



Briefing Book

**Science-Driven Policy Solutions
for a Sustainable and Resilient
Sunshine State**

August 2024

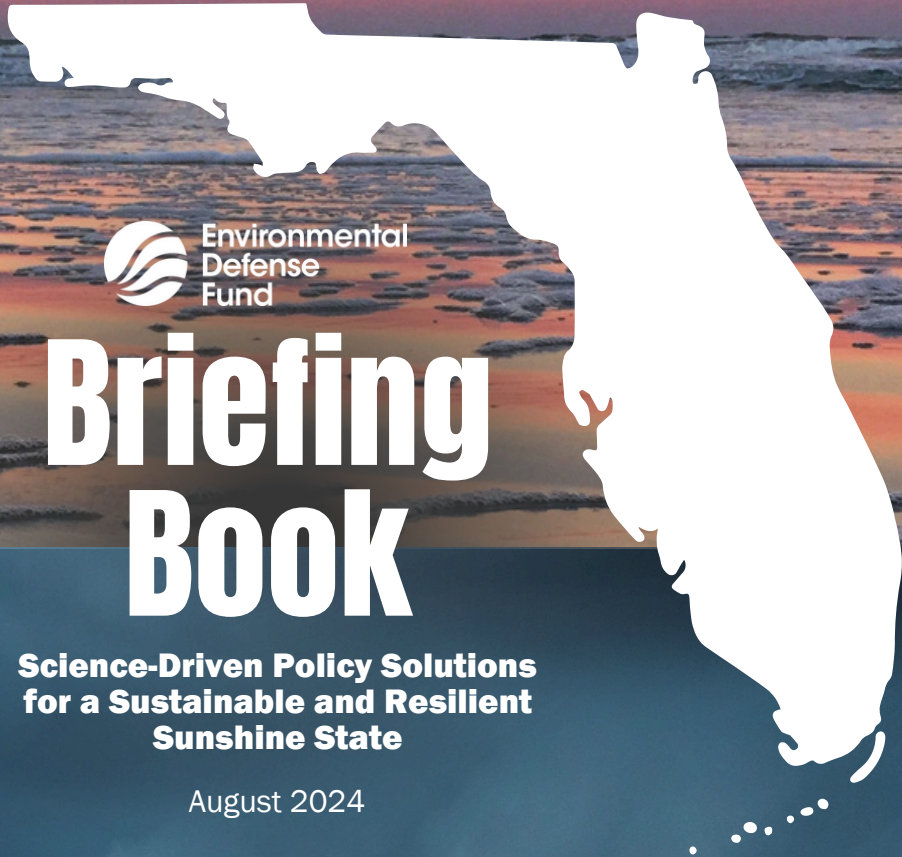


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Environmental Defense Fund

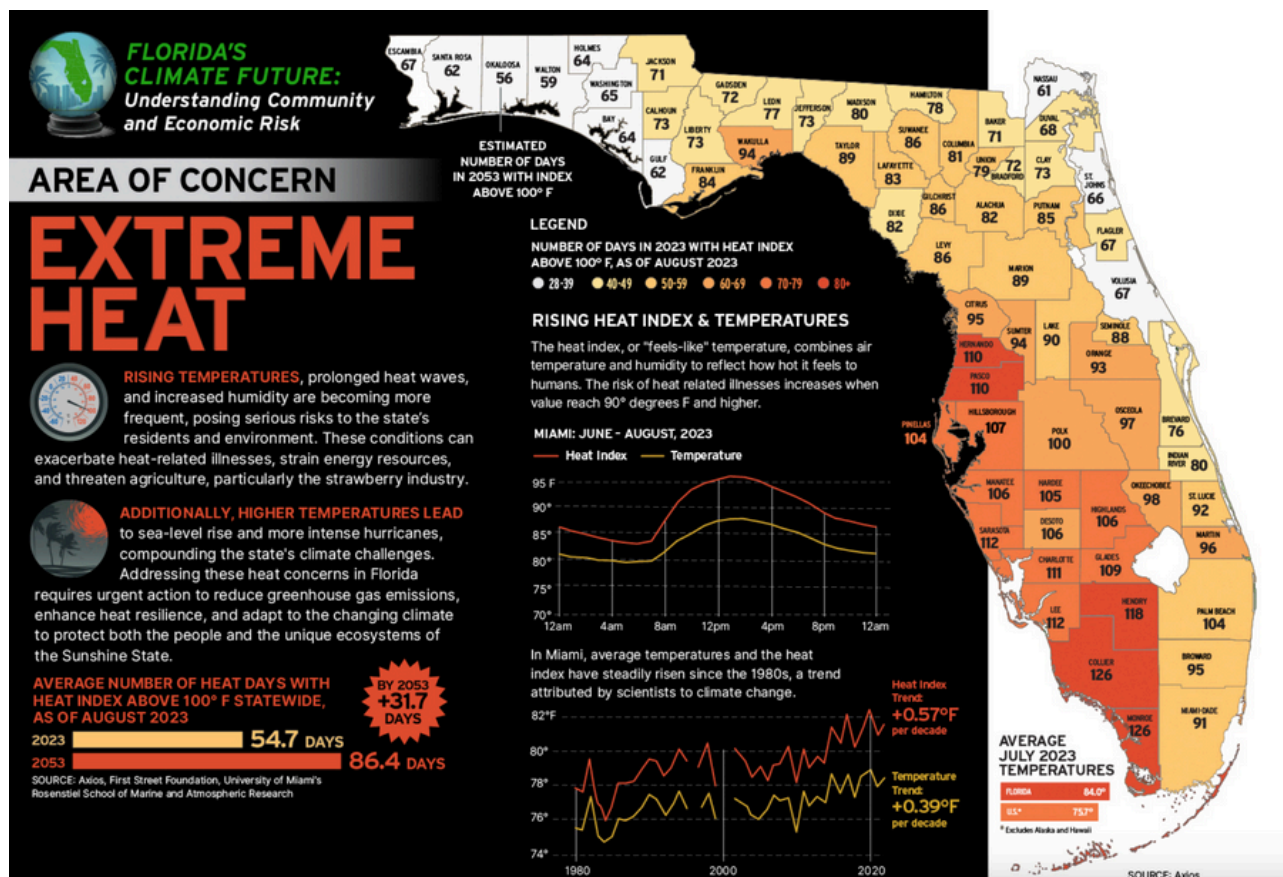
Environmental Defense Fund's (EDF) mission is to preserve the natural systems on which all life depends. For more than 50 years, EDF has worked with partners and supporters to deliver big, bold climate solutions and has over 250,000 members and supporters in Florida. EDF's Florida team is applying best-in-class science, economics, and innovation expertise to spark game-changing solutions to stabilize the climate, strengthen the ability of people and nature to thrive, and support people's health.

