

# Video Interviews



## SPEAKING OUT VOICES AND PERSPECTIVES ON CLIMATE ACTION

Climate change is a complex phenomenon with no singular silver bullet solution. The multi-faceted task of understanding and addressing the associated issues in order to achieve climate resilience demands the expertise, experience, dedicated commitment and advocacy of many individuals, in myriad walks of public and private life.

The mandate to prepare effectively for change has been answered by many individuals in our metropolitan region. They work in the areas of education, communication, government, public policy, public service, infrastructure planning, risk management, business and private development, design, construction, and natural and social sciences. Their voices can be heard here, as they speak about today's accomplishments and the important work that still lies ahead.

	<p><b>Todd Crowl</b> PhD, Director, FIU Southeast Environmental Research Center</p> <p>“ We don't want to adapt to sea level with concrete structures... we are going to have to adapt in concert with the ecosystem that has actually protected us for hundreds of thousands of years.</p>		<p><b>Emily Eisenhauer</b> PhD, Program Coordinator, University of Miami Office of Civic &amp; Community Engagement</p> <p>“ Understanding how adaptation impacts across society is critical to maintaining a vibrant and diverse society – and I think that is what we want for Miami in 2100.</p>		<p><b>John Englander</b> Oceanographer and Author, <i>High Tide on Main Street</i></p> <p>“ We are really unprepared to deal with this, because sea level has not risen significantly for 120,000 years, long before human civilization... For us, this is something totally unprecedented.</p>
	<p><b>James F. Murley</b> Executive Director, South Florida Regional Planning Council</p> <p>“ When people first came to this region there was water everywhere; managing water has been key in the development of Southeast Florida. We start to talk about climate change and sea level rise, but what we're really talking about is a better understanding of issues that have been going on for hundreds of years.</p>		<p><b>Bryan M. Myers</b> Energy and Climate Change Coordinator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IV</p> <p>“ We are trying to redesign the urban area in order to be able to handle storm water, sea level rise, and all water intrusion.</p>		<p><b>Jayantha Obeysekera</b> PhD, Chief Modeler, PE Hydrologic + Environmental Systems Modeling, South Florida Water Management District</p> <p>“ With sea level rise, our water canals may not work anymore, which will cause saltwater intrusion. We are trying to identify the most affected areas to come up with a reasonable solution.</p>

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*“The Everglades Restoration Program must happen now, we can no longer wait.. We have effective plans for implementing fresh water restoration of the Everglades, and we have effective plans for mitigating sea level rise in our urban Miami, but we have not put them into place on the timeline we know we have to act on.” Evelyn Gaiser*

	<p><b>Evelyn Gaiser</b> PhD, Professor, FIU Department of Biological Sciences and Interim Executive Director, School of Environment Arts and Society</p> <p>“ The Everglades Restoration Program must happen now, we can no longer wait... We have effective plans for implementing fresh water restoration of the Everglades, and we have effective plans for mitigating sea level rise in our urban Miami, but we have not put them into place on the timeline we know we need to act on.</p>		<p><b>Carlos A. Gimenez</b> Mayor, Miami-Dade County</p> <p>“ As a mayor I am responsible – and a part of my duty is to make sure to leave a better place for our future generations, for my children, and for my grandchildren.</p>		<p><b>Alastair Gordon</b> Contributing Editor, <i>The Wall Street Journal</i> and Dean's Fellow, College of Architecture + The Arts</p> <p>“ Miami has almost rebranded itself as an international city in the 21st century. And to do that well is going to take a lot of not just engineering, legal work, and political work, but also a kind of re-imagining of what a city like this can be... It is based on a resort history which is very of the surface and of the moment. It is like a poster of a perfect beach, perfect water and a perfect sky - and no one wants to mess with that, because that has been the [key] money generator for all these generations.</p>
	<p><b>Rene Price</b> PhD, Associate Professor, FIU Department of Earth Sciences and Southeast Environmental Research Center</p> <p>“ I have a lot of faith in humankind; we are very smart and we can construct a way for us to live with the water.</p>		<p><b>Michael Ross</b> PhD, Associate Professor, FIU Department of Earth and Environment</p> <p>“ What I am sensitive to is what the basic South Florida landscape looked like originally, and that we maintain some kind of semblance of that ... we should have that model in mind when we... create the next Miami.</p>		<p><b>Roberto Rovira</b> ASLA, Chair, FIU Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental + Urban Design</p> <p>“ You should know that South Florida depends on its relationship to water, and that from the beginning such relationships have been essential to cities. We have to understand that any change in any city, in any society is about increments. Increments have short life spans that are more immediate, and allow us to relate more closely to our environment.</p>

