



# 2021 Legislative Agenda

## Standing up for Florida's Rivers, Springs and Wetlands

Tampa Bay, the Suwannee River, the Everglades and the other countless waterways that flow through our state are where Floridians go to boat, fish and swim. They also provide us with clean drinking water. However, algal outbreaks like red tide and blue green algal blooms have devastated our waterways, jeopardized the health of our communities, and harmed our water-based tourism industry. We support protecting and restoring our waterways by:

- Reducing the impacts of industrial agriculture pollution through limits on large factory farm pollution.
- Combatting sewage overflows and runoff pollution with new stormwater standards and adequate funding for green infrastructure.
- Sending clean water south to Everglades National Park and Florida Bay.
- Promoting water conservation through incentive programs and appliance standards.

## Building a Clean Energy Future

Burning oil, gas and coal has polluted our air, water and land for decades. Now it's changing our climate even faster than scientists feared it would. We can have healthier communities right now and a livable future for generations to come. But to get there, we need to transform the way we produce and consume energy. Environment Florida supports policies that:

- Encourage the state, along with local governments, colleges and universities, and other major energy users to transition to 100% renewable energy.

- Expand community solar, which would allow Floridians who don't currently benefit from solar to buy into a central array and get credit for the solar their investment produces.
- Spur rooftop solar by properly assigning and reimbursing solar producers the true value of solar.
- Expand the network of EV charging stations throughout the state, especially on frequently traveled highways and interstates.
- Incentivize consumers to purchase electric vehicles through tax credits and other benefits.
- Reduce energy burden on consumers by increasing energy efficiency standards and drafting and implementing appliance standards.

## Protecting Florida's Beaches, Coasts and Oceans

Tens of millions of visitors flock to Florida's beaches each year to enjoy the sun, sand and wildlife. Our oceans cover more than two-thirds of the earth's surface and contain the richest variety of life forms. We can protect Florida's coasts and oceans by:

- Organizing to permanently protect the Florida coastline from offshore drilling and seismic testing, and any other destructive industrialization that would harm our coast.
- Maintaining safeguards that keep our coast pristine.
- Opposing the expansion of dirty and dangerous offshore drilling infrastructure to our shores.
- Allowing local communities to address the impacts that chemical additives in sunscreen have on our ecosystems and wildlife.



## Combating Climate Change

The science is clear: climate change is real and it's happening now. From mosquitoes and hurricanes to harmful algal blooms and sea level rise, Florida has a lot to lose if climate change goes unchecked. Thankfully, it can be addressed with expanded renewable energy, energy efficiency, and cleaner transportation options. As the impacts of climate change intensify, we support:

- Opposing dirty fuel infrastructure that would keep our state reliant on dangerous fossil fuels for decades to come.
- Creating a state climate action and resiliency plan.
- Installing solar panels and battery storage at first responder facilities to increase resilience during times of crisis.
- Increasing public transportation options.
- Making our communities more bikeable and walkable for all ages and abilities.
- Adding new energy storage capacity to the grid and allowing for at-home installation of battery storage.

## Getting the Lead Out

Florida's aging infrastructure, particularly in schools, is resulting in exposure to elevated levels of lead in our water supply. Lead is a potent neurotoxin and it affects how our children learn, grow and behave. We proactively support addressing elevated levels of lead to ensure safe drinking water in schools. We support:

- Testing water fully and properly, and public access to all data and remediation steps.
- Immediate shut-off of taps in schools where water contains more lead than one part per billion, as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics.
- Installing NSF-certified filters on faucets or fountains used for drinking or cooking at schools.

## Putting Wildlife Over Waste

Each year, Americans throw away millions of foam cups and take-out boxes. Too often, this pollution ends up in our oceans and rivers, where it can harm or even kill birds, fish and other wildlife. Like all plastics, polystyrene doesn't biodegrade. Rather it breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces, which means every piece of foam ever made is still out there. Foam has been found in hundreds of different species, including all sea turtle species, and nearly half of all seabird and marine mammal species. Something we use for a few minutes shouldn't be allowed to pollute our environment for hundreds of years. We support policies that will:

- Eliminate polystyrene cups and to-go containers and single-use plastic bags statewide.
- Allow local communities to address polystyrene foam pollution, as well as pollution from other single-use plastic items such as straws and bags.
- Study the impacts of plastic pollution on our marine wildlife and ecosystems.

## Preserving Florida's Natural Heritage

Florida is home to some of the world's best natural heritage. Floridians and our guests enjoy our wetlands, beaches, natural springs and so many other wild places that are part of what makes Florida so special. Environment Florida supports policies to protect and preserve these special outdoor places from overdevelopment and pollution, including:

- Ensuring that the Florida Forever program receives full funding so that the state can preserve and protect more open spaces for Floridians to enjoy.
- Ensuring both federal and state funding for Everglades restoration.
- Keeping drilling and drilling exploration away from special and sensitive areas, including Everglades National Park and Big Cypress National Preserve.
- Repealing the Multi-Use Corridors of Regional and Economic Significance (M-CORES) program.