



**Governor’s Action Team on Energy and Climate Change**  
*State of Florida*

**Adaptation Technical Work Group**  
**ADP Policy Options**

**Summary List of Draft Policy Options**

Option No.	ADP Policy Option	Level of Support	TWG Drafters
ADP-1	Advancing Science Data and Analysis for Climate Change	Pending	Hilary Swain
ADP-2	Comprehensive Planning	Pending	Jim Murley
2.1	Local Government Level	Pending	—
2.2	Regional Government Level	Pending	—
2.3	State Government Level	Pending	—
ADP-3	Protection of Ecosystems and Biodiversity	Pending	Laura Gesselbracht
3.1	Uplands, Freshwater and Marine Systems	Pending	—
3.2	Beaches and Beach Management	Pending	Gary Appelson
3.3	Species Protection	Pending	—
ADP-4	Water Resource Management	Pending	Matt Alvarez. Jay Yingling
ADP-5	Built Environment, Infrastructure and Community Protection	Pending	Ricardo Alvarez
5.1	Building Codes and Regulation	Pending	—
5.2	Flood Protection	Pending	—
5.3	Beaches as Infrastructure	Pending	Ricardo
ADP-6	Transportation and Other Infrastructure	Pending	Kathy Neill (DOT)
ADP-7	Economic Development	Pending	Steve Adams
7.1	Tourism	Pending	Steve Adams
7.2	Other Resource-based Industries	Pending	Marine Resources Council & Steve Adams
7.3	Construction	Pending	Ricardo Alvarez
ADP-8	Insurance (Property and Casualty)	Pending	Kathy Baughman-McLeod
ADP-9	Emergency Preparedness and Response (Extreme Events)	Pending	Steve Adams
ADP-10	Human Health Concerns	Pending	Camille Coley
10.1	Health Care	Pending	—
10.2	Air Quality	Pending	—
10.3	Waste Water Treatment	Pending	—
10.4	Disaster Response	Pending	—
10.5	Medical Treatment and Biomedicine Development	Pending	—
ADP-11	Social Effects	Pending	Camille Coley

11.1	Social Justice Issues	Pending	—
11.2	Food and Water Security	Pending	—
11.3	Housing	Pending	—
11.4	Intersection of Climate Change and Human Behavior	Pending	—
ADP-12	Organizing State Government for the Long Haul	Pending	Steve Adams
ADP-13	State Funding and Financing	Pending	Pending
ADP-14	Coordinating with Other Regulatory and Standards Entities	Pending	Matt Alvarez
14.1	Federal Government	Pending	—
14.2	Professional Societies	Pending	—
ADP-15	Public Education and Outreach	Pending	Meg Lowman and Alex Score (WWF through Debbie Harrison)

Note: The numbering used to denote the above pending priority policy options is for reference purposes only; it does not reflect prioritization among these important draft policy options.

## ADP-1. Advancing Climate Change Science Data and Analysis

### Description of Issues

Florida is one of the most vulnerable areas in the world to the consequences of climate change, especially sea level rise and the possibility of increased hurricane activity (for recent review see e.g., FAU Murley et al. 2008). Regardless of the underlying causes of climate change, glacial melting and expansion of warming oceans are causing sea level rise, although its extent or rate for Florida cannot as yet be predicted with certainty. In addition, hurricane activity in the North Atlantic Basin has increased significantly in recent years, but there is controversy over whether the primary cause is global warming or natural weather cycles, making the long-term trend indeterminate at this time. These uncertainties make planning for Florida extremely difficult, not knowing which of Florida's barrier islands, floodplains, and what portions of major cities will be inundated, or when.

### Objectives

Scientific data, analyses, and predictive modeling are needed to understand how Florida's climate is likely to change, and what consequences are likely, as well as possible solutions. Focusing on four key issues will help advance the science.

- First, reducing uncertainty in climate projections and enhancing predictive power of climate models for Florida, especially their temporal and spatial resolution, is critical. Improving models requires addressing specific Florida considerations: strong marine influence and peninsula effect; the wide climate gradient from temperate north Florida to subtropical south; lack of long-term physical climate measurements for historical trends (although some proxies are available); huge climate variability; complicating effects of the interaction of land use change (e.g., wetland loss) and climate change.
- Given climate modeling limitations for Florida the current planning focus on sea level rise and potential for increasing hurricane strength, is appropriate. Scientific data and analyses to predict other potential effects of global warming that could affect Florida are still extremely weak. We do not have data to adequately assess potential effects including increased drought, wildfires, flooding, and invasive species. Until models improve, appropriate risk management and adaptive management is challenging.
- Recognize that adaptability refers to the ability of humans to manage resilience -the capacity of the system (ecological, economic, social) to absorb the disturbance of climate change. Our science needs to address three crucial aspects of resilience; the amount of change Florida can withstand before switching over to another state or condition from which it cannot recover its former function, the ease of difficulty making changes, and how close the current system is to a switching threshold (Walter et al. 2004).
- Improving our understanding of socioeconomic responses to alternative climate predictions will better guide public policy and incentive programs. New approaches and tools such as agent based models (ABMs) will provide a better framework to examine interactions of socioeconomic and climate change.

## Assets at Risk

N/A

## Existing Actions

HB 7135, passed in the 2008 Legislative Session, directly addressed both collecting and acquiring better emissions data as well as assuring improved analysis of all emissions data. The bill:

- requires “major emitters” to report greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions via The Climate Registry and authorizes the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to develop “cap and trade” regulations for GHG emissions for sources in Florida subject to legislative ratification in the 2010 regular session
- creates the Florida Energy and Climate Commission within the Executive Office of the Governor to centralize energy and climate change policy development and program implementation
- creates the Florida Energy Systems Consortium as a “super center of excellence” within the State University System to better coordinate energy-related research in support of Florida’s energy and climate change policy objectives.
- Additionally, the bill tasks state government agencies, including the Department of Management Services, with acquiring better data on emissions from government’s buildings, transportation and travel and using that data to make a variety of determinations about emission reductions. The bill also creates the Florida Energy and Climate Commission, and requires that commission to file comments with the Florida Public Service Commission with evaluations and analyses of:
  - utility load forecasts, including an assessment of alternative supply and demand-side resource options;
  - implementable policy options that achieve a least-cost strategy, including non-utility programs targeted at reducing and controlling the per capita use of electricity in the state;
  - the impact of state and local building codes and appliance efficiency standards on the need for utility-sponsored conservation and energy efficiency programs.

## Goals and Strategies

**Goal 1:** Essentially every goal and strategy outlined in all the Adaptation Policy Options need a measurable outcome, and scientific evaluation by which to assess whether the goal has been met. Evaluation should be science-based, using the complementary skills of climate scientists, ecologists, hydrologists, social scientists and economists. We encourage test programs and pilots to measure and assess alternative outcomes.

### Strategy:

**Goal 2:** Foster and support Florida climate science research agenda with some broad priorities as outlined below. Consider a new Climate Change Scientific Advisory Council to advise state

government on this research agenda. Establish and identify long-term funding to support research. Funding should be protected from short term economic or political cycles.

### **Priorities for Further Research and Analysis**

Florida needs to *emphasize collaborations with international climate scientists, to refine climate predictions for Florida*. The state in partnership with federal agencies, international efforts, and Florida universities should (i) undertake review of current studies and models and (ii) consider undertaking updating model development to more precisely forecast Florida's changes in weather patterns, (iii) Undertake specific analysis of uncertainties and contingencies in climate scenarios for Florida.

Considering that Florida is so vulnerable to potential impacts of *sea level rise and hurricane activity, the state should place a special emphasis* on establishing or enhancing existing programs to follow developments in this field.

In addition to work on sea level rise and hurricane activity *the state needs to establish or enhance existing programs to monitor and determine trends in other climate related impacts* that could have consequences in Florida including: increased drought, wildfires, flooding and storm water runoff, heat waves, problems with invasive species and insect-borne disease resulting from changes in temperature and rainfall regimes, adverse effects on native terrestrial species, natural communities and marine life, salt water intrusion into aquifers, more frequent and intense storms, storm surges, tidal regimes, and coastal erosion. Build a decision support structure to guide and prioritize ongoing Florida-specific research agenda.

*Deploy a "Florida Land and Sea Mesonet"* (see e.g., the Oklahoma Mesonet for terrestrial counterpart) *to serve as a world class network of integrated environmental monitoring stations*, drawing from and contributing to existing terrestrial and marine networks, capitalizing and building upon deployed meteorological stations, ET stations, micro-meteorology towers, flow gauges and well/aquifer monitoring, and other critical monitoring networks, to meticulously track changes in Florida's climate and hydrology, filling missing gaps in statewide network coverage. The existing Florida Coastal Observing System should include climate impacts.

Support scientists working on *methods and availability of remote sensing data for a really-continuous statewide coverage* (and associated surrounding oceanographic area of influence), with consistent spatial grids and measurements, for common inputs for climate and hydrologic models.

*Long-term Climate Proxy data*. Create a new Center, or virtual center, to coordinate and align data from available proxy datasets to build a more precise picture of climate change in Florida over last few thousand years with associated responses in e.g., vegetation, sea level, changes in fire regimes, etc. need for more proxy work and gaps in knowledge – spatial and temporal.

*Evaluate likely persistence of Florida's rare species, natural communities, coastal ecosystem and parks and protected areas under climate change*. Suggest every 2 and 10-year review of state park, date forest and Wildlife Management Area Management Plans include a thoughtful analysis of vulnerability to climate change as part of their systematic management planning.

*Linking climate scientists with ecologists, economists and social scientists.* Issue a RFP from interdisciplinary teams of social scientists, economists and climate scientists, to build interactive models, including non-linearities and feedbacks, to better predict Floridian responses to anticipated changes. Agent based models are appropriate here because of the complexity of climate change models and responses.

*Build socioeconomic models to evaluate the effectiveness of alternative incentives and policies.* Select pilot areas and locations of the state to test policy programs. Evaluate effectiveness of adaptation strategies at regular intervals

*Build better decision tools to incorporate total cost accounting for local and regional planning decisions,* so that proposed land use change, agricultural policy shifts, water use policies, transportation decisions, siting of major new industries, etc. have a full assessment of all public costs including likely carbon/greenhouse gas footprint, and water use. Decision tools should also include assessments of proposals land use changes in the light of predicted climate changes.

