



**Office of Resilience**

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Verdenia C. Baker

## Adapting to a Changing Climate

A Message from the County Administrator

November 5, 2019

The Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners recognizes that as Earth's climate changes, our County must adapt. We must prepare for events such as rising sea levels, more extreme weather events, changes in rainfall patterns, and worsening heat in the coming decades. Higher sea levels could impact coastal and low-lying properties as storm surge encroaches further inland. Saltwater intrusion could affect our drinking water, and rising temperatures could impact crop production while also leading to more frequent heat-related illnesses. To face these threats, we have established the Office of Resilience. This team helps ensure Palm Beach County remains a beautiful place to live, work, and play by working with local communities to develop realistic and equitable solutions.

The Office of Resilience is working with local stakeholders, developing tools for assessing climate vulnerability, and coordinating with the housing and building community to ensure that we are all educated about and prepared for the risks. The County is also adopting a countywide manual requiring that all future capital projects incorporate resilience and sustainability principles into their planning and design stages.

Additionally, the County joined Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe Counties in 2010 to form the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact. This compact allows for a coordinated response to climate change and has proven to be a great tool for sharing implementation strategies across county lines. In 2017, the Compact published its second Regional Climate Action Plan, which governments, resource management districts, and other organizations can use to implement climate adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Palm Beach County will continue to lead the way to adapt to climate change, mitigate climate change impacts, and develop sustainably. Moreover, we know that engaging the County's community stakeholders is essential to furthering the success of our region. Thus, the County will persist in keeping our residents, businesses, and visitors informed of the latest science, seek community input, and collaborate with local governments to capitalize on our knowledge and ensure we have a unified voice when facing climate change challenges.

Verdenia Baker,  
County Administrator

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