

RESILIENCE!

OCTOBER 2023

THE HEAT IS ON

How Broward County is planning for rising temperatures and record-breaking heat

NEWSLETTER OF THE
BROWARD COUNTY
RESILIENT
ENVIRONMENT
DEPARTMENT



RESILIENT
ENVIRONMENT



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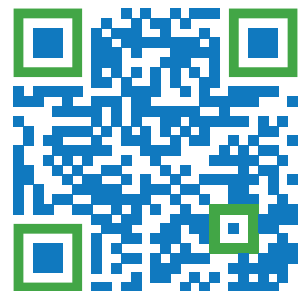
Broward County will be attending the 15th Annual Southeast Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit on November 16 & 17. This year's theme is 'Transformative Climate Action', aiming to secure our collective regional prosperity, livability, and security.

Resilience Plan Steering Committee

The committee's seventh meeting on August 23 featured progress reports on heat data analysis, stakeholder input, community outreach, economics modeling, and methodology to be applied in the county-owned asset analysis.

The team is currently finalizing the baseline no-action economic model results with the final memorandum to be shared and presented at the next Steering Committee meeting on October 11, 2023.

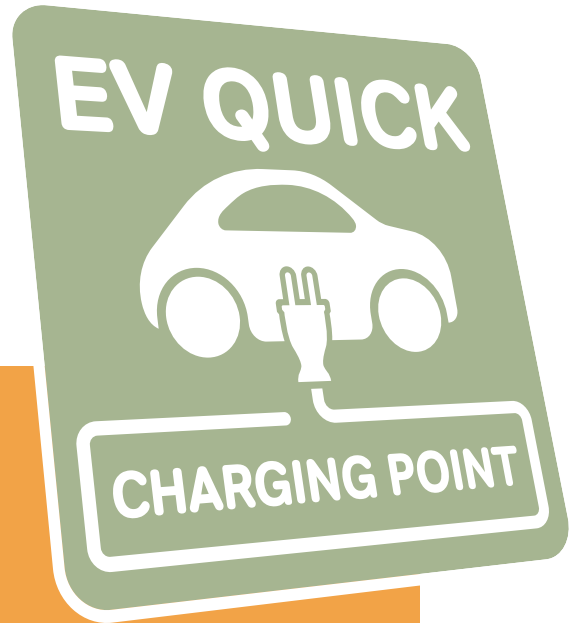
Read more on our progress: broward.org/ResiliencePlan





C2C: Clean Energy to Communities

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY



EV BEST PRACTICE & STRATEGIES

The Resilient Environment Department has been accepted into the US Department of Energy's Clean Energy to Communities (C2C) Cohort on Planning and Funding for EV Charging infrastructure Deployment alongside the Clean Cities Coalition.

This collaborative working group is sharing best practices and strategies amongst communities throughout the US with a shared goal of ensuring the nation's charging infrastructure stays ahead of the ever-increasing demand for electric vehicles.

BROWARD'S ON THE CHARGE

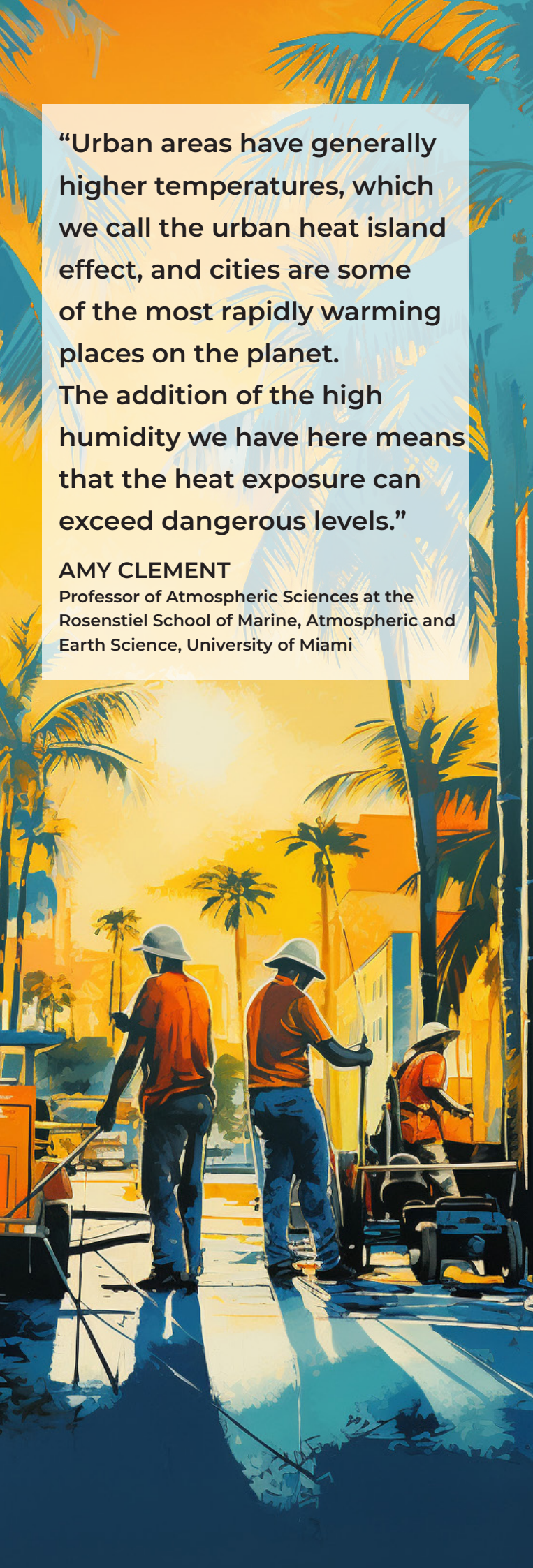
Much progress is being made on the Electric Vehicle (EV) charging front here at Broward County.

