

Policy Toolkit

A guide to climate policy



**The
Climate
Initiative**

Florida

Introduction

Hello!

Welcome to the Florida Policy Toolkit! I'm Anna Lynn; currently, the Florida Policy Intern at The Climate Initiative, and an Environmental Studies Senior at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida. Originally, I am from Key West, but also grew up in Miami. I believe that caring for the Earth is caring for ourselves and our communities, and this is my passion!

Along with my fellow Floridians, I have experienced the effects of climate change throughout my whole life; and as a passionate outdoorswoman, I have witnessed and researched the large-scale loss of biodiversity in species and in native ecosystems. No matter how old you are or how long you have lived here, we all can see our state's communities rapidly changing.

Climate Change is an issue that we are facing today, and will continue to worsen if we do not take our future into our own hands. Together, we need to push our State Government to take rapid climate action, by enacting policies that rapidly transition our state towards a sustainable future. It may seem like an overwhelming task but that is why I have created this Policy Toolkit with our team at The Climate Initiative!

In it, you'll find a history of climate policy in Florida, legislators that are supportive of climate policy according to organizations in Florida, and other useful information. Climate advocacy is not easy, and there is so much at stake for our generation if nothing is done. My hope is that this toolkit will provide you with all you need to make much-needed change in our state and community and that after reading this, you feel equipped and inspired to take action!

If you have any questions or thoughts on how we at The Climate Initiative can help your advocacy, please feel free to reach out to TCI's Policy Manager at: javan@theclimateinitiative.org

Anna Lynn

Anna Lynn Heine
Florida Policy Intern



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Florida Policy Landscape

As a low-lying sub-tropical peninsula made of limestone, Florida is surrounded by water on all 3 sides. As a biodiversity hotspot, Florida is rich in some of Earth's natural treasures; such as The Florida Springs, The Florida Keys, The Everglades, and the third largest coral reef system in the world; The Great Florida Reef. Not only does The Sunshine State lie in between The Atlantic Ocean and The Gulf of Mexico, but it also sits directly atop the Floridan Aquifer and Biscayne Aquifer. Both of these are managed by The Florida Legislature and provide fresh water for 3 other U.S. states, and controversial global water bottling companies.

Florida is one of America's most vulnerable states when it comes to climate change. Here, the effects of climate change will include everything from biodiversity loss, saltwater intrusion, sea level rise, increased flooding, increased intensity of hurricanes, wildfires, and ocean acidification. Not only will climate change affect Florida's natural systems and resources, but it will largely affect the economy as well.

Yet, climate change remains a controversial topic among Floridians and government officials. Compared to other states' climate policies, such as California and Maine, Florida is extremely behind. When it comes to climate policies, the ones that have passed in Florida all relate to mitigating the results of climate change and regulating and protecting the industries involved. Policies aimed at putting higher regulations on the fossil fuel industry have never made it very far in Florida Legislation. The state has also passed climate regressive policies that protect corporations and make it difficult for local governments to take maximum action needed for climate mitigation.



Florida Policy Landscape

In the United States, there has been a multi-million-dollar misinformation campaign to intentionally mask the relationship between the fossil fuel industry and climate change and to diminish the scientific evidence of its existence. Sponsored by the fossil fuel industry itself, this misinformation campaign is actively linked to support from politicians. Unfortunately, the Florida Legislature is infamous for supporting this story of American climate denial and inaction. In Florida, not only do certain fossil-fuel-sponsored politicians block bills that would mitigate climate change, but they also have passed laws that protect fossil fuel companies and continue to freely allow their greenhouse gas emissions.

Through increased severity of hurricanes, heatwaves, flooding, sea level rise, etc, Floridians are already experiencing the severe effects of climate change on a daily basis. It is becoming increasingly difficult for Floridians and the State Government to deny the reality of climate change. This extreme environmental chaos presents an incredible opportunity to bring parties together to create bipartisan solutions that positively impact communities, the environment, and the economy.

While this traditionally conservative state is slowly progressing toward taking the impacts of climate change into consideration, Florida's Legislature continues to be criticized by climate experts. They reveal that the state is only focusing on how to adapt to the effects of climate change; rather than focusing on solutions that mitigate the severity of the effects.

As a climate advocate, it is vital for you to understand the Landscape of Climate Policy in Florida. You need to know the policies that are already implemented, pending, and that have failed. Below you will find what is current (Summer 2022) in Florida policy level; with a brief explanation of the impact it has. Understanding these policies is the first step to knowing what to prioritize in your climate advocacy. This will equip you to push your government towards a sustainable future!