Science needs for carbon mitigation in Florida. With cap and trade programs and new carbon credit systems (currently look like they are designed for Iowa farm fields) we need a large injection of science in Florida to better understand the distribution of our carbon stocks and our potential to increase sequestration. *Recommend the development of a statewide network of mobile carbon towers* (Florida Carbon Tower Network) to be deployed to collect data on carbon flux (and methane fluxes) in relation to the suite of Florida's natural communities, agricultural land uses and management practices. Such data to date are largely limited to pine plantations, oak scrub, pasture/sod fields, mangroves and Everglades. Will also need a body or group (perhaps part of Florida Mesonet) to coordinate tower data and findings. The pay back for this science may be high if Florida landowners and the state could better capitalize on carbon credits with improved data.

## ADP-2. Comprehensive Land Use Planning

### Description of Issues

Florida has an integrated planning process for state, regional and local governments to prepare plans that direct future growth and development, the conservation of natural resources, and the provision of public facilities. Under state law, planning in Florida is guided by standards that require a consistent policy direction and coordination among plans.

The framework for the integrated planning process starts with Florida's State Comprehensive Plan (SCP) that contains goals and policies setting broad direction on energy, land use and other issues relevant to future adaptation to climate change. Also at the state level, there is a state transportation plan and state water plan. At the regional level there are 11 regional planning councils each of which have adopted a strategic regional policy plan. Also at the regional level, there are five water management districts and seven transportation districts each with planning documents that guide programs and decision-making. At the local level, each county and municipality in Florida has adopted a local comprehensive plan that includes goals, objectives and policies that address future land use, conservation, coastal management (where applicable), transportation, public facilities, parks and recreation, housing, intergovernmental coordination, and capital improvements. Local land development regulations and development permits must be consistent with the comprehensive plan.

The 2008 Florida Legislature amended the SCP to address green house gas (GHG) reduction strategies with attention to electrical power generating facilities. The 2008 requirements for local comprehensive plans represent an important initial step but are oriented more toward energy use and GHG than on adaptation to changing climatic conditions.

### Objectives

Chapter 187 of the Florida Statutes states, "The State Comprehensive Plan shall provide long-range policy guidance for the orderly social, economic, and physical growth of the state." The statute also states that the plan is a "direction setting document" that should be "reasonably applied where they are economically and environmentally feasible, not contrary to the public interest, and consistent with the protection of private property rights."

Florida's state, regional and local comprehensive plans should be amended, based on best available data, to include goals, objectives and policies that will prepare the state for adapting to the future impacts of climate change, e.g., sea level rise.

### Assets at Risk

Florida may be one of the states most at risk states to climate change because it is surrounded by water on three side and has relatively flat terrain mean that large areas of the coast are at risk of inundation from sea level rise or coastal storms (e.g., hurricanes) expose.

Sea level rise will affect Florida's valuable shoreline resources, including the beach, coastal vegetation and habitat and significant public and private built investment. Over time, decisions

will need to be made about relocation, redevelopment and where appropriate retreat from the shoreline. Other changes will also have an important impact on Florida. Between now and 2030, the state will need to develop residential, commercial and retail areas to serve twice our current population.

The projected consequences from climate change impacts such as sea level rise may lead to future questions about the rights of private property owners and the police power and trusteeship responsibilities of state and local government to protect the community at large. These issues will likely be focused on private property adjacent to the beach and in low lying areas subject to increased flooding.

## Existing Actions

Governor Crist created the Florida Energy and Climate Change Action team through executive order. That Action Team has appointed technical workgroups to address these issues. One technical workgroup is reviewing the state's transportation and land use planning in particular and the government policy workgroup is addressing these issues as well.

The 2008 Florida Legislature passed HB 7135, which created the Florida Energy and Climate Commission, to continue the work of the action team which will consider and coordinate certain recommended Action Team adaptations to the land use planning process. The bill also amended s. 339.175, F.S., to encourage Metropolitan Planning Organizations to consider greenhouse gas emissions in their planning processes.

## 2.1 Local Government Level

### Goals and Strategies

**Goal 1:** Ensure that all relevant elements of local government comprehensive plans, e.g., future land use, coastal zone management and capital facilities, are updated to reflect the best available data and strategies for adapting to future climate change impacts.

**Strategy:**

**Goal 2:** State and regional agencies should provide financial and technical assistance to local governments to ensure timely updates of local plans.

**Strategy:**

**Goal 3:** Local governments should review their coastal management elements to determine necessary amendments to make their coastal areas, especially the coastal high hazard area, resilient to the future impacts of climate change, including sea level rise.

**Strategy:** Amend Chapter 163.3178 (8) which call for coastal counties to prioritize lands for acquisition through state programs to include sea level rise as a criteria.

**2.2 Regional Government Level**

**Goals and Strategies**

**Goal 1:** Regional Planning Councils should update their Strategic Regional Policy Plans to reflect important regional issues concerning adaptation to the impacts of climate change.

**Strategy:**

**Goal 2:** Water Management Districts should modify regional water supply plans and other regional water management activities to include adaptation measures addressing impacts from climate change.

**Strategy:**

**2.3 State Government Level**

**Goals and Strategies**

**Goal 1:** The State Comprehensive Plan and relevant state agency strategic plans should be updated to reflect future actions to promote adaptation measures addressing the impacts from climate change.

**Strategy:**

**Goal 2:** The Florida Energy and Climate Change Commission should encourage intergovernmental cooperation at all levels of government and recommend additional goals and strategies to ensure adequate measure are taken to adapt to future impacts from climate change.

**Strategy:**

**Goal 3: Balancing Property Rights and Protecting Communities and Natural Resources**

Florida statutes, regulations, policies, rules and Florida Administrative Code should be reviewed by the Florida Attorney General to determine potential conflicts with private property rights and the State and local government responsibility to protect communities.

**Goal 4:** The State Comprehensive Plan, Chapter 187. 201 (8) Coastal and Marine Resources, the goal and policies should be amended to address adaptation to the consequences of climate change.

## ADP-3. Protection of Ecosystems and Biodiversity

### Description of Issues

Florida's terrestrial, freshwater and marine systems extend from temperate north Florida to subtropical south Florida. Many tropical species are at their northern range limits in Florida, many temperate species are at their southern limits. The result is a highly diverse, unique assemblage of species, and in terrestrial and freshwater systems, high levels of endemism. Florida has a 1,350-mile coast that is home to a diverse array of marine and coastal natural communities and associated species including the world's third largest fringing barrier reef and most morphologically diverse barrier island system.

Particular attention is drawn to uplands, freshwater, and marine systems, beaches (which can be considered both an ecosystem and part of infrastructure) and species protection.

### 3.1 Uplands, Freshwater and Marine Systems

Florida's upland ecosystem can be characterized by temperate climate, dry soils, and gently sloping, forested hills. The upland system can be divided into three types: xeric, mesic, and coastal. The dominant plant species in the xeric uplands include pines and oaks. Plant species in the mesic uplands include southern magnolia, beech, spruce pine, Shumard oak, Florida maple, and other hardwoods. Coastal uplands feature sandy soils, and its plant communities consist of sea oats, mixed salt-spray tolerant grasses, shrubs and herbs.

Florida's freshwater ecosystems include wetlands, streams, lakes and ponds. Inland wetlands include seepage, moving water, floodplain and basin wetlands, which are characterized by saturated soils. Vegetation includes mixed hardwoods, sphagnum moss, cypress, hydrophytic shrubs, and grasses. Coastal wetlands and swamps are generally inundated with freshwater, but are subject to tidal cycles, and saltwater tolerant. Typical plant species include cypress, bays, grasses, herbs, and shrubs.

Wetlands cover approximately 30% of the state of Florida and play an important role in flood protection. Streams can vary from seasonal to permanent waterways and plant species generally grow around the edges. Lakes and ponds can be categorized as high nutrient and low nutrient. High nutrient water bodies have significant in- and outflows and are generally alkaline. Low nutrient lakes obtain their water from groundwater or nutrient-poor surface runoff and can be acidic or alkaline. Most vegetation grows along the shore.

Reefs are affected by disease and bleaching. In addition, overfishing, polluted runoff and reduced freshwater inflows also threaten the health of this ecosystem. The state is making an effort to establish marine sanctuaries to protect its marine ecosystem from further damage. Species found here include seabirds, dolphins, whales, and manatees, and many types of invertebrates, crustaceans, and fishes, including bony fishes, sharks, skates, rays, and eels. Alligators, crocodiles and turtles can also be found. Habitats include seagrass beds, sandy bottoms, reefs and open ocean.

These systems provide many economic benefits to Florida. For example, 4.2 million people participated in some form of residential or nonresidential wildlife viewing in Florida in 2006. The total retail sales from 2006 wildlife viewing in Florida was estimated at \$3.1 billion (\$2.4 billion by residents and \$653.3 million by nonresidents).

### 3.2 Beaches

Beaches are one of the state's most important economic engines, generating tens of billions of dollars in annual revenues through jobs, tourism, recreation, and tax dollars. A healthy beach/dune system provides protection for upland property and infrastructure and increases a beach's resiliency, its ability to recover from storm events. Florida's beach/dune system also provides important habitat for marine turtles, shorebirds, beach mice, invertebrates and other species. Currently over half of Florida's 825 miles of sandy beaches are experiencing chronic erosion and about 42% are designated as critically eroding, meaning they need long term maintenance in order to ensure protection of vulnerable upland properties, recreational interests, wildlife habitat or important cultural resources.

### 3.3 Species Protection

The State of Florida has the 3rd highest number of species in the U.S. (over 5,000) of which approximately 670 are endemic. Its approximately 4,000 native and exotic plant species are distributed over 81 plant communities. According to the Fish and Wildlife Service 114 species are listed as endangered or threatened (2008), including the West Indian manatee, green sea turtle, and brown pelicans.

## Objectives

The Florida Constitution calls for the "management, protection, and conservation of wild animal life and fresh water aquatic life." Florida law notes that the "State of Florida harbors a wide diversity of fish and wildlife and that it is the policy of this state to conserve and wisely manage these resources" and calls the state to "protect and acquire unique natural habitats and ecological systems ... and restore degraded natural systems to a functional condition." With regard to coastal and marine resources, the law state that "development and marine resource use and beach access improvements in coastal areas do not endanger public safety or important natural resources."