We are currently in the late stages of procurement for a crucially important EV Charging Network Management Software that will allow us to control access, manage loads, and monitor usage and downtime for our charging stations throughout County facilities.

We are also in the process of procuring a contractor for the Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy to support expansion of EV charging infrastructure county-wide.

Outside of the procurement world, the County has also submitted an application to the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) federal grant program for almost two million dollars to accelerate the rollout of EV chargers on public-facing County owned property. If successful, this grant will also allow for an expansion of our Charging Strategy project as well as public outreach and education to increase EV adoption.





“Urban areas have generally higher temperatures, which we call the urban heat island effect, and cities are some of the most rapidly warming places on the planet. The addition of the high humidity we have here means that the heat exposure can exceed dangerous levels.”

AMY CLEMENT

Professor of Atmospheric Sciences at the Rosenstiel School of Marine, Atmospheric and Earth Science, University of Miami

LONG HOT SUMMER

2023 SET HEAT RECORDS ALL SUMMER LONG.

BROWARD'S RESILIENCE UNIT IS PREPARED FOR FUTURE HEATWAVES

Summer heatwaves scorched the Southeast and records continued to be set. On August 31, Miami set a daily high temperature record with a high of 96 degrees. The very next day, Fort Lauderdale followed suit, breaking its daily heat record at 95 degrees, according to National Weather Service data.

Many Florida locations experienced a record-hot summer this year. Miami, Tampa, Orlando, Daytona Beach and Tallahassee all experienced their hottest summer on record.

Miami had a 34-day run of 90-degree weather — its fourth-longest on record — that ended in late July, only to be resumed shortly thereafter. Every day of August has reached at least 90 there, including six in a row of 94 or 95.

In 2023, Fort Lauderdale spent 28 hours over the 108 degree heat index. Although Fort Lauderdale had its hottest feeling day at 118°, the average of 85.2° fell just short of the all-time record of 85.7° from August of 2007.

While CO₂ emissions are the primary factor driving warming trends, this year's extremes were also influenced by particularly strong El Niño conditions. NASA warns that we haven't seen the worst of El Niño. They report that there is more than 95% chance that the El Niño weather pattern will continue through into next year.

“We anticipate that 2024 is going to be an even warmer year because we're going to be starting off with that El Niño event. That will peak towards the end of this year, and how big that is is going to have a big impact on the following year's statistics.”

GAVIN SCHMIDT

Director, NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies.

HOTTER AT NIGHT

One of the biggest signals that South Florida's climate is changing is nighttime temperatures. Without nighttime cooling temperatures tend to climb, particularly in urban environments where concrete and asphalt

concentrate warming.

Overall this can put extra strain on home energy use, specifically an increased need for air conditioning. An Arizona State University report recently concluded that our increasing use of air conditioning systems at night can make some urban environments more than 1 degree Celsius hotter, with the extra warmth contributing to the growing urban heat island effect.

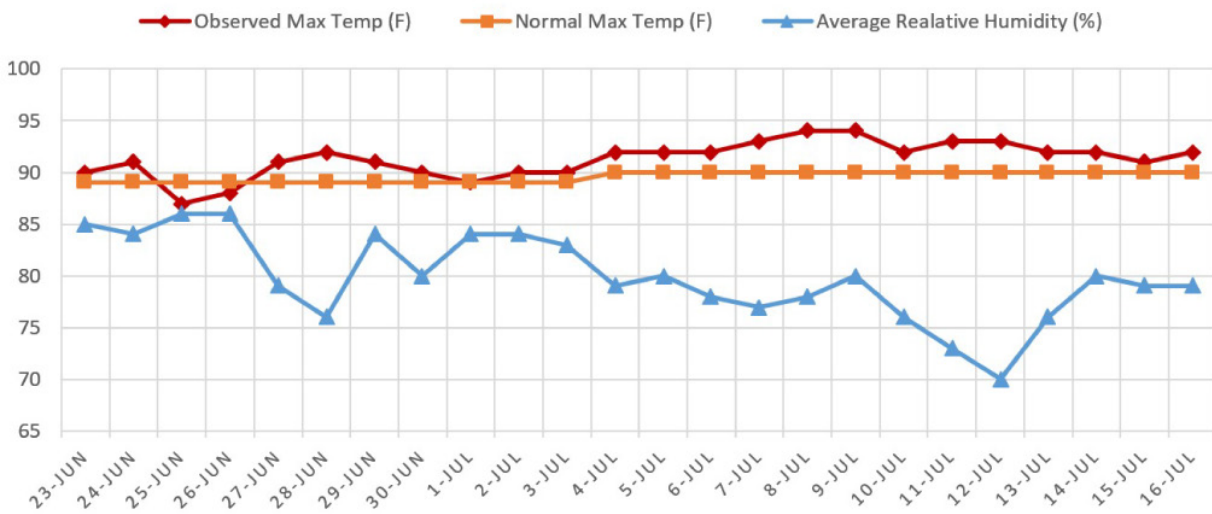
OCEAN IMPACT

Marine heatwaves across the Atlantic Ocean have warmed nearby waters with sea surface temperatures surrounding Florida running 5-7°F above the 30-year normal at the height of summer.

NOAA tracked a steady climb in global ocean temperatures since April 2023, which caused unprecedented heat stress conditions in the Caribbean Basin, including waters surrounding Florida. 48 percent of the global oceans were in the midst of a marine heatwave in August 2023 —a larger area than for any other month since the start of the record in 1991.



RECENT DAILY TEMPERATURE & HUMIDITY AT FORT LAUDERDALE NWS STATION



Fort Lauderdale's high temperatures averaged two degrees above normal between 23 June and 16 July 2023.

Marine heatwaves cause particular stress to coral reefs and other sensitive marine ecosystems. Exposure to extreme temperature for long periods of time causes a breakdown in the relationship between coral and the algae that live inside of them. The coral is left pale or white, i.e., bleached.