Currently Enacted Laws

Florida currently has zero enacted policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, regulate the fossil fuel industry, or to support large-scale renewable energy. Florida's current climate bills target solutions that will help Floridians deal with the impacts of climate change, but not any to tackle the causes or reduce the effects. Most recently, The Florida Legislature even passed 3 climate regressive bills that support fossil fuels and increase difficulty to take climate action.

CS/SB 1764: Municipal Solid Waste-to-Energy Program - 2022 *Regressive Climate Policy*

- Bill by Appropriations; Albitron
- Creates the Municipal Solid Waste-to-Energy Program within the Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services and appropriates \$100 million in recurring funds for the program. It directs the department to provide incentive grants to waste-to-energy facilities to assist with constructing, upgrading, or expanding a facility.
- Converting solid waste into energy produces less greenhouse gas emissions than leaving the solid waste in a landfill, but "waste reduction is the preferred strategy to lower absolute emissions". Converted energy from solid waste produces less greenhouse gas emissions than energy produced by oil, coal, and gas. Converted energy from solid waste produces significantly more emissions than any form of renewable energy.
- The passing of this bill reflects the current Florida Legislature's continuous support for bills that do not mitigate climate change and consistently protect the fossil fuel industry. Allocating a recurring \$100 million budget per year for this program supports waste production, rather than supporting solutions to reduce waste and greenhouse gas emissions; (see bills that failed the exact same time this bill was passed; CS/SB 1156: Comprehensive Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan and HB 1145: Regulation of Single-use Plastic Products).

Currently Enacted Laws

SR/ CS 1572: Climate Change - 2020

- Bill by Appropriations; Environment and Natural Resources; Rodrigues
- Establishes the Resilient Florida Program which provides funding for nature-based solutions to prepare communities for the impacts of climate change, including sea level rise, intensified storms, and flooding. Requires DEP to create a comprehensive statewide flood vulnerability and sea-level rise data set and assessment and Rise Resilience Plan. Requires Office of Economic and Demographic Research (EDR) to include an analysis of the costs of implementing resilience measures for flooding and sea-level rise adaptation in EDR's annual assessments of Florida's water resources and conservation lands.
- This bill also establishes The Florida Flood Hub for Applied Research and Innovation (Hub) at the University of South Florida College of Marine Science.
- Sea level rise is a known effect of climate change. This bill reflects Florida's decision to mitigate the impacts of climate change, which confirms The Legislature's indirect acknowledgment of climate change, without requiring them to take direct action against the fossil fuel industry.

SR/ CS 1572: Climate Change - 2020

- Resolution by Infrastructure and Security; Stewart
- Legislature's support for the adoption of policies that will prepare Florida for the environmental and economic impact of climate change, sea-level rise, and flooding, and recognizing the important role of resiliency and infrastructure. This bill does not enact anything, but it is a statement of resolution that acknowledges the existence of climate change.

Currently Enacted Laws

CS/ CS/ SB 78 Public Financing of Construction Projects - 2020

- Bill by Appropriations; Infrastructure and Security; Rodriguez
- Requires consideration of future flood risk from storm surge and sea level rise in certain portions of local government comprehensive plans.

CS/CS/CS/SB 1094 An Act Relating to the Peril of Flood - 2015

- Bill by Rules; Community Affairs; Banking and Insurance; Brandes
- Legislature's support for the adoption of policies that will prepare Florida for the environmental and economic impact of climate change, sea-level rise, and flooding, and recognizing the important role of resiliency and infrastructure. This bill does not enact anything, but it is a statement of resolution that acknowledges the existence of climate change.

Amendment 1 The Florida Water and Land Conservation Initiative - 2014

- This amendment was added to the state constitution which requires one third of existing net revenues from the existing real estate tax on documents to be dedicated to various environmental programs and initiatives. Funds the Land Acquisition Trust Fund to acquire, restore, improve, and manage conservation lands.

Currently Enacted Laws

HB 7207 Growth Management, Community Planning Act - 2011

- Bill by Select Committee on Government Reorganization; Aubuchon
- Creating The Adaptation Action Area (AAA), which outlines an optional, comprehensive plan for counties and municipalities to use that are vulnerable to flooding and the impacts of sea level rise.



Bills Not Enacted: Pending

CS/CS/HB 1411: Floating Solar Facilities

- Bill by Commerce Committee; Local Administration and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee; Avila
- Last action, April 2022
- Requires floating solar facility to be permitted use in certain land use categories; requires local governments to promote expanded uses of floating solar facilities, authorizes county or municipality to specify buffer & landscaping requirements; requires Office of Energy within to submit recommendations to Legislature regarding floating solar facilities.



