



Governor's Action Team on Energy and Climate Change

State of Florida

Example Draft – Not an Actual Policy Framing Template

Draft Policy Framing Template **Adaptation TWG**

Section: ADP-5 Built Environment, Infrastructure and Community Protection.

Description of issue: [Background on Florida's coast and settlements in coastal zone]. Florida has over 1,350 miles of coastline, more than three-quarters of the state's population lives within coastal counties, and X% of the state's building stock exists in coastal areas. Because of this, Florida already faces significant risks from coastal erosion, tropical storms, hurricanes, and intense rain events. Development and climate change can each further exacerbate these risks.

Objectives: Florida's building codes, regulations, and flood protection infrastructure are designed to help protect public health, safety, welfare, and the built environment.

- ▶ Incorporating considerations of climate change and climate variability into building codes and regulations can improve the ability of Florida's built environment to withstand natural disasters.
- ▶ Flood protection infrastructure is designed to reduce harm to human health and property from climate events. Incorporating projections of climate change can improve the effectiveness of flood control infrastructure over the long-term by ensuring appropriate design and capacity.

What is at Risk?: Increased development to accommodate Florida's projected population growth will most likely increase climate exposure and risks to Florida's citizens and the built environment, particularly in coastal areas. The Census Bureau projects Florida's population to reach almost 29 million by 2030¹ (approximately a 50% population growth from 2007) and to continue growing well into the 21st century.² This major influx of people will require new development, and if located in low-lying areas or along the coast, this development will be at increased risk to climate events.

Apart from demographic trends, climate change will increase risks to both the existing and future built environment for several reasons. Sea level rise will inundate low-lying areas, increase the area at risk of flooding events, and increase the height of storm surges. Furthermore, tropical storms and hurricanes are projected to intensify as global climate warms. These stronger storms can lead to greater precipitation, increasing flood risk, and to stronger winds, increasing storm

¹ U.S. Census Bureau. "Interim Projections: Ranking of Census 2000 and Projected 2030 State Population and Change: 2000 to 2030." <http://www.census.gov/population/projections/PressTab1.xls>. Accessed June 4, 2008.

² University of Florida. "Florida 2060: A Population Distribution Scenario for the State of Florida." <http://www.1000friendsofflorida.org/pubs/2060/florida-2060-report-final.pdf>. Accessed June 4, 2008.



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surge heights, which consequently will increase coastal erosion and the inundation of coastal areas. Stronger winds also increase damage to the built environment and risks to human life.

Existing Actions [Note that DEP staff will complete the Existing Actions section.] State building codes are updated every three years. Upon each renewal going forward, climate risks should be incorporated.

Goals and Strategies:

Goals [TWG should identify the goals for the ADP that are relevant for climate change. The goals below are examples drafted by CCS staff and should be rewritten by the TWG.]

ADP- 5.1: Building Codes and Regulations

Goal 1: Ensure that building codes and regulations for new construction are adequate to protect against known risks from observed climate and appropriately incorporate potential changes in risk from climate change.

Goal 2: Provide incentives to improve the resilience of existing buildings constructed under more lenient building codes and regulations.

Goal 3: Regularly revisit building codes and regulations as new evidence of new or altered risks from climate change arises.

ADP – 5.2 Flooding

Goal 3: Ensure that flood protection infrastructure provides an adequate level of safety to protect against known risks from current climate.

Goal 4: Ensure that new flood protection infrastructure incorporates potential changes in risks from climate change to ensure appropriate design and capacity over the lifetime of projects.

Strategies

[Following the July 8-9 Action Team meeting, the TWG will identify strategies to meet the goals. In particular the TWGs will identify early action items.]

Priorities for Further Research and Analysis:

- ▶ Statewide application of LIDAR to provide most accurate information on elevations and properties



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- ▶ Improved projections of sea level rise and change in tropical storm and hurricane intensity. Ranges and likelihoods of outcomes should be provided, if possible.
- ▶ Projections of development at the county level
 - Analysis of effectiveness of building codes and land use restrictions

Other Remaining Issues:

[Brief overview of issues not addressed by the TWG, but recommended for further consideration in the future.]