In situations where bleaching causes extensive coral death, recovery is dependent on new coral recruits settling and growing on the reef. This is a time-consuming process, even on relatively healthy reefs.

BROWARD COUNTY RESILIENCE UNIT

The Resilient Environment Department has been expanding heat research initiatives and outreach, as well as updating a heat story map web page and analysis of heat trends and predictions. 2023 has seen interagency collaborations on getting heat alerts, safety tips, heat

survey, or other resources to the public. Department staff attended and supported local events, and presented workshops to engage in dialogue on health and safety implications with the public, to hear their concerns and ideas on solutions.

At the request of the Broward County Climate Change Task Force staff drafted a resolution to lower the heat advisory and warning thresholds, to facilitate more adequate preparation and response times.

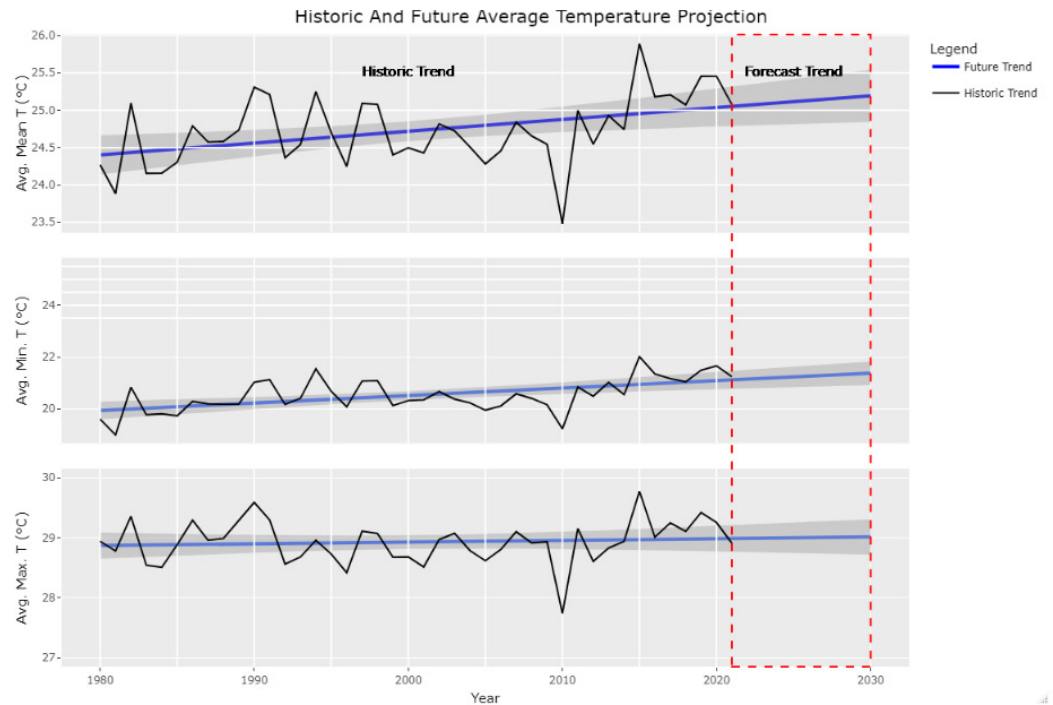
The Resilience Unit is continuing to facilitate information exchanges between heat and health experts and the public, and efforts to collect and assess responses from the public via our Extreme Heat Community Survey will continue into 2024.

Beat The Heat Broward can be viewed here: bit.ly/BrowardHeat.

Broward County Resilience Unit Temperature Forecast Overview based on 40 year historic trends.

The plot shows the average temperature forecasting for Broward County over ten years.

The mean, minimum and maximum increase is forecast to be 0.14C, 0.27C and 0.02C respectively.

