

# 17<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SOUTHEAST FLORIDA CLIMATE LEADERSHIP SUMMIT



 December 16-17, 2025  West Palm Beach, FL



**ROOTS OF RESILIENCE**  
Cultivating a Sustainable Future



# 17<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SOUTHEAST FLORIDA CLIMATE LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

## Roots of Resilience: Cultivating a Sustainable Future

It is a privilege to welcome you to Palm Beach County for the 17th Annual Southeast Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit. This Summit brings together many of the region's most dedicated professionals, providing a space to learn from one another, share ideas and build connections that advance South Florida's resilience and sustainability.

This year's theme, "**Roots of Resilience: Cultivating a Sustainable Future**," highlights innovative, nature-based strategies emerging across our region, including green infrastructure, urban agriculture, afforestation and other community-driven initiatives. These efforts demonstrate how local action, scientific expertise and creative problem-solving can intersect to address the impacts of extreme weather and strengthen the long-term sustainability of our communities.

Here in Palm Beach County, we are applying these principles in ways that reflect the character and needs of our communities. We are investing in resilient and modern infrastructure, supporting affordable housing and smart growth tailored to local neighborhoods, and safeguarding our unique natural resources, from the Everglades and Lake Okeechobee to our coastal ecosystems. By combining forward-looking planning with active community engagement and strong environmental stewardship, we are committed to preserving the county's distinctive landscapes, waterways, and communities for future generations.

We hope this Summit provides an opportunity for meaningful collaboration, sparks new ideas, and strengthens partnerships that will help build a sustainable and resilient future for Palm Beach County and all Southeast Florida.



*Sincerely,*

**JOSEPH ABRUZZO**

*Palm Beach County Administrator*

# 17<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SOUTHEAST FLORIDA CLIMATE LEADERSHIP SUMMIT



**Roots of Resilience: Cultivating a Sustainable Future**

**DECEMBER 16–17, 2025**  
**West Palm Beach, FL**



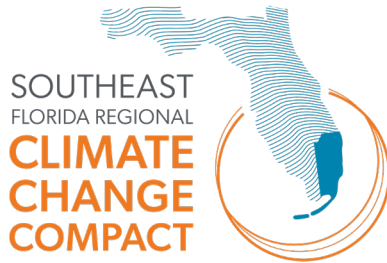
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[SEFLClimateSummit2025.com](https://SEFLClimateSummit2025.com)



# ABOUT THE COMPACT



The Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact (the Compact) is a critical partnership between Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe, and Palm Beach Counties. In 2009, Southeast Florida local government leaders came together to discuss climate threats facing the region's six million residents. Recognizing the shared challenge, but significant opportunity to position Southeast Florida as an early leader, their call to action launched the Compact to build climate resilience across Southeast Florida and ensure that the region continues to thrive.

The Compact represents four counties, 109 municipalities, two tribal governments, with 6.2 million people and 1/3 of the state's current energy-related jobs.

The region's extreme weather challenges include 250,000 residents who live below three feet of sea level, which could rise by up to 54 inches by 2070, and a mid-century heat index of 105 degrees for three months a year.

For over fifteen years, the Compact counties have successfully collaborated on mitigation and adaptation strategies, built bipartisan support for climate action, and forged partnerships with key stakeholders, including federal, state, and municipal governments and agencies; economic development entities; community-based organizations; and the academic community, enabling the development of a regional voice and vision for future prosperity in Southeast Florida.

**Thank you for joining us at this year's Summit!**





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## Complimentary Internet Access

Free, wireless internet access is available to attendees. To access internet while in the convention center, follow these instructions on your device:

1. Search for a Wi-Fi network on your device.
2. Select the appropriate option: **Convention\_Center\_WiFi**
3. Enter your email address and agree to the terms and conditions to gain access.



## Name Badge

You'll need to wear your name badge to get into all Summit spaces and activities—including coffee breaks, lunch buffets, and the Tuesday networking social. Please ensure your badge is worn at all times during the Summit to gain entry.

# WHOVA APP QUICK GUIDE



## 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Southeast Florida Climate Leadership Summit

Use **WhoVA** to access the agenda, connect with attendees, and find all Summit info in one place.

### Getting Started

1. **Download WhoVA** – Scan the QR code or find it in your app store.
2. **Log in** with your registration email.
3. **Join the event:** Search for the “17th Annual Southeast Florida Climate Leadership Summit” or use the email invitation link.



### Main Features

- **Agenda:** View sessions, set reminders, take notes.
- **Speakers:** See who's presenting and when.
- **Attendees:** Network and send messages.
- **Documents:** Access slides and resources.
- **Q&A & Polls:** Participate in live discussions.
- **Community:** Join topic boards and connect.
- **Floor Map:** Navigate the venue.

### Tips

- Add a photo and short bio to your profile.
- Engage in sessions and discussions.
- Check notifications for event updates.

