership and highlighted the Kristen Jacobs Coral Reef Management strategy, Waste Managements progress and the County Resilience Plan.
- c. Section 203 Update
 1. January 23, 2026, the Project Environmental Assessment was published
 2. February 20, 2026, public comment closed.
 3. February 3, 2026, an internal approval of draft cost certification was received.
 4. The next stage is pursuing authorization and appropriations.
- d. Section 219 Funding Strategy
 1. January 15, 2026, was the kick-off webinar
 2. Goal is to develop project list with 2 to 3 projects per year
 3. Target average is \$3 million of capital costs each
 4. Type of projects are pumps, control structures, and culverts
 5. Funding is 75% federal/25% local cost share
 6. Timeline for selection and advancement is by the end of February
 7. Strategy is a rolling project list with annual requests
- e. Broward County's Resilience Strategy
 1. Steering Committee kick-off event held
 2. Committee purpose includes a forum for sustained interagency collaboration, to review projects, progress and needs, aid implementation of the County's Resilience Strategy, and to ensure progress on cross-agency initiatives.
 3. Internal team focal areas include energy strategy and data

management, skill-building and career pipelines, innovations in products and purchasing, active COOP exercises, and lessons as part of after-action reports.

- f. 2026 Compact Summit Planning
 - 1. Two signature sponsors
 - 2. One Keynote confirmed
 - 3. Innovation Day is advancing
 - 4. Expanded student engagement such as public schools, FAU students and poster sessions
 - 5. Select panel themes include climate in motion, local challenges and progress, energy innovations, resilience in practice, lessons from abroad, innovation spaces and startups, attracting capital and business perspectives.

- g. Resilient Broward Event
 - 1. 2nd annual event scheduled for February 26, 2026
 - 2. Location is 891 SW 34 Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315
 - 3. Admission is \$50 and event is from 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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

Ms. Pognon provided an update on Division programs, projects and partnerships related to the current CCAP that included:

- a. Air Program
 - 1. 2027 Clean Air Calendar has been printed
 - 2. Starting to solicit entries for the 2028 calendar. Deadline for submission will be April 10, 2026. Contest theme will be, “A Fresh Take on Flora and Fauna”.
 - 3. Gearing up for Earth Day events.

- b. NatureScape and Water Conservation
 - 1. 24th annual Water Matters Day is planned for March 14, 2026, with event time from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Tree Tops Park.
 - 2. Theme is Reclaim Water, Regrow Nature.
 - 3. 8th annual Broward Youth Climate Summit is planned for February 6, 2026, at Pompano Beach High School.
 - 4. Commissioner Davis’s Tree Giveaway is planned for April 18, 2026, at Miramar Pineland Park.

- c. Marine Resources
 - 1. Manatee season started November 15, 2025, and continues through March 31, 2026.
 - 2. Increased presence in manatees using Broward waterways in January

due to winter chill.

3. Staff assisted in one recovery of a Manatee mortality from a boat strike.
4. Kristen Jacobs Coral Aquatic Preserve was designated on July 1, 2024. It extends from the mean high-water line to state water limits three (3) nautical miles offshore. It encompasses 105 linear miles of the northern portion of the Florida's Coral Reef and includes Miami-Dade, Palm Beach and Martin counties. The management plan for the Preserve is under public comment which ends February 6, 2026. The plan was needed to create a regional framework for coordinated management of the northern portion of Florida's Coral Reefs.

d. Sustainability

1. Staff applied in January for round three of the Youth Climate Action Fund grant through Bloomberg Philanthropies.
2. The County will be notified by late February, early March of this year.