	<p><b>Chris Bergh</b> Director, South Florida Conservation, The Nature Conservancy, Florida Keys Office</p> <p>It is really vital that South Florida, the rest of the nation and the rest of the world begin to take action now. We've moved beyond the phase of arguing about whether or not we have a problem. The question now is: What can we do to minimize our vulnerability? What is it going to cost to minimize our vulnerability?</p>		<p><b>Stan Bronson</b> Executive Director, Florida Earth Foundation</p> <p>We need to educate the public... get to a shift of the mindset that suggests that maybe prevention needs to be part of the solution.</p>		<p><b>Albert J. Carbon</b> Engineer, Palm Beach Aggregates</p> <p>This is the next generation of sustainable water supply resources... Sea level rise is reality and we need to capture storm water to keep our canal levels high.</p>
	<p><b>Jeanmarie Manze Massa</b> Solid Waste Management, Miami-Dade County</p> <p>We encourage residents of Miami-Dade County and all of our cities to participate in the recycling program in their areas. It's really important to conserve our natural resources.</p>		<p><b>John Morgan</b> Sustainability Officer, City of Delray Beach</p> <p>Protecting our beaches is absolutely critical because they are the economic engine of South Florida.</p>		<p><b>Bruce A. Mowry</b> PhD, PE, City Engineer, City of Miami Beach</p> <p>We have to start looking at what we are going to do with our infrastructure. Building standards are critical to a long-term implementation program.</p>

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	<p><b>Michael Grieco</b> Commissioner, City of Miami Beach</p> <p>There might be a time where we might not be able to get flood insurance, and if we can't get flood insurance, then all the property values go down. This economic issue will persuade the community to support action.</p>		<p><b>Peter Harlem</b> Coordinator, FIU GIS Center, and Research Associate, Southeast Environmental Research Center</p> <p>I developed the skills with the computer and the software to make the kind of maps that were necessary to show people what sea level rise looks like ... then people started seeing the maps, and then the maps became more popular than me!</p>		<p><b>Nichole L. Hefty</b> Climate Change Program Manager at Miami-Dade County</p> <p>We are trying to take action to address sea level rise by educating the elected officials, the residents, and the business owners.</p>
	<p><b>Harvey Ruvin</b> Miami-Dade Clerk of Courts, and Chairperson, Miami-Dade Sea Level Rise Task Force</p> <p>What we need to be resilient to sea level rise is an entirely re-engineered, reinvented infrastructure. Not just a drainage infrastructure, but also the roads, the [means of] transportation, and the whole infrastructure that we base our urban life on in South Florida - because things will change.</p>		<p><b>Nancy L. Scanlon</b> PhD, Associate Professor, FIU Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management</p> <p>The first place that you start educating someone who is coming to a destination is on his/her way to that destination. Some of the most educational projects, ones that help people reduce their potential impact on the ecosystem of their destination, have been completed aboard flights. Hotels can also provide an educational system; they can do this through their in-house television systems or house video systems or through other technologies that guests can use.</p>		<p><b>Ryan Stoa</b> JD, Professor of Law</p> <p>Property owners who have beachfront property win or lose based on sea level. If the water level goes down, property owners experience a creation of property. They win by having an increase in the size of their property --and the other way around. Cities are trying to fix the level of a beach in order to prevent that beach from growing in size or diminishing in size as a result of sea level rise.</p>