



## Fight for more Palm Trees, less pavement

### A new push to save Florida Forever funding

This summer, in a renewed push to preserve the natural areas that make Florida beautiful, Environment Florida staff spoke with citizens across the state, building momentum in our fight to restore critical state preservation funds and protect vital land from the Keys to the Panhandle.

For the last three years, state leaders have let critical preservation programs, most notably Florida Forever, run dry—slashing funding by more than 95 percent.

As a result, more than a million acres of open spaces, from wetlands to prairies to beautiful beaches are vulnerable to irresponsible development.

#### One million acres hang in the balance

With state lawmakers stubbornly refusing to fund Florida Forever—or any preservation program—Environment Florida and allies across the state are taking the issue to the voters, advocating for a ballot initiative that will eventually restore its funding and put those dollars to use from the Everglades to Wakulla Springs.

#### One-fourth of the Everglades paved

Already, one-fourth of the Everglades have already been dredged and paved over, costing Floridians natural places to explore and play, while harming important wildlife habitats and precious drinking water supplies.



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▲ White Ibis in Broward County, Florida

“If you’ve paddled past manatees, swam in a crystal clear spring, or watched dolphins play in the surf, you know what’s at stake,” said Elizabeth Ouzts, regional director for Environment Florida.

These particular places provide critical habitat for many threatened and endangered species of plants, sea turtles, birds and the Florida panther.

“We can’t let developers do irreparable damage to the Green Swamp, Wakulla Springs or the Everglades,” Ouzts continued. “We’re bringing together Floridians from all walks of life to protect these critical lands and the many creatures that call it home. After all, we all have something to fight for.”



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### more inside

*Environment Florida welcomes new fuel standards; Energy efficient buildings could save \$590 annually; Gov. Scott puts future of wetlands at risk, and more.*

## To our members

Florida's unique natural areas enhance our quality of life. The beaches, rivers and wetlands, where Floridians love to swim, paddle, and hike also form the keystone of our tourism-based economy and draw millions of visitors to our state every year. Protecting these natural areas means protecting Florida's unique wildlife, such as the manatee, and our drinking water supplies.

These are reasons why we helped launch the Florida Forever campaign. We want to secure long-term funding for land conservation and restoration projects throughout our state.

Over the last few months, we've talked with more than a thousand Floridians about the importance of protecting these sensitive ecosystems for future generations. We love this place, and we want our children to enjoy it as well.

Thank you for all your support,



Elizabeth Ouzts  
Regional Director

## Recent action

### Summer support helps block dirty water bills

In April 2011, President Obama proposed much-needed clean water guidelines to protect the rivers and streams that feed and clean Florida's waterways—including the Green Swamp, Wakulla Springs and the Everglades. More than half of these waters are vulnerable to toxic pollution and development—thanks to two polluter-driven Supreme Court decisions.

Long-overdue protections have yet to be finalized, due to partisan politics and polluters like Exxon-Mobil and Big Agriculture, who in July launched a major campaign to stop the proposed guidelines.

To counter their efforts, Environment Florida staff pounded the pavement across the country, inspiring them to stand up for their waterways.

Our work demonstrated enough public support this summer to help convince leadership in the Senate to stop one of the dirty water bills from even coming up.

### Energy efficient buildings save \$590 annually

Florida families could save \$590 every year on their electricity bills by 2030 if the government invests in the energy efficiency of our buildings, according to a new report by Environment Florida. Saving energy in buildings would also reduce pollution from buildings by 35 percent—the equivalent of taking 12.6 million cars off the road or shutting down 15 coal-fired power plants.

"It's time to build better," said Environment Florida's Emily Fischer. "Bold efficiency measures for buildings can cut energy use in our homes and businesses by more than a quarter by 2030."

Our report uses government data to estimate reduced energy consumption, decreased fossil fuel use, money saved on energy bills, and global warming pollution prevented in 2020 and 2030.



# Florida makes difference with new fuel standards

Of all 50 states, Florida could play a significant role in reducing global warming pollution in the United States. That's according to our new report, "Summer on the Road: Going Farther on a Gallon of Gas," published by Environment Florida Research & Policy Center in May.

The report discusses the meaningful environmental changes that would occur as a result of implementing Obama's proposed 54.5 mpg fuel efficiency standards for cars and trucks by 2025.

If the cars and trucks on the road today met the proposed standard, it would slash the country's oil dependence by 16.6 billion gallons and cut our global warming pollution by more than 146 million metric tons this summer alone. That's the equivalent of taking 130 coal plants out of commission for the whole summer.

## One billion fewer gallons of gasoline

Florida will play a particularly pivotal role in these national changes. With the new standards in place, our state would use 1 billion fewer gallons of gasoline—saving more than 9 million metric tons of carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere. These changes place Florida third on the report's list of top 10 states for gasoline and global warming emission savings, following only Texas and California.