For assistance contact: **Valentina Alvarez** at [valvarez@pbc.gov](mailto:valvarez@pbc.gov)

# DETAILED AGENDA - DAY 1

**Tuesday, December 16, 2025**

8:30am..... *Registration, Networking, and Continental Breakfast (Foyer)*

10:00am..... **WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS**

**Palm Beach County Host Representatives**

- **Megan Houston, *Summit Chair & Co-Host*, Director, Division of Built Environment Risk Reduction**
- **Patrick Rutter, *Co-Host*, Deputy County Administrator**

10:05am..... **PRESENTATION**

**"Palm Beach County State of Resilience"**

**Speaker**

- **Sara Baxter, *Mayor*, Palm Beach County**

10:20am..... **KEYNOTE PRESENTATION**

**"State of South Florida Resilient Housing & Development"**

**Speaker**

- **Ashon Nesbitt, *Chief Executive Officer*, Florida Housing Coalition**

Ashon Nesbitt, the CEO of the Florida Housing Coalition, will provide critical insights into the intersection of housing and climate resilience in Florida. He will discuss the unique challenges faced by the state's communities as climate impacts intensify and housing prices rise. Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of how robust housing infrastructure and equitable development are paramount to Florida's overall climate adaptation efforts. This session is essential for anyone interested in actionable solutions for a resilient future.

10:50am..... **PRESENTATION**

**"What Does the Data Say? South Florida Climate Indicators"**

**Speaker**

- **Dr. Jayantha Obeysekera, *Director & Research Professor*, Sea Level Solutions Center, Florida International University (FIU)**

Southeast Florida is already experiencing climate impacts including rising temperatures, sea levels, and more frequent extreme weather events that affect people, infrastructure, and natural ecosystems. The four-county Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact recently released a 2025 update of its *Climate Indicators Report*, developed in collaboration with local climate experts, academic researchers, and local government resilience staff. Attendees will learn about recent updates and how to use the *Climate Indicators Report* to guide planning, inform policy, and support regional climate resilience.



## Tuesday, December 16, 2025 (continued)

11:05am..... **PANEL**

### "Creating Resilient Futures – Compact CROs in Dialogue"

The Chief Resilience Officers (CROs) of Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe counties have been working diligently with County colleagues, municipal governments, and local organizations to create a resilient future for residents of Southeast Florida. In this panel, the CROs will share resilience highlights and priorities for the upcoming year. This direct dialogue offers a unique opportunity to understand regional coordination and future priorities directly from the leaders shaping them.

#### Moderator

- **Lauren Evans**, *Local Consultant*, Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact

#### Panelists

- **Rhonda Haag**, *Chief Resilience Officer*, Monroe County
- **Loren Parra**, *Chief Resilience Officer*, Miami-Dade County
- **Dr. Jennifer Jurado**, *Chief Resilience Officer*, Broward County
- **Megan Houston**, *Director*, Division of Built Environment Risk Reduction, Palm Beach County

12:00pm..... *Group Luncheon & Book Signing (Grand Ballroom)*

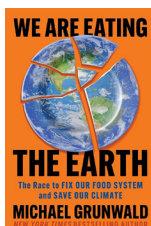
## The first 200 arrivals at the book signing get a complimentary copy of the book!



### Michael Grunwald

**12:15pm-1:15pm**

*Author, Journalist, Podcaster, Speaker*  
Written for: The Washington Post,  
Time, Politico, and more



Grunwald reveals how flawed climate-food fixes worsen the issue, while real solutions—from resilient crops to cleaner pesticides—emerge in a tale of missteps and innovation.

### INTERESTED IN THE BOOK?

Scan the QR code above for a direct link to Amazon to grab another copy of *"We Are Eating the Earth: The Race to Fix Our Food System and Save Our Climate."*

## Tuesday, December 16, 2025 *(continued)*

### 1:15pm..... **INNOVATION SHOWCASE**

#### **"Roots of Resilience – Local Government in Action"**

Wondering what local governments are doing to create resilient communities? This fast-paced showcase will feature quick, impactful presentations featuring living shorelines, innovative park designs, and afforestation projects that are making South Florida more resilient.

#### **Moderator**

- **Jodie Gless Eldridge**, *Director of Environmental Service, FPL*

#### **Speakers**

- **Jennifer Baez**, *Environmental Program Supervisor, Palm Beach County Environmental Resources Management*
- **Stephanie Roche**, *Beach Manager, Broward County*
- **Jennifer Cheek**, *Resilience Coordinator, Miami-Dade County*
- **Amy Knowles**, *Chief Resilience Officer, Miami Beach*

### 2:15pm..... *Afternoon Break (Foyer)*

### 2:45pm..... **PANEL**

#### **"Integrated Solutions: Housing and Climate Resilience in Action"**

Affordable housing and climate resilience are not mutually exclusive. Ensuring that affordable housing is resilient and can withstand climate disruptions is critical, especially in Florida. We will look at how data and GIS mapping can help reveal where affordable housing overlaps with climate-related risks, such as flooding and extreme heat. This session will also discuss what affordable housing owners and managers are doing to integrate climate resilience into their operations.