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Introduction

Florida is renowned for its natural beauty and resources. Floridians have shown unique and notable bipartisan support for protecting the environment and bolstering the economy because policymakers understand that in this special place the two issues are inextricably linked. In fact, pollsters have noted that Florida is ahead of the curve when it comes to environmental issues. In a story by the Tampa Bay Times, Ryan Burrell, president of Spry Strategies,

remarked on a recent poll he conducted on environmental issues in Florida. Burrell says he was “pretty taken aback” by the findings. “As a red state, Florida’s Republican base is more environmentally conscious than arguably any other red state in the country,” said Burrell, attributing this to natural resource and Florida’s reliance on tourism. He continued, “The survey results surprised me as a Republican pollster and conservative because of Floridians’ broad consciousness on issues outside of the scope of marine, water, and wildlife protection.”¹



Recently developed climate risk maps show that extreme heat poses a threat to Floridians. To explore the interactive maps, visit [FloridasClimateFuture.org](https://www.floridasclimatefuture.org).

1 Emily Mahoney, “A Republican pollster asked Florida voters about energy. The results surprised him” Tampa Bay Times, May 31, 2024, <https://www.tampabay.com/news/environment/2024/05/31/florida-desantis-anna-paulina-luna-renewable-energy-climate-change-electric-bill/>.



Looking ahead, the data shows a warming climate is already impacting Florida communities. Changing rainfall patterns and increasingly extreme weather events are a challenge to navigate for Florida's 47,000 farms and ranches that already face development pressure. Research from leading Florida universities shows that growing zones are shifting north as the planet warms, creating significant concern for Florida's agricultural industry. One report found that strawberry production in Hillsborough County could see an 11% decline in the crop by 2050.²

Stronger hurricanes, fueled by warmer ocean temperatures, are impacting communities across the state. Storm surge and flooding have already become regular threats for Florida families. Meanwhile, warmer ocean temperatures are driving coral bleaching events like the one seen in the Florida Keys in 2023. Events like these threaten the state's world-class fishing industry and businesses dependent on cultural tourism.

Wildfires, which have historically been a

Recent Polling Data

78.3% of respondents indicated that environmental issues were important when it came to their voting decisions in 2024

problem in the Western United States, are also projected to become a threat in Florida in coming years. Modeling forecasts show an increased risk in wildfires that could reach up to 170% increases in burn probability by 2052 in areas including Florida's Panhandle.

This publication summarizes data from trusted Florida universities, subject matter experts, and economic think tanks, identifying key root causes behind these environmental threats. In the following pages, we've provided high-level recommendations and practical steps, informed by the data, that policymakers can use to chart a more resilient and sustainable course for Florida's future.

² Environmental Defense Fund, "Florida Strawberries: Climate Impacts", May 2023, <https://www.edf.org/sites/default/files/2023-05/Florida-strawberries-climate-impacts.pdf>.

Scaling Florida's Resilience

Over 1.8 million Florida homes have a substantial risk of flooding today. This figure could increase by nearly 20% in the next 30 years, with taxpayers bearing the brunt of growing disaster recovery costs. The State of Florida has made great strides over the last few years with the