Managing ecosystems for resilience enhances their ability to naturally adapt to the stresses of climate change and other pervasive threats. Specifically:

- Maximize the resilience of species and habitats to climate change impacts by minimizing other human induced threats.
- Maintain/facilitate the persistence of coastal ecosystems and the ecological and human services they provide;
- Increase understanding of how Florida's marine and coastal ecosystems may migrate and change because of climate change.
- Identify areas, natural communities and species of particular ecological vulnerability

- Protect natural communities vulnerable to sea level rise from loss resulting from shoreline hardening and other actions that prevent/inhibit natural upslope migration.
- Identify and secure paths for other inland habitats to migrate with changes in temperature, rainfall patterns and groundwater levels.
- Protect inland natural communities from competing climate change adaptation pressures, such as the landward relocation of coastal development, human demands for ground and surface water, and engineered solutions for flood mitigation.

Specific objectives for beaches include ensuring the long term protection of the beach/dune system and preserve its ecological functions.

- Consideration of climate change could be incorporated into all aspects of the beach management and coastal construction regulatory programs.
- Policies to discourage development adjacent to eroding shorelines and encourage the placement of structures and infrastructure away from retreating shorelines may reduce future reliance on coastal bulkheading, which can accelerate beach loss.
- Purchase strategically targeted private coastal lands in order to provide buffers for retreating shorelines, to preserve and protect habitats and ecosystem function, and to increase the resiliency of the shoreline to recover from storm events.
- Enhanced communication on coastal resource protection between and within state regulatory agencies such as Department of Community Affairs and DEP can ensure more efficient use of resources and expertise in developing adaptation responses and strategies. Consider developing a Coastal Commission.

### **Assets at Risk**

Temperature, rainfall, sea level and ocean chemistry play major roles in determining where individual species of plants and animals can live, grow and reproduce. The effects of climate change on species and ecosystems can be both direct and indirect. Climate change will change the structure and composition of ecosystems and communities; coastal and estuarine habitats; ocean chemistry (lower pH levels will adversely affect growth of corals, shellfish, and some algae); geographic range of species; timing of species' lifecycles which may become out of sync with other species upon which they depend; plant growth, nutrient composition, plant-animal interactions and ecosystem nutrient cycles; and the intensity and magnitude of existing stresses, such as invasive species and fire regimes, on biodiversity and ecosystem structures, functions, and processes. In addition, climate change is also projected to result in increased risk of extinction for some species (e.g., those with limited dispersal capabilities or living in specialized habitats), and opportunity for range expansion of invasive species.

Sea level rise and other predicted impacts of climate change, such as increases in frequency and intensity of coastal storms and higher storm surges, will increase beach erosion, shoreline recession, and barrier migration and have a profound impact on Florida's beaches, the beach using public, and the tourism industry.

**Assets at Risk (Beaches):**

As beaches erode and recede all these values and benefits are threatened. In addition, public access to lands held in trust for the public, including both the wet sand beach and near shore submerged lands, is greatly diminished. Conflicts over public usage and private property rights will likely increase as beaches recede and the area of dry sand beach decreases.

### 3.1 Uplands, Freshwater and Marine Systems

#### Goals and Strategies for Ecosystems and Biodiversity

**Goal 1:** A representative portfolio of Florida terrestrial, freshwater and marine natural communities with redundant representation (of habitats and species) and connecting corridors (e.g., Florida’s Biodiversity Blueprint) is protected and well managed.

**Strategy:**

**Goal 2:** All publicly funded land acquisition programs take into consideration projected sea level rise, potential increased tropical storm intensity, coastal flooding and other climate change impacts as part of the process to prioritize acquisition projects.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) includes in its annual Florida Forever workplan, a list of lands on the Florida Forever list that sequesters carbon, provides habitat, protects coastal lands or barrier islands, and otherwise mitigates and helps adapt to the effects of sea-level rise.

**Strategy:** The Legislature should place a priority on coastal land acquisition through the Florida Forever program, a separate dedicated funding source, and/or through other means. Greater incentives should be provided to local governments and private organizations to acquire and manage ecologically important coastal lands, including upland buffers. Acquisition efforts should be strategically targeted in order to protect coastal resources, reduce insured risk and reduce the impacts of climate change on both ecosystems and communities.

**Goal 3:** Important natural communities vulnerable to sea level rise (e.g., intertidal and coastal habitats) are buffered/protected (from shoreline stabilization and hardening) to maximize the probability of their persistence into the future.

**Strategy:** DEP and other relevant agencies should develop state wetlands conservation and restoration plans that promote designation of wetland migration corridors for wetland migration as sea level rises. DEP should redouble efforts to reduce nutrient loading and set numeric criteria for nutrients, particularly in estuaries and coastal waters.

**Goal 4:** Conduct research needed to support incorporation of climate change into protection of Florida’s ecosystems and biodiversity.

**Strategies:**

- Florida’s coral reef system should be evaluated, to ascertain changes from climate change or other stressors caused by people and actions taken to alleviate those that would provide greater resiliency and chances for coral recovery and expansion.
  - DEP should amend the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative Local Action Strategy to consider the added stress on coral reefs due to global warming and develop an effective, coordinated management strategy to increase the protection of the region’s coral reef ecosystem.
  - FWCC and other relevant agencies should expand research and monitoring of coral reef ecosystems and assess of water quality and its effects on reefs over time.
  - Ecologically valuable coral reefs identified under Goal 1 above should be protected from shoreline development, overfishing and overuse, and other impacts to minimize their disappearance and to enhance their capacity to provide critical nursery habitat for fish and other organisms, storm surge protection and other public benefits.
  - The state should make monitoring of ocean pH and calcification rates a part of the coral monitoring plans in the Tortugas Ecological Reserve, the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, Biscayne National Park, Florida Middle Grounds, Pulley Ridge and Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern, and other locations around the state.
  - DEP, DACS and FWC should enhance state monitoring of biogenic reefs such as oyster reefs as well as valuable shellfish such as scallops and clams for calcification problems.
- Calculate and disseminate results broadly the economic value and services provided by Florida’s natural communities and associated species to inform decisions regarding state budget and policy requirements.
- Describe and disseminate the likely new “states” of Florida ecological systems to inform decisions regarding state budget and policy requirements. Identify species and habitats likely unable to migrate naturally due to geographic constraints and craft strategies to assist the relocation or re-create habitat elsewhere to facilitate this shift.
- Climate change impacts on Florida’s natural communities have been estimated with uncertainties identified, the information is widely distributed, so that the state can prioritize adaptation strategies.

**Goal 5:** Acquire and appropriately manage lands needed to complete critical south to north migration corridors to accommodate climate change driven range changes in species and natural communities.

**Strategy:**

**Goal 6:** Areas that may serve as refuges for at risk species are identified, prioritized, protected and managed in a manner that maximizes the persistence of at-risk species.

**Strategy:**

**Goal 8:** The portfolio of sites identified under Goal 1 above are managed in a manner that maximizes the health and resilience of these systems to climate change impacts.

**Strategy:**

**Goal 9:** Enact legislation to define newly submerged lands contiguous to existing state aquatic preserves, parks, etc. as part of the contiguous state managed areas.

**Strategy:**

### 3.2 Beaches and Beach Management

#### Goals and Strategies

**Goal 1:** Prohibit hardening/stabilization of estuarine shorelines under state and local law.

**Strategy:**

**Goal 2:** Estimate the ecological value of beach resources around the state and select a subset in each geographic region to aggressively protect.

**Strategy:**

**Goal 3:** Minimize conditions inhibiting natural long shore sand movement so as to minimize the need for beach re-nourishment.

**Strategy:**

**Goal 4:** State and local governments implement a public information campaign that informs owners of coastal shoreline property that they may lose their property and may have to abandon structures damaged by rising seas and increased storm intensity/frequency.

**Strategy:**

**Goal 5:** State and local governments establish policies and regulations that clearly define when, how, where and under what circumstances emergency beach stabilization is allowed.

**Strategy:**

**Goal 6:** State and local governments establish policies and regulations addressing coastal retreat and at what point vulnerable structures will have to be abandoned.

**Goal 7:** State and local governments establish policies and regulations to protect coastal resources from contamination resulting from inundation, structural failure or abandonment of residential, industrial and municipal assets resulting from sea level rise or storm events.

**Strategy:**

**Goal 8:** Ensure that the beach management program can accomplish its intended goals in an era of climate change and rising seas.

**Goal 9:** Provide incentives to encourage public and local governments to site structures and infrastructure away from areas at high risk from the impacts of climate change and sea level rise.

**Goal 10:** Ensure the long term sustainability and resiliency of the beach/dune system.

**Goal 11:** Increase and expand the toolbox of adaptation strategies (Currently the beach protection program relies on one leg; beach nourishment.)

**Goal 12:** Enhance communication and planning between state and local governments and between and within regulatory agencies.

### 3.3 Species Protection

#### Goals and Strategies

**Goal 1:** The vulnerability of Florida’s fish and wildlife to climate change impacts is assessed, the most vulnerable species are identified and plans are prepared to enhance their chances of persistence where there is a reasonable probability that the species will persist over the next 50 years.

**Strategy:**

**Goal 2:** Put in place a system for monitoring how Florida’s natural communities and associated species are responding to climate change impacts and widely distribute the results of this monitoring to all interested stakeholders.

**Strategy:**

**Goal 3:** Consider the nexus between species and habitat and act to protect habitat for vulnerable species.

## ADP-4. Water Resources Management

Merged Draft ADP-4

### Description of Issues

The State of Florida is currently facing many water resource management challenges including shortages due to drought, salt water intrusion and deterioration in quality and limits on the availability of its groundwater sources. Continued pressures from population growth, development styles and potential new challenges resulting from climate change stress the system even further. Although there are uncertainties about climate change, water managers must nonetheless plan for potential increased variability in precipitation regimes, storm events, and rising sea levels. Significant changes in these phenomena are likely to result in changes to the amount of fresh water resources and land available to sustain life and maintain healthy water dependent natural systems.

