

SE Florida Climate Change Compact Summit

# Education as Critical Infrastructure

This presentation explores the **essential role** of climate education in building resilience within communities facing significant environmental challenges.



**Presented by** Yoca Arditi-Rocha



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# WHAT WE DO

## Mobilize people with education, urgency, & agency



We expand climate literacy and engagement to empower individuals and communities to act.

## Advance clean renewable energy with speed and scale



We meet the urgency of the climate crisis, by driving the transition to renewable energy.

## Educate elected officials & climate champions

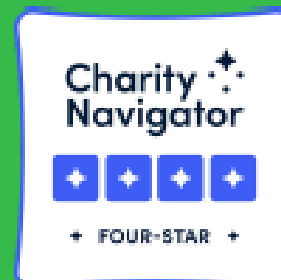


We train young leaders and drive voter engagement to support climate-forward policies.

## Build Community Resilience



We empower frontline communities to adapt and thrive to the impacts we already feel.







2025 Q3 Impact Report

# OUR 2025 **IMPACT** AT A GLANCE

## 30.2 MILLION

People reached through social media

## 14,191

People engaged through events

## 5,008

People trained

## 646

Trainings & engagements across Florida

## 439

Elected officials engaged.



# CLEO in the Press

As seen in



Commentary | The Invading Seas  
*Florida colleges must lead on resilience*

September 11, 2025

**Abigail Trachtenberg**



Opinion | The Independent Florida Alligator

*UF joins a troubling trend in climate rollbacks*

August 25, 2025

**Abigail Trachtenberg**

The Invading Seas

*Extreme weather on the rise: Climate disasters bring financial and health burdens*

August 11, 2025

**Susan Glickman**



Opinion | Naples Daily News

*Proposal would repeal finding that carbon pollution is a threat*

August 25, 2025

**Susan Glickman**

Opinion | The Invading Seas, News Press, & Naples Daily News

*The Florida Everglades: a sacred place at risk*

July 21, 2025

**Luna Plaza**



Column | Tampa Beacon

*Tampa's recovery plan can't just rebuild — it has to rethink*

July 8, 2025

**Ashton Maddox**





## WHY IT MATTERS

Building community resilience and adaptive capacity requires an informed, engaged, and prepared public.





# CLEO's Education Model: Key Components

CLEO approaches climate literacy and advocacy in an interdisciplinary, holistic manner that addresses both adaptation (i.e., responding to the impacts of climate change) and mitigation (i.e., addressing root causes of climate change) with equal intensity.



## Education

CLEO empowers schools and communities through hands-on education, fostering understanding of climate issues and resilience strategies.



## Advocacy

CLEO champions accountability in utility practices while promoting community engagement through advocacy events and awareness campaigns.



## Empowerment

CLEO elevates voices of frontline communities, creating partnerships that drive initiatives and enhance local resilience to climate impacts.





## Empowering Resilient Women

A 6-month fellowship that strengthens leadership and resilience skills among women from frontline communities. More than 400 women have graduated, becoming trusted hubs of knowledge and action in their neighborhoods.

**Resilience impact:** Strengthens household and community-level stability and leadership.



## Community Education & Train-The-Trainer Programs

CLEO trained over 5,000 Floridians this year and engaged more than 14,000 residents through multilingual workshops on extreme heat, hurricanes, and flooding. Participants commit to teaching others, multiplying preparedness in their own communities.

**Resilience impact:** Expands localized preparedness and reduces vulnerability before disasters strike.



## Climate Resilient Schools

Trains students and teachers to understand climate risks and lead resilience projects. In 2025, more than 600 students and 300 teachers participated, integrating heat, flooding, and hurricane preparedness into classrooms.

**Resilience impact:** Builds a generation that understands risk and supports resilient planning.



# Driving Human-Centered Climate Resilience

Our work is rooted in a simple idea: resilience requires more than infrastructure; it requires informed, empowered people. **Our programs strengthen the human systems that make physical resilience possible.**

## Miami-Dade County Severe Weather & Emergency Readiness Guide



## Miami-Dade County Cooling Sites



## Stay In Touch



## Preparedness Checklist

✓ For up to several days

- Safe drinking water
- Shelf-stable food
- Manual can opener
- Matches
- Flashlights
- Portable phone chargers
- Battery-operated fans
- Battery-operated radio
- Batteries
- Prescription medications
- First aid kit
- Whistle
- Mosquito repellent
- Emergency phone numbers and addresses (on paper in a plastic bag)



Manténgase en Contacto



@cleoinstitute



## Heat. Hurricanes. Floods.

They often strike together and hit harder than ever. Protect your family, prepare now, rebuild less later.

www.CLEOInstitute.org

- Ventiladores de pilas
- Radio de pilas
- Pilas
- Medicamentos con receta
- Botiquín de primeros auxilios
- Silbato
- Repelente de mosquitos
- Números de teléfono y direcciones de emergencia (en papel en una bolsa de plástico)



## Calor. Huracanes. Inundaciones.

Cuando las tormentas azotan, no vienen solas. Prepárate para las tormentas. Protege a tu familia ahora, para reconstruir menos después.

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## When is South Florida's heat season?

May 1 - October 31

## What is extreme heat?

Heat index (heat and humidity combined) over 90°F for 2 or more days

## Who is most vulnerable?

Young children, pregnant women, elderly people, and people with certain health conditions or on certain medications

## What to watch for:

Heat Cramps (muscle cramps, heavy sweating, thirst, fatigue)

Heat Exhaustion (weakness, fainting, nausea)

Heat Stroke (high fever, rapid pulse, confusion, possible seizures)

This is a medical emergency. If you see these symptoms, call 911

## How can you stay safe?

Drink lots of water: consider adding electrolytes

Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing

Avoid the heat! Stay in the shade!

Never leave kids, seniors, or pets in cars for any length of time!

## When is the wet season in South Florida?

May 15 - October 15

## Before a flood:

- Know your elevation
- Clean storm drains and gutters
- Make family emergency plan
- Keep a window breaker and seatbelt cutter in your car
- Bookmark sites for weather alerts and evacuation instructions

## During a flood:

- If you're inside, stay inside if possible
- If you're outside, find high ground
- Do not walk or drive through water
- 6 inches is enough to knock an adult off their feet
- 12 inches of water can carry away a small car

## After the storm:

- Avoid floodwaters
- Wear protective equipment when handling debris to avoid illness or injury

TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN!

## When is hurricane season in Florida?

June 1 - November 30

## What is a hurricane?



Hurricanes are massive tropical systems with high winds and heavy rains. They form and can strengthen over warm ocean water, and may also spawn tornadoes

## WIND CAN TURN ANYTHING INTO A PROJECTILE!

## How can you prepare for hurricane season?

- Trim dead and dying branches from trees
- Bring in or secure outdoor furniture, toys, plants
- Check your garage door and tracks, replace if needed
- Seal outside wall openings with high-quality caulk (sealant)
- Locate free sandbag distribution
- Be prepared to be without power for up to several days

## DURING A HURRICANE

Follow evacuation orders from local authorities. Stay away from windows and on the lowest floor away from flooding.







# Resilience Fails Without an Educated Public.

CLEO Makes Solutions Possible.







Understanding is essential for effective climate action.

*When communities grasp the importance of capital investments, such as green Infrastructure, they foster support and implementation.*



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THE CLEO<sup>®</sup>  
INSTITUTE



STAY IN TOUCH



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