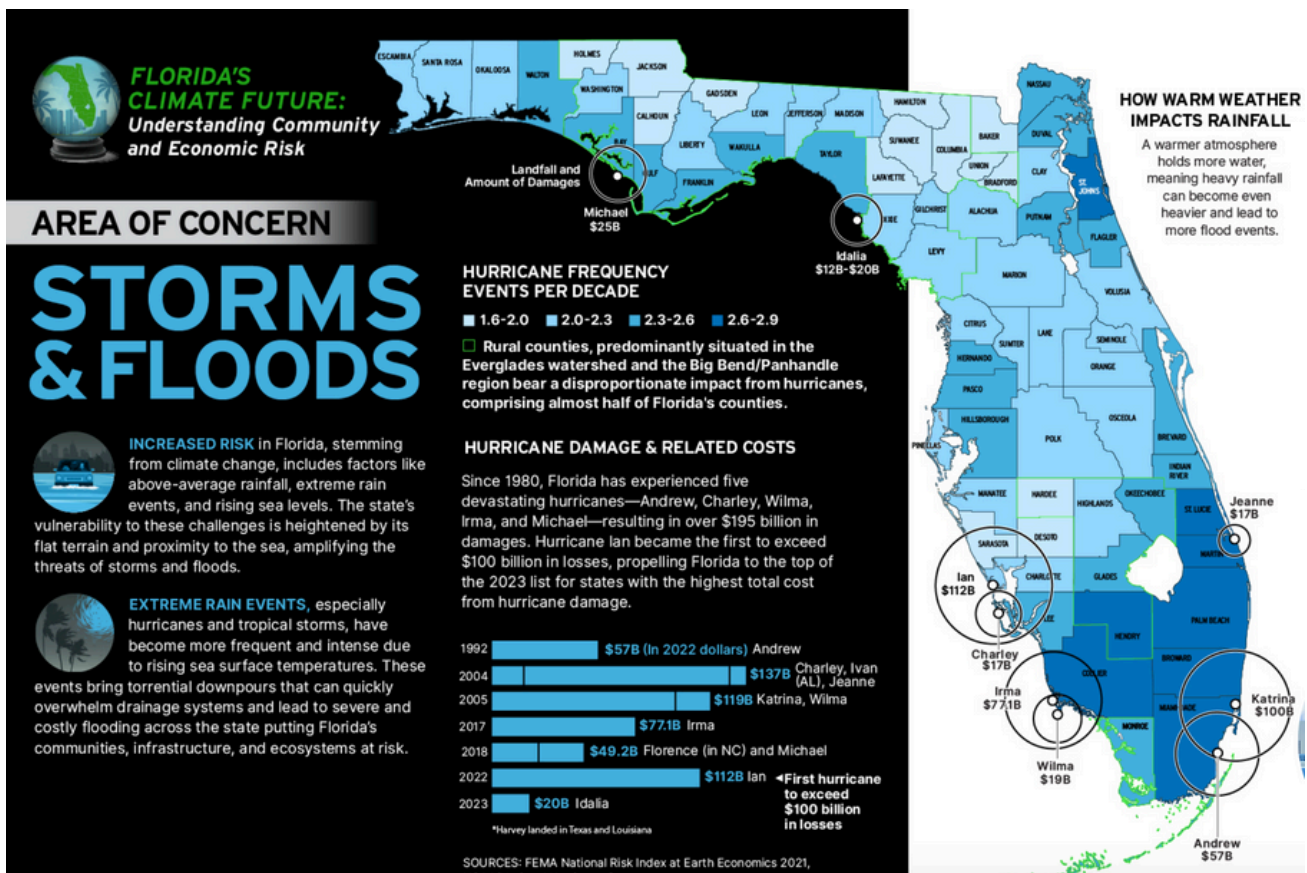
establishment of its Office of Resilience, appointment of a Chief Resilience Officer, and dedicating robust funding toward projects as the state develops a more comprehensive statewide resilience strategy for flooding and sea level rise.

Recent Polling Data

98.8% of respondents indicated that their flood or property insurance has increased over the past 5 years

Recent Polling Data

79.3% of respondents believe that it is important for Florida to have coastal resilience plans to adapt to rising sea levels



Recently developed climate risk maps show that storms and floods pose a significant risk to Floridians in coming years. To explore the interactive maps, visit FloridasClimateFuture.org.

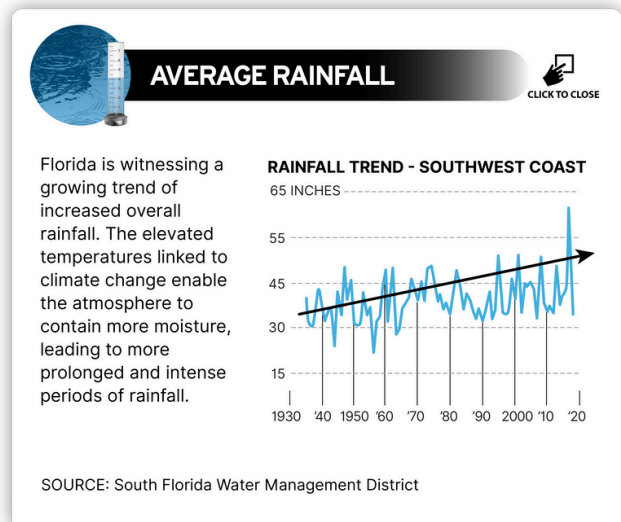


What's at stake for Florida Families, Businesses and the Environment

The economic implications of inaction are severe. Flooding frequency and severity is predicted to rise, putting more homes, businesses, and critical infrastructure at risk. For Florida's families, this means increased insurance premiums, property devaluation, and the potential for significant out-of-pocket expenses in the wake of disasters. For businesses, it translates to disrupted operations, supply chain vulnerabilities, and the potential for reduced investments as the risk profile of the state becomes more daunting.

Aside from the economics, the environmental stakes are equally as high. Florida's unique ecosystems, including wetlands, mangroves, and coral reefs which provide natural

protection against storms and flooding; are themselves threatened by rising sea levels and increased storm intensity. The loss of these natural barriers would not only increase the vulnerability of coastal communities but also result in the loss of biodiversity and degradation of critical habitats. Investing in resilience is essential for our environment and our state's





economy. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce estimates that each dollar invested in building resilient communities and infrastructure saves \$13 in disaster rebuilding costs and economic impact. For example, the same study estimated that investing around \$10.8 billion in resilience and preparedness for a hypothetical

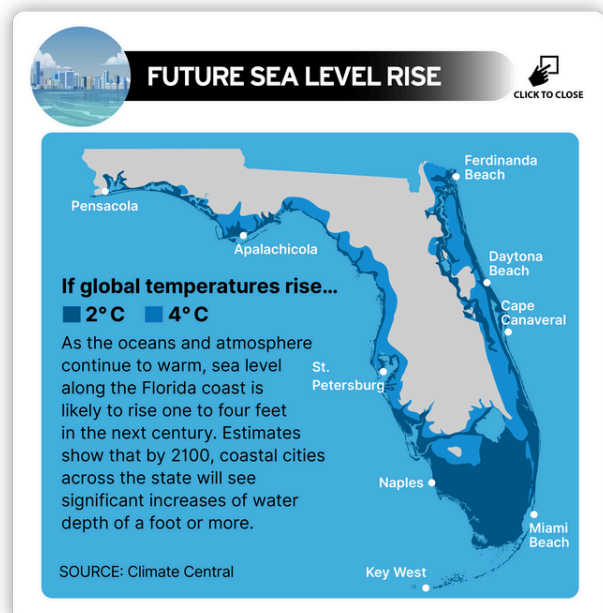
Category 4 hurricane striking Miami could prevent the loss of about 184,000 jobs, saving \$26 billion in production and \$17 billion in income.³

We Recommend Prioritizing Coordinated Governance

Statewide resilience planning involves preparing for and mitigating the impacts of climate change across diverse regions and sectors. This process is inherently complex due to several factors, necessitating coordinated efforts across multiple agencies to protect infrastructure, address ecosystem dependencies and deliver comprehensive solutions with best-in-class data. Formalizing resilience with cross-agency responsibilities will not only pool resources and identify efficiencies for implementation but optimize Florida's ability to secure federal allocations.