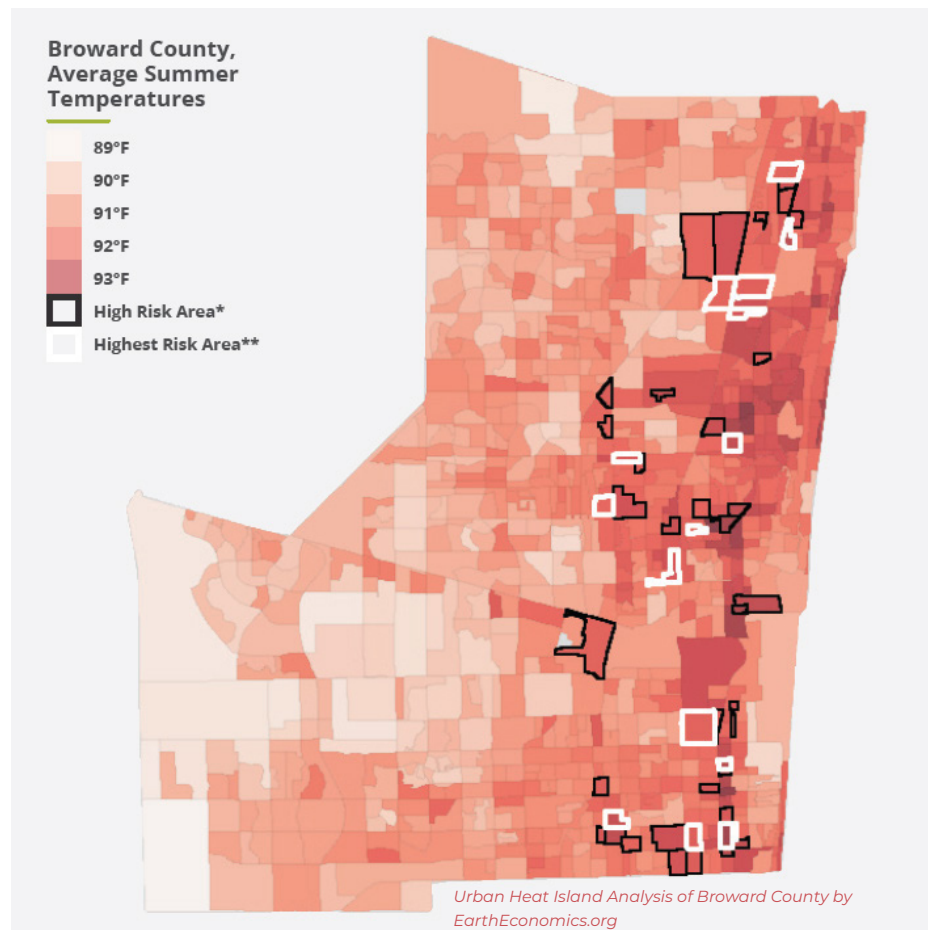


BROWARD COUNTY URBAN HEAT ISLAND

This map illustrates that the areas with the highest average summer temperatures and the communities most vulnerable to these temperatures are concentrated in eastern Broward surrounding major highways such as the I-95 and I-595.

*High Risk Area is defined as neighborhoods where the urban heat islands increase temperatures by 2°F or more and where average per capita incomes are less than 200% the federal poverty level.

**Highest Risk Area is defined as neighborhoods where High Risk Area criteria is met as well as a high percentage of population in high risk age groups (under age 14 or over age 65).



WORKING OUTDOORS

While the harvesting season for many seasonal workers in Florida is from the fall to the spring, there are people working outside every day in Broward County.

Broward County's Natural Resources Division includes experienced team members used to dealing with what is on track to becoming South Florida's hottest year so far.

MICHAEL GUTIERREZ

As a member of Broward County's NatureScape Irrigation Service Team, Michael works in the field 4 out of 5 day a week.



Interviewed by Adrienne Aiken from Broward County Resilient Environment Department.

Michael: When I'm out in the field I'm always covered up. That includes a long-brim hat and protective eyewear.

I wear eye protection more regularly in the summer because of the intense reflection of the sun when working around water. I always use UV and polarized sunglasses.

JEFF DELOIAN

of Broward County's Naturescape Irrigation Service evaluates irrigation system water use efficiency at large sites, and works outdoors 2-3 days a week minimum and for most of the day.



Adrienne: How has the extreme heat been impacting you outside during your field work?

Jeff: I take extra precautions. The primary precaution is additional water. I believe very strongly in taking on additional electrolytes while working in the heat outside. Sometimes I will put a little lemon juice and salt in my water. I will also start earlier in the day before the heat is too intense.

Having done this work for several years now, does this summer feel hotter than the previous years or about the same?

I think a little bit but I am aging and so the heat is having a greater impact on me now. I have noticed that when the wind is coming out of the South, Southwest, I really feel the extreme heat. In preparation, I also track the weather patterns. I do feel it a little more than usual.



KARINA SUAREZ

is Broward County Natural Resources Water Conservation Coordinator and conducts water audits for Broward County Public Schools.

Interviewed by Amy Dinter from the Resilient Environment Department.

Amy: What measures are you taking to keep yourself safe during these days of extreme heat when Broward is under a high heat index warning?

Karina: When working in the sun, the biggest thing for me that I am concerned about is sun exposure. I always have a hat on, sunscreen SPF 50 at least on my face and all over my body. I keep my legs and arms completely covered and wear sunglasses. These are the basic things I do when I am outside working. I also make sure to always have water and I take breaks and get out of the sun when my body alerts me to the fact that I am getting very hot.

When you take breaks are there any special conditions you look for?

Doing water audits I am outdoors in the irrigation areas so sometimes being able to go indoors is not possible. My first go to is finding a tree. If I can go inside, that is even better, however a tree with a wide shady canopy does a lot!

FIVE TIPS FOR OUTDOOR WORKERS

UNDERSTAND HEAT HAZARDS

Learn to recognize the risk of heat illness due to high temperature, humidity, sun or thermal exposure, work demands, & personal risk factors.

DON'T SKIP SHADE BREAKS

A heavy workload increases heat generated by the body. Don't skip rest breaks. Drinking a cup of water every 20 minutes and resting in the shade for at least 10 minutes can allow your body to cool down & recover from the heat.

LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER

Say something if you see a co-worker in a potentially dangerous situation, or appears to be suffering from heat exhaustion.

DRESS FOR THE HEAT

Wear lightweight, loose fitting clothes - light colors reflect the heat better than darker colors. Shirts with long sleeves cover the body and protect against sunburn.



SPEAK UP

Do not silently overexert yourself in hazardous conditions. If you need more frequent breaks, a schedule change to a cooler time of day, or you are not feeling well, communicate with your supervisor or employer.