#### **Moderator**

- **Jaime Lee Bradshaw**, *Chief Strategy Officer, Community Partners of South Florida*

#### **Panelists**

- **Dr. Robin Bachin**, *Project Director, Miami Housing Solutions Lab*
- **Julie Klump**, *Vice President, Design and Building Performance, Preservation of Affordable Housing*
- **Sam Chesser**, *South Florida Vice President, Self-Help*

### 3:40pm..... **Stretch Break** – Take five to recharge with this quick 5-minute stretch break—it's fun, easy, and energizing whether you're seated or standing!

3:45pm..... **PANEL**

**"Routes to Resilience: Sustainable Transportation Design and Systems"**

As municipalities rapidly urbanize and we continue to work toward a greener future, sustainable transportation remains at the forefront of civic affairs. How can we ensure streets have safe access for pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit riders? What are we doing to lower greenhouse gas emissions when designing transportation systems? How can we create transit-oriented development? Transportation specialists from Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade counties will provide actionable insights into these critical questions and showcase successful regional initiatives.

**Moderator**

- **Claudia Bilotto**, *Southeast Region Executive Senior Vice President, WSP*

**Panelists**

- **Dr. Kim DeLaney**, *Director of Strategic Development & Policy, Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council*
- **Cathy Dos Santos**, *Executive Director, Miami Transit Alliance*
- **Coree Cuff Lonergan**, *CEO & General Manager, Broward County Transit*

4:30pm..... **KEYNOTE PRESENTATION**

**"We Are Eating the Earth: The Race to Fix Our Food System and Save Our Climate"**

**Speaker**

- **Michael Grunwald**, *Author, Journalist, Podcaster*

Join us for a special keynote from renowned author and journalist, Michael Grunwald! His expertise spans politics, communications, and environmental affairs. Grunwald will discuss his latest book *We Are Eating the Earth: The Race to Fix Our Food System and Save Our Climate*, published in July 2025. His keynote will cover opportunities for local governments to support sustainable food systems, the connection between food systems and climate change, and the importance of urban agriculture. Grunwald's prior literary work includes *The Swamp: The Everglades, Florida, and the Politics of Paradise* and *The New New Deal: The Hidden Story of Change in the Obama Era*.



**Tuesday, December 16, 2025** *(continued)*

5:00pm..... **GREETINGS FROM WEST PALM BEACH MAYOR AND  
INVITATION TO THE WELCOME NETWORKING SOCIAL**

**Speaker**

- **Keith A. James**, *Mayor*, City of West Palm Beach

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5:05pm..... **WELCOME NETWORKING SOCIAL** *(Foyer)*

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and Ocean Sustainability



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# DETAILED AGENDA - DAY 2

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

8:00am ..... *Arrival, Continental Breakfast, Networking, and Registration (Foyer)*

9:00am ..... **WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS**

**Speaker**

- **Patrick Rutter**, *Deputy County Administrator*, Palm Beach County

9:05am ..... **PRESENTATION**

**"Miami-Dade County State of Resilience"**

**Speaker**

- **Dr. Daniella Levine Cava**, *Mayor*, Miami-Dade County

9:20am ..... **KEYNOTE PRESENTATION**

**"State of the Ocean"**

**Speaker**

- **Dr. Steven Vollmer**, *Director*, FAU School of Environment, Coastal, and Ocean Sustainability

While most of our sessions will focus on above ground resilience challenges, Dr. Steven Vollmer will offer insights into the underwater perspective and the changes occurring beneath the surface in our surrounding coastal ecosystems.

9:45am ..... *Mid-Morning Break (Foyer)*

10:15am ..... **PANEL**

**"Operationalizing Climate Resilience Across South Florida's Counties"**

County administrators play a significant role in local government by managing departments, overseeing operations, and implementing policy. This session offers a unique opportunity to hear directly from county administrators and officials on their strategies for integrating resilience into daily operations, navigating investment challenges, and fostering leadership across departments to achieve regional climate goals.

**Moderator**

- **Dr. Steven Vollmer**, *Director*, FAU School of Environment, Coastal, and Ocean Sustainability

**Panelists**

- **Joseph Abruzzo**, *County Administrator*, Palm Beach County
- **Monica Cepero**, *County Administrator*, Broward County
- **Jimmy Morales**, *Chief Operations Officer*, Miami-Dade County
- **Rhonda Haag**, *Chief Resilience Officer*, Monroe County

11:15am..... **INNOVATION SHOWCASE**

**"Roots of Resilience – Non-Profit and Technology"**

The work that local non-profit organizations and tech companies do to help advance climate resilience is important to the vitality of South Florida. This session will include speakers from the CLEO Institute, the Everglades Foundation, Ferguson Waterworks, KindDesign Living Seawalls, and U.S. Green Building Council. In this fast-paced session, we will learn what these entities are doing to help protect and create a resilient South Florida.