The Need for Nature-Based Infrastructure

With 1,350 miles of coastline, Florida has the highest coastal storm risk in the country and over 50% of the insured hurricane risk in the United States. Since 1980, NOAA estimates that Florida has had 32 tropical storms causing more than \$1 billion in damages, leading to total costs of between \$300 billion and \$360 billion. While severe hurricanes and storm surge can bring catastrophic events, significant risk comes with changes in rainfall patterns and sunny day flooding conditions from sea level rise. Most of Florida's infrastructure was built at low elevations, designed and built with little consideration of future sea level rise. Moreover, 47% of development between 2001 and 2019 was built on floodplains.



³ U.S. Chamber of Commerce, "The Preparedness Payoff: The Economic Benefits of Investing in Climate Resilience," <https://www.uschamber.com/security/the-preparedness-payoff-the-economic-benefits-of-investing-in-climate-resilience>.

In September of 2017, Hurricane Irma provided a powerful example of how mangroves, one kind of nature-based solution, can protect coastal communities. Despite hitting Southwest Florida as a Category 3 storm with wind gusts of 140 miles per hour mangroves averted an estimated \$1.5 billion in storm damages, which saved counties with mangroves

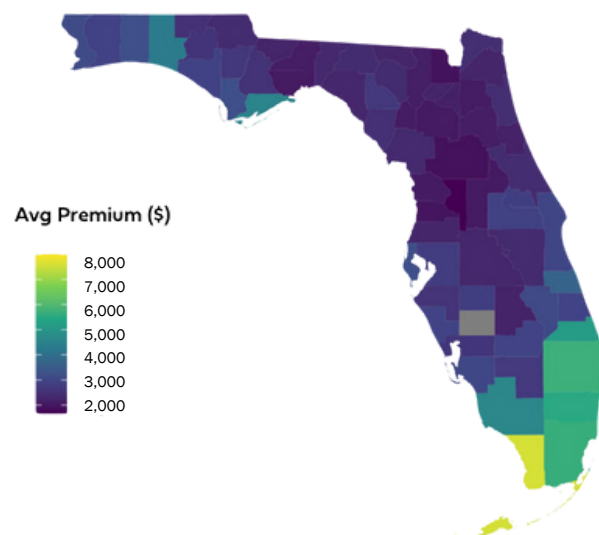
about 25% in damages. Over half a million residents living behind these mangrove forests in places like Collier County saw a reduced volume of flooding. Nature-based solutions provide cost-effective approaches to protect communities and businesses from increased flooding, hurricanes, and sea level rise.⁴

We Recommend Leveraging Natural Infrastructure

Florida's recent hurricanes reinforce that nature-based features like mangroves, reefs, and wetlands can provide high-value protections and build resilience while being cheaper and providing better value for money than traditional grey infrastructure practices that provide the same service. When we integrate these solutions with traditional measures we create multiple lines of defense. Florida's robust history of land acquisition provides a model for identifying community assets that could be leveraged to reduce hazard risks, while also improving habitat and retaining Florida's character and coastline.

Property Insurance Reforms and Affordable Housing

Floridians are being priced out of their homes due to skyrocketing insurance rates. A recent report shows how extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and more frequent flooding are straining the state's insurance market. These environmental changes are driving up the frequency and severity of claims, leading insurers to raise premiums or even withdraw from high-risk areas. This, in turn, leaves Florida homeowners and businesses facing higher costs and reduced access to coverage, exacerbating the financial burden on residents already grappling with the effects of climate change. Addressing these challenges requires a coordinated approach to resilience planning and insurance reform to mitigate the economic risks.



Average Annual Homeowners Insurance Premiums by County, 2023

We Recommend Enacting Property Insurance Reforms

A cornerstone of these reforms to address current market problems should be for the state to invest in transformative levels of risk reduction. Utilizing Flood Hub and other risk management data transparency to model catastrophes, update coastal construction control and erosion projection lines, direct growth and new development away from high-risk areas, and eliminate insurers and re-insurers from price gouging inland communities to subsidize coastal risk.

4 Michael W. Beck et al., "Valuing the Flood Risk Reduction Benefits of Florida's Mangroves," ResearchGate, October 2019, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/336903145_Valuing_the_Flood_Risk_Reduction_Benefits_of_Florida's_Mangroves.

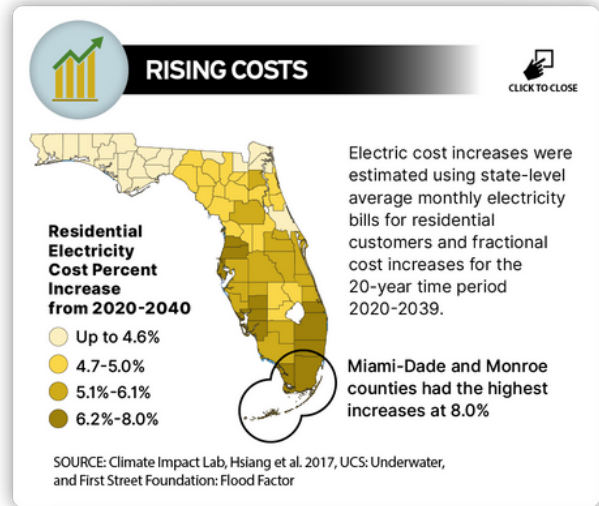
Building Energy Security

Florida’s need for affordable, reliable, and secure energy has never been greater. Florida is the third-largest electricity consumer in the nation, after Texas and California.

