



Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact

WHEREAS, there is consensus among the world's leading scientists that global climate change is among the most significant problems facing the world today; and

WHEREAS, Florida is considered one of the most vulnerable areas in the country to the consequences of climate change with Southeast Florida on the front line to experience the impacts of climate change, especially sea level rise; and

WHEREAS, Broward, Miami-Dade, Palm Beach and Monroe Counties, herein the four counties that constitute the Southeast Florida Region, share in common a strong quality of life rooted in the region's rich cultural heritage, vigorous economy, and environmental resources of global significance; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned four counties of Southeast Florida, which represent approximately 30% of the population of the State of Florida, are physically linked one to the other by the Atlantic Ocean coastline and share some of the world's most renowned natural resources such as the Everglades, our unique coral reefs, beautiful beaches, and fragile Keys ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, the four counties of Southeast Florida and their respective populations, totaling more than five million residents, are expected to share in disproportionately high risks associated with climate change due to low land elevations, rising sea level projections, and anticipated increases in tropical storm events; and

WHEREAS, rising sea levels could limit the effectiveness of critical drainage infrastructure, endanger beaches, and coastal natural resources and increase incidents of saltwater intrusion on the Biscayne Aquifer – putting at risk the drinking water supply for the entire population of Southeast Florida; and

WHEREAS, local governments, and the region as a whole, must give significant consideration to adaptation strategies designed to protect public infrastructure, property, water resources, natural areas and native species, and basic quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned four counties of Southeast Florida account for a combined Gross Domestic Product of more than \$2.5 billion annually and more than 37% of statewide economic output; and

WHEREAS, while the four counties of Southeast Florida have independently taken steps to address global climate change, all parties recognize that coordinated and collective action on this, the defining issue for Southeast Florida in the 21st Century, will best serve the citizens of the region;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARDS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE FOUR COUNTIES OF SOUTHEAST FLORIDA:

SECTION 1: That each county shall work in close collaboration with the aforementioned counties of Southeast Florida party to this compact to develop a joint policy position urging the United States Congress to pass legislation that recognizes the unique vulnerabilities of Southeast Florida to the impacts of climate change and to further a joint policy position that includes specific recommendations regarding the allocation of federal climate change funding based on vulnerability to climate change impacts. Such recommendations might include designation of areas of Southeast Florida as uniquely vulnerable and of federal interest for the purpose of securing enhanced levels of federal participation in regional adaptation projects.

SECTION 2: That each county shall work in close collaboration with the other counties party to this compact to develop additional legislative policy statements relating to global climate change and future legislation to be considered by the Congress of the United States for transmittal to the Congressional Delegation representing, in part or in whole, districts within the area covered by this compact.

SECTION 3: That each county shall work in close collaboration with other counties party to this compact in developing joint position statements on proposed State legislation and energy/climate policies including but not limited to issues such as the region's energy and climate security and a renewable energy portfolio standard that defines renewable energy sources as wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, landfill gas, qualified hydropower, and marine and hydrokinetic energy, and also including nuclear energy, and to collaborate on other emerging energy/climate issues that may be considered by the 2010 Florida Legislature for transmittal to the Legislative Delegation representing, in part or in whole, districts within the area covered by this compact.

SECTION 4: That each county shall work with other counties party to this compact in developing joint position statements for future State legislation that may be considered by the Florida Legislature for transmittal to the Legislative Delegation representing, in part or in whole, districts within the area covered by this compact.

SECTION 5: That each county shall commit appropriate staff resources and expertise, within budget constraints, to participate in a Regional Climate Team with other counties party to this compact toward the development of a Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Action Plan.

SECTION 6: That each county shall work with other counties party to this compact in developing a Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Action Plan,

understanding that no county will work at cross-purposes with the other counties. The Action Plan could, at a minimum, include the following components:

- (a) A baseline of greenhouse gas emissions for Southeast Florida;
- (b) Strategies for coordinated emission reductions throughout the built environment to include the use of energy efficiency, energy conservation, and the use of demand-side renewable energy resources;
- (c) Strategies for coordinated emission reductions from the transportation sector to include increased reliance on public transit, emerging vehicle technologies, and advanced biofuels;
- (d) Strategies for coordinated emission reductions resulting from changes in local and regional land use;
- (e) Strategies for the coordinated regional preparation for and adaptation to a rapidly changing global environment based upon regional mapping of projected sea-level rise and any resulting amplification of localized impacts of tropical cyclone events. Such strategies shall incorporate climate preparation concerns for the regional economy, regional infrastructure and the built environment, social and cultural needs, and natural systems within the four counties party to this compact.

SECTION 7: That each county shall commit to participating with other counties party to this compact in hosting the Second Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Summit in October, 2010.



Adopted December 8, 2009



Adopted December 1, 2009



Adopted January 20, 2010¹*



Adopted December 15, 2009

*City of Key West: Resolution of support for the Compact – December 15, 2009

¹ Second adoption date following minor changes made by partnering Counties