
CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY TASK FORCE

The report in brief

This report discusses the history of the Climate Change Advisory Task Force (CCATF) and the evolution of the final recommendations created by the CCATF. The report details recent progress on related initiatives including on GreenPrint, the County's sustainability plan, and the Compact's Regional Climate Action Plan. Finally the report recommends steps to accelerate the implementation of mitigation and adaptation goals.

The history of the Climate Change Advisory Task Force

The Climate Change Advisory Task Force was created in 2006 and chaired by the Honorable Harvey Ruvin, Clerk of Courts. The Task Force was supported by nearly 200 community members drawn from academia, the private sector, and government. The CCATF and its seven subcommittees hosted technical experts, met over 50 times over five years and developed a series of recommendations to both prepare for many of the expected impacts of climate change ("adaptation") and to reduce the County's contribution to the problem ("mitigation"). The recommendations have many co-benefits such as increasing the County's operational efficiency, saving tax dollars, reducing local air pollution, improving public health, improving public spaces and natural areas, and improving the livability and attractiveness of our community. The CCATF released its first recommendations in April of 2008 and the Final Report and Recommendations in April 2011. These recommendations were taken into consideration in the development of both [GreenPrint](#) and the Compact's [Regional Climate Action Plan](#).

Recent progress

In 2010, while the CCATF was developing recommendations, the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact was formed. The Compact has become the regional clearinghouse for much of the region's work on climate change. Through this ground-breaking partnership, County staff work closely with peers in other governments, state and federal agencies, community-based organizations, and universities. This close collaboration and pooling of resources has allowed the County to make substantially more progress than would have been possible working independently. The collaboration has helped secure additional funding and technical assistance from a number of state and federal agencies and private foundations. This external support has also allowed County staff to work collaboratively with experts from the Netherlands, New Orleans, New York and other areas.

Through the Compact, the County also contributed to the development of the [Regional Climate Action Plan](#). This plan contains over 100 recommendations which focus on sustainable communities, transportation planning, water supply, management and infrastructure, natural systems, agriculture, energy and fuel, risk reduction and emergency management, and outreach and public policy. Compact members, both municipalities and counties, track the implementation of these recommendations and share best practices through work groups, publication of case studies, regular implementation workshops and accompanying guidance documents, which have focused on issues such as transportation, water supply planning, stormwater management, and Adaptation Action Areas.

The nexus of the County-specific work on climate change is [GreenPrint](#), a county-wide sustainability plan. GreenPrint's final chapter contains the [County's Climate Action Plan](#), which lays out aggressive goals to reduce the County's greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050. The plan includes adaptation measures and a detailed analysis of emissions sources. GreenPrint builds directly on the CCATF process. During the development of GreenPrint, members of the development team attended CCATF meetings throughout the entire process which facilitated incorporation of recommendations into GreenPrint. While the specific wording is often different, many of the same themes are central to both. For example, both focus heavily on reducing the County's emissions through greater energy efficiency, increasing the use of more fuel-efficient vehicles and public transportation.

Staff are currently revising GreenPrint and this year's timely review of the CCATF recommendations has facilitated a thorough review of which concepts are most aligned with strategic goals. Many CCATF recommendations included in the first iteration of GreenPrint will be carried forward. In other instances priorities have changed. For example, several recommendations focused on improving the fuel efficiency of medallion-holding taxi cabs; however, because the market is so substantially different today, the next version of GreenPrint will focus on other transportation initiatives such as increasing transit ridership, walking, and biking. Additionally, by utilizing the Clearpath software to measure and monitor emissions, the County can now more carefully estimate the effectiveness of various reduction strategies. This tool is being used to help determine the most impactful emission reduction strategies.

PRIORITY INITIATIVES: ENHANCED IMPLEMENTATION NEEDS

Given the scale of the challenge, additional resources are required to implement the County's climate mitigation and adaptation goals. There is also a need to focus efforts on the most important initiatives that are likely to yield results. Therefore, the CCATF recommendations are grouped into three larger baskets that are critical priorities.

- [Priority I: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by increasing energy efficiency](#)
- [Priority II: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation](#)
- [Priority III: Adapt to climate change and rising sea levels](#)

Both the County and the Compact have laid out ambitious goals for mitigating and adapting to climate change. As the next iteration of GreenPrint and the Regional Climate Action Plan are developed, the CCATF's recommendations will continue to serve as a foundation upon which to implement more current and relevant initiatives. Furthermore, the CCATF recommendations will serve as a source of information and inspiration as the County works with its partners, the City of Miami and the City of Miami Beach, to develop a resilience strategy for Greater Miami and the Beaches, as part of the Rockefeller 100 Resilient Cities. It is through these key action documents that implementation of the CCATF recommendations will continue, and these recommendations will serve as a sound foundation for action.