Recent Polling Data

84.1% of respondents are concerned about Florida’s cost of energy, including 82.7% of Republicans and 95.3% of Independents

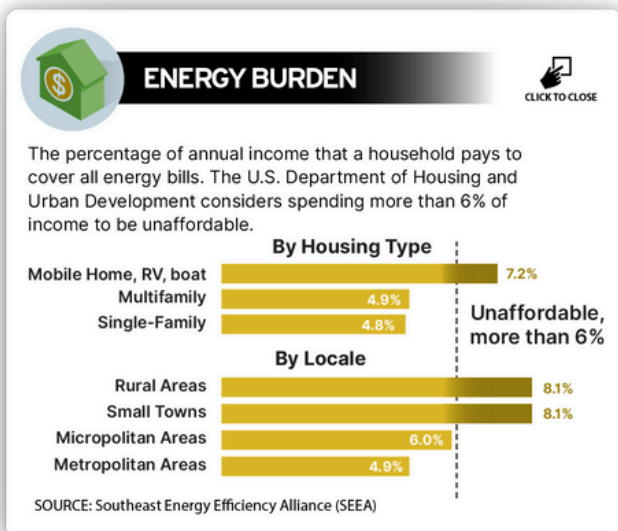
In 2023, Florida had the highest average residential electricity cost in the Southeast according to the state’s Public Service Commission. Energy costs are an important consideration that reaches across party lines.



In recent polling, Floridians of all parties said their electric bill is either higher or slightly higher than last year by a 2 to 1 margin across all parties polled. Rising energy costs are stoking fear concerning single-source energy reliance and energy diversification. Recent polling also shows that 45.8% of Republicans and 66.2% of Independents support a state-wide task force made up of energy and climate experts to make regular recommendations to policymakers on how to keep Florida’s energy sources secure and stable.

Recent Polling Data

66.2% of respondents support a task force designated to establishing a plan for energy security in Florida

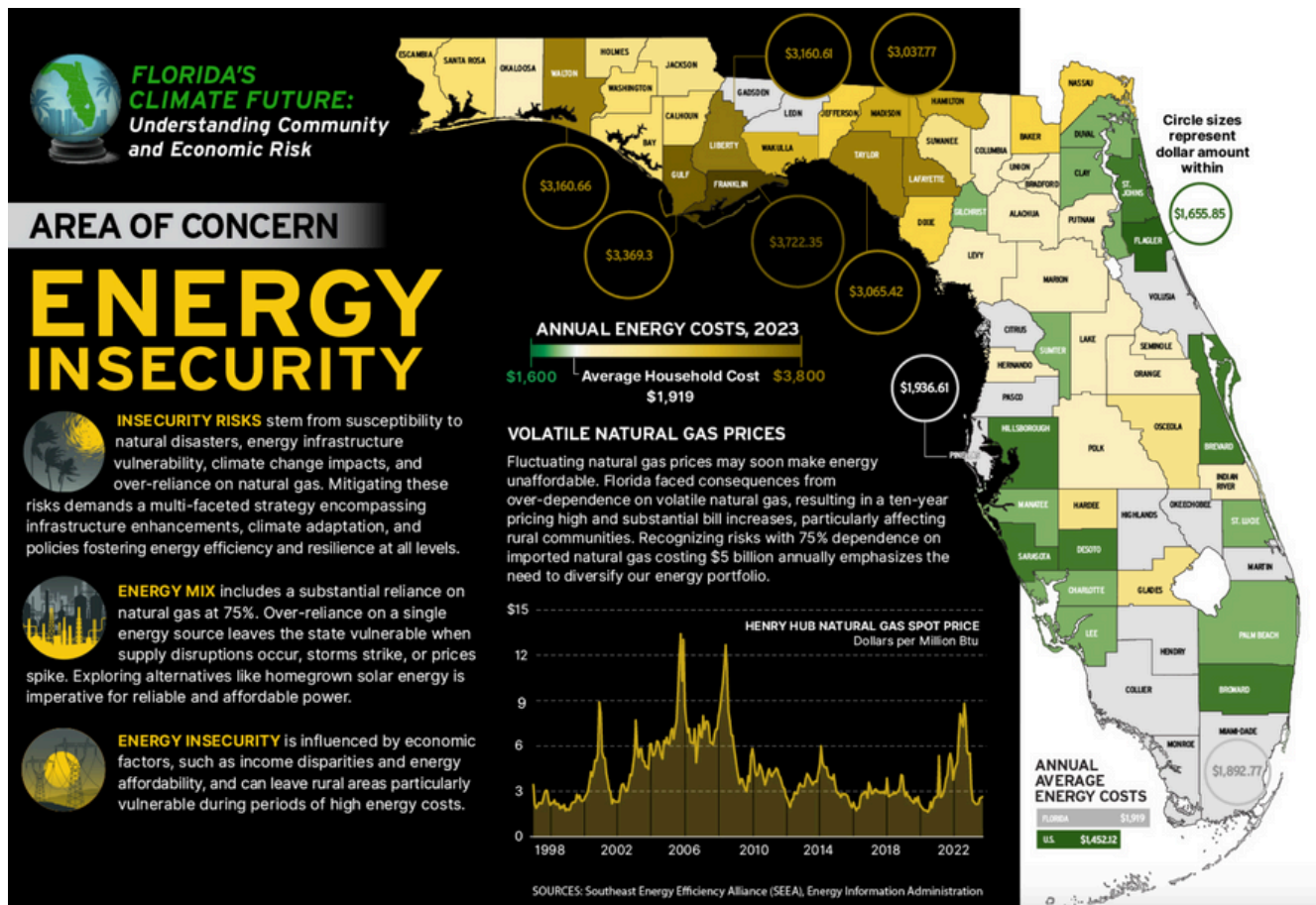


What's at stake for Florida Families, Businesses and the Environment

As the Sunshine State's population continues to grow, and economic sectors traditionally powered by fossil fuels have started to electrify at scale, there are significant impacts on electricity consumption for residential, commercial, and industrial customers. Florida families, especially those in rural areas, are already experiencing high energy burdens that exceed 6% of their income. Florida faces increased risk of extreme heat, severe weather, and flooding that threaten to disrupt the operations of its electric grid, damage infrastructure, and drive up energy bills and insurance costs for all Floridians. Residential electricity costs are expected to

increase 4-8% by 2040. Industry leaders have highlighted energy costs as a barrier in expanding operations and in meeting corporate renewable energy goals.