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

Mr. Cassini provided several legislative updates that included, but are not limited to the following:

Unfunded Mandates and Local Restrictions – State Legislation 2026

PROPERTY TAX LEGISLATION

Ready for the House Floor

HJR 203 Phased Out Elimination of Non-school Property Tax for Homesteads

- The bill increases the second homestead exemption for ad valorem taxes that currently applies to the assessed value of homestead properties between \$50,000 and \$75,000, adjusted annually for inflation, by adding \$100,000 per year to this exemption for ten years. Beginning in 2037, the entire assessed value of homestead properties would be exempt from all ad valorem taxes other than school taxes. The bill also prohibits local governments from reducing funding for services provided by law enforcement, firefighters, and first responders below a specified base year.
- This bill would reduce Broward County revenue by an estimated \$624,800,000 over 4 years. The first-year impact is estimated at \$193.7 million.

HJR 209 Property Insurance Relief Homestead Exemption Non-school Property Tax

- The bill provides an alternative second homestead exemption that is \$200,000 more than the existing \$25,000 second homestead exemption that applies to the assessed value between \$50,000 and \$75,000. This is only for homestead properties that have comprehensive homeowners' insurance and applies to the assessed value of homestead property between \$25,000 and \$250,000 (adjusted annually for inflation), for all ad valorem taxes other than school taxes. The bill also prohibits local governments from reducing funding for services for law enforcement, fire fighters, and first responders below a specified base year.
- The bill would have a range of a \$255 million to \$329 million impact to Broward County depending on how many individuals who do not have a mortgage carry insurance.

HJR 213 Modification of Limitations on Property Assessment Increases

- The bill provides that changes in assessments for individual properties will only occur once every three years for ad valorem taxes levied by counties, cities, and special districts. Increases in assessments for homestead properties will be limited to 3% or the change in inflation over the 3-year period, whichever is lower. Increases in assessments of non-homestead property will be limited to 15% every third year. Increases are prohibited if the just value of the property is higher than the just value of the property the last time the assessment changed. The bill also prohibits local governments from reducing funding for services provided by first responders below a specified base year.
- This bill would reduce Broward County revenue by an estimated \$291,800,000 over three years.

Still in Committee

HJR 201 Elimination of Non-school Property Tax for Homesteads

- The bill creates an exemption for the entire assessed value of homestead properties. The exemption would apply to all ad valorem taxes other than school taxes. The bill also prohibits local governments from reducing funding for law enforcement services below a specified base year.
- The Broward County Property Appraiser estimates a fiscal impact to the County of \$624,800,000.

HJR 205 Elimination of Non-School Property Tax for Homesteads for Persons Age 65 or Older

- The bill creates an exemption for the entire assessed value of homestead properties owned by persons 65 or older for all ad valorem taxes other than school taxes. The bill also prohibits local governments from reducing funding for services provided by law enforcement, firefighters, and first responders below a specified base year.
- The Broward County Property Appraiser estimates a fiscal impact to the County of \$161,800,000.

HJR 207 Assessed Home Value Homestead Exemption of Non-school Property Tax

- The bill creates an exemption for 25 percent of the assessed value of homestead properties, after the two existing twenty-five thousand-dollar exemptions are applied. The exemption would apply to all ad valorem taxes other than school taxes. The bill also prohibits local governments from reducing funding for services provided by law enforcement, firefighters, and first responders below a specified base year.
- The Broward County Property Appraiser estimates a fiscal impact to the County of \$187,100,000.

HJR 211 Accrued Save-Our-Homes Property Tax Benefit for Non-school Property Tax

- The bill allows the full amount (instead of the current limit of \$500,000) of any accrued Save Our Homes benefit (the difference between the assessed value and the just or fair market value of a homestead) to transfer to a new home and would remove the requirement that a homeowner's benefit amount be reduced if the owner is downsizing to a smaller home. This change would apply to all ad valorem taxes other than school taxes. The bill also prohibits local governments from reducing funding for law enforcement services below a specified base year.
- The State Revenue Estimating Conference estimated that the amendment will have a negative cash impact of \$42.7 million, and a negative recurring impact of \$336.8 million on local non-school property tax revenues in FY 2027-28. The Broward County Office of Management and Budget and the Property Appraiser do not have enough data to estimate the fiscal impact to the County.

