



2013 Annual Report

2013 marked the fourth year of successful regional collaboration by Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties and other partners under the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact (Compact). During the year, the Compact Counties continued to fulfill the original four commitments established by the Compact, began to implement the Regional Climate Action Plan (RCAP), conducted additional outreach and communication to engage the community, and advanced county-specific projects supporting the Compact and RCAP.

The Compact Staff Steering Committee has recommitted to publishing Annual Reports on a regular basis. A first Annual Report, covering 2010, was released in February 2011, but reports covering the years 2011 and 2012 were not created. Please refer to the box to the right for a brief overview of the 2009-2012 accomplishments under the Compact.

The Annual Report is organized according to the four areas of collaboration called for under the Compact:

- **Policy coordination**, through the development of joint state and federal legislative programs and other advocacy measures.
- Annual Regional Climate Leadership **Summits**.
- Development of regional **technical tools**, including a greenhouse gas emissions inventory, a vulnerability analysis, and unified sea level rise projection.
- Development of a **Regional Climate Action Plan**.

In addition, the Annual Report will also cover outreach initiatives, recognition, and media coverage of the Compact in 2013.

Accomplishments During Prior Years

- 2009 – Inaugural Regional Climate Leadership Summit hosted at the Broward County Convention Center.
- Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact released.
- 2010 – Development of technical tools.
- First Compact state and federal legislative programs developed.
 - Deepwater Horizon oil spill press conference and statement.
- 2011 – Draft Regional Climate Action Plan released.
- Florida legislature enacts optional “Adaptation Action Area” (AAA) comprehensive plan designation, developed by the Compact partners, into state law.
- 2012 – Final Regional Climate Action Plan released.
- Institute for Sustainable Communities, the nonprofit group assisting the Compact counties, awarded three-year, \$975,000 grant by Kresge Foundation to support Compact work and RCAP implementation.

Policy Coordination

At the invitation of State Rep. Mark Pafford, chair of the Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation, staff from the Compact counties and the South Florida Water Management District (a Compact partner) presented on sea level rise and the associated economic and infrastructure impacts in southeast Florida to a joint meeting of the legislative delegations from Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe counties in Tallahassee on February 13, 2013. This was the first time on record that state legislators convened to discuss sea level rise issues. Many of the legislators present asked for specific ideas on how they could help; in response, Compact staff provided a list of policy priorities to the county delegations in early March.

In January 2013, the Bicameral Task Force on Climate Change (co-chaired at the time by US Representative

Fifth Annual Southeast Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit

Broward County and the City of Fort Lauderdale were the hosts of the Fifth Annual Southeast Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit, held at the Broward County Convention Center in Fort Lauderdale on November 7 and 8. The 2013 Summit was the best-attended ever, with nearly 400 registrants for the Summit itself and several hundred attendees at the Coastal Communities Town Hall, held during the evening of November 7.

Highlights of the Summit included keynote addresses by US Environmental Protection Agency Deputy Administrator Bob Perciasepe and Dr. Debra Roberts, Deputy Head of the Environmental Planning and Climate Protection Department of eThekweni Municipality (Durban), South Africa. Dr. Roberts is a lead author of Chapter 8, Urban Areas, of the Working Group II contribution to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report, due to be released in 2014.

The City of Fort Lauderdale and Broward County announced during the Summit that they are the first local governments in the United States to sign onto the

Henry Waxman of California and US Senator Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island) issued a call for suggestions on how the federal government could best reduce carbon pollution and build resiliency to climate impacts. In response, three of the four Compact county mayors and the mayors from each of the four municipal members of the Staff Steering Committee (Boynton Beach, Fort Lauderdale, Miami Beach, and Key West) signed a joint letter sharing some of the Compact experiences and proposing several ways the federal government could help local governments and regions.

Durban Adaptation Charter, a voluntary commitment by local governments around the world to undertake action in their jurisdictions to address the challenges posed by climate change, to reduce risk, and to promote resilience.