THE COUNTY BRAIN



THE BROWARD COUNTY INNOVATION UNIT TAKES US INTO THE FUTURE, THROUGH THE BROWARD COUNTY DATA PORTAL

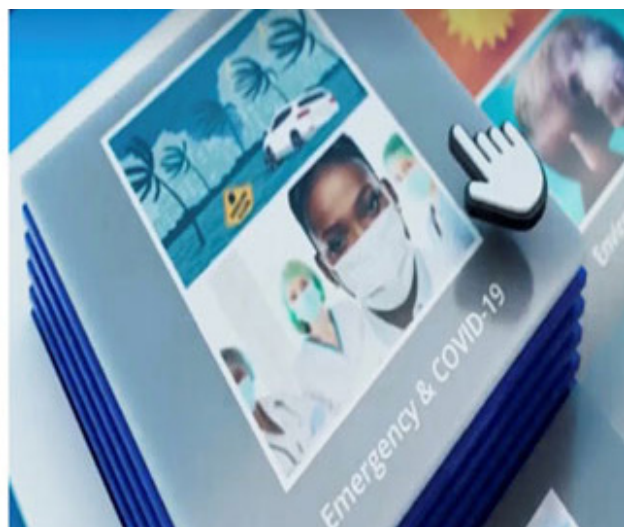
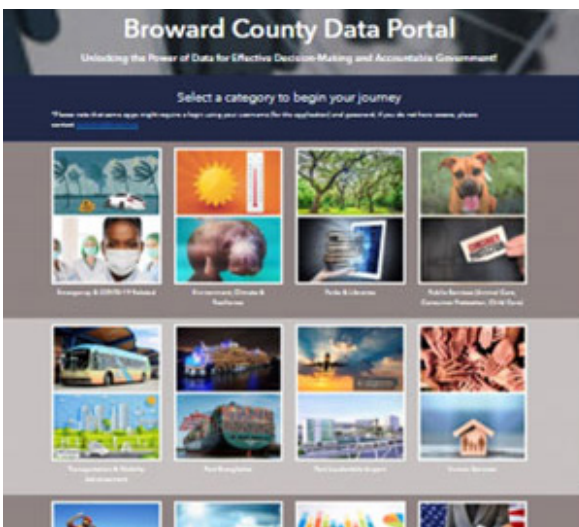
The Innovation Unit was established over 3 years ago under the leadership of Chief Innovation Officer and Director of the Resilient Environment Department, Lenny Vialpando. Led by Phil McChesney and Bilal Hashmi, the unit also includes data scientists and business analysts, a 3-D artist, a graphic designer and a visual storyteller.

and apps for many of the County agencies' programs and initiatives. Regardless of data type or source, the Data Portal "points" to the data wherever it resides (rather than copying or replicating it), eliminating the need to visit multiple websites or agency data pages.

DATA PORTAL

In June 2023 the Innovation Unit launched the Broward County Data Portal in June. A single point-of access for all things data related, it provides easy access and visibility of dashboards, maps, datasets,

This internal version is for County agencies to use, and moves us closer to the second phase of building and launching a parallel, public-facing Citizen Data Portal with much of the same agency-approved data, in addition to data from other federal, state, and local data sources.



Broward County Leadership Share Thoughts



“We, in County Administration, relied very heavily on this data,

particularly on the hospital dashboard, in the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We reviewed those reports every day and based decisions in the County on that data: number of available hospital beds and ventilators and total capacity, as well as adults vs pediatric and special needs patients. The data was critical and so helpful. This (the data portal) will be an amazing tool that everyone will be able to utilize.”

MONICA CEPERO
Broward County Administrator



“Our vision for the Data Portal -- what we initially referred to as the ‘County

Brain’ -- was for it to support the elimination or reduction of data silos, facilitate cross-collaboration among agencies, making and aiding more effective and data-informed decisions and recommendations for the County.”

PHIL MCCHESENEY
Director, Consumer Protection Division, Assistant Chief Innovation Officer



Left: Broward County Innovation Unit receives two National Association of Counties 2023 Achievement Awards. Right: Phil McChesney and Bilal Hashmi presenting the new Data Portal at the Quarterly Leaders Meeting.



“The goal for the Data Portal, is to be a central location where you can interact with business intelligence visualizations for anything cool and innovative happening in the County, and that it be agnostic to County agency organizational structure. We designed it by subject matter, making data access user-centric where any user can find what they are looking for regardless of whether they search under subject matter, data type, or data analytics software.”

BILAL HASHMI

Manager of Information Systems and Innovation Broward County

NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

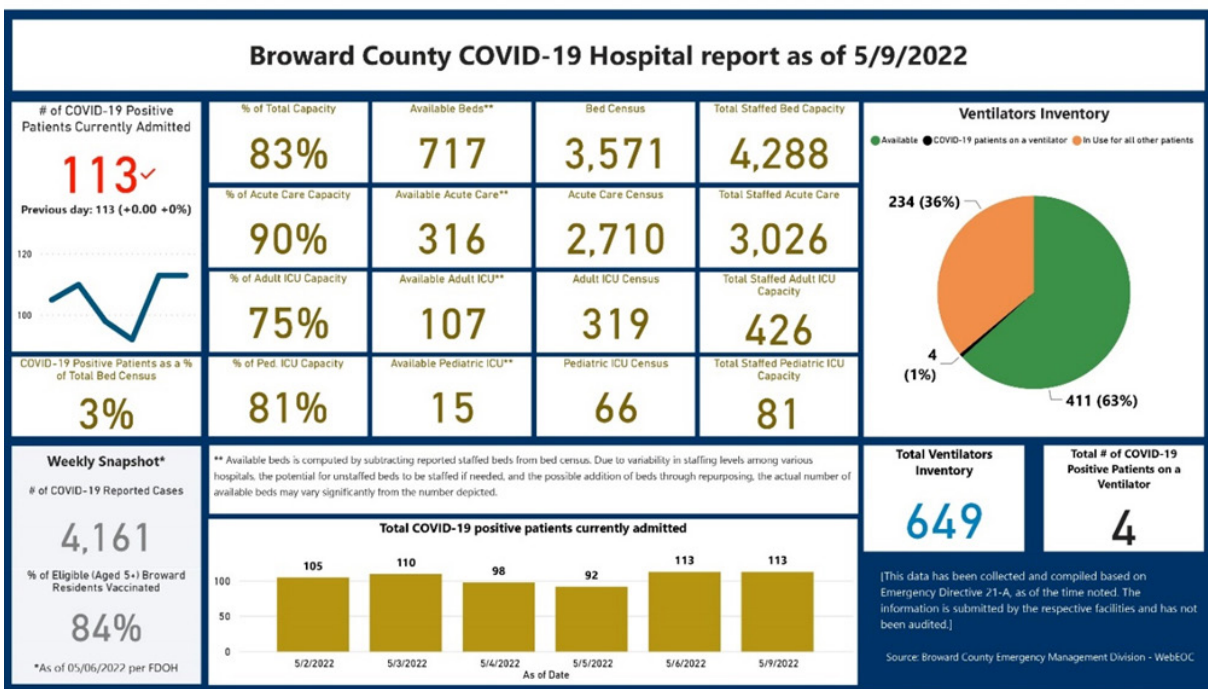
The Broward County Innovation Unit was the recipient of two National Association of Counties (NACo) 2023 Achievement Awards on behalf of Broward County Government for “Dynamic COVID Response Data Visualization” and “Interactive Contracts Management Data Visualization.”

DYNAMIC COVID RESPONSE DATA VISUALIZATION PROJECT

This project used data analytics to greatly enhance resource allocation, and communication (both within organizations and to the public), in addition to allowing a more diverse and inclusive outreach effort that substantially improved Broward County’s recovery from the physical, economic, and social impacts of COVID-19.

FLOOD FACTOR PROJECT

Using extensive data from a new collaboration with the First Street Foundation, Broward County’s Resilience and Innovation Units organized the Flood Factor dataset to support county-wide evaluations of flood risk based on risk scores, economics, property type and geography. First Street’s data serves as an important complement to existing sources of flood risk data including FEMA flood maps and the County’s own hydrologic modelling.



Above: The Dynamic COVID Response Data Visualization.

This Flood Factor data visualization helps reinforce the extensive need for community-wide adaptation planning consistent with the County’s efforts to produce an organized infrastructure plan and address these combined and shared flood risks. It demonstrates the shared need of our full community and how we all stand to benefit from resilience strategies.

CONTRACTS MANAGEMENT

The Interactive Contracts Management Dashboards provide real-time visualization of County contract data, including usage, pending expirations, and goal performance, thereby allowing staff to manage contract resources and make decisions more effectively, timely, and efficiently.

WHAT’S ON THE HORIZON?

A lot! The Broward County Innovation Unit is just getting started, with several new projects in the works.

Not only is the Innovation Unit tackling solutions for existing new technologies, like chat bots and augmented reality, but they are constantly scanning the landscape and thinking about opportunities and challenges for our County in the months and years ahead. From mobility to housing to climate resilience, technology and data-integrated innovation will be integral to Broward County’s future. “Broward Innovates!”

Broward.org/Innovation

CITY FURNITURE

Climate change is not a problem that can be fully tackled by the public sector alone. Only through collaboration and partnership between all stakeholders, and we're ALL stakeholders, can progress truly be made towards the goal of a resilient Broward for years to come.

With this in mind, we've decided to add a new segment to our newsletter highlighting the amazing things happening amongst the businesses of Broward County.

This edition's spotlight focuses on CITY Furniture, who hosted their second annual Green City Summit on July 20th at their Corporate Office in Tamarac. Members of the Resilient Environment Department attended the summit and spoke to the CITY Furniture team to learn more about their resilience initiatives.

GREEN CITY SUMMIT

Why was the Green City Summit first created, and how has it met or exceeded expectations?

The first Green Summit was held in 2021 with the goal to inspire sustainable business practices, celebrate leaders in resiliency, and be a good networking opportunity for our partners.

We're constantly receiving feedback from attendees that they have been able to jump start their sustainability efforts through the networking we've set up for attendees.

The Florida Panthers were able to directly connect with Coca-Cola Beverages Florida to discuss how to bring a Reverse Vending Machine (*RVM - a machine that accepts empty beverage containers for recycling, returning a deposit*) to the FLA Live Arena. We're proud that we were able to help foster these relationships that help make the world a better place.

What did you learn from year one that was brought into year two, and if it's not too early, what are you planning for next year?

This year we moved the Summit to our Corporate Offices so we could take attendees on tours to see our sustainable efforts in action. We're hoping to expand on the "show and tell" aspect in year 3 and want to showcase more sustainable efforts from other companies. For example, Coca-Cola Beverages Florida brought their RVM and attendees were able to see the machine's recycling capabilities first hand by. It was very cool to see in person!



Above: CITY Furniture's new electric yard tractor produces less noise, vibration and heat than diesel versions. Below: CITY Furniture's entire delivery truck fleet runs on Compressed Natural Gas (CNG).



We also want to make sure that sustainability stays top of mind by adding more programming to continue the conversations outside of the event. Starting with Zero Emissions Day (10/4), we invite not just Green Summit attendees, but anyone interested in learning more about sustainability efforts to follow @CityFurniture on Instagram.

What call-to-action do you have for other local businesses, and how have you seen them react to the Summit and your green initiatives?

As one of the first leaders in our industry to make sustainability part of our company ethos, we know how hard it can be to find the right partners to make this happen. We want to share our knowledge and help support local businesses by connecting them with vetted resources.

While there's much we can help with, there's also so much more we can learn. We are always eager to hear from fellow leaders about emerging trends or technology and grow our partnership network.



COMPANY CULTURE

Are your employees titled as “Sustainability” employees or is the idea that everyone should be responsible

for sustainability with their existing roles/departments?

We currently use a committee approach with representatives from all departments as part of our Green Leadership Team. They meet at regular intervals to align on goals and problem solve so we can continue to move the needle forward.

How has the prioritization of sustainability affected your talent acquisition and retention?

Potential new hires are often surprised to hear how heavily we focus on sustainability, not just at the Sr. level, but in every level of our business. They are looking for companies to that align with their values and we are always excited to find associates who share this value as passionately as well do.

Has your team made any adjustments or considerations for heat resilience?

When we hosted the Summit, we were in the middle of a recording breaking excessive heat warning.

While we already run energy efficient ACs in showrooms and



19 Electric Vehicle Charging Stations at three Showrooms Including twelve installed at CITY Furniture Corporate Headquarters

offices, heat resiliency is top of mind. Especially after hearing how our panelists believe this is something we’ll continue to face in the years to come.

GREEN INITIATIVES

The CITY Furniture fleet is very impressive in its green impacts, how has it paid off in terms of impact on the bottom line?

Last year we ran 6,950,337 miles with our Green Fleet. We use Compressed Natural Gas with an average Gas Gallon Equivalent of \$1.19 across all of our locations as of August 2023. While the depreciation on the truck varies, it only took about 4 years for our Isuzu delivery trucks, and 8 years on our Peterbilt trucks for the investment to break even.

How have your “green” product lines sold compared to others?

Our customers love that we have these options in the showroom, and we are working closely with



CITY Furniture is one of the first privately-owned retailers based in Florida to adopt CNG for use by a sizeable fleet of medium-duty trucks that deliver goods directly to consumers. Upon Completion of the Miami Gardens CNG Station in 2023, all CITY Furniture Distribution Centers will be Equipped with a CNG Station.

our merchandising teams to expand the line ups to more styles. Additionally, CITY has committed to avoiding the use of unsustainable wood materials in all of our products and are working with the World Wildlife's Fund Forest Forward program to continuously improve our sourcing.

Anything else you want to cover that hasn't been asked?

Internally, we've really focused on our Materiality Matrix to realign our goals, energize leaders, and set the pace for 2040 Green Promise. We are going into 2040 with intermediate targets to drive more impact.

We also want to expand our Earth Day initiative with Habitat for Humanity to save more furniture from landfills. Our customers feel good knowing that they are making an impact locally, having saved over 50,000lbs of furniture to date.

Right now, this initiative takes place during Earth Day weekend in limited markets. We have ambitious goals to expand this program to larger markets, and eventually make this an opportunity that customers can participate in year-round.

Read more about CITY Furniture's Community activities at cityfurniture.com/company/city-cares/

Thank you to the CITY Furniture team for all of the work to further resilience initiatives amongst the private sector in Broward County. If you would like to nominate another business to be featured in the next edition of the Private Sector Spotlight, please email us at Resilience@broward.org for more details.



SCHOOL BUSES GO ELECTRIC

In the 2023/24 school year, Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) will be operating the largest electric school bus fleet in the state thanks to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)'s Diesel Emissions Mitigation Program and Florida Power & Light.

The Diesel Emissions Mitigation Program is funded by the state's Volkswagen Settlement and the EPA's Diesel Emissions Reduction Act.

The FDEP awarded BCPS a grant of more than \$14.8 million to purchase 60 zero-emission electric buses that make up the electric bus fleet.

According to the EPA's newly proposed greenhouse gas emissions standards for heavy-duty vehicles, the agency

anticipates that 45 percent of all school buses produced by 2032 will be EVs.

Locally, Florida Power & Light Company obtained a federal grant and partnered with the BCPS to install charging stations at each of the District's transportation terminals.

Blue Bird Corporation provided its most advanced Vision electric school buses to BCPS. Each vehicle can carry 72 students for up to 120 miles on a single charge. Depending on the charging infrastructure, the bus takes between three and eight hours to recharge fully.

BCPS maintains a bus fleet of more than 1,200 vehicles with various propulsion systems, including 515 Blue Bird buses. BCPS school buses travel more than 67,000 miles each school day, as they pick up and safely transport 54,000 students to and from schools.

browardschools.com/transportation.



LAUDERHILL TRANSIT CENTER'S GOLD LEED CERTIFICATION

The Lauderhill Transit Center has been awarded the prestigious LEEDv4 Transit Station Gold certification, becoming the first project in Florida and the entire United States to earn this esteemed Gold-level accolade.

This certification signifies the Lauderhill Transit Center's exemplary performance across various sustainability categories, including water and energy efficiency, indoor environmental quality, materials selection, and transportation accessibility.

One of the center's notable features includes solar canopies strategically installed around the station and bus loading area. These solar canopies harness

clean, renewable energy from the sun and generate more than 100% of the building's energy needs. By effectively utilizing solar power, the Lauderhill Transit Center has achieved net positive energy, significantly reducing its carbon footprint and operating costs.

With this achievement Lauderhill Transit Center has set a new standard for sustainable public transportation infrastructure, and demonstrates Broward County's commitment to environmental stewardship, enhancing the quality of life for residents, and serves as an inspiration for future sustainable development projects.

bit.ly/LauderhillTransit

UPSTATE UPDATE

BY SARAH PARISEAU



The 2023 Florida Legislature passed a record \$117 billion dollar budget on May 5th. The Appropriations Bill, SB 2500, funds a number of resilience, conservation, and environmental restoration programs.

Resilient Florida program funding includes \$300 million for Resilient Florida Flooding & Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan projects, \$20 million for planning grants and \$2 million for regional resilience collaboratives.

EVERGLADES PROTECTION

The overall budget of the State of Florida is a \$6 billion increase over 2023, and includes \$382.5 million slated for Everglades Restoration. The governor’s office called it “the highest level of funding in Florida’s history.” Key provisions included directing the Department of Environmental Protection to secure \$3.5 billion over the next four years for Everglades restoration and protection of water resources, including water quality and water supply.

South Florida Water Management District pump station, Everglades Conservation Area 3 / South New River Canal. Photo: Paul Krashefski / Broward County Natural Resources Division



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FLOODING AND SEA LEVEL RISE

The CS/HB 111 Flooding and Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Studies Bill creates a new definition of an “area at risk due to sea level rise,” now defined as “any location that is projected to be below the threshold for tidal flooding within the next 50 years by adding sea level rise using the sea level rise projections from the 2017 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration intermediate low and high sea level rise projections.

CS/HB 111 builds on a state law from 2020 that requires studies of the impact of sea level rise before any public construction projects can be started in coastal areas, and expands that requirement to all areas that could be impacted due to sea level rise, not just coastal areas.

The bill provides funding to municipalities and counties for feasibility studies for nature-based solutions that reduce the impact of flooding and sea level rise; and water management districts to support local government adaptation planning.



Aerial drone inspection photo of Pine Island Road, Matlacha, FL, showing Hurricane Ian aftermath damage and debris from flooding and storm surge. Photo Felix Mizioznikov / Dreamstime.com

SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON RESILIENCY & THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON HURRICANE RESILIENCY AND RECOVERY

With the wide-ranging impacts of Hurricanes Nicole and Ian falling under the jurisdiction of a number of standing committees, a new Senate Select Committee on Resiliency was created to review recovery efforts and overall resiliency planning.

The committee worked to identify legislative steps that can be taken to assist state and local governments with preparation for and response to future storms.

We will also be keeping an eye on the newly established Select Committee on Hurricane

Resiliency and Recovery. House Speaker Paul Renner created this committee to address hurricane relief and storm resilience. Last Session there was an emphasis on workshops and information sharing. This year members are hopeful to work on mitigation, resilience, and direct support for Floridians impacted by storms.

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LOOKING AHEAD

The 2024 Legislative Session will begin on January 9th, 2024. Interim committee meetings have already begun, starting on the third week of September and will carry on into December.



FLORIDA PYTHON CHALLENGE

The Florida Everglades is home to a variety of rare and unique wildlife including a diversity of native birds, mammals, fish and reptiles.

The Everglades is also home to nonnative species. More than 500 of them have been reported in Florida, more than in any other state, and none impact native wildlife more than the Burmese python, which preys on birds, mammals and other reptiles.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) works with partners to manage Burmese pythons in a variety of ways. To involve the public, an annual 10-day python hunting competition was created by the FWC with the hopes of increasing awareness about the invasive species and how dangerous they are to the state's eco-system.



Above: the 2023 Florida Python Challenge Awards Ceremony at Long Key Nature Center, Davie, FL.
Below: Rodney Barreto, FWC Chairman speaking at the award ceremony. Photos: Jennifer Jurado (below) and Anthony Gross (above)



Lieutenant Governor Jeanette Nuñez announced the winners of the 2023 Florida Python Challenge® at an Awards Ceremony at the Long Key Nature Center in Davie.

1,050 participants from 35 states and Belgium removed 209 Burmese pythons from south Florida during the competition. This year's winner removed 20 Burmese pythons, taking home a \$10,000 ultimate grand prize.

Since 2000, more than 19,000 wild Burmese pythons have been removed from the state of Florida and reported to FWC, including more than 11,000 Burmese pythons removed since 2019.

Visit flpythonchallenge.org for news about 2024's competition.

NEWS, OPPORTUNITIES AND UPDATES



NACIO AWARDS

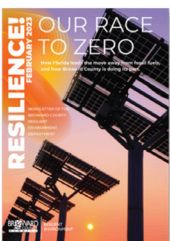
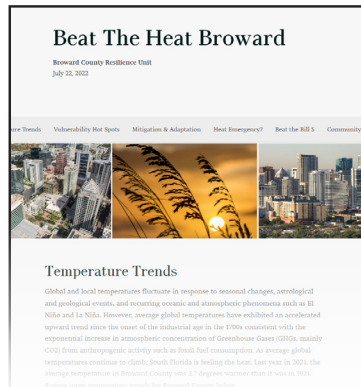
Broward County has won 24 National Association of County Information Officers (NACIO) Awards of Excellence in 2023, more than any other county in the country. This includes seven Best in Class awards.

The annual competition recognizes the quality of public information and education outreach campaigns by County governments.

NACIO Award Winners. Right: 'Beat The Heat Broward' website, Below top: Climate Summit branding, Below bottom: Resilience Newsletter cover images.

The County's Resilience Unit was awarded six of the Resilient Environment Department's ten

winning entries including three *Best in Category* awards. The Resilient Newsletter received a *Best In Category* award, as did the online Resilience Bulletin, and graphics for the 2022 Climate Leadership Summit.



OPPORTUNITIES

Two key positions are currently available at the Broward County Resilience Unit.

1. A Senior GIS Analyst

Play a key role in the furtherance of the county's climate resilience efforts with responsibilities that include data analytics, geovisualization, project management, and technical contributions to support unit, agency, and county-wide initiatives.

2. A Water Resources Manager

This is a senior-level supervisory position responsible for coordinating the development and implementation of county-wide water resources initiatives, as well as advancing county-wide water resource policy, planning, and management programs under the pressures of climate change.

Visit governmentjobs.com/careers/broward

MEET THE TEAM

DELANI WOOD

Hello there! I recently joined the Resilient Environment team in June as an Environmental Project Coordinator.

When I completed my undergraduate degree, I still had no idea what I wanted to do for work, so I took every possible opportunity I could to travel the world, meet interesting people and explore new places. During a long road trip around the US, I spent a lot of time in nature and realized I felt agitated every time I had to “reenter society”. The idea struck me that I could spend a career working to make cities into exciting places that no longer destroy the planet but restore natural ecosystems and promote genuine human connection.

During the early pandemic, I relocated with my dog to the mountains of Colorado to study Urban Resilience and Sustainable Food Systems, where I learned about climate change, regenerative agriculture, and urban development and design. Three years later I came across this job listing, in my native South Florida, focused on the planning and advancement of urban climate resilient initiatives, including water management, heat mitigation, and green infrastructure.








I’m thrilled to be back here learning from some of the top resilience leaders in the nation.

Funding for the Resilience Newsletter is provided in part by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners as recommended by the Resilient Environment Department. An equal opportunity employer and provider of services. 50 copies of this public document were promulgated at a gross cost of \$95.00 and \$1.980 per copy to promote the Broward County Resilient Environment Department.



“Moving here during a record-breaking heat wave following a 1000-year rainfall event has been interesting to say the least, but goes to show the necessity of the work we are doing in this department.”

STAY IN TOUCH

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RESILIENT ENVIRONMENT