Bills Not Enacted: Failed

CS/HB 741 Net Metering - 2022 *Regressive Climate Policy*

- Bill by Commerce Committee: Tourism, Infrastructure and Energy Subcommittee; McClure
- Property owners that install private renewable energy systems, (often solar panels), tend to produce more energy than they use or store. Unused energy is automatically transferred to the utility-managed grid, and used by the utility's customers. Net metering ensures that renewable energy owners are credited by utility companies for the energy that their customers use.
- Customers approved before this bill went into effect in July 2022 will continue their rate of receiving 100% of their energy worth, and it would have progressively gone down from there. For applications approved between January 2024 and December 2025, the renewable energy owner will be paid 75% of the energy's worth. Applications approved between January 2026 and December 2026, shall be paid 60% of the energy's worth. Applications approved between January 2027 and December 2028 shall be paid 50% of the energy's worth. Customers for whom a net metering application is approved before January 2029 will be given 20 years to continue using the net metering rates applied when the application was approved. This bill directs the Public Service Commission to establish a new program to become effective January 2029 for customers for which a net metering application is approved after that date.
- This bill also authorizes public utilities to petition for approval of certain fixed charges designed to meet specified purposes and recover specified lost revenues. This means that the Florida Legislature approved the public utility companies to start charging customers for additionally approved taxes and fees to make up for the utility's "lost revenue" from paying customers their net metering rates.
- Thankfully, this bill was vetoed by Governor Desantis, which was a huge win and definitely should be recognized, because by vetoing this bill, he has protected current net metering rates.

Bills Not Enacted: Failed

HB 81: State Renewable Energy Goals

- Bill by Eskamani
- Died in Infrastructure & Energy Subcommittee, March 2022
- Includes state Renewable Energy Goals and with electricity & carbon emission reductions by specified dates. Prohibits drilling, exploration, and production of oil, gas, or other petroleum products. Requires the Office of Energy within DACS to develop a unified statewide plan, and state & public entities to cooperate. Requires the office to submit plan & updates to Governor & Legislature; creates Renewable Energy Advisory Committee within Office of Energy; directs Commissioner of Agriculture to submit a specified annual report to Legislature.

SB 366: State Renewable Energy Goals

- Bill by Berman
- Died in House, March 2022
- This bill required all electricity used in Florida to be generated by renewable energy and to develop a unified statewide plan to generate Florida's electricity from renewable energy and reduce carbon emissions. It also prohibited drilling or exploration for, or production of, oil, gas, or other petroleum products on the lands and waters of the state.

Bills Not Enacted: Failed

SB 548: Energy

- Bill by Polsky
- Died in Senate, March 2022
- This bill would have established a tax credit for electricity produced from a renewable energy source located on a farm operation and authorized the state to lease manmade stormwater systems for floating solar energy systems. The bill also would have required the state to develop a renewable energy efficiency portfolio standard.

CS/SB 228: Resiliency Energy Environment Florida Programs

- Bill by Finance and Tax: Rodriguez
- Died in House, March 2022
- A bill that would have allowed private property owners to apply for Resiliency Energy Environment Florida (REEF) programs. These programs would provide funding and or loans for the property owner to install qualifying improvements on residential property that relate to energy conservation/ efficiency or renewable energy.

SB 918: Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure

- Bill by Brandes
- Died in Senate, March 2022
- This would have created the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Grant Program within the Department of Transportation and required them to provide funding to municipalities and for the installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

Bills Not Enacted: Failed

HB 1145: Regulation of Single-use Plastic Products

- Bill by Mooney
- Died in House, March 2022
- This bill would have allowed coastal communities to establish pilot programs that regulate single-use plastic products. Without a bill like this, it is extremely difficult for municipalities in Florida to ban single-use plastic products (which are produced by the fossil fuel industry).

CS/SB 1156: Comprehensive Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan

- Bill by Environment and Natural Resources; Stewart
- Died in Senate, March 2022
- Requiring the Department of Environmental Protection to develop a comprehensive waste reduction and recycling plan for the state of Florida.

SB 1454: Office of the Blue Economy

- Bill by Ausley
- Died in Senate, March 2022
- A "blue economy" is the economic use of ocean and coastal resources with a focus on sustainable practices and climate change. This bill would have created The Office of The Blue Economy within the Department of Economic Opportunity; which would have forced The Legislature to consider climate change's effect on ocean and coastal resources from an economic impact evaluation conducted every other year.