The Summit audience listens to a lunchtime keynote address by Dr. Debra Roberts, Deputy Head of the Environmental Planning and Climate Protection Department of eThekweni Municipality, South Africa, on Friday, November 8.



From left to right, US EPA Deputy Administrator Bob Perciasepe, State Rep. Bobby Powell, Broward County Commissioner Kristin Jacobs, Congresswoman Lois Frankel, Congressman Patrick Murphy, and Congressman Elijah Cummings pose for a photo prior to the Coastal Communities Town Hall at the Summit on November 7, 2013.

The Coastal Communities Town Hall, featuring Congressman Elijah Cummings of Maryland, Congressman Patrick Murphy of Florida, Congresswoman Lois Frankel of Florida, US Environmental Protection Agency Deputy Administrator Bob Perciasepe, State Representative Bobby Powell, and Broward County Mayor Kristin Jacobs, was recorded by south Florida public radio station WLRN-FM and broadcast on November 13 as part of a week-long series on sea level rise in south Florida entitled “Elevation Zero.” Compact partners were featured in other stories in the series as well. The partnership with WLRN-FM was the first-ever media partnership established by Compact members and exposed the Town Hall, the Summit, and the Compact to a potential audience of hundreds of thousands of listeners.

Technical Tools

Compact partners and other entities regularly used many of the technical tools developed through earlier Compact efforts, including a greenhouse gas emissions inventory, vulnerability analysis, and unified sea level rise projection, for planning purposes during 2013.

Regional Climate Action Plan

Following adoption of the Regional Climate Action Plan (RCAP) by the county commissions of Broward and Monroe counties in autumn 2012, the Miami-Dade County Commission accepted the plan on April 2, 2013. Palm Beach County chose to circulate the RCAP widely for discussion among stakeholder groups and municipalities during 2013, with the County Commission formally adopting it on April 15, 2014.

Efforts to implement RCAP recommendations began in earnest in 2013, both through region-wide initiatives and actions by individual counties and municipalities (discussed later). One of the chief strategies supported by the Kresge Foundation grant to the Institute for Sustainable Communities is the convening of implementation workshops to advance specific RCAP

recommendations and involve a broad community of practitioners and experts throughout the region.

The first RCAP implementation workshop, titled “Integrating Climate Change into Southeast Florida’s Planning Processes,” took place September 26-27 in Hollywood. Over 60 transportation, land use, and emergency management planners from across the four counties attended. The second RCAP implementation workshop took place December 10-11 in Doral and focused on “Catalyzing Solar Development and Implementation in Southeast Florida.”

The Compact region is benefiting from a Federal Highway Administration grant awarded in 2013 to the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (with

support of other MPOs, local governments, and transportation agencies throughout south Florida) to assess the vulnerability of regional transportation infrastructure and to develop consistent methodology and decision support tools for ensuring that climate change is considered in transportation infrastructure decisions.

In addition, thanks to a NOAA grant administered through the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Broward County, the City of Fort Lauderdale, and the South Florida Regional Planning Council partnered in 2013 in a pilot initiative to

develop guidance for communities in the use of Adaptation Action Areas (AAAs) to target climate-vulnerable areas for adaptation investments. The grant will continue to fund activity in 2014. AAAs were written into state law in 2011 thanks to vigorous advocacy by the Compact.

Compact partners also established a Shoreline Resilience Working Group in 2013 to expand coral reef, mangrove, dune, and other living shoreline projects in the region to build coastal resiliency.

Outreach, Recognition, and Media

The Compact partners continued their outreach to municipalities throughout the region in 2013. The Mayors' Climate Action Pledge was developed as a way for municipal mayors and commissions to express support for the Compact and the RCAP and align their communities' sustainability and climate preparedness activities with the RCAP recommendations. By the end of 2013, 23 municipalities in the four-county region had officially adopted the Pledge, including 16 in Broward County, five in Miami-Dade County, and one each in Palm Beach and Monroe counties. In addition, the Pledge was endorsed by the Miami-Dade League of Cities and the Broward and Monroe county commissions.