**Moderator**

- **Thais Lopez Vogel, Esq.**, *Co-Founder & Trustee, VoLo Foundation*

**Speakers**

- **Anya Freeman**, *Founder & CEO, Kind Designs*
- **Yoca Arditi-Rocha**, *Executive Director, CLEO Institute*
- **Jessica Bruso**, *Green Stormwater Infrastructure Specialist, Ferguson Waterworks*
- **Dr. Meenakshi Chabba**, *Ecosystem and Resilience Scientist, The Everglades Foundation*
- **Karen Jernigan**, *Director, U.S. Market Transformation & Development, U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)*

12:00pm..... *Group Luncheon & Book Signing (Grand Ballroom)*

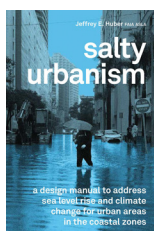
**The first 200 arrivals at the book signing  
get a complimentary copy of the book!**



**Jeffrey Huber**

**12:15pm-1:15pm**

*Professor & Author*  
FAU School of Architecture  
Fort Lauderdale, FL



Salty Urbanism is both a theoretical text and practical manual aimed at urban designers, planners, and policymakers working in vulnerable coastal areas.

**INTERESTED IN THE BOOK?**

Scan the QR code above for a direct link to Amazon to grab another copy of *"Salty Urbanism: A Design Manual for Sea Level Rise Adaptation in Urban Areas."*



1:15pm..... **PANEL**

### "Disaster Recovery and Management"

As the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events increase, the imperative for robust disaster management and long-term recovery has never been greater. This session will bring together leading experts to discuss cutting-edge strategies for pre-disaster mitigation, effective response, and resilient rebuilding. Our speakers will offer diverse perspectives on integrating predictive science with on-the-ground recovery efforts while navigating federal funding and requirements.

#### Moderator

- **Mary Blakeney**, *Director*, Palm Beach County Division of Emergency Management, Public Safety Department

#### Panelists

- **Bryan Koon**, *President & CEO*, IEM International, Inc.
- **CJ Reynolds**, *Director*, Resilience and Recovery, Florida Housing Coalition
- **Robert Garcia**, *Warning Coordination Meteorologist*, National Weather Service - Miami-South Florida

2:10pm..... **Stretch Break** – Take five to recharge with this quick 5-minute stretch break—it's fun, easy, and energizing whether you're seated or standing!

2:15pm..... **PRESENTATION**

### "Broward County State of Resilience"

#### Speaker

- **Beam Furr**, *Mayor*, Broward County

2:30pm..... **KEYNOTE PRESENTATION**

### "Salty Urbanism: A Design Framework for Climate Adaptation and Sea Level Rise for Urban Areas in the Coastal Zone"

#### Speaker

- **Jeffrey Huber**, *Professor & Author of Salty Urbanism*, FAU School of Architecture

This special keynote will feature Jeffery E. Huber, professor, and author of *Salty Urbanism: A Design Manual to Address Sea Level Rise and Climate Change for Urban Areas in the Coastal Zones!* *Salty Urbanism* presents a design framework for coastal cities confronting sea-level rise and flooding. Through neighborhood-to-building-scale strategies, Huber translates research into actionable design, demonstrating how resilient infrastructure, adaptive landscapes, and community planning can transform vulnerability into opportunity for coastal urban futures.

3:00pm..... **PANEL**

**"Virtual Worlds, Real Solutions: The Power of Resiliency Tech"**

How does technology help shape the resiliency landscape? With the help of virtual reality, artificial intelligence (AI), and gaming platforms, we can develop new strategies to help communicate and assess climate resiliency impacts and investments. This panel will showcase challenges and opportunities for local governments planning for resiliency using AI, how Minecraft can help with resilience planning, and how virtual reality helps people understand climate challenges and opportunities. Discover how these cutting-edge technologies are transforming how local governments plan, communicate, and invest in a more resilient future.

**Moderator**

- **Gregg Weiss**, *County Commissioner*, Palm Beach County - District 2

**Panelists**

- **Ashantae Green**, *Sustainability Manager*, City of Jacksonville
- **Dr. Serena Hoermann**, *Associate Director*, FAU Center for Urban and Environmental Solutions (CUES)
- **Daniel Kleinman**, *Founder & CEO*, Seaworthy Collective

3:50pm..... **CLOSING REMARKS & THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS**

4:00pm..... **SUMMIT CONCLUDES**



# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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**FERGUSON WATERWORKS**

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# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Tuesday, December 16



## Ashon Nesbitt

**10:20am–10:50am**

*Chief Executive Officer*  
Florida Housing Coalition  
Tallahassee, FL

Ashon Nesbitt is CEO of the Florida Housing Coalition and a leading expert in housing finance, development, and program administration. He advises local governments on land use tools and innovative models for affordable housing. A strong advocate for permanent affordability, Nesbitt spearheaded the expansion of community land trusts and created the Coalition's nationally recognized Community Land Trust Certification Program. He also launched initiatives like the Nonprofit Capacity Building Institute and authored *Eyesore to Asset: A Guidebook for Adaptive Reuse of Vacant Retail*, helping communities repurpose properties for economic development. Nesbitt holds two master's degrees from the University of Florida—Urban and Regional Planning and Real Estate—and a bachelor's in Architectural Studies from Florida A&M University.