Bills Not Enacted: Failed

CS/SB 1238: Saltwater Intrusion Vulnerability Assessments

- Bill by Environment and Natural Resources: Polsky
- Died in House, March 2022
- Florida's freshwater sources, The Florida Springs and Floridan Aquifer, (which are infamous for being exploited by water bottle companies such as Nestle), are extremely threatened by saltwater intrusion. Currently, there is no updated data on the security of Florida's freshwater resources during climate change. This bill, a request brought forward by the Florida Environment and Natural Resources Committee, would have authorized the DEP to provide grants for saltwater intrusion vulnerability assessments, to update the comprehensive statewide flood vulnerability and sea level rise data set, and make data received from the vulnerability assessments publicly available online. It also would have provided funding and a requirement for updated water quality data. Without this data, we only know that our water quality is significantly decreasing, but The Legislature most likely wants this information to remain hidden, to continue their relationship with these companies.

HB 1145: Regulation of Single-use Plastic Product

- Bill by Mooney
- Died in House, March 2022
- This bill would have allowed coastal communities to establish pilot programs that regulate single-use plastic products. Without a bill like this, it is extremely difficult for municipalities in Florida to ban single-use plastic products (which are produced by the fossil fuel industry).

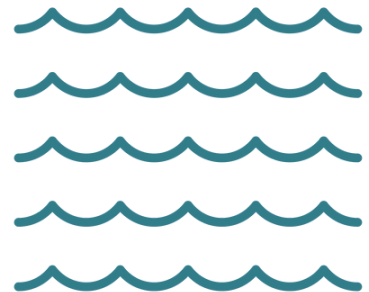
Bills Not Enacted: Failed

CS/SB 1156: Comprehensive Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan

- Bill by Environment and Natural Resources: Stewart
- Died in Senate, March 2022
- Requiring the Department of Environmental Protection to develop a comprehensive waste reduction and recycling plan for the state of Florida.

HB 6003: Legal Rights of the Natural Environment

- Bill by Eskaman
- Died in House, March 2022
- This bill would have removed provisions that prohibit local governments from recognizing or granting certain legal rights to the natural environment or granting such rights relating to the natural environment to a person or political subdivision. If this bill would have passed, it would have legally protected the fundamental rights to the natural environment's existence.



Florida Climate Leaders

The Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives together are the Florida Legislature. Florida legislators must be at least twenty-one years old, a resident of their district, and must have residency in Florida for at least two years before the election. To find your local representatives, [click here](#).

Legislative Branch

Senate

- 40 Senators
- 23 Republicans
- 16 Democrats
- 1 seat vacant
- President Pro Tempore: Aaron Bean, District 4, (Republican)
- Each senator elected on 4-year term

House of Representatives

- 120 House Representatives
- 76 Republicans
- 42 Democrats
- 1 seat vacant

Executive Branch

- **Governor Ron Desantis (Republican)**
- **Lieutenant Governor Jeannette Nunez (Republican)**

Cabinet

- Attorney General Ashley Moody (Republican)
- Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis (Republican)
- Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried (Democrat)

Key Climate Officials

Each of these representatives has been placed in the upper 70th percentile by The Climate Cabinet Action's Climate Action Scorecard. This organization is dedicated to working with local leaders to take climate action within their communities and evaluating representatives to score their contribution to progressive climate policies.

State Senators and their Track Records:

- Senator Lorraine Ausley (D) District 3
 - Rated 82% by Climate Cabinet Action
 - Highest ranking Florida State Senator by Climate Cabinet Action
 - Has stated on the campaign trail that Climate Change needs to be addressed because "... it is playing a significant role in driving (housing and living) costs up as extreme weather events grow more frequent."
- Senator Victor Torres (D), District 15
 - Rated 80% by Climate Cabinet Action
- Senator Lori Berman (D), District 31
 - Rated 80% by Climate Cabinet Action
 - Introduced two environmentally friendly bills in the 2020-2022 session:
 - SB604, which requires that the public be warned when waterways are contaminated
 - SB366 to address the climate crisis by requiring utilities to have 100% renewable energy by 2040
- Senator Perry Thurston (D), District 33
 - Rated 79% by Climate Cabinet Action
- Senator Janet Cruz (D), District 18
 - Rated 76% by Climate Cabinet Action

Key Climate Officials Cont.

State Senators and their Track Records:

- Senator Jason Pizzo (D), District 38
 - Rated 75% by Climate Cabinet Action
- Senator Darryl Rouson (D), District 19
 - Rated 72% by Climate Cabinet Action
 - Has opposed legislation against fracking and opposes offshore oil drilling, according to his campaign website
- Senator Shevrin Jones (D), District 35
 - Rated 70% by Climate Cabinet Action



Key Climate Officials Cont.

