

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





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.





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

WLRN Miami South Florida
The Miami Herald

NBC 6 Tampa Bay Times BBC NEWS

Opinion | The Independent Florida Alligator

*UF joins a troubling trend
in climate rollbacks*

August 25, 2025

Abigail Trachtenberg

Commentary | The Invading Seas
Florida colleges must lead on resilience

September 11, 2025

Abigail Trachtenberg



Opinion | Naples Daily News

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

August 25, 2025

Susan Glickman

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

August 11, 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



MIAMI-DADE
COUNTY

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)



Heat. Hurricanes. Floods.

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

www.CLEOInstitute.org

Manténgase en Contacto



@cleoinstitute

- 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!

**TURN AROUND,
DON'T DROWN!**

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

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.*

SCAN ME



THE CLEO[®]
INSTITUTE



STAY IN TOUCH



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