## Michael Grunwald

**4:30pm–5:00pm**

*Author, Journalist, Podcaster, Speaker*  
Written for: The Washington Post, Time Magazine,  
Politico Magazine, and more

Michael Grunwald is a best-selling author and award-winning journalist who has spent more than three decades covering politics, policy, and the environment for *The Washington Post*, *Time*, and *Politico Magazine*. His reporting has earned major honors, including the George Polk Award, the Worth Bingham Prize, and the Society of Environmental Journalists Award. Grunwald has written thousands of stories and numerous cover features on topics ranging from national policy to environmental innovation. He is the author of *The Swamp: The Everglades, Florida, and the Politics of Paradise* and *The New New Deal: The Hidden History of Change in the Obama Era*, both widely acclaimed and published by Simon & Schuster. His latest book, *We Are Eating the Earth: The Race to Fix Our Food System and Save Our Climate* (Simon & Schuster, 2025), explores how transforming global food systems can help address the climate crisis.

Wednesday, December 17



## Dr. Steven Vollmer

9:20am–9:45am

*Director*

FAU School of Environment, Coastal, and  
Ocean Sustainability, Boca Raton, FL

Dr. Steven Vollmer serves as Director of the School of Environmental, Coastal, and Ocean Sustainability and is a Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences. Steven is an evolutionary and ecological genomicist specializing in reef corals and how they adapt and resist disease infection and thermal bleaching. He joined Florida Atlantic University in 2025. He received his Ph.D. from Harvard University, did his postdoctoral fellowship research at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama, and spent 18 years at Northeastern University as a professor of Marine and Environmental Science, and during his tenure at Northeastern University served as the Director of the Bioinformatics program, and Associate Director of their Marine Science Center. Steven is a National Academy of Science Kavli Fellow.



## Jeffrey Huber

2:30pm–3:00pm

*Professor & Author of Salty Urbanism*

FAU School of Architecture  
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Jeffrey Huber, FAIA, ASLA, NCARB, LEED AP Huber is a Professor of the School of Architecture at Florida Atlantic University in downtown Fort Lauderdale. In addition, he is a principal at Brooks + Scarpa and manages the firm's south Florida office. A distinguished architect and landscape architect, Huber's work specializes on public realm projects that combine ecological, landscape, urban, and architectural design. Huber's research, teaching, and professional work have garnered over 75 national design awards, including multiple from *Progressive Architecture*, The American Institute of Architects (AIA), the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), American Architecture Awards, and the American Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA). His professional work has been published in hundreds of books and periodicals including *Architect*, *Residential Architect*, *The Plan*, *The Plan Journal*, *Landscape Architecture Magazine*, and *Architectural Record*.

# SPONSOR & TABLETOP SHOWCASE

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## **ABNEY + ABNEY GREEN SOLUTIONS**

Abney + Abney Green Solutions guides clients through the third-party green building certification process from beginning to end. Since its founding in 2008, they have delivered sustainable development consulting to achieve green certifications on hundreds of projects including multi-family residential communities, select commercial developments, and distinctive single-family residences.

## **APPLIED SCIENCES CONSULTING, INC.**

Applied Sciences Consulting, Inc., is a Florida-based engineering firm that specializes in water and stormwater solutions for cities, counties, and water management districts across the state. Founded in 2005, Applied Sciences works closely with agencies across Florida to deliver solutions that protect and advance the region's water infrastructure resilience. We believe that engineering—done right—could help cities and counties build stronger and more flood-resilient communities.

## **ARCADIS**

Arcadis delivers sustainable design, engineering, and consultancy solutions for natural and built assets. Nationally, we've secured \$10B+ to help communities address all climate hazards, future-proof water resources, enhance sustainable mobility, and create long-term resilience strategies. Combining global expertise with deep South Florida knowledge, we deliver innovative, whole-community solutions.

## **BRIZAGA, INC.**

Brizaga is a Fort Lauderdale-based civil and coastal engineering firm helping communities build resilience against sea level rise and climate change. With expertise in policy, grant writing, and engineering, we have assisted over 125 communities across 30 counties. Our multidisciplinary team bridges science, public policy, and strategic communication to develop data-driven, community-focused solutions. We make complex challenges clear, ensuring a more resilient future for generations to come.

## **CAROLLO ENGINEERS, INC.**

Carollo Engineers are a consulting firm uncompromising expertise across a vast range of services. It means a smart, experienced and innovative staff passionate about what they do. Whether as a client or an employee, you will be working with the best in the industry—professionals who are passionate about your success.