House Representative Leaders:

- Representative Ramon Alexander (D), District 8
 - Rated 93% by Climate Cabinet Action
 - [Voting record](#)
- Representative Allison Tant (D), District 9
 - Rated 92% by Climate Cabinet Action
 - [Voting Record](#)
- Representative Angie Nixon (D), District 14
 - Rated 100% by Climate Cabinet Action
 - [Voting record](#)
 - States that priorities include climate and environmental justice by “allowing scientific evidence on climate change to guide policy making, advocacy for the mitigation of contaminated land, reduce food deserts in communities by bringing more nutritious food options to residents through the establishment of community and home gardens, and to utilize Florida Forever Funds for the purchase of land conservation”
- Representative Yvonne Hinson (D), District 20
 - Rated 92% by Climate Cabinet Action
 - [Voting record](#)
 - Prioritizes “protection of environment, Florida Springs and aquifers, reduce single-use plastic, increase renewable and solar energy”
- Representative Joy Goff-Marcil (D), District 30:
 - Rated 97% by Climate Cabinet Action
 - [Voting record](#)
 - Prioritizes “environment, climate change, funding Florida Forever, Waterways, Clean Energy”

Key Climate Officials Cont.

House Representative Leaders:

- Representative Joy Goff-Marcil (D), District 30:
 - Rated 97% by Climate Cabinet Action
 - [Voting record](#)
- Representative Kristen Arrington (D), District 43
 - Rated 92% by Climate Cabinet Action
 - [Voting record](#)
 - Stands for “clean water and Everglades water source protection”
- Representative Geraldine Thompson (D), District 44
 - Rated 93% by Climate Cabinet Action
 - [Voting record](#)
 - Board of Directors of Florida Conservation Voters
 - Stands against “fracking and offshore drilling”
- Representative Travaris McCurdy (D), District 46
 - Rated 92% by Climate Cabinet Action
 - [Voting record](#)
- Representative Anna Eskamani (D), District 47
 - Rated 100% by Climate Cabinet Action
 - [Voting record](#)
 - Brought forth HB 6003: Legal Rights of the Natural Environment in the 2022 legislative session
 - Leading climate action and has brought 2 renewable energy roles over time

Key Climate Officials Cont.

House Representative Leaders:

- Representative Dianne Hart (D), District 61
 - Rated 90% by Climate Cabinet Action
 - [Voting record](#)
- Representative Fentrice Driskell (D), District 63
 - Rated 96% by Climate Cabinet Action
 - [Voting record](#)
 - Prioritizes protecting [land and water](#)
- Representative Michele Rayner (D), District , 70
 - Rated 92% by Climate Cabinet Action
 - [Voting record](#)
 - Environmental justice and waterways protection
- Representative Kelly Skidmore (D), District , 81
 - Rated 92% by Climate Cabinet Action
 - [Voting record](#)
- Representative Christine Hunschofsky (D), District 96
 - Rated 92% by Climate Cabinet Action
 - [Voting record](#)
- Representative Evan Jenne (D), District 99
 - Rated 93% by Climate Cabinet Action
 - [Voting record](#)
- Representative Marie Woodson (D), District 101
 - Rated 92% by by Climate Cabinet Action
 - [Voting Record](#)

Key Climate Officials Cont.

House Representative Leaders:

- Representative Felicia Robinson (D), District 102
 - Rated 92% by Climate Cabinet Action
 - Voting Record
 - Prioritizes "Environment, Green Spaces, Conversation, AgTech and Research Parks
- Representative Robin Bartleman (D) District 104
 - Rated 92% by Climate Cabinet Action
 - Voting record
 - States that "addressing and adapting to climate change is a major priority and concern"
- Representative Christopher Benjamin (D), District 107
 - Rated 100% by Climate Cabinet Action
 - Voting record
- Representative Dotie Joseph (D), District 108
 - Rated 97% by by Climate Cabinet Action
 - Voting record

Florida State Policy History

Found below is a history of some of the most noteworthy climate and environmental laws passed by the state of Florida.



Executive Order 07-128 The Energy, Climate Change, And Economic Security Act, 2007

- In 2007, Governor Crist, (at the time Republican, is now registered Democrat), created one of the first ever climate plans that the United States had yet seen at this point in climate history.
- This act created three executive orders; to reduce greenhouse gas emissions back to 1990 levels, increase energy efficiency, and create incentives to encourage renewable energy development.
- This plan established the Governor's Climate Action Team and the Florida Energy and Climate Commission to develop a comprehensive Energy and Climate Change Action Plan.

- This plan included aspects that supported wildlife, sustainable land use, sustainable and resilient infrastructure development, and public health and equity.
- This Action Team and their plan progressed and they “released a final climate change action report to Florida Governor Crist in October 2008, which contained 50 separate policy recommendations on energy and climate change, and a framework for action”.
- Of the 28 identified goals in the Action Plan, 16 of them were in progress by 2015 and none of them had been completed.
- If this plan had continued forward, today, Florida would have been one of the most progressive states in mitigating climate change.
- Around the time of this bill development, the fossil fuel industry continued to fund their misinformation campaign, and political views on climate change continued to become increasingly polarized.
- Eventually, many conservative politicians, especially in Florida (who continue to be funded by the fossil fuel industry), began to be extremely against the scientific consensus on climate change and taking climate action.



