

## **Florida's Resilient Coasts: Policy Framework for Adaptation to Climate Change**

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A comprehensive policy framework is presented to assist the Florida state government in:

- 1) Assessing the likely impacts of climate change on its coastal regions and communities, and
- 2) Developing and adopting policies and programs that will enable the state, its communities, and its residents to adapt to and adaptively manage those impacts over the near and long term.

The projected potential impacts of climate change on Florida's coastal regions and communities could be very serious, even dire. A successful effort by state government—together with local government, the private and civic sectors, and all Floridians—to adapt effectively to those impacts requires a disciplined, comprehensive, purposeful, strategic, and efficient approach. This set of principles will guide policymakers in crafting policies as much to avoid unintended consequences as to achieve intended ones.

Critical questions raised and policy options presented for consideration will be useful to the Governor and Legislature, state agencies, and a broad array of interested parties—local governments and regional planning agencies; business, environmental and social justice organizations; the media and public affairs educators; and the general public. This project is among the first attempts in the country to develop such a comprehensive policy framework. Thus, it should also be useful to other states and national authorities, particularly those with an interest in the impact of climate change on our nation's coastal regions and communities.

Critical issues and policy options covered include:

1. Advancing scientific information and analysis.
2. Planning and decision-making, regarding:
  - a. Comprehensive land use planning and building regulation.
  - b. Water resource management.
  - c. Transportation and other infrastructure.
  - d. Conservation of natural lands and marine systems.
  - e. Beaches and beach management.
  - f. Extreme events/emergency preparedness and response.
3. Insurance.
4. State funding and financing for coastal climate adaptation.
5. Economic development, health, and social effects.
6. Organizing state government for the long haul.

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