“Our warehouse facility has a significant footprint with around 100,000 square feet of refrigerated space, so moving to solar is the right thing to do from an environmental perspective. Not only will it save 36,000 tons of CO2 from entering the atmosphere, but there will also be significant cost savings over the life of the system.”
Nick Wishnatzki, of Wish Farms in Plant City.⁵



5 "Berry Grower Invests in Renewable Energy," FreshPlaza, June 1, 2023, 4 Michael W. Beck et al., "Valuing the Flood Risk Reduction Benefits of Florida's Mangroves," ResearchGate, October 2019, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/336903145_Valuing_the_Flood_Risk_Reduction_Benefits_of_Florida's_Mangroves.

The polling shows that Floridians would support lawmakers leveraging opportunities to diversify Florida's energy sources, which makes our state more secure and less susceptible to volatile energy costs that currently impact Floridians. Solar is the leading solution. Recent estimates show that rooftop solar has a \$18.3 billion total economic impact on the state, \$3.2 billion of which comprises household income for Florida workers. Solar supports a growing number of Florida jobs (40,000+) and contributes billions to GDP. The following recommendations outline policies that

turbocharge Florida's energy diversification efforts, leading to more affordable and reliable energy for all.⁶

Recent Polling Data

86.6% of respondents, support diversification of energy sources in Florida including 79% of Republican respondents



⁶ Conservatives for Clean Energy, Rooftop Solar Report, November 2021, <https://www.cleanenergyconservatives.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/CCE-Rooftop-Solar-Report-November-2021-1.pdf>.

Diversifying Hedges Energy Costs

More than 75% of Florida's energy supply is dependent on imported natural gas, which costs more than \$5 billion annually and puts families and businesses at risk of volatile natural gas prices. Florida imports nearly all of the natural gas it consumes via three major interstate pipelines that are vulnerable to supply chain disruptions including physical or cyber-attacks.

The Sunshine State has untapped potential for renewable solar energy production, which is now 15% more cost effective than natural gas and carries no additional fuel costs.

Moreover, global developments, federal policy shifts, pollution reduction standards for fossil gas plants, and interstate grid integration reforms mean renewable energy

will provide the pathway to improved reliability and lower-cost clean power supplies.

In a recent poll, we informed the respondent that 75% of Florida's energy production is reliant on a single source: natural gas piped in from out of state. This was concerning to 76.4% of all respondents, including 66.9% of Republicans and 78.5% of Independents.

Recent Polling Data

76.4%

of Floridians are concerned about Florida's over reliance on natural gas

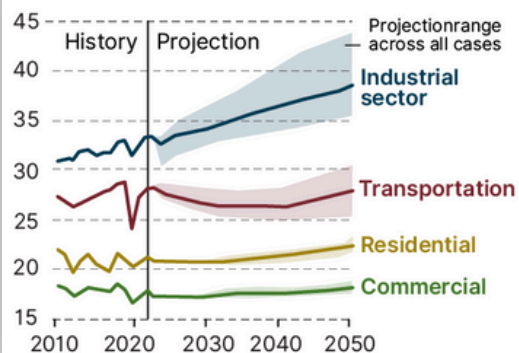
We Recommend Developing An Energy Security Plan

Florida should create a task force to develop an energy security plan that requires fuel diversification of Florida's energy supplies, outlines the state's potential for energy independence by increasing solar production, reducing imported fuel, and avoiding exposure to fossil fuel cost volatility and stranded assets. It is essential to preserve customer access to distributed renewable energy production to ensure families and businesses can benefit from falling prices on solar and other new and innovative technologies.

Accessing Energy Efficiency

Florida ranks near the bottom of the U.S. states when it comes to conserving energy. While a recent study identified energy savings potential from energy efficiency is equal to 24% of Florida's annual retail sales of electricity, regulators have not required meaningful energy efficiency goals be set or met by Florida's monopoly utility companies. Most of these potential savings are eliminated by outdated policies robbing residents of up to 47% of household energy cost savings. Not only does this waste critical energy supply resources, but inflated demand is used to justify costly new power plants at significant cost to ratepayers.

TOTAL U.S. ENERGY CONSUMPTION BY END-USE SECTOR, (2010-2050)
In Quadrillion British Thermal Units



SOURCE: U.S. Energy Information Administration, Annual Energy Outlook 2023

We Recommend Robust Building Codes

Ensure robust building codes for new construction include energy performance benchmarks for commercial and multifamily residences. Require Florida's Public Service Commission to eliminate outdated Rate Impact Measure (RIM) test and two-year payback screen from demand-side management (DSM) analysis and require annual DSM savings goals of at least 1% of retail electricity sales from regulated utilities.



Reforming the Grid for Reliability

Florida's highly centralized energy system makes it vulnerable to upstream failures in the transmission and distribution system in the event of natural disasters or physical and cyber-attacks. The state has already begun to evaluate the risks of disruption to its energy supply as a result of extreme heat or severe weather. Florida has limited

ability to import power during a statewide shortfall. Increasing distributed energy resources (DERs) on the electric grid means energy is produced closer to the point of consumption. When paired with increased storage battery technology, DERs can reduce outages and disruption in the event of a grid disturbance.