The transportation sector accounts for nearly two-thirds of the nearly 19 million barrels of oil consumed each day in the United States. The largest percentage is consumed by passenger cars and light duty trucks such as SUVs, vans, and pickup trucks. Our greatest opportunity to cut America's oil consumption is to set strong global warming pollution and fuel efficiency standards for our cars and trucks.

## Savings of \$551 at the pump

The summer travel season is the most popular time of the year for driving, which means it's also when Americans most feel economic pain at the pump. Americans were expected to spend more than \$132

billion at the gas pump this summer—and with dozens of popular tourism destinations across Florida, we can bet Floridians contributed a large percentage of that total. The new standards would save the average family approximately \$551 at the pump, drastically changing the summer vacations and summer budgets of many Florida travelers.

For economic and environmental reasons, the Obama administration should move clean cars into the fast lane by setting standards that require new cars and trucks to average 54.5 miles per gallon by 2025. His administration has also made several investments in critical technologies, such as advanced batteries and high-powered charging stations.

The Environment Florida report shows the impressive technological breakthroughs that have helped move plug-in vehicles into the fast lane—from more advanced batteries to faster charging stations.

"With these new standards, Florida drivers have the opportunity to make a real difference in the fight against global warming," said Elizabeth Ouzts, regional director for Environment Florida. "These standards would also save Florida families hundreds."



Going Farther on a Gallon of Gas  
Read the full report online at:  
[EnvironmentFloridaCenter.org](http://EnvironmentFloridaCenter.org)



## Green Future Fund

### A new way to honor supporters

Environment Florida is proud to announce the establishment of our Green Future Fund.

The Green Future Fund will honor a special group of our donors: those who are ensuring a greener future by remembering Environment Florida or our sister group, Environment Florida Research & Policy Center, in their wills, life insurance policies or retirement accounts.

These legacy donors are helping to ensure that Environment Florida will continue to flourish—protecting the places we love and the values we share for years to come.

"We appreciate all of our supporters," said Environment Florida's Elizabeth Ouzts. "But I feel a special gratitude toward those members who have the vision and generosity to plan a gift that will protect our state's environment beyond their own lifetimes."

Establishing a legacy gift also offers donors a few advantages. Some supporters wish they could give more, but can't right now. Including Environment Florida in your estate plan costs nothing today, while ensuring support for our mission in the future. Legacy gifts may also offer tax benefits. Your professional advisor can help you determine any tax advantage.

As a Green Future Fund donor, with your permission, we'll recognize your gift in our annual report and other publications, helping to inspire other members to make their own legacy gifts. Of course, you may also choose to give anonymously. Either way, any specific details you choose to provide about your gift will remain confidential.

If you'd like to become a member of the Green Future Fund, or if you have questions, call our planned giving coordinator, Marilyn Tesauro, at 1-800-841-7299 or [plannedgiving@EnvironmentFlorida.org](mailto:plannedgiving@EnvironmentFlorida.org).

310 N. Monroe St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
(850) 224-5944

# Environment Florida

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## Environment Florida

### Our mission

We all want clean air, clean water and open spaces. But it takes independent research and tough-minded advocacy to win concrete results for our environment, especially when powerful interests stand in the way of environmental progress.

That's the idea behind Environment Florida. We focus exclusively on protecting Florida's air, water and open spaces. We speak out and take action at the local, state and national levels to improve the quality of our environment and our lives.

## Gov. Scott project threatens wetlands

Florida law currently requires developers to replace all wetlands their projects may destroy—and for good reason. We've already lost almost half of our historic wetlands. One way developers replace destroyed wetlands is by purchasing "credits" from landowners who have created wetlands.

But in May, the Scott administration took steps to loosen the rules and remains ready to grant a company hundreds of "credits" for a project that has yet to verify it will result in healthy wetlands. If this project is approved, it will set a dangerous precedent that will jeopardize thousands of acres of wetlands throughout the state.

More than 1,300 Environment Florida supporters sent emails to the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection and Gov. Rick Scott urging them to deny the permit. Because of the public scrutiny over the project, the DEP reinstated a wetlands expert who had the courage to speak out against the permit. So far, the media attention and citizen actions have prevented the permit from being issued.



Dan Bodenstern, Creative Commons

### ◀ Blue Heron, a wetland species

For more information on our efforts to protect wetlands and the other important areas of the state visit:  
[www.EnvironmentFlorida.org](http://www.EnvironmentFlorida.org) or on Facebook at:  
[www.facebook.com/EnvironmentFlorida](http://www.facebook.com/EnvironmentFlorida)