While Florida's extensive coast line provides a unique ability to tap saltwater as a future water source, primary water resource concerns revolve around changes to water dependent ecosystems, impacts to and from human activity and ground and surface water quality. There may be shifts in water demands for agricultural and municipal supply, increased energy consumption for advanced water treatment, transmission and disposal as well as for changing environmental needs.

The rate of climate change and potential consequences over the next 100 years is uncertain, but the more rapid the rate of change, the more quickly Floridians will have to respond to manage Florida's water resources effectively. Planning and action now may significantly reduce costs relative to deferring action until later.

### Objectives

Local, regional and statewide policies to protect groundwater and other water resources are designed to ensure adequate supplies to meet needs for man and the environment. Policies and measures to encourage conservation, protect existing supplies, identify and develop new supplies, and further invest in innovative technologies to treat water will be needed. Florida recognizes four major water resource management areas of responsibility (AORs) as expressed in Chapter 373, F.S.:

1. Water Supply – Managing water resources to ensure that there are adequate supplies for current and future Floridians.
2. Water Quality – Implementing measures to ensure that changes to existing landscapes will not cause degradation of existing ground and surface water quality.
3. Flood Protection – Identifying and protecting floodprone areas to minimize the risk of floods to human activities through structural and non-structural means.

4. Natural Systems Protection – Managing water and related land resources to ensure that there are supplies of adequate quantity and quality to protect and maintain healthy natural systems.

### Objectives

- Ensure that Floridians have adequate fresh water supplies available to meet basic reasonable and beneficial needs and the requirements of natural systems.
- Intensive conservation of all water uses will be essential and alternative water sources will need to play a larger role in meeting Florida’s future water needs.
- Provide for stakeholder involvement in regional and statewide water supply planning processes
- Incorporating methods to quantify and plan for uncertainties and risks related to population growth, climate change and environmental regulations will be critical to maintain the quality of life, economic vitality and environmental sustainability for the state.

### Assets at Risk

The majority of Florida’s population, and the water infrastructure to serve them, reside within 50 miles of the coast. The Florida population is also projected to increase by an additional 50% by 2030. In addition to new infrastructure required to develop and distribute water supplies to meet the needs of a growing, existing coastal and groundwater resources may be at risk due to salt water intrusion and sea level rise. Additional consumptive use of freshwater will further diminish the head of pressure needed to stave off saltwater intrusion.

Florida could face rising seas, decreased precipitation, and more intense storms. These three currently predicted impacts alone could have serious implications for Florida’s major areas of water resource responsibility. Among the changes needed to address risks posed by climate change are the following:

### Goals and Strategies

**Goal 1:** Identify and quantify the vulnerabilities and reliability of existing water supplies to potential effects of differing climate change scenarios with emphasis on source water availability and quality.

**Goal 2:** Develop regional and statewide water demand projection scenarios that account for potential changes in 1) agricultural demand due to changes in growing season or impacts on crop production; 2) municipal and industrial demand as temperatures increase, drought (seasonal or intra-annual) persists; and 3) in water demand for energy generation due to possible changes in fuel source over a 100-year planning horizon, with consideration for Florida’s statutory obligation to provide water for the environment.

**Goal 3:** Develop conservation programs that address and incentivize both water and energy usage efficiencies

**Goal 4:** Implement local, regional and statewide water supply planning processes that quantify potential changes in existing water supplies and identify potential new water sources including

synergies between flood management structures and water supply. Incorporate methodologies that use not only historic hydrologic data but also consider changes that may result from climate change and prioritize water for natural systems.

**Goal 5:** Integrate land use considerations, flood management, stormwater best management practices designed to protect water quality, water demand/supply management and water reservations for the environment in watershed planning and design standards.

**Goal 6:** Incorporate methods that consider energy, environmental, and economic sustainability when evaluating potential water management strategies (e.g., in developing new surface water supplies or desalination projects).

**Goal 7:** Change monitoring compliance with Minimum Flows and Levels and Water/Consumptive Use Permits, how structures are operated and when alternative supplies sources are needed.

**Goal 8:** Change the basis for current Environmental Resource Permits, watershed and water quality modeling, structural operations and other flood management methodologies.

**Goal 9:** Address water quality changes that may occur due to less frequent but heavier rainfall events, higher surface water temperatures, and rising sea levels on coastal aquifers.

**Goal 10:** Ensure the development of adequate plans and designs to address larger than historic storm events.

**Goal 11:** Minimize impacts of more intense storms and sea level rise on flooding of coastal and tidally influenced waterbodies.

**Goal 12:** Retain as much freshwater in natural systems, and restore previously drained systems, to ensure this head of pressure. Similarly, the restoration of peat layers in extreme South Florida in the course of Everglades restoration will help buffer that region from saltwater intrusion.

**Goal 13:** Coastal recovery strategies that attempt to hold back saltwater intrusion, coastal restoration projects, coastal land acquisition and others may require redesign to allow for natural adaptations and movement inland.

**Goal 14:** Protect and maintain the natural mosaic of ecosystems, such as upland and lowland interfaces, to ensure the health of water and related natural resources.

**Goal 15:** To allow coastal estuaries, riverine and other water dependent ecosystems to migrate or adapt to maintain healthy wildlife and fish populations consistent with new weather regimes.

**Goal 16:** To ensure a sound economic structure that allows for innovative project development, infrastructure retrofits and repairs, adequate data collection and modeling and necessary additional staff resources.

**Goal 17:** To allow for the retention of more water in previously drained watersheds and systems.

**Goal 18:** It may no longer make sense to allow land, transportation and water planning and management to be considered separately at all levels of government. To manage these elements effectively, planning and implementation efforts will need to be better integrated.

**Goal 19:** Wellfields, surface or sub-surface storage facilities and water treatment plants may be vulnerable. Siting such facilities should be closely examined and plans developed to mitigate impacts or relocate them or reduce the risks from winds and flooding.

## ADP-5. Built Environment, Infrastructure and Community Protection

### Definition of Issues

The built environment can be defined as the aggregate of all buildings, facilities and structures designed and built to provide shelter or to house the full breadth of human activity, as well as the infrastructure designed and built to supports or protect such human activity.

The conjugation of these factors have resulted in more than 75% of the population living in coastal counties and perhaps close to 85% of the built environment, on the basis of total area of construction, located in coastal counties with a high concentration in large urban areas such as the tri-county [Pam Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade] corridor in Southeast Florida, the west-central region around Hillsborough and Pinellas counties, and the Jacksonville-St. Augustine region.

U.S. Census Bureau projections and other studies estimate Florida's population will reach close to 29 million by 2030, which means an increase of some 10 million people over the estimated 2007 state population and 7 to 8 million more residents in coastal counties. Should these projected trends continue, it can be concluded that the concentration of built environment will continue along the same parameters that are currently in place.

Florida is vulnerable to a wide range of natural hazards including hurricanes, coastal storms, floods, tornadoes, wildfire, drought, extreme heat, winter storms and freezes, erosion, sinkholes, landslides, and tsunami.

Design criteria are part of building codes used to design buildings that we expect will have a minimum service life of 75–100 years and will withstand extreme events. In Florida the Florida Building Code became the single state building code as of March 1, 2002. The expressed intent of the Florida Building Code is “.....to establish the minimum requirements to safeguard the public health, safety and general welfare through structural strength, means of egress facilities, stability, sanitation, adequate light and ventilation, energy conservation, and safety to life and property from fire and other hazards attributed to the built environment...”

### Objectives

1. Reducing the potential for damage to the built environment from the impact of natural hazards, especially from those hazards caused or exacerbated by climate change, must become a high priority of all levels of government and the private sector in Florida.
2. Make the practice of adaptation of the built environment to the impact of climate change an integral component of comprehensive planning, building codes, life-safety codes, emergency management, land development and zoning regulations, water management, flood control, coastal management and community development.

3. Make the practice of adaptation of the built environment to the impact of climate change a preferred objective of building design, siting and construction research funded by public monies in Florida.
4. Foster an environment of communication and shared knowledge about adaptation to climate change and the adaptation/protection of the built environment among the scientific community, lawmakers, various professional sectors [practitioners], and the general public.
5. Promote an environment to connect science with decision-making regarding climate change and the need to adapt the built environment to its impacts.
6. Promote an environment to connect scientific research with practical applications that will contribute to the adaptation of the built environment to the impact of climate change.
7. Encourage the search for practical and effective solutions to ensure that existing and future built environment in Florida will remain inhabitable, providing a viable shelter for the full range of human activity and ensuring continuity of critical and essential functions in the aftermath of impact by climate change exacerbated hazards.
8. Establish educational and professional licensing requirements to ensure that key professional sectors become practitioners of adaptation in support of planning, building design and construction activities.
9. Require the State, county and municipal governments throughout Florida to develop and maintain a Local Climate Change Adaptation Plan, to provide a framework for assessing vulnerability, identifying risks, defining and quantifying the value of the built environment that is at risk, and for identifying and implementing effective adaptation measures at each jurisdictional level [state, county, municipality, individual facility].
10. Exercise fiscal responsibility in recognizing not only the magnitude of the problem to be confronted by future generations, but also the need to start implementing and paying for solutions now while also creating reserves to pay for future measures, especially those that may be community-wide or regional in scope.

Objectives for beaches in ADP-3 are relevant to this ADP.

### **Assets at Risk**

Climate change will modify and/or exacerbate most of the factors mentioned above, which were used to establish design criteria, during the remaining service life of existing buildings and new buildings just now being built. For example, certain aspects of climate change specifically global warming and sea level rise have the capacity to exacerbate specific damage components of a hurricane. Sea level rise will have a direct impact on storm surge, perhaps the most damaging damage component of hurricanes as they impact the built environment in the coastal region. There will also likely be higher incidence of extreme rain events.

This means that a building designed on the basis of current design criteria and the minimum requirements of the Florida Building Code may be subjected to much higher loads, from storm

surge, wave impact and precipitation during hurricanes than what it was designed for, during its remaining service life. It is likely and perhaps highly probable that a building under such conditions will suffer severe damage and even structural failure. Those buildings built before the Florida Building Code came into effect, or even earlier, are clearly at much higher risk of suffering catastrophic damage under the impact of climate change exacerbated hazards.