We Recommend Evaluating Interstate Transmission Connections

In order to strengthen transmission, Florida should evaluate the benefits of strengthening interstate transmission connections, identify high-value geographic areas for undergrounding transmission lines and encourage the deployment of grid-enhancing technologies (GETs) at strategic locations across Florida's transmission system. GETs are a cost-effective way to expand the power-carrying capacity of existing transmission lines, utilize more available capacity in real time, and more efficiently route power from where it is generated to where it is used. GETs are much less expensive to implement than building new transmission infrastructure.

The Future of Transportation

Transportation is vital to Florida's economy, from freight trucks delivering goods to school buses transporting students and vehicle fleets supporting daily life across the state. Investing in efficient and cost-effective vehicles and supportive infrastructure is common sense and makes the best use of taxpayer dollars.

Electric school buses and fleet vehicles are the future of cost-effective transportation. Calculating the total cost of ownership, including fuel, maintenance, and repairs, makes common sense. Electric vehicles lower fuel and maintenance costs due to fewer moving parts which leads to fewer repairs and increased reliability. Over time, these efficiencies result in real savings and are a smart investment in the long term.

With Florida's 15 deepwater seaports and 12 dry ports setting record highs in cargo and cruise passenger volumes, generating over \$177 billion in economic output annually, it is crucial to make continued bold investments. These

investments are essential to staying ahead of competitors, ensuring that Florida ports remain a vital part of America's supply chain, and keeping our state's facilities attractive to international trade and visitors.

The \$198 million earmarked for Florida's Electric Vehicle Master Plan accelerates the state's transition to electric transportation, supporting fleet electrification. These funds also enhance emergency readiness by establishing reliable charging infrastructure to meet residents' needs during evacuations.

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What's at stake for Florida Families, Businesses and the Environment

The transportation industry in Florida is at a critical juncture as new technologies reshape how we travel and transport goods. The rise of electric medium- and heavy-duty vehicles is set to revolutionize freight transportation, city services, and passenger transit over the next decade. However, the state is facing significant challenges in

implementing its electric vehicle charging infrastructure, which is essential for supporting this transition. If Florida fails to adapt quickly, it risks falling behind in attracting key industries, which could weaken the economy and compromise the resilience of essential infrastructure, particularly during emergencies and hurricane evacuations. Rural communities are particularly vulnerable, as they could be left without the necessary support to benefit from these advancements. The stakes are high for Florida's transportation sector. Rural residents, who already spend more on fuel and maintenance than their

7 Florida Department of Transportation, Electric Vehicle Master Plan, Florida Chamber of Commerce, "Florida Chamber Foundation Releases Florida Workforce Needs Study 2.0: Research to Further Address Florida's Talent & Skills Gaps," 4 Michael W. Beck et al., "Valuing the Flood Risk Reduction Benefits of Florida's Mangroves," ResearchGate, October 2019, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/336903145_Valuing_the_Flood_Risk_Reduction_Benefits_of_Florida's_Mangroves. BGA Foundation, EV Jobs, <https://evjobs.bgafoundation.org/>.

urban counterparts, stand to gain the most from the cost-saving benefits of electric vehicles. Yet, without a robust network of public charging stations, these savings remain out of reach. Additionally, the evolving transportation landscape requires a workforce skilled in new technologies. Florida must prioritize workforce readiness to ensure it can compete in the rapidly changing market. By addressing these challenges head-on, Florida can position

itself as a leader in the electric vehicle revolution, securing economic growth and enhancing the quality of life for all its residents.

The transportation landscape is being transformed by new technologies that promise to significantly enhance the efficiency and safety of how we travel and transport goods.

Prioritizing Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure and Implementation

Although Florida's Department of Transportation has initiated the development of a state plan for electric vehicle charging infrastructure, we are falling behind in its implementation. Moreover, delays in adapting our workforce to the evolving transportation landscape and attracting industry threaten to undermine our economy and compromise essential infrastructure during emergencies and hurricane evacuations. These setbacks also pose the risk of leaving rural communities without the support they need.



We Recommend Kickstarting FDOT's EV Master Plan Implementation

Kickstarting FDOT's Electric Vehicle Master Plan Implementation. It's crucial to kickstart Florida's electric vehicle master plan now. By taking action, Florida businesses can secure up to 80% of the funding needed to install EV charging infrastructure, making it easier for drivers to access charging stations across the state and in underserved rural communities. Additionally, well-planned EV infrastructure will enhance roadway safety during emergency evacuations, ensuring that all drivers can evacuate quickly and efficiently.

Considering Total Cost of Ownership

Rural residents drive more, spend more on fuel and maintenance, and allocate a larger portion of their budget to transportation compared to urban residents, despite typically having lower incomes. Electric vehicles, with fewer maintenance needs

and cost-saving technologies like regenerative braking, could ease this burden. However, the limited availability of public charging infrastructure remains a significant barrier to accessing these savings for both personal and municipal use.

We Recommend Evaluating Total Cost of Ownership for Fleets

Require TCO on all government-funded vehicle purchases. Focusing solely on upfront costs can be misleading, as it overlooks the long-term financial implications of a purchase. Evaluating the total cost of ownership—factoring in maintenance, fuel, energy consumption, and potential savings—provides a more accurate picture of the true value and economic benefits over time. This approach ensures smarter investments, maximizing cost efficiency and long-term sustainability, which is especially crucial for large-scale assets like vehicles or infrastructure.

Workforce Development

Florida's workforce demands are evolving, and the state will need to generate approximately 1.36 million new jobs by 2030. To achieve this, it's crucial for Florida to expand the pool of workers equipped with the skills that employers require now, while also building a talent pipeline for the jobs of the future. Some suggest that by



“By 2027 one in five passenger cars in Florida will be electric.”
-Florida Power & Light

prioritizing both current and emerging job skills, Florida could secure a competitive edge in economic development.⁸

We Recommend Prioritizing Workforce Readiness

Prioritizing Workforce Readiness. Florida's business friendly environment attracts investors. The electric vehicle industry creates jobs across various sectors, including manufacturing, maintenance, software, and infrastructure development. To ensure Florida can compete with neighboring states, we need a skilled workforce that can keep pace with growth and integrate emerging technologies to bring these investments to the state.