Unfunded Mandates

HB 433 / SB 290 – Department of Agriculture

- The bill prohibits Class B biosolids land application by July 1, 2028.
- Class B land application is currently the principal permitted outlet for many Florida utilities. Constructing a new Class AA treatment facility will take 5 years and \$550 million. It is not feasible to design, procure, and construct a Class AA treatment facility by July 1, 2028. Eliminating Class B land application without a phased transition will remove critical redundancy and increase the likelihood of emergency disposal actions.
- The bill lacks state support for permitting and capital delivery, as well as prioritized access to interim disposal capacity to avoid bottlenecks as utilities transition.

HB 1245 / SB 1294 Biosolids Management

- The bill creates new requirements for the distribution, marketing, and land application of Class AA biosolids, which will lead to a reduction of AA biosolids beneficial use through these options, leading to increased landfill use and ratepayer costs.

HB 4039 – Monarch Hill, Rep. Dan Daley

- The bill requires Broward County to commission a feasibility study and conduct a public hearing before issuing or approving any application, zoning change, permit, or development order allowing for the physical expansion of the Monarch Hill Landfill.
- The bill's Economic Impact Statement estimates that the feasibility study would cost Broward County \$700,000. The bill would also delay the expansion, putting the County at risk of exhausting its landfill allocation requiring the costly shipping of waste.
- Landfill already undergoes requisite FDEP permitting, environmental review and public input as part of the process. The bill adds redundant studies and processes without identifying an existing regulatory gap and it does not provide allowance for burdens that have already been met. City concerns were also already addressed by an August 2025 settlement between Coconut Creek and Deerfield Beach with Waste Management

Notable Preemptions

HB 479 / SB 718 Land and Water Management

The bill prohibits a county or municipality that prohibit upland activities beyond a minimum 15-foot and average 25-foot wetland buffer. The bill also repeals water management district land management review teams.

SB 1444 / HB 1227 Preemption to the State

- Prevents counties from restricting a person's ability to attend religious services or gatherings and specifies that they must be allowed in areas zoned for residential or commercial use.
- The bill prohibits local enforcement agencies from denying the issuance of a certificate of occupancy to an owner of a residential or commercial structure based on noncompliance with a Florida-friendly landscaping ordinance.
- Prohibits local governments from enacting or enforcing any ordinance, regulation, resolution, rule, charter provision, or other policy or taking any action to license or otherwise regulate a mutual benefit corporation in a manner that is different from other businesses in a local government's jurisdiction; and
- Prohibits local governments from regulating parking standards at home-based businesses on a parcel of land of two acres or more.

HB 1049/ SB 968 Building Permit Requirements

- The bill prevents local governments that issue building permits from requiring an owner of a single-family dwelling or the owner's contractor to obtain a building permit to perform any work on the single-family dwelling lot which is valued at less than \$7,500. It further prevents local enforcement agencies from requiring a building permit, or any local review or approval process that is functionally equivalent to the permitting process, for the design, installation, relocation, replacement, or repair of certain backup power systems that are installed by a licensed contractor.
- Local enforcement agencies will not know to conduct an inspection unless a permit is pulled. Without permit fees, these inspections will be a cost burden.

HB 803 / SB 1234 Building Permits and Inspections

- The bill revises provisions relating to building code inspection services provided by private provider & private provider firms including requiring reduced local government permit fees and prohibiting additional administrative or punitive fees for owners and contractors using private providers. The bill also prohibits local governments from requiring building permits for any work valued at less than \$7,500 done on a single-family home except for electrical, plumbing, or structural work.

HB 105 / SB 588 Local Government Enforcement Actions

- The bill prohibits local government entities from “initiating or threatening to initiate any enforcement action that is determined by a court...to be arbitrary or unreasonable and not authorized by an ordinance.” Persons subject to the enforcement action may request review of the action or challenge the action in court in specified circumstances.
- The bill defines “enforcement action” as any decision, determination, demand, inspection, citation, order, denial, interpretation, or other regulatory action undertaken by a local government entity except for specified exempt actions.