Regressive Climate Policies begin: Rick Scott Elected as Governor, 2011

- Rick Scott came into office in 2011 and immediately abolished the climate plan that the previous administration had brought forth by executive order.
- The Climate Action Team and Commission were both dismantled by The State. Some of the functions of these teams were transferred to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACs), who then created the Florida Advisory Council on Climate and Energy.
- Not only did Rick Scott reverse the climate plan that his predecessor had made, but he also was reported by internal government departments including The Department of Environmental Protection, to have banned the terms “climate change” and “global warming” in any official communications.
- A group of climate scientists even arranged a public, recorded meeting with Governor Scott to explain to him the implications of climate denial and inaction in Florida, and he was completely unresponsive.
- According to the Miami Herald, “in a short amount of time, the U.S. state with the most to lose from a warming planet became a global laughingstock and a symbol of the polarized debate surrounding climate change.”



Legislature continues Regressive Climate Policy, but also start “Resiliency Planning”, 2019

- During an interview about how Republicans talk about climate change in Florida, after Scott finished his term as Governor, he admitted, “the climate is changing, we don’t know how, but we know it is changing.”
- Republican Senator Marco Rubio says, “there is a dispute as to what the causes are of climate change, there is not a dispute that it is happening.”
- Eventually, conservatives in Florida have had no choice but to respond to the impacts of climate change, but have not admitted the causes, and continue to protect the fossil fuel industry.
- Sworn into office in 2019, Governor Ron Desantis has brought the bare minimum of science back into the equation. He brought in a Chief of Resilience Officer and Chief Science Officer to handle effects of climate change, no matter what the causes are.
- The state is currently (2022) on their third appointee of their Resilience Officer position, as the first officer resigned and stated that “Florida needs a statewide strategy, and while Florida resilience is taking shape throughout the state, efforts are disjointed.”
- At this point in time, we can only be positive that there is somewhat of an effort, and more conservatives are starting to believe that we need climate action
- This leaves hope and encouragement for the Florida Republican Party to continue to adapt to the reality of climate change, and continue to bring forth climate friendly policies that protect what matters most in life.

Florida Energy and Climate Plan, 2019

- The Florida Energy and Climate Plan (Plan) was developed by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), Office of Energy, under Nicole “Nikki” Fried’s executive leadership.
- Compared to many other government entity climate action plans, this Plan itself does not create any enacted laws.
- The FDACS created this plan “to highlight important energy and climate change issues, and spark discussion around these topics. Additionally, the Plan will act as a guide for the Office of Energy in the years ahead.”
- Plans like these are critical to reference in climate advocacy. You want to make it clear to the government that you will hold them accountable to take substantial action in their written plan.
- The Florida Energy and Climate Plan focuses on 9 specific areas with action steps to achieve those steps that the FDACS believes are critical to protecting Florida’s energy future.
- However, as has been criticized repeatedly, “there is no detailed implementation plan included in the document. The DACS plan is intended to act as a guiding document for Florida agencies concerning energy and climate initiatives.”
- This plan also brought in the Florida Advisory Council on Climate and Energy (FACCE), which will also provide information and assistance regarding policies and programs on such issues as energy efficiency and conservation, renewable energy, climate change, sea-level rise and alternative vehicles.

The Florida Energy and Climate Plan Focus Areas:

1. Encourage Investments in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
2. Encourage the Resiliency of Florida's Infrastructure
3. Clean, Safe, and Sustainable Transportation for Florida
4. Advance the Energy - Water Nexus
5. Expand Energy, Education, Vocational Training, and Workforce Development
6. Research, Development, Demonstration, and Deployment
7. Electric Industry Infrastructure
8. Agriculture
9. Decreasing the Energy Burden for Low Income Communities



Fight for Climate Policies & a Proactive Legislature

Continues this Election Season, 2022

- As local governments are overwhelmed with responsibility for mitigation and dealing with the effects of climate change in Florida communities every day, scientists all over the state continue to warn state officials that climate action needs to be taken from a statewide, top down approach
- As Floridians continue to experience the effects of climate change everyday, voters in both parties are becoming increasingly concerned about climate change.
- Still, the current government's strategy is to not deal with the root causes of climate change and continue energy business as usual, and come up with adaptation strategies that make effects more "manageable".
- The 2022 Florida Gubernatorial (governor) Election is on November 8, 2022. Republican Governor Ron Desantis, will be running for a second term against Florida Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried and U.S. Representative / former Governor of Florida Charlie Crist are both running for the Democratic nomination, and the position for governor will be between one of them and Desantis.
- Once you are 18, you can register to vote here, so that you can vote in the next election cycle!