In 2013, Compact partners, specifically Broward County and the City of Fort Lauderdale, embarked on a relationship with eThekweni Municipality (Durban), South Africa, which involved a week-long visit by Broward and Fort Lauderdale staff to Durban to discuss climate adaptation initiatives and specifically the applicability of the Compact model to eThekweni and its regional neighbors. The exchange was arranged by the CityLinks Program of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), supported by funding from the US Agency for International Development. (eThekweni staff participated in a reciprocal visit to Fort Lauderdale and Broward County in March 2014.) Compact partners also supported the Seven50 regional planning process in 2013, helping to coordinate technical assistance for sea level rise vulnerability assessments in Martin, St. Lucie, and

Indian River counties and leading to the development of the Climate Resilience element of the Seven50 plan.

Compact county and city partners presented on the Compact and associated initiatives to many conferences, workshops, and groups in 2013. These events and groups included:

- New York City Multi-State Roundtable on Sea Level Rise and Coastal Communities
- U.S. Senate Democratic Steering and Outreach Committee Roundtable on Changing Ocean Environment
- South Florida Climate Action Partners
- Florida Sea Grant Workshop - Adaptive Planning for Coastal Change: Legal Issues for Local Government
- Association of Climate Change Officers Rising Seas Summit
- Garrison Institute Climate, Mind and Behavior Symposium
- National League of Cities Energy, Environment & Natural Resources Steering Committee
- New York Rising Storm Recovery Conference
- American Geophysical Union Science Policy Conference
- National Institute for Coastal and Harbor Infrastructure Symposium
- China-US Joint Research Center for Ecosystem and Environmental Change Annual Workshop
- Florida Atlantic University Sea Level Rise Summit
- Climate Impacts Collaborative Meeting
- Florida Green, Energy and Climate Conference

The Compact was also highlighted as a model of effective regional action in the Third National Climate Assessment (NCA), published in draft form in 2013 by the U.S. Global Change Research Program, the federal research collaborative that coordinates national climate change science. (The final version of the NCA, retaining multiple mentions of the Compact, was released in May 2014.)

In November, President Obama appointed Broward County Commissioner Kristin Jacobs, one of the original leaders who initiated the Compact, to a State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience. Several Compact Staff Steering Committee members have been actively engaged in supporting the Task Force, and agencies throughout the four county governments and multiple municipalities in southeast Florida provided input to the Task Force early in 2014.

Another outcome of the Compact has been closer coordination on external grant opportunities. In early 2013, Compact staff identified a possible grant opportunity from the RE.invest Initiative, a Rockefeller Foundation-supported program offering communities seed funding and expert assistance from engineering, finance, and law firms to develop innovative public-private partnerships for resilient infrastructure. In the past, Compact partners might have competed against one another for the grant, but the Staff Steering Committee recognized that the region would derive the most benefit from backing a strong application from a single community. The Compact partners therefore decided to support Miami Beach's candidacy, given the significant work it had undertaken on an updated stormwater management plan. In May, Miami Beach learned that the city had indeed been selected as one of eight nationwide to participate in the RE.invest Initiative.

Faced with another grant opportunity in the fall, the Rockefeller Foundation's "100 Resilient Cities Centennial Challenge," Compact partners were not able to establish a process for identifying and supporting a single application from the region, but instead agreed to support all applications from cities in the region and work to spread the knowledge gained by any winning community. Unfortunately, of the 33 cities chosen in the first round, no communities in the Compact region were selected.

The Compact was featured or mentioned in stories by the following media outlets in 2013:

- *Miami Herald*
- *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*
- *Palm Beach Post*
- *Florida Trend*
- *Daily Business Review*
- *South Florida Business Journal*
- WLRN-FM
- *Miami Today*
- *The Florida Current*
- *Wall Street Journal*
- *New York Times*
- *The Economist*
- Reuters
- Associated Press
- *Morning Edition*, National Public Radio
- *BURN: An Energy Journal* (broadcast on public radio stations nationwide)
- *E&E News*