HB 1217 / SB 1628

- The bill prohibits governmental entities from adopting net-zero policies, including through comprehensive plans, land development regulations, transportation plans, or any other government policy or procedure.
- The bill defines “net-zero policy” to include any target, threshold, action, initiative, framework, requirement, or policy related to reducing the use of carbon-intensive products or activities, including policies related to achieving goals under the Paris Agreement.

SB 240 – Auxiliary Containers

- Preempts local regulation of auxiliary containers, with limited exceptions for glass, existing ordinances, and on public property. Existing ordinances exempt. Requires DEP to develop a uniform ordinance for the use and disposal of single-use, nonrecyclable auxiliary containers. Eliminates polystyrene foam containers in parks managed by the Division of Recreation and Parks. Requires a statewide Marine Debris Reduction Plan by December 31, 2026.

HB 629 – Regulation of Auxiliary Containers and SB 766 – Waste Management

Preempts regulation to the state (Glass exemption)

HB 145 / SB 1366 Claims Against the Government

- Increases the sovereign immunity caps.
- House caps to \$600k individual \$1.2m per incident. Local governments can settle over the cap.
- Senate caps to \$300k individual \$450k per incident. No settlements over the cap.

HB 1297/SB 636 – Beach Management

Requires DEP to review data on beaches that have been repeatedly repaired with private, local, and federal funds prior to designating them as critically eroded. Mandates that beaches with a perpetual easement, managed shoreline retreat, and repeated inland flooding or structural damage be designated as critically eroded when local governments preserve dedicated funding.

SB 302/HB 1035 - Nature-based Solutions for Improving Coastal Resilience

Establishes rules and guidelines for implementing nature-based solutions, including mangrove restoration, living seawalls, and hybrid infrastructure. Emphasizes local government participation in programs for erosion mitigation, habitat restoration, and public outreach on coastal protection. Requires a statewide feasibility study, in consultation with insurance agents, to assess the potential of nature-based solutions for reducing flood risk and insurance premiums.

SB1422/HB 1319 – Coral Reefs

Recognizes coral reef restoration as a nature-based solution supported by federal hazard mitigation funding. Adds a legislative provision designating coral reefs in Broward, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, and Palm Beach Counties as being in the public interest.

SB1230/HB 1019 – Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances

Provides that, effective July 1, 2026, aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) containing intentionally added perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) may not be used for any nonemergency instruction, training, or testing, and all entities in possession of AFFF must report inventories to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Effective July 1, 2027, the bill prohibits the sale, purchase, or distribution of AFFF in Florida and requires all entities with remaining inventories to submit a disposal plan to the DEP.

Effective July 1, 2028, the bill prohibits the possession and use of AFFF in the state. The bill creates exceptions for (1) federal aviation facilities required to comply with applicable federal rules; (2) military applications where alternatives do not exist; and (3) emergency firefighting situations where alternative firefighting foam is not available.

SB 1196/HB 1089 – Waste Facilities

Prohibits local governments and the Department of Environmental Protection from

issuing construction permits for new solid waste disposal facilities that use an ash-producing incinerator or for waste-to-energy facilities if the proposed location is sited within a 2-mile radius, as measured from the stack, of any impoundment area authorized by Congress with an effective interior storage of at least 100 acres for purposes of:

- Capturing, storing, and distributing surface water;
- Improving hydroperiods and hydroperiods in any water conservation area;
- Increasing the spatial extent of wetlands;
- Benefiting any federally listed threatened and endangered species;
- Flood mitigation; or
- Groundwater recharge.

VI. Member Updates / Topics of Interest

No member updates.

VII. Other Business and Discussion

No additional business.

Adjourned at 4:06 PM.

Next meeting: Thursday, May 7, 2026, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM.