

October 16, 2014

The Honorable Rick Scott
Governor, State of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Dear Governor Scott:

Last week, approximately 250 people attended the Climate Science and Solutions Summit at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg. As the [Tampa Bay Times](#) reported, the summit, which was directly inspired by your August meeting with a group of leading climate experts, "brought together scientists, government officials and entrepreneurs to discuss what has worked and what has not as the atmosphere and oceans heat up."

Although you couldn't make it to the summit, you have asked for "solutions". It is our aim to bring forward the optimal ways to deal with the challenges to Florida stemming from climate change. Along those lines, we respectfully request the opportunity to brief you on the carefully-crafted solutions we discussed at the Climate Science and Solutions Summit. These include:

- Limiting carbon pollution by:
 - o developing a strong plan for meeting the EPA's Clean Power Plan standards,
 - o ramping up energy efficiency measures,
 - o instituting policies that encourage solar energy and electric vehicles (e.g., car charging stations, development of battery storage),
 - o increasing public transportation initiatives (e.g., [Greenlight Pinellas](#), Rail)
 - o developing cellulosic biofuels.
- Prioritizing statewide policy measures that emphasize:
 - o integrated resource utility planning to bring forward low cost energy options
 - o competition among energy resources to ensure the lowest cost to consumers.
 - o aggressive efficiency standards and goals, such as energy benchmarking, auditing and transparency work,
 - o an end to the practice of 2-year payback screens for conservation goals,
 - o abatement of the Tangible Personal Property Tax on leased solar equipment,
 - o innovative financing mechanisms for energy efficiency and solar power (e.g., Property Assessed Clean Energy - PACE; and Community Development Finance Institution - CDFI),
 - o mandatory, ambitious Renewable Portfolio Standards,
 - o repeal of nuclear cost recovery provisions
 - o third-party Power Purchase Agreements, and

- Instituting mitigation measures in the areas of:
 - o transportation,
 - o wetlands enhancement,
 - o weatherization,
 - o LED street lighting.
- Adopting adaptation solutions such as:
 - o planning for sea-level rise (e.g., the South Florida Regional Climate Compact, and the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council),
 - o developing robust building energy codes,
 - o addressing energy resilience and
 - o building solar-ready roofs.
- Incorporating educational opportunities such as:
 - o public hearings,
 - o integration of climate science into K-12 curriculum,
 - o advancing public transportation,
 - o forming a Civilian Conservation Corps, and
 - o prioritizing initiatives to encourage people to buy locally and consume "lower on the food chain.
- Promoting technology and career opportunities in:
 - o manufacturing,
 - o solar,
 - o agriculture, and
 - o retooling and innovation.
- Implementing measures aimed at reducing public health risks, such as asthma and pulmonary diseases, stemming from combustion of fossil fuels.
- Supporting academic resources, such as the Florida Climate Institute.

We strongly believe that these measures and more, taken together, would provide real, effective, timely, market-based and cost-effective solutions to enable Florida, known to be ground zero for climate change, to take in protecting residents and businesses from the worst affects of climate change while reducing the carbon pollution driving it.

We are excited to present these solutions to you. We welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you might have, and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

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