### Existing Actions

HB 7135, passed by the 2008 Florida Legislature, provides certain “lead by example” improvements to local, regional and state government building and renovation standards, including the use of specified green building standards and energy efficient design. The bill also creates the Florida Energy and Climate Commission within the Executive Office of the Governor to centralize energy and climate change policy development and program implementation to review and consider recommendations by the Action Team concerning building standards and adaptation. In addition, the bill created the Florida Energy Systems Consortium as a “super center of excellence” within the State University System to better coordinate energy-related research in support of Florida’s energy and climate change policy objectives.

### Goals and Strategies

**Goal 1:** Require that the Florida Building Code incorporates design criteria for buildings to resist future loads that may result from the impact of climate change exacerbated hazards during a minimum service life of fifty years.

**Strategy:**

**Goal 2:** Require the State Building Commission establish a technical committee focusing on vulnerability to climate change, which will recommend updates to the building code as evidence of new trends of risk factors from climate change, arise.

**Strategy:**

**Goal 3:** Require public universities in Florida to develop and deliver required educational programs for building design and construction professionals, planners and other pertinent fields, focusing on vulnerability to climate change and adaptation methodologies.

**Strategy:**

**Goal 4:** Develop a required training program to educate existing professionals, in relevant fields such as architecture, engineering, construction management etc., on the need to incorporate adaptation to climate change as a basis for establishing design criteria for new buildings. Completion of such required training to be a condition for relicensing.

**Strategy:**

**Goal 5:** Empower the Department of Professional Regulation and the various professional licensing boards to incorporate sections on climate change vulnerability and built environment adaptation methodologies in all licensing examinations.

**Strategy:**

**Goal 6:** Create and fund a State Climate Change Adaptation Plan Advisory Team charged with drafting a periodically revising a State Climate Change Adaptation Plan to be officially adopted by the state subject to legislative approval.

**Strategy:**

**Goal 7:** Have a pertinent agency of the state of Florida provide guidance, technical assistance and funding to counties in support of efforts to create and manage a Local Climate Change Adaptation Working Group, which will be charged with drafting a Local Climate Change Adaptation Plan to be adopted by resolution of the county governing authority, and with involving all municipalities and county agencies in such an effort.

**Strategy:**

**Goal 8:** Require Comprehensive Plans, at all jurisdictional levels in Florida, to incorporate cost-effective climate change adaptation measures or plans for the built environment as a requirement for approval of any new development or redevelopment projects in Florida.

**Strategy:**

**Goal 9:** Create and fund a Built Environment Climate Change Adaptation Program as a state research initiative charged with engaging the scientific and research community, by way of competitive research projects and annual announcements of funds availability, in the assessment of vulnerability and risk of the built environment to the impact of climate change with a focus on the development of adaptation methodologies based on new design criteria, methods and materials of construction and similar initiatives.

**Strategy:**

**Goal 10:** Require the Water Management Districts to consider the adaptation of the built environment to climate change impacts on a community-wide or regional basis in the implementation of flood control and other civil works projects and the adoption of related policy.

**Strategy:**

**Goal 11:** Request and engage the support of pertinent federal agencies such as the US Geological Survey, Federal Emergency Management Agency, US Army Corps of Engineers, that can provide technological and logistical support and work with Regional Planning Councils and other state, county and local planning bodies, in the creation and maintenance of a cartographic depiction of vulnerability to climate change based on current levels of risk and on future scenarios.

**Strategy:**

**Goal 12:** Create and fund a State Climate Adaptation Commission charged with identifying engineering and technical solutions, developing design concepts for preferred solutions, and with

conducting initial feasibility studies relative to the scope, budgets, regulatory compliance and timelines for the implementation of specific proposed adaptation solutions on regional scales.

**Strategy:**

**Goal 13:** Revise the state Sunshine Standards for K12 education so that vulnerability to climate change and the practice of adaptation become require subject matter in the curricula of public schools in Florida.

**Strategy:**

## ADP-6. Transportation and Other Infrastructure

### Description of Issues

Florida has over 83,000 miles of county roads, over 65,000 of which are paved. There are 19 commercial airports, 12 of which are international. In addition, the state has 14 deepwater ports.

### Objectives

Protect and reduce the impact on transportation and other infrastructure from climate change.

### Assets at Risk

Roads, airports, rail, pipelines, ports, beaches and other infrastructure along and close to Florida's coastline are potentially vulnerable to climate change impacts. Unfortunately, a comprehensive listing of transportation infrastructure at risk in the United States has not been prepared. Improved information about projected climate change impacts and timing of such events will be needed to identify specifically transportation and other infrastructure at risk.

Potential impacts of climate change to Florida include rising temperatures, increases in more intense heavy rainfalls and hurricanes and rising sea levels. Because of this, transportation and other infrastructure along the coast and in low lying areas are susceptible to damage from sea-level rise, storm surge, erosion, flooding and higher temperatures. However, adaptation, particularly related to transportation, has not yet received as much attention or research compared to climate change mitigation.

### Existing Actions

HB 7135, passed by the 2008 Florida Legislature, provided for the Florida Energy and Climate Commission to continually explore transportation infrastructure and adaptation issues in its deliberations.

### Goals and Strategies

**Goal 1:** Ensure that tools and models are developed to project climate changes at smaller scales to better forecast state and local impacts and to pinpoint infrastructure at risk.

**Strategy:**

**Goal 2:** Inventory critical infrastructure at risk; determine whether, when, and where projected impacts from climate change might be significant; and evaluate the costs and benefits of alternatives of needed actions.

**Strategy:**

**Goal 3:** Ensure the coordination of adaptation efforts across jurisdictional boundaries and the exchange of information, resources, and best practices among government, the private sector and other stakeholders.

**Strategy:**

**Goal 4:** Ensure that the long range planning process addresses adaptation and the protection of critical infrastructure.

**Strategy:**

## ADP-7. Economic Development

### Description of Issues

Florida's gross state product in 2007 was over \$734 billion. Agriculture was \$6.7 billion, mining \$1 billion, construction \$45 billion. In 2004, Florida had over 76 million visitors, with an economic impact of more than \$57 billion.

### Objectives

- To adapt Florida to new economic trends and realities brought on by the powerful drivers of energy and climate change;
- To generate useful economic trend analysis and data to guide economic development decision making; and
- To create policies, programs and implementation mechanisms that support the adaptation of Florida's economy.

### Assets at Risk

Climate change is likely to have a significant effect on all sectors of Florida's economy. Some sectors will likely face acute challenges while others will likely enjoy substantial growth opportunities. There could be significant damage to some economic sectors such as real estate, tourism, agriculture (e.g., productivity and export markets) and other resource-based industries to name some examples.

The State would benefit by early identification of business opportunities [and risks?] associated with climate change to increase its global competitive advantage and job creation within the state. An impact assessment is also needed to forecast potential disruption to Florida's major economic sectors due to climate change impacts such as to more frequent tropical storms, sea level rise, drought, acute flooding events, salt water intrusion, and possible habitat and species disruption.

Successful economic adaptation will require anticipating and responding to the challenges and opportunities, given such economic trends.

### Existing Actions

To be drafted by DEP staff:

The Department of Environmental Protection...

The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission...

The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services...

## Goals and Strategies

**Goal 1:** The Office of Tourism and Economic Development and Enterprise Florida – in conjunction with the Florida Energy and Climate Commission - should undertake an analysis to look at new opportunities and at economic sectors that may be negatively impacted.

**Goal 2:** Establish the economic value and importance of natural resources to the state economy overall and to tourism and other resource-based sectors.

**Goal 3:** Identify policy issues related to habitat and species management, human needs, hunting, fishing, boating, and outdoor recreation.

### 7.1 Tourism

Tourism in Florida constitutes over 10% of the state economy. The state’s thriving tourism sector depends upon the richness and diversity of Florida’s natural resources. The state’s climate, forests, parks, water ways, beaches, marine systems, habitat, species, flora and fauna, and other attractions brings more than 70 million tourists to the state each year.

Sea level rise, increased hurricane intensity, increased storm intensity, drought, fires, human health risks, and other outcomes of climate change could be threats to Florida’s tourism industry. In addition, rising temperatures could make locations further north relatively more attractive to tourists.

**Goal 1:** Assess the economic impact of climate change on the tourism sector.

**Goal 2:** Given the state’s interest in ensuring a healthy tourism sector, assess the level of appropriate investment in the state’s natural resources.

**Goal 3:** Identify possible programs or policies to mitigate any climate-rated damage.

### 7.2 Other Resource-Based Industries

Resource-based industries include tourism but also agriculture, forestry, marine, aquaculture and mining. While these constitute only about 1% of the state’s economy, such industries are important to Florida’s way of life and character. The state should contemplate its interest and role in mitigating the impact of a changing climate on these sectors.

## Goals and Strategies

TBD

### 7.2.1 Agriculture

The productivity of many crops may be impacted by hotter temperatures, altered precipitation patterns, more intense storms, change in runoff patterns, invasive species, and new pests. Bio-

fuels may present new growth opportunities however adequate care should be taken not to displace food crops. Planning for adequate water supplies may be important to sustain this sector.

### 7.2.2 Forests

Aside from the inherent value of Florida's forests as habitat for many native species, our forests have economic value as recreational areas for eco-tourism activities and in their traditional commercial application as a resource for building products. In addition, Florida's many acres of longleaf pines and bottom hardwoods, on both public and private lands, are excellent carbon sinks and could be a source of revenue for landowners, public and private, through a carbon credit trading system.

Forest resources must be conserved and expanded. Work needs to be done to determine the level and areas of risk from climate change impacts (drought, pests, storms, saltwater intrusion and invasive species) for this valuable resource.

### Goals and Strategies

**Goal 1:** Continue existing land acquisition/management programs for forested lands.

**Goal 2:** Adopt land acquisition/management programs with a climate change component.

**Goal 3:** Explore relative carbon sequestration capacity of Florida's native tree species.

**Goal 4:** Explore adaptation of forest stocks through genetics to strengthen stocks against climate change associated risks.