Bill Guide

F L O R I D A H O U S E O F R E P R E S E N T A T I V E S

ENROLLED

CS/HB 1475

2022 Legislature

Bill Status

Tells you whether or not the bill is enrolled, pending, or failed.

Bill Number

Assigns a number for easy reference of the bill. HB (House Bill) or SB (Senate Bill) tells you which chamber the bill was introduced in. CS (Committee Substitute) means that the bill was edited throughout the committee hearing process.

Bill Title

Describes what the bill hopes to achieve, usually a summary of the bill as a whole.

Bill Enactment

Tells you the location where the bill will be enacted and regulated.

Short Title

A non-technical name given to a bill, usually an easy way to brand and market a bill to the general public

Definitions Section

A list of terms that will be used throughout the bill and their exact meaning for the purposed of this bill.

1
2 An act relating to cleanup of perfluoroalkyl and
3 polyfluoroalkyl substances; creating s. 376.91, F.S.;
4 defining terms; requiring the Department of
5 Environmental Protection to adopt rules for statewide
6 cleanup target levels for perfluoroalkyl and
7 polyfluoroalkyl substances in drinking water,
8 groundwater, and soil under a specified condition;
9 prohibiting such rules from taking effect until
10 ratified by the Legislature; providing that certain
11 governmental entities and water suppliers are not
12 subject to administrative or judicial action under
13 certain circumstances; providing that certain statutes
14 of limitations are tolled from a specified date;
15 providing construction; providing a directive to the
16 Division of Law Revision; providing an effective date.

18 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

20 Section 1. Section 376.91, Florida Statutes, is created to
21 read:

22 376.91 Statewide cleanup of perfluoroalkyl and
23 polyfluoroalkyl substances.—

24 (1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

25 (a) "Department" means the Department of Environmental

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Bill Guide

F L O R I D A H O U S E O F R E P R E S E N T A T I V E S

ENROLLED

CS/HB 1475

2022 Legislature

Line Numbers

Line numbers are required in every section of the bill to allow for easy reference.

26 Protection.

27 (b) "PFAS" means perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl

28 substances, including perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and

29 perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS).

30 (2) STATEWIDE CLEANUP TARGET LEVELS.—

31 (a) If the United States Environmental Protection Agency

32 has not finalized its standards for PFAS in drinking water,

33 groundwater, and soil by January 1, 2025, the department shall

34 adopt by rule statewide cleanup target levels for PFAS in

35 drinking water, groundwater, and soil using criteria set forth

36 in s. 376.30701, with priority given to PFOA and PFOS. The rules

37 for statewide cleanup target levels may not take effect until

38 ratified by the Legislature.

39 (b) Until the department's rule for a particular PFAS

40 constituent has been ratified by the Legislature, a governmental

41 entity or private water supplier may not be subject to any

42 administrative or judicial action under this chapter brought by

43 any state or local governmental entity to compel or enjoin site

44 rehabilitation, to require payment for the cost of

45 rehabilitation of environmental contamination, or to require

46 payment of any fines or penalties regarding rehabilitation based

47 on the presence of that particular PFAS constituent.

48 (c) Until site rehabilitation is completed or rules for

49 statewide cleanup target levels are ratified by the Legislature,

50 any statute of limitations that would bar a state or local

Numbers & Letters

Numbers indicate amendments of the bill, while letters indicate the steps required to meet the goal.

Substantive Language

The language that dictates the policy to be enacted. In this bill, it starts at section 1, subsection 2(a).

Bill Template

The goal of this toolkit has been to help you understand the process of making Climate Policies in Florida, and to make you better equip you to take climate action yourself. Below is a bill template specifically created for writing bills in Florida. Please feel free to use this template to write your own bills to bring to the Sunshine State Legislature. For more information on the Florida bill guidelines, please go [here](#).

We are here to support you on your policy-making journey, so if you need anything, do not hesitate to reach out to a Policy Team member at The Climate Initiative. We are sending you positive energy and anticipate future climate policy wins!

A bill to be entitled...

An act relating to...

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1

a.

b.

c.