## **CHEN MOORE & ASSOCIATES**

Founded in 1986, Chen Moore and Associates (CMA) specializes in civil engineering, water resources, water and sewer, landscape architecture, electrical engineering, transportation, planning and irrigation, environmental and construction engineering services.

## **CITY OF DANIA BEACH**

The City of Dania Beach is a city of resilience, progress and diversity. Dania Beach is Broward County's first city and its gateway to the sea. The city maintains a balance between its coastal small-town charm and its vibrant modern transformation with a promising future. Dania Beach is well-positioned as an air, sea and rail travel destination which has led to its economic success in the marine, hospitality, transportation, entertainment and academic industries. Sea It. Live It. Love It.

## **COLLECTIVE WATER RESOURCES**

Collective Water is at the forefront of the shift to analytically and holistically driven planning efforts for sea level rise and climate resilience. Science and analyses are improving rapidly, and we are one of the only small water resources firms dedicated to the issues that are emerging at the local level for these analyses. Our science and data-driven approaches are catered to provide meaningful answers for local governments and planning agencies.

## **CPH CONSULTING, LLC**

CPH is a multi-disciplinary Architecture and Engineering firm that is focused on building long-term relationships with our clients by providing quality solutions to achieve project goals. Our team is made up of technical and professional experts serving clients in the public and private sector.

## **CUMMINS | CEDERBERG**

Cummins | Cederberg is a consulting and engineering firm specializing in marine and coastal environments. We seek to work with clients who share our commitment to excellence and to provide a level of service that exceeds their expectations. Our goal is to foster the development of strong, long-term client relationships by consistently delivering effective solutions on time and on budget. Our focus is on performance and quality, with client satisfaction as the ultimate measurement.

## **EXP U.S. SERVICES, INC.**

With a mission to understand, innovate, partner, and deliver, EXP provides planning, engineering, architecture, design, and consulting services to the world's built and natural environments. Our heritage dates to 1906 when EXP's earliest predecessor started its engineering infrastructure practice. We have since grown to a full-service multidisciplinary firm delivering innovative solutions for clients and communities, globally. Today, we employ 4,400+ professionals in 90 North American and 10 Florida offices.

## **FAMILY LANDS REMEMBERED**

Founded in 2006, Family Lands Remembered, LLC is an innovative land-use and environmental consulting firm dedicated to conserving Florida's natural resources while promoting a more sustainable way of life. We facilitate the efforts of landowners, conservationists, businesses and government agencies to work collaboratively and effectively to balance sustainable growth with large-scale conservation of Florida's cultural, agricultural and environmental resources.

## **FERGUSON WATERWORKS**

Ferguson Waterworks provides stormwater and erosion control products that help communities reduce flooding risks, strengthen infrastructure, and meet water quality requirements to achieve resiliency goals. We offer hard armored solutions, living shoreline components, and green infrastructure technologies to support municipalities, engineers, landscape architects, and contractors meet their project and community goals with local expertise and personalized service.

## **FAU SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL, COASTAL, AND OCEAN SUSTAINABILITY (ECOS)**

The Florida Atlantic University School of the Environmental, Coastal, and Ocean Sustainability (ECOS) is the university's hub for solution-based environmental research, training, and community engagement. Its mission is to address the challenges facing South Florida's ecological and urban environments, serving as a national model for innovative environmental solutions.

## **FLORIDA GREEN BUILDING COALITION**

The Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC) is dedicated to improving Florida's built environment through verified green certification standards for homes, land developments, commercial buildings, high rises, and city and county governments.

## **FORERUNNER**

Forerunner is an AI-powered geospatial platform that helps more than 160 cities, counties, and states tackle growing environmental and infrastructure challenges. Forerunner's tools centralize critical data, streamline operations, automate manual tasks, and enhance communication. Recognized on the GovTech 100 list for three consecutive years, Forerunner is trusted by government agencies nationwide.

## **GEOSYNTEC**

Geosyntec is a specialized consulting and engineering firm that has worked with private and public sector clients for more than 40 years to address complex environmental, natural resources, and civil infrastructure problems. Geosyntec's Florida team is comprised of leading experts in resiliency consulting, including vulnerability assessments and adaptation plans, water and natural resource studies and evaluations, watershed management and stormwater planning, and hydrologic restoration.

## **GREENPATH FL, LLC**

GreenPath FL, LLC (GreenPath) was founded with the goal of helping our clients excel in sustainability and resiliency project implementation. GreenPath is a woman owned small business focused on serving Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. Our sustainability consulting practice is geared to providing efficient sustainability guidance from the start of design through the end of construction.



## **HAZEN AND SAWYER**

Hazen and Sawyer provides a full range of environmental services for water-related challenges, including the planning, design, and construction of drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater systems. Our services also cover specialized areas such as climate adaptation and resilience planning, utility management, and financial and economic services for water utilities. Hazen combines cutting-edge science and actionable designs to protect public health and infrastructure investments.