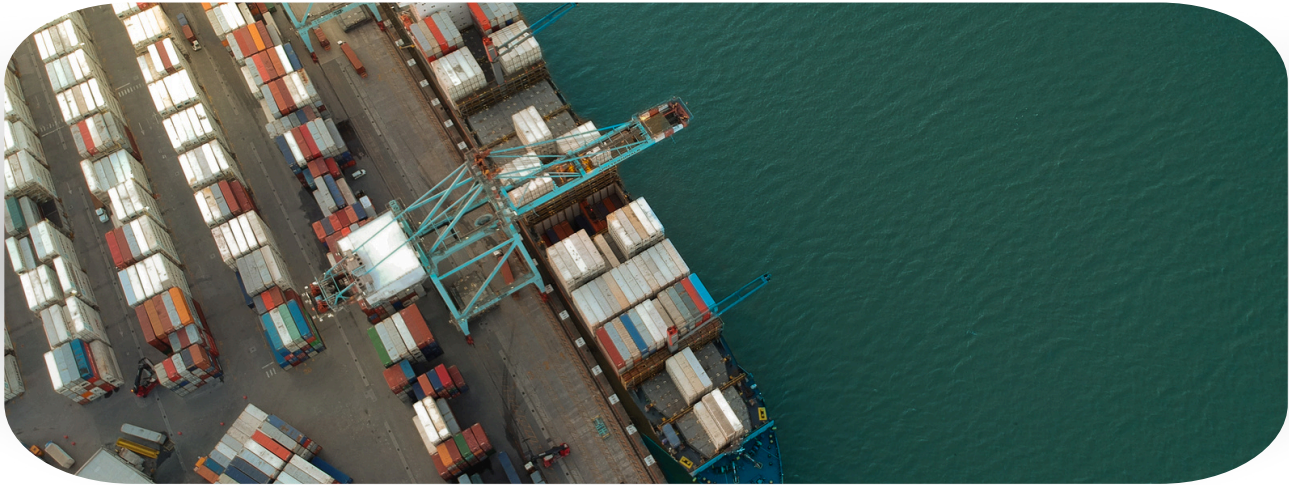


We Recommend Growing EV Manufacturing

The transportation industry is transforming, but Florida is lagging behind southern and eastern states in job growth surrounding emerging technology factories and manufacturing hubs. Companies like Rivian, Cenntro Automotive Group, Jabil, and Saft Batteries, among others, have shown an appetite for expansion. Florida now has a unique opportunity to attract a new generation of manufacturers and distributors of electric transportation systems. To seize this opportunity, the state must align its energy policies and avoid punitive new taxes that could create barriers to entry.⁹

⁸ Florida Chamber of Commerce, "Florida Chamber Foundation Releases Florida Workforce Needs Study 2.0: Research to Further Address Florida's Talent & Skills Gaps," ⁴ Michael W. Beck et al., "Valuing the Flood Risk Reduction Benefits of Florida's Mangroves," ResearchGate, October 2019, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/336903145_Valuing_the_Flood_Risk_Reduction_Benefits_of_Florida's_Mangroves.

⁹ BGA Foundation, EV Jobs, <https://evjobs.bgafoundation.org/>.



Enhancing Florida's Port Infrastructure with Shore Power

According to Florida's Department of Transportation, Florida seaports generate nearly 900,000 direct and indirect jobs and contribute \$117.6 billion in economic value to the state through cargo and cruise

activities. Leaders in the cruise industry like Royal Caribbean Group, Carnival Corporation and Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings Ltd. have already begun retrofitting ships and committed to have all shore power connections in new ships.

We Recommend Sales Tax Caps/Exemptions

Sales Tax Caps/ Exemptions. Medium and heavy-duty electric vehicles can pull heavier loads while significantly reducing sound and air pollution compared to diesel alternatives. Implementing a sales tax cap is a revenue-neutral approach to encourage high-volume sales in Florida, ensuring that our ports, manufacturers, and logistics operations can acquire modern, fuel-efficient cargo handling equipment.

We Recommend Including Shore Power Infrastructure

Include shore power infrastructure as part of a broader strategy to boost trade efficiency, improve port operations, and enhance the flow of goods, leading to lower costs and higher profits for Florida's businesses. Focus on regulatory reforms that reduce delay and bureaucratic hurdles for shore power projects while encouraging public-private partnerships.

The private sector is eager to build out Florida's charging network. Companies like Wawa, Buc-ee's, and Busy Bee cannot compete with regulated utilities who can raise rates on all their customers to fund utility owned and branded charging stations. Reforms are needed to ensure free market access to this emerging industry and the establishment of sound workforce development resources.

“
"When you invest in docks and infrastructure, either on the cargo side or on the cruise side, you know, you have to be planning out 30, 40 years. And so we need to make sure we're ahead of the curve."
-Wade Elliot, Communications, Port Tampa Bay

Conclusion

As Florida continues to grapple with the intertwined challenges of environmental change, population growth and economic pressures, it is crucial that policymakers, businesses, and communities collaborate to chart a sustainable path forward. The state's unique environmental landscape and growing population demand innovative solutions that not only protect its natural beauty but also ensure economic resilience. We are confident that the recommendations outlined in this publication provide a strategic roadmap for addressing these challenges, emphasizing the importance of diversifying energy sources, enhancing transportation infrastructure, and prioritizing effective resilience solutions. By taking data-driven actions, Florida's

leaders can ensure we are charted towards a future where communities thrive, our economy flourishes, and our environment remains a vibrant and integral part of the state's identity and tourism.

Looking ahead, the path to a more resilient Florida is clear: it requires a concerted effort across all sectors to prioritize sustainability, innovation, and long-term planning. The Environmental Defense Fund remains committed to working alongside Florida's leaders and communities to achieve these goals. The stakes are high, but with the right strategies and collective action, Florida can set a powerful example for the rest of the nation.





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