### 7.2.3 Marine

Florida's industries based on living marine resources include commercial and recreational fishing, marine ecotourism including coastal parks and conservation areas, marine pharmaceuticals, and marine research and education. The direct 2006-2007 value of these industries to Florida's economy was \$ 4.4 billion (NOEP, 2008) and the indirect value of related infrastructure and support was many times larger. Adaptive responses to protect the core living resources upon which these industries rely are addressed in ADP-3, "Protection of Ecosystems and Biodiversity." This section addresses threats to the usability and human uses of the resources, beyond considerations made in other adaptation response actions.

The adaptive management of Florida's marine resources and their sustainable use in a changing climate will be designed to protect the living resources and the social, economic, and cultural systems that form our industries.

The geographic ranges and abundances of living marine resources are likely to change as climate, ocean temperatures and currents, water quality, and related controlling factors change. Likewise, the ranges, abundances, and impacts of marine diseases, invasive species, parasites, and harmful algal blooms could change

One consequence of these changes is that fisheries, principal fishing grounds, ecotourism destinations, and the land-based operations and facilities that support the industries may

“migrate” to different areas in the state. Such changes have the potential to affect the economic viability of industries dependent on living marine resources. The same changes can also have negative effects on the health and safety of industry workers and consumers of industry products and service. Public and private investments in land acquisition for future parks and conservation areas, future working waterfronts for fishing and ecotourism, and future marine research and education facilities will be affected by climate change, and the effects could be significant. The same processes that may diminish Florida’s existing marine industries may lead to new opportunities for fisheries, ecotourism, and allied economies. Adaptive management will require an ability to detect and exploit such possibilities.

## Goals and Strategies

**Goal 1:** Provide an integrated tracking and reporting system for the ranges, abundances and condition of species valued for their roles in fisheries, ecotourism, aquaculture, pharmaceuticals, and research.

**Goal 2:** Develop and implement an integrated screening and tracking program for species die-offs, marine diseases, invasive species, and parasites, modeled after the state’s harmful algal bloom programs.

**Strategies:** Goals 1 and 2 will be met through the use and expansion of existing state and federal programs and platforms for monitoring, event responses, data management, and public reporting.

**Goal 3:** Implement educational programs to reduce vessel-based conveyances of unwanted species in Florida waters, and to protect industry workers and consumers from novel health and safety challenges.

**Strategies:** Collaborate with the Florida Sea Grant Extension Service to implement the programs.

**Goal 4:** Develop conceptual plans for the co-location of new working waterfronts for fishing, ecotourism, marine research, etc. that employ green infrastructure adapted to emerging challenges of climate change.

**Strategies:** Engage university planning, engineering, and architectural schools in developing the conceptual plans.

### 7.2.4 Aquaculture

Aquaculture is a rapidly developing industry in Florida. As the state’s fisheries become depleted, either through overharvest or climate change impacts, cultured seafood products will increase in importance. Florida producers sold \$74.9 million of aquaculture products in 2005, ranking Florida #7 in the nation in terms of aquaculture sales. Over 900 Florida aquaculturists produce the greatest variety of aquatic species of any state in the nation. Tropical fish dominate the Florida aquaculture industry as the #1 statewide commodity with \$33 million in sales in 2005,

also making the state the #1 producer nationwide. The state is also a leading U.S. producer of farm-raised aquatic plants and an important producer of hard clams.

The industry could be threatened by warmer water temperatures which may make current breeding grounds unsuitable in the future by exceeding thermal tolerances, reduce dissolved oxygen levels, and allow for introduction of pests and disease. Sea level rise can threaten inundation of facilities, turn freshwaters brackish, and inundate coastal wetlands. Increased intensity of hurricanes and other storms can damage or destroy fisheries and facilities. Drought can reduce freshwater flows and degrade water quality.

### Goals and Strategies

Goal 1: Develop plans for increasing seafood product aquaculture to supplement declining ocean stocks.

Goal 2: Encourage expanded and increased leases on submerged state lands for aquaculture.

Goal 3: Review existing out-of-state marketing programs with an eye to increasing those sales of Florida aquaculture products.

Goal 4: Identify and institute management practices to ensure healthy growth of this industry.

Goal 5: Identify innovative and federal funding sources for both mitigation and adaptive strategies.

### 7.2.5 Mining

Nationally, Florida ranks fifth in the production of limestone, sand and gravel, clay, peat, heavy minerals and phosphate. The state's mines supply one-quarter of the world's and three-quarters of the U.S. domestic needs. Nearly all of the phosphate mined is used for the national and international production of agricultural fertilizer. In 2000, an approximate \$1.13 billion worth of fertilizer was exported. Phosphate mines in northern and central Florida have been a valuable resource for the national and international production of agricultural fertilizers; although many of these lands are now considered degraded and disturbed.

After mining operations have ceased, these lands could be used for rotation bioenergy crops, as well as for carbon sequestration. Mining also has implications for aquifers and water supplies and storage which should be noted here.

### Objectives, Goals, and Strategies

- Study soil carbon dynamics to estimate the long-term potential for carbon sequestration both in new growth forest and through underground sequestration.
- Determine environmental and cost benefits of developing short-rotation woody crops on formerly mined lands.
- Review and select tree species appropriate for such sites

- Identify management practices to ensure plant survival and maximize growth.

### ADP-7.3 Construction

Construction is more than 6% of Florida’s economic output. Construction employment represented approximately 8.5% of total non-agricultural jobs and more than 210,000 annual building permits were issued as recently as the end of 2006. The industry has recently been affected by change in supply and demand of key building materials such as lumber, cement, reinforcing steel and plywood, resulting in huge increases in prices that in some cases reached 200% and 300% or higher in just one year. Climate change has the potential for exerting significant impact on the construction sector through such changes as extreme precipitation, drought, sea level rise or the exacerbation of natural hazards such as storm surge and flooding.

Climate change driven changes in the construction industry has the potential for resulting in significant impacts to the economy of the communities and regions affected and on a much larger scale as well. Some of the consequences of climate change may include the following, all of which would likely result in increased costs:

- The need to adapt existing and future buildings so that they may withstand the impacts of climate change will require that design professionals carry out additional studies and calculations, or engage other experts as consultants.
- Buildings may need to have deeper and stronger foundations, or to be elevated above a higher “zero flood elevation”, or have much higher insulation values than currently required, or to have much higher roof drainage capacity, or to incorporate green building features.
- Higher temperatures during the work day or higher and more frequent extreme precipitation events have the potential for affecting working conditions, which will increase the cost of construction but also the income of construction workers.
- Should the need for adaptation become a requirement for new construction, the demand for adaptation-related practices would increase.
- Retrofitting, demolition, or conversion projects of existing buildings may be needed to adapt them to climate change, or to retreat from hazardous zones.
- Retreat may have an adverse effect on the volume of construction in relatively vulnerable areas leading to economic losses and labor reductions in the construction industry.

#### Objectives:

- Estimate the impact of climate change on the construction industry by establishing a baseline on the basis of current conditions, and by projecting the costs of incorporating adaptation measures that will modify how buildings, housing and infrastructure are built.
- Relate these impacts on the construction industry to actual economic impacts on a local, regional and statewide basis.

- Assess how such construction industry-driven economic impacts will reflect on the various sectors that are interlinked with construction, such as banking/finance, insurance, the labor markets, professional sectors and others already identified herein.
- Measure the sensitivity of the construction industry to a range of non-climate change factors, which may have the potential for affecting the economic aspects of the industry.

**Existing Actions:**

(To be completed by DEP staff)

**Goals and Strategies:**

**Goal 1:** Identify the sensitivity of the construction industry in Florida to a range of external, non-climate change-driven, factors that have the potential for affecting the economic aspects of the construction industry.

**Strategy:**

**Goal 2:** Measure the economic impact resulting both from climate-change-driven consequences on the construction industry and related sectors and from non-climate change factors, with projected scenarios at five-year intervals.

**Strategy:**

**Goal 3:** By June 30, 2011 identify those communities, regions or sectors that may suffer adverse economic consequences as a result of the impact of climate change on the construction industry and related or interlinked sectors, and commission a study to identify effective measures to reduce such potential for adverse consequences.

**Strategy:**

**Goal 4:** Measure how adaptation measures applied through construction methods, materials or design criteria, may reduce the risk of damage to the built environment, and link such risk-reduction to insurance reduction in premiums.

**Strategy:**

## ADP-8. Insurance (Property and Casualty)

### Description of Issues

With more than 2,000 miles of coastline, Florida is physically and financially vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Ninety percent of Floridians live within 50 miles of the coast, and Florida's residential exposure is approaching \$2 trillion. Additionally, the state's largest insurance company—Citizens Property Insurance Corporation—has 1.3 million policyholders and is financially supported by Florida's insurance consumers.

Science has established that climate change increases the intensity of hurricanes. In addition, sea level rise will erode shorelines, threatening many properties, and will result in higher storm surge from hurricanes. Other climate outcomes, such as wildfire, intense rain events, and drought can also pose risks to lives and property. Given Florida's geography, coastal density, and a \$65 billion dollar tourism economy, plus eight major storms in 2004 and 2005, property insurance and affordability issues are one of Florida's major challenges.

### Objectives / Goals

The objective of insurance policy is to encourage insurance companies to provide policyholders with greater disclosure about climate risk. Insurance companies need to adequately inform their customers and shareholders about the risks climate change poses to the insurance business and the ability of the industry to pay policy holders' claims. Insurance companies also need to take necessary steps to mitigate against these risks.

A second objective is to understand the relationship between the threats of climate change, sea level rise and providing affordable insurance premiums to Florida home and business owners.

Third, Florida needs to develop policies that make our coastal communities and infrastructure more resilient to natural disasters through programs such as the My Safe Florida Home program. This successful program has contributed to building a culture of hurricane mitigation in Florida.

Finally, we need to fully define the issues surrounding risk-based pricing in the property and casualty insurance industry for Florida. Our current pricing structure does not truly reflect the risk of loss, particularly for Florida's coastal regions.

### Assets at Risk

Insurance companies insure billions of dollars of assets—homes, businesses, agriculture, infrastructure, parks, and beaches—in Florida. All of these assets and more are at risk to the myriad effects of climate change.