## **HDR ENGINEERING, INC.**

HDR is a 100% employee-owned professional services firm that specializes in engineering, environmental, and construction services. We excel at managing complex projects and solving challenges for clients. We pool our strengths to provide solutions beyond the scope of traditional A/E/C firms with more than 14,200 professionals, including construction managers, architects, engineers, consultants, scientists, and planners in more than 200 locations worldwide.

## **MOFFATT & NICHOL**

Moffatt and Nichol brings innovative thinking and deep technical expertise to every engineering challenge. From ports and transportation to water systems and the environment, Moffatt and Nichols' work shapes infrastructure that connects people, strengthens communities, and protects natural resources.

## **OPTERRA ENERGY SERVICES**

OPTERRA Energy Services partners with organizations in education, local and federal government, special districts, and healthcare to implement comprehensive facility and infrastructure modernization programs. OPTERRA has a strong record of delivering safe, reliable, sustainable, and cost-effective solutions that are guaranteed to meet customer needs over the long term.

## **RENEW FINANCIAL**

Renew Financial, founded in 2008, is one of the nation's most experienced PACE providers, offering affordable financing to Florida homeowners in participating communities. We finance essential upgrades—like storm hardening, septic-to-sewer conversions, roofing, impact windows and doors, and HVAC—to make homes safer, more resilient, and energy-efficient while strengthening communities.

## **RES**

RES is the largest environmental mitigation company in the U.S. and a leader in water resource solutions using nature-based approaches. Together with our clients and partners, we invest in a repeatable model for cost-effective, trusted ecological restoration. That model, backed by a strong vision, has helped us put an enormous amount of land under permanent conservation.

## **SIEMENS INDUSTRY, INC.**

Siemens Smart Infrastructure combines the real and digital worlds across energy systems, buildings and industries, enhancing the way people live and work and significantly improving efficiency and sustainability. We work together with customers and partners to create an ecosystem that both intuitively responds to the needs of people and helps customers achieve their business goals. It helps our customers to thrive, communities to progress, and it supports sustainable development.

## **STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES, INC.**

Stantec empowers clients, people, and communities to rise to the world's greatest challenges at a time when the world faces more unprecedented concerns than ever before. We are a global leader in sustainable engineering, resilience, architecture, and environmental consulting. Our professionals deliver the expertise, technology, and innovation communities need to manage aging infrastructure, demographic and population changes, the energy transition, and more.

## **TETRA TECH**

Tetra Tech is a leading provider of consulting, engineering, and technical services. Our diverse team includes experts in climate vulnerability assessments (VAs), resilience planning, public outreach, climate adaptation engineering, construction, and applied research. Our Team has extensive experience developing Resilient Florida (RF) VAs and adaptation plans (APs) in alignment with the Florida Adaptation Planning Guidebook, as well as comprehensive community resilience strategies.

## **U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL**

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) is a nonprofit organization that supports the development of prosperous, healthy and resilient communities through the transformation of the built environment. Through its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green building program, USGBC is committed to transforming how our buildings and communities are designed, constructed and operated, enabling an environmentally and socially responsible, healthy, and prosperous environment.

## **VOLO FOUNDATION**

VoLo Foundation is a private family organization that exists to accelerate change and global impact by supporting science-based climate solutions, enhancing education, and improving health.

## **WSP USA, INC.**

WSP is one of the world's leading professional services firms, uniting our engineering, advisory and science-based expertise to make a positive impact. We envision future possibilities and bring them to life through technical know-how and innovation.

## NON-EXHIBITING SPONSORS

### AECOM

At AECOM, we're passionate about helping communities and infrastructure owners navigate a changing climate. Our resilience team blends engineering, planning, and science to understand hazards, identify vulnerabilities, and craft practical adaptation solutions. We work with communities and stakeholders to make complex risks understandable and support informed decisions that build a safer, more resilient future.

### CITY OF WEST PALM BEACH OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

The City of West Palm Beach Office of Sustainability collaborates with various city agencies, nonprofit organizations, businesses and private citizens, among other partners, to enhance the viability of the municipality as a model of healthy, equitable, environmentally progressive, resilient and ecologically sustainable, urban living.

### ERIN L. DEADY, P.A.

Erin L. Deady, P.A., is a full service legal and consulting firm. Firm President, Erin Deady, is a licensed attorney in Florida, a certified land planner by the American Institute of Certified Planners ("AICP") and a LEED AP. Ms. Deady's practice is primarily focused on public sector government representation but also includes numerous private sector and agricultural clients. Ms. Deady's practice includes environmental restoration initiatives, water, energy, climate, local government, administrative law, and land issues.

### FPL

As America's largest electric utility, Florida Power & Light Company serves more customers and sells more power than any other utility, providing clean, affordable, reliable electricity to more than 6 million accounts, or approximately 12 million people. FPL operates one of the most fuel efficient and cleanest power generation fleets in the U.S and in 2022 won the ReliabilityOne® National Reliability Award for the seventh time in the last ten years.