Definitions.--For the purpose of this act:

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Florida City & County Climate Change Policies

Local governments are overwhelmed with responsibility for tackling climate change as they deal with the everyday challenges that climate change continues to bring to their communities every day. Local municipal policies and local regional plans are vital to seeing just climate action take place in Florida. Not only do local governments tend to get more done in their individual communities because their governments are central to specific perimeters, but it also tends to be easier to start at a local level when it comes to any policies, especially climate policies. In Florida, a climate policy struggle that cities and counties have faced is competing with the State Legislature. In the past, the State has passed laws that make it more difficult to pass climate policies in local governments.

Florida is a huge state with 67 counties. Individual counties and multiple counties partnered together have released regional plans for how they plan to mitigate and increase resiliency against climate change. Please click to view:

[Managing the Retreat from Rising Seas — Punta Gorda, Florida: Climate Adaptation and Comprehensive Plans and Updates](#)

[Miami, Florida Resilient 305 Strategy](#)

[City of Punta Gorda Adaptation Plan Update](#)

[Southeast Florida Regional Compact: Climate Action Plan - 2014 Municipal Implementation Survey](#)

[Miami-Dade \(Florida\) Sea Level Rise Task Force Report and Recommendations](#)

Heartland 2060 - Building a Resilient Region Plan (Central Florida)

Northeast Florida Summary and Regional Action Plan - A Report of the Emergency Preparedness Committee on Sea Level Rise

Monroe County, Florida Climate Action Plan

Broward County, Florida Comprehensive Plan - Climate Change Element

Southeast Florida Regional Climate Action Plan

Miami Beach, Florida Stormwater Management Master Plan

Lee County, Florida Climate Change Resiliency Strategy (CCRS)

Broward County, Florida Climate Change Action Plan

Satellite Beach Sea-Level Rise Comprehensive Plan Recommendations

City of Punta Gorda, Florida Adaptation Plan

Sea Level Rise in the Treasure Coast Region (Florida)

Cities that have committed to 100% renewable energy

The following cities have committed to transitioning to 100% renewable energy by the selected dates. Remember that these are all non-binding resolutions finalized by the city council/ commission, which means that they are just committing to this goal, but that does not mean they are actively trying to reach it, or have progressed very much.

Tampa 2021, Resilient Tampa

- Commits to 100% renewable energy by 2035
- Commits to transitioning to a safe pedestrian city, transitioning to hybrid and electric vehicle fleets, assessing the efficiency of Tampa's stationary buildings, and monitoring and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Tallahassee 2019, "Clean Energy Plan"

- Commits to 100% renewable energy by 2050
- City will continue to invest in renewable energy
- Has various benchmarks for when certain vehicles need to be electric
- City has already created a solar farm at the airport which powers 3,400 homes (2019)



Gainesville 2018, Resolution #180442

- Commits to 100% renewable energy by 2045
- Gainesville is considered a leading city in Florida, with almost half of the city's energy being renewable (2022)
- Their main source of renewable energy is from their biomass plant, which is the largest in the United States

Orlando 2017, The Path to 100 Percent

- Commits to 100% renewable energy by 2050
- Aims to transition to a green economy for the entire city
- Main focus area for the city is creating green jobs
- Not a layout plan of how they will get there

Satellite Beach 2019, Energy Project

- Commits to 100% renewable energy for the entire community by 2050 and for municipal operations by 2032
- NASA Earth Sciences and Applied Sciences partnered with NASA Prediction of Worldwide Energy Resources to conduct a solar efficiency survey that will help instruct the city on achieving their goals
- Is a leading city in FL for solar development, solar is already all throughout the municipal buildings
- Endorses PACE program which makes renewable energy more financially viable for property owners
- One of the first 15 cities in the nation to achieve SolSmart "Gold" award

Dunedin 2018, Resolution 18-43

- Commits to 100% renewable energy for the entire community by 2050 and for municipal operations by 2035
- 26 businesses came forward to the city council to push for this resolution
- Commits to progression towards greenhouse gas reduction and sustainable development

Largo 2018, Largo Environmental Action Plan (LEAP)

- Commits to 100% renewable energy by 2035
- Has lots of electric charging throughout the city already
- An entire plan to redevelop every sector of society in Largo to be sustainable, with green jobs, climate resilience, and renewable energy
- Also includes biodiversity and ecosystem protection

Safety Harbor 2019, Resolution 2019-08

- Commits to 100% renewable energy for the entire community by 2050 and for municipal operations by 2035
- Creates a comprehensive sustainable action plan for the city

Policy Toolkit Survey

Thank you for taking the time to download and utilize one, or all, of our TCI Policy Toolkits!

To ensure that these Policy Toolkits are meeting your needs, please leave any and all feedback that you can to help improve our toolkit offering.

Please take a few minutes to complete a quick survey. You will be entered into our monthly eco-merch giveaway while completing the survey!



[Click here to take the survey.](#)

Thank you!

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