### Existing Actions

In 2005 the Florida legislature passed a law requiring all residential property insurance companies to file with the Office of Insurance Regulation a range of premium discounts they offer customers who live in homes of certain construction types or who apply loss mitigation

devices (like shutters) to their homes. Beginning on September 5, 2007, all property insurers are required to offer higher discounts in their insurance rates for policyholders who had recognized loss mitigation devices on their homes. Insurers are required to send a list of those discounts with exact dollar savings to all new and renewed policyholders.

## ADP-9. Emergency Preparedness and Response (Extreme Events)

### Definition of Issues

Throughout the history of settlement in Florida, extreme weather events – particularly in the form of hurricanes – have played a major role in shaping culture, commerce, and community development. As a result, Florida’s state government has developed one of the more robust emergency preparedness and response infrastructures in the nation. This was particularly evident in the depth of aid provided by Florida during the 2006 hurricane season to Mississippi in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Global climate change is likely to increase Florida’s risk of extreme weather events. While the question of whether hurricane frequency will increase given rising sea-surface temperatures remains uncertain at present, current science does support increased intensity and duration for those storms that do form in the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico. When coupled with rising sea levels, future hurricane events may yield greater storm surge effects to put coastal communities at greater risk for damage than is the case today. In addition, there could more intense rain events, droughts, fires, and heat emergencies.

To be prepared, Florida must build upon its current excellence in emergency preparedness and response in order to protect Florida’s people and build environments from the worst possible effects of heightened extreme weather events.

### Objectives

Florida’s current emergency preparedness and response functions are a coordinated effort between federal, state, and local governmental agencies as well as non-governmental organizations. The objective of Florida’s future emergency preparedness and response functions must be to build on the excellence gained through past experience to assure sufficient capacity and capabilities in protecting public health and welfare in more severe storm events with increased incidence of storm surge and the associated coastal damage. As impacts such as sea level rise and higher storm surges become more evident, development patterns must be constrained by the state’s ability to increase the resiliency of coastal communities as well as protect those communities.

### Assets at Risk

While all of Florida’s counties are subject to extreme weather events, our coastal communities and ecosystems are at particular risk from increased storm surge and increased hurricane intensity. The vast majority (70%) of Florida’s population lives in the coastal zone. Likewise, the vast majority of the state’s existing building stock is situated near the coast. While many coastal ecosystems have adapted to periodic extreme weather, system resiliency in some cases may be undermined due to the loss of extent, pressures from invasive exotic species or other perturbations which prevent post-hurricane recovery.

## Goals and Strategies

**Goal 1:** Assure sufficient response capability among state, regional and local first-responders to potential increases in extreme weather events

**Strategy:**

**Goal 2:** Increase the resiliency of coastal communities to storm surge.

**Strategy:**

**Goal 3:** Increase the resiliency of coastal ecosystems to extreme weather events.

**Strategy:**

**Goal 4:** Plan for other extreme events e.g., flooding, fire, and heat waves.

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## ADP-10. Human Health Concerns

### Description of Issues

Florida's current population is over 18 million, 17% of whom are over 65 years of age (higher than the national average of 12%). By 2030, Florida is projected to be the nation's third most populous state with almost 29 million residents, with 27% of the population projected to be over 65. That keeps Florida as the state with the highest elderly population as a percentage of total population. The elderly have greater vulnerability to impacts of climate change than the population at large, although children under 5, those living in poverty, those living in coastal areas can also be vulnerable.

### Objectives

The health and well-being of the citizens of the state of Florida is of prime importance to the health of our state. Incorporating considerations of climate change into the state's health plan to protect the citizens is as important as designing water treatment infrastructure to reduce harm to human health.

Successful research in this area would identify the increasing risks to human health, which segments of the population are most vulnerable, and how risks to their health can be reduced.

### Assets at Risk

Climate change is expected to have a wide range of impacts on Florida's health systems. The historical range of mosquito- and vector-borne diseases may shift with a changing climate. More intense extreme weather events such as hurricanes, heat waves, flooding, and wildfires, will directly impact human health in Florida. Equally important are alterations in the moisture content of the atmosphere and wind patterns which will likely affect the concentration of air pollution in a given location.

Climate change may increase the risk of some infectious diseases, particularly those diseases that appear in warm areas and are spread by mosquitoes and other insects. These "vector-borne" diseases include malaria, dengue fever, yellow fever, and encephalitis. Also, algal blooms could occur more frequently as temperatures warm — particularly in areas with polluted waters — in which case diseases (such as cholera) that tend to accompany algal blooms could become more frequent.

### Existing Actions

To be drafted out by DEP staff.

## Goals and Strategies

### ADP-10.1 Health Care

**Goal 1:** Ensure that health codes and policies are adequate to protect against known risks from observed climate and appropriately incorporate potential changes in risk from climate change.

**Goal 2:** Regularly revisit health codes and regulations as new evidence of new or altered risks from climate change arises.

**Goal 3:** Strengthen vaccine campaigns.

### ADP-10.2 Air Quality

**Goal 1:** Ensure that air quality polices provide an adequate level of safety to protect against known risks from current climate.

**Goal 2:** Ensure that new air quality policies incorporate potential changes in risks from climate change to ensure appropriate design and mitigation factors.

### ADP-10.3 Waste Water Treatment

**Goal 1:** Ensure that waste water infrastructure provides an adequate level of safety to protect against known risks from current climate.

**Goal 2:** Ensure that new waste water infrastructure incorporates potential changes in risks from climate change to ensure appropriate design and capacity over the lifetime of projects.

### ADP-10.4 Disaster Response

**Goal 1:** Establish communication mechanism to coordinate efforts between disaster relief and public health agencies.

**Goal 2:** Communication systems and plans that address health issues associated with low-income and under-served populations and other vulnerable groups.

**Goal 3:** Adequate training for first responder and emergency responder personnel.

**Goal 4:** Limit growth in areas whose evacuation will be challenged by sea level rise and increased storm frequency/severity.

### ADP-10.5 Medical Treatment and Biomedicine Development

**Goal 1:** Increase state universities medical schools focus to include diseases that can be attributed to climate change.

**Strategy:**

**Goal 2:** Promote the research and development of biopharmaceuticals that can treat the diseases that can be attributed to climate change.

**Strategy:**

## ADP-11. Social Effects

### Description of Issues

Currently Florida's population is over 18 million, and its projected growth is to 29 million by 2030. Additionally, Florida's coasts are home to an estimated 70% of the population. The coastal environment also provides diverse habitats for countless marine and terrestrial species. For centuries, humans have lived, worked, and played along the coasts, and the ocean has long been an important component of the economy from fishing to tourism.

Sea levels are expected to rise in the foreseeable future at an accelerated rate as the earth's climate warms, which makes Florida's coastlines particularly vulnerable. Climate change will likely affect not only the physical coastline, but also the billions of people who live and work in Florida. Understanding the impacts of climate change on our coasts and also our inland areas therefore requires the perspectives of sociologists, economists, and scientists alike.

Society can deal with slow trends in climate, occurring over the many thousands of years that are characteristic of ice age cycles. But decade-to-century changes, i.e., those that occur on the time scales of a human lifetime and the ability of societies to evolve, are potentially catastrophic.

### Objectives

Climate change has the potential to play a major role on human behavior over the next century. Even if all human activities that contribute to global change were stopped today, change would continue as the present surplus of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere will remain for centuries. As of yet, the climate system is not well enough understood to "reverse-engineer" the climate to a state that best suits humanity. Therefore, today Floridians must decide what changes that they must make in their present behaviors in order to live in the changing climate.

### Assets at Risk

Increased development to accommodate Florida's projected population growth will most likely increase climate exposure and risks to Florida's citizens and their current way of life. Florida must recognize that all regions of the state will encounter socioeconomic changes including

- Increased housing and insurance costs, especially related to storm events and sea level rise;
- Increased charges for energy consumption and transportation changes; and
- Increased cost of infrastructure improvements including roads, sewer systems, wastewater treatment facilities, water control structures, and property protection.

### Existing Actions

To be drafted out by DEP staff.

**ADP-11 Social Justice Issues, Food and Water Supply, and Housing**

**Goals and Strategies**

**Goal 1:** Promote social and economic equity, reduce poverty, increase consumption efficiencies, decrease the discharges of wastes, environmental management, and increase the quality of life of vulnerable.

**Strategy:**

**Goal 2:** Assess potential social impacts of climate change on incomes, and other measures of wellbeing in vulnerable communities.

**Strategy:**

**Goal 3:** Ensure basic access to safe food supply and water.

**Strategy:**

**Goal 4:** Ensure basic access to shelter.

**Strategy:**

## ADP-12. Organizing State Government for the Long Haul

### Description of Issues

The range of adaptation planning issues outlined in this document are testament to the number of issue areas and concerns to be adequately addressed in order to assure that Florida successfully adapts to impacts caused by global climate change over the next century. In developing and implementing such a wide-ranging adaptation plan for Florida will require a single point of focus within state government.

During the 2008 regular session of the Florida Legislature, HB 7135 created the Florida Energy and Climate Commission and imbued the commission with a broad range of duties and powers, including the responsibility for coordinating adaptation planning development and implementation within state government. The Florida Energy and Climate Commission is appropriately housed within the Executive Office of the Governor, thus elevating the issue and enabling cross-agency coordination of efforts.

### Objectives

The principal objective is to assure the creation of a single point of focus within state government that can continue assessing the risks posed to Florida by global climate change, that can develop increasingly informed adaptation planning over many decades, and that can learn from prior implementation to adjust adaptation planning in Florida as events on the ground change.

### Assets at Risk

Florida is a state with more than 2000 miles of coastline and mostly low elevations. It is within the historic pathway of destructive weather events and particularly vulnerable to sea level rise, tidal surge saltwater intrusion and flooding. Coastal infrastructure such as roads and bridges, utilities as well as town and cities are also at risk. Florida has already felt the effects of mass human migrations for storm events alone, these conditions are expected to worsen in the future and be less temporary in nature. Freshwater resources are increasingly precious in the state and already pressured by Florida's growing population. Climate change poses risks to terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, agriculture, forestry and fisheries as well. All of these stresses can add to existing stresses, such as population growth, land-use change and pollution. The state of Florida will be affected by climate change through impacts on its physical assets, changes in revenues and expenditures, and changes in activities it regulates.