### THE KNIGHT FOUNDATION

The Knight Foundation is a non-partisan and community-centered organization that promotes a healthy and engaged democracy. By fostering access to information, supporting free and creative expression and encouraging inclusive economic growth, The Knight Foundation aims to help communities across the country become stronger, more vibrant and more resilient.

### THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

The Nature Conservancy in Florida is a non-profit conservation organization whose mission is to save the lands and waters on which all life depends. The Nature Conservancy has participated as an ex-officio partner to the Compact since its creation.

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Be sure to also visit our Compact counties with tables at the Summit:

***Palm Beach County, Miami-Dade County, and Broward County.***

# CONTINUING EDUCATION

## (CEUs & PDHs)

While we are not an official CEU provider, your state may recognize this event as a qualified program, and you may be eligible to earn Continuing Education Units (CEUs) or Professional Development Hours (PDHs) for participation in this summit.

- If you are a licensed engineer or maintain a professional license issued by a society, an association, an occupational licensing board, or a department of professional regulation within your state, you may be eligible to earn CEUs or PDHs.
- You will be required to sign in and out each day in the **CEU Attendance Logbook** at the summit registration desk to verify daily attendance.
- We will email you a certificate of attendance as a PDF within 45 days upon conclusion of the summit. The certificate will state the number of hours you were in sessions, based on the time logged.
- It is your responsibility to compile all necessary paperwork and provide it to the appropriate licensing board or professional organization with whom you are certified, and to confirm the program content is acceptable based on their individual standards.
- The University of Florida, Office of Conferences & Institutes and its employees are not authorized to act on your behalf or to provide consult regarding CEUs.



# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## Morning Refreshments, Breaks & Lunches

- All networking events will take place in the Pre-Function Space outside the meeting room.
- Light morning refreshments, including coffee, tea, decaf, fruit, yogurt, and assorted pastries, will be available on Tuesday, 8:30am to 10:00am and will include breakfast sandwiches and oatmeal on Wednesday, 8:00am to 9:00am.
- Complimentary beverages, such as regular and decaf coffee, assorted teas, and sodas, will be provided Tuesday afternoon, 2:15pm to 2:45pm and mid-morning Wednesday, 9:45am to 10:15am.
- A 75-minute lunch buffet is provided Tuesday and Wednesday at 12:00pm, offering ample time for networking and connecting with colleagues.
- Please be sure to visit with sponsors at their displays and thank them for their support of the summit.
- Water coolers are placed throughout the convention center.

## Stretch Breaks

Assisted by some of our premier sponsor representatives, stretch breaks will be led by Javian Greene. Javian has a strong background in athletics, is a Certified Personal Trainer, and currently serves as the Well-Being Coordinator for Palm Beach County's Division of Built Environment Risk Reduction. These brief, five-minute stretch breaks – one each afternoon – will help keep attendees energized through the end of the day. Our goal is to make the stretching enjoyable, accessible, and easy to complete, either seated or standing.

## Cell Phones, Mobile Devices, Tablet Devices

Kindly silence your cell phones, tablets, and other mobile devices while in the meeting room. If using a keyboard, please type quietly to avoid disturbing others, and ensure your laptop sound is muted. Additionally, please respect presenters' requests by refraining from photographing or sharing certain sensitive information on social media.

## Lost & Found

If you find a lost item, please bring it to the registration staff. If you lose something, start by checking with the summit registration.

## Post Summit Website

PDFs of speaker slides, authorized for post-summit publishing, along with a photo gallery and other wrap-up details, will be available in the weeks following the summit. Stay tuned for future announcements.

## ACTION ITEMS

Use this space to record any new ideas and names of people you would like to follow up with for future collaborations.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



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**KEEP UP THE MOMENTUM!**

# A MESSAGE FROM THE SUMMIT CHAIR



It is a profound honor to host the 17th Annual Southeast Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit in Palm Beach County. On behalf of the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact, I extend our sincerest gratitude to every partner and attendee here today.

The Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact stands as a powerful testament to the strength and unity of our region. Since 2009, government leaders and staff from Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe and Palm Beach Counties have worked collaboratively to build resilience and sustainability across South Florida. However, we haven't done this alone.

To our residents, academic partners, nonprofit organizations and business partners, your commitment to pragmatic, collaborative and visionary work is what turns challenges into solutions. This collective effort establishes our region as a national blueprint for success.

We come together at these summits to celebrate progress and inspire continued momentum. Each summit succeeds because of the dedication of the Climate Summit Steering Committee, our event planning team, our sponsors and all of you. We are deeply grateful for your support.

We hope the insights and connections made at the 17th Annual Southeast Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit help to advance your critical work. We look forward to continuing this vital mission together and to seeing you at the 2026 Regional Climate Leadership Summit in Broward County!

*Sincerely,*

**MEGAN S. HOUSTON**

*Chair, 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Southeast Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit*  
[discover.pbc.gov](https://discover.pbc.gov)



# 2025 SUMMIT HOST



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