### Goals and Strategies

- The Legislature created the Florida Energy and Climate Commission, which appears at present to have the sufficient scope, powers, and resources to accomplish the intent of this adaptation planning element. However, it will be important to assess the effectiveness of the Commission in addressing adaptation.

## ADP-13. State Funding and Financing

### Description of Issues

Adequate adaptation funding for Florida would include funds made available to address the impacts of climate change. Many programs are already intact and intended to address some of these impacts. Some of these programs are already funded and some may even have dedicated financing streams, but most of those existing programs are subject to political/economic cycles and disruption. Climate change impacts can be expected to intensify in the future and might also be expected to occur simultaneously, on all fronts, as opposed to the isolated incidences that Floridians and program resources are accustomed to. If and when this happens, it can be expected to greatly increase the pressure on the funding and financing infrastructure.

### Objectives

Florida should be prepared to fund the protection of human health and critical infrastructure as well as address other impacts of climate change, where feasible, within a framework of protection, accommodation and, in some cases, retreat.

### Assets at Risk

Florida is a state with more than 2000 miles of coastline and mostly low elevations. It is within the historic pathway of destructive weather events and particularly vulnerable to sea level rise, tidal surge saltwater intrusion and flooding. Coastal infrastructure such as roads and bridges, utilities as well as town and cities are also at risk. Under certain historic climatic conditions, Florida has already felt the effects of mass human migrations for storm events alone, these conditions are expected to worsen in the future and be less temporary in nature. Freshwater resources are increasingly precious in the state and already pressured by Florida's growing population. Climate change poses risks to terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, agriculture, forestry and fisheries as well. All of these stresses can add to existing stresses, such as population growth, land-use change and pollution, further straining any existing funding and financial resources intended to address these impacts.

### Goals and Strategies

**Goal 1:** Examine existing funding and financing infrastructure to determine adequacy for meeting increased demands of climate change impacts.

**Goal 2:** Examine alternative financing methods to meet climate change demands and consider protecting these from short term economic and political cycles by dedicating funding.

**Goal 3:** Consider strategies for emergency funding/financing mechanisms for unforeseen and unplanned consequences of climate change.

**Goal 4:** Consider carbon credit revenues as adaptation financing resource

**Goal 5:** Examine opportunities for federal funds from emerging federal climate change legislation.

**Goal 6:** Encourage investment of state employee pension funds.

## ADP-14. Coordinating with Other Regulatory and Standards Entities

### Description of Issues

The federal government is participating in a wide range of climate activities nationwide. They also fund state and regional entities that provide climate services. Activities include data collection, interpretation and product dissemination. Primary agencies involved include the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Several products produced by federal agencies, such as drought severity categories and river flood forecasts that trigger a variety of Florida emergency and economic relief activities. Additional Federal entities to be considered include: U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), Dept. of Energy including the Energy Star Program, National Science Foundation, and others.

In addition, a number of professional societies are actively involved in climate change activities to better understand the potential impacts of climate change on the members they serve. Additionally, these societies often represent fundamental public service providers (e.g., water utilities) and need early involvement in decision-making, require sufficient data to make informed decisions regarding risk and reliability, public health and safety and financial management. Collectively, they represent a broad base of the population, possess unmatched knowledge of the industry they represent and offer tremendous opportunities for technology transfer, public education and widespread reach.

### Objectives

There is considerable research, data, potentially impacted end-users and other interested parties directly involved with climate change, directly affected by climate change and/or have the ability to directly impact funding, research priorities, communications or other aspects of the climate change community.

- Develop functional relationships between selected federal government agencies/departments/entities, the State of Florida and key professional societies to collaborate on climate change issues of mutual interest
- Develop a research agenda to address shared interests priorities
- Identify and align with funding sources and allocation decisions essential to Florida's future as it relates to climate change

### Assets at Risk

The Federal Government has the lead and is central to most of the significant climate change and related programs, research, funding and information dissemination. Failing to actively engage with the various agencies will result in missed opportunities to ensure that Florida needs are expressed, understood and addressed. Additionally, working in a vacuum will result in waste and inefficient use of our limited financial, intellectual and physical resources and will under

leverage the vast pool of resources that have been working on climate change and related issues for years. Lastly, we must actively engage with the Federal process and work as a cohesive unit (a state with numerous needs, challenges and sometimes competing objectives) to ensure that we are not competing among each other for limited dollars and research priorities.

### Existing Actions

HB 7135, passed during the 2008 Legislative Session, requires the DEP and the Department of Education (DOE), in coordination with the business community, the environmental community and the energy community, to develop an awards program to recognize efforts or achievements concerning conservation, energy and water reduction, green cleaning solutions, green pest management, recycling efforts and curriculum development that enhances the quality of education while preserving the environment. The legislature encourages DOE and DEP to form partnerships with the private sector to help fund the program. The provision would implement an environmental and educational award recognition program that encourages district school boards, teachers, classes and students to actively participate in strategies leading to environmental preservation.

#### 14.1 Federal Government

### Goals and Strategies

**Goal 1:** Develop a clear understanding of the functions and information available (needed) of key federal agencies.

**Goal 2:** Identify data gaps and prioritize research needs to establish an agreed-upon research agenda representing Florida’s collective needs.

**Goal 3:** Prioritize funding needs, develop a strategy to secure federal and federal flow-down funding to meet strategic needs in Florida.

The appendix includes the name and summarizes the function of key Federal agencies (by category) involved with or who have a stake in climate change.

#### 14.2 Professional Societies

### Goals and Strategies

**Goal 1:** Engage professional societies to establish industry priorities for research and funding; to work with state and Federal officials to promote priorities.

**Goal 2:** Develop training and technology transfer tools and engage professional societies to reach members.

**Goal 3:** Establish a “cross functional” professional society task force responsible for coordinating climate change issues within their respective industries.

The appendix includes the name and summarizes the function of key professional societies involved with or who have a stake in climate change.

## ADP-15. Public Education and Outreach

### Description of Issues

Public education and outreach about climate change in Florida is needed to support necessary mitigation and adaptation actions. Florida is “ground zero” for climate change impacts in the US with its low lying and densely populated coastal zones, susceptibility to hurricanes, and vulnerable natural resources. It seems that few people realize Florida’s vulnerability, but these few are crying out for detailed and accurate information and solutions. A focused and comprehensive stakeholder education and outreach program is a key component in building support for the mitigation and adaptation policy changes that will become critical issues in Florida.

### Objectives

Florida can become a national and international leader in the dissemination of climate change information, educating a broad diversity of constituents with a cutting-edge and successful public education program. The success of any climate change adaptation demands full participation of the stakeholders (i.e., citizens of Florida). The objectives of a successful public education outreach program would be three fold:

1. To educate all of the stakeholders including state leadership, state and regional government who implement adaptations, citizens of Florida (including retirees, families, work force, and students K-16), and the broader business community both within and outside of Florida but who are important stakeholders in Florida’s adaptation actions. Share not only current knowledge of the impacts already occurring and expected in Florida, but also short and long term solutions.
2. To design an over-arching program that could be quickly and effectively disseminated to the stakeholders listed above (in clear, concise and simple terms so that all Floridians can embrace the knowledge).
3. Train, engage and coordinate climate change adaptation practitioners, and needed technical support, to help Florida plan for climate change. Climate change adaptation science and related policy improvements are developing fields requiring specific conceptual and technical skills which independently exist in the expert community but require facilitation and training to bring together in an adaptation experts support group.
4. Link public education outreach programs to the best climate change science, so that issues relating to adaptation and risk management create positive solutions to the environmental challenges of the future.

### Assets at Risk

Principal risks include misunderstood and failed policy actions resulting in political stalemate and inaction. The best climate change adaptation programs will be at risk if they are not embraced by the stakeholders. The best policies might be approved in Tallahassee, but the full

understanding and education of citizens will insure their timely implementation and endorsement. A good example is Sarasota County, which has excellent sustainability policies in force with local leadership, but very little comprehension of the issues or “buy-in” by the constituents as witnessed by the fact that Sarasota County was recently “awarded” last place in a statewide carbon footprint audit.

Additionally, adaptation only “buys time.” Rapid and significant greenhouse gas mitigation is the only long-term solution. Understanding that the two must go hand-in-hand is crucial.

## Goals and Strategies

### Goal 1: Train Immediate Training on Climate Change Adaptation

#### Strategy:

- Short (2-day) executive seminars for CEOs and State Legislators, designed for policy makers, conducted by scientists trained in public education outreach
- A follow-up series of comprehensive workshops (4–6 days) mixing business and civic leaders from public and private sectors. Local teachers should be included in all sessions.

### Goal 2: Educate the Public

#### Strategy: Initiate major public education campaign

- Use high profile media and other appropriate outlets to raise general awareness on climate change in Florida. Make connections between mitigation and adaptation solutions and policy changes. Educate about the expected costs of inaction and delayed action compared to the costs of acting proactively. Focal topics can include: Heat waves and associated health risks, sea level rise and associated infrastructure and property risks, wildfire risks, species disturbances and habitat loss/change and associated ecosystem services losses (impacts to valuable and highly visible resources such as coral bleaching), risks to water supplies, etc. Focus groups can include: the public, policymakers, media, business leaders, developers, landowners/buyers/sellers, etc.

### Goal 3: Create adaptation training and collaboration opportunities

**Strategy:** Create opportunities for government agencies to work together and with climate change adaptation experts to develop needed skills in applying adaptation concepts in their every day management and planning. Adaptation focus areas would be natural resources and ecosystem services, infrastructure and development, financial markets, job markets, and human health and welfare. Technical expert focus groups would include Florida’s policy makers, research institutions, NGOs, water boards, state agencies, media, etc.

## Existing Actions

HB 7135, passed during the 2008 Florida Legislative Session, addressed public outreach and education by requiring the DEP and the Department of Education (DOE), in coordination with the business community, the environmental community and the energy community, to develop an awards program to recognize efforts or achievements concerning conservation, energy and water reduction, green cleaning solutions, green pest management, recycling efforts and

curriculum development that enhances the quality of education while preserving the environment. The legislature encourages DOE and DEP to form partnerships with the private sector to help fund the program. The provision would implement an environmental and educational award recognition program that encourages district school boards, teachers, classes and students to actively participate in strategies leading to environmental preservation.

