

Policy Solutions for Environmental Coastal Resilience

F.I.U. in D.C.
Fly-In Spring 2021 Cohort

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The Future of Environmental Resilience for
Economic Growth and National Security



What are the Main Concerns?

Pollutants cause serious economic, environmental, and safety risks to coastal communities in Miami and across the nation. Innovative funding strategies can help accomplish lasting change.



UNDERSTANDING THE PROBLEM



Nutrients • • •

Excessive nutrients cause harm in our water systems and more.

Plastic • • •

Plastic pollution is affecting the health and economies of coastal communities.

Funding • • •

Community-based, innovative funding strategies are needed to address current problems **now**.

Reducing Nutrient Flow - Outfall Pumps

- Connects to drainage systems and ditches.
- Filters trash and waste pollution.
- Restores natural deposit systems with clean, aerated water.
- Less energy intensive as regular pumps.
- Creates new jobs to maintain the systems.
- Ensures the health and safety of people and the environment.



Reducing Nutrient Flow - Compost Facilities



- Greenhouse gases are emitted from landfills, which further exacerbate the climate crisis.
- Effects of landfills are:
 - Soil contamination
 - Water contamination
 - Air contamination
 - Impact on human health
 - Impact on animals and marine life
 - Attracts and houses disease-carrying pests
 - Affects the local economy
- Facilities should be more accessible throughout the nation.

Case Studies

- Commercial entities that generate excessive food waste are banned from sending it to a landfill.
 - Connecticut Public Act 11-217, Commercial Organics Recycling Law
 - Vermont Act 148, Universal Recycling Law
- Requires residents and businesses to not put compostables and recyclables in the garbage.
 - Seattle Municipal Code sections 21.36.082 and 21.36.083



Cross-Sector + Cross-Institution Collaboration



CHANGING THE STATUS QUO

An **Innovative** Way for Local Governments to Raise Funds

1. **Crowdfunding + Municipal BlueBonds:** Stakeholders get to directly invest into their community and earn tax-free profits once the bonds mature
2. **Donations:** Local businesses are incentivized to donate to receive tax write offs and positive local publicity
3. **Federal/State Support:** Federally, the government can help foot the bill of water pumps. At the state level, Florida's friendly business environment is conducive to bringing BigTech firms and start-ups to the SoFlo region.

Sector Collaboration



Local

- Municipality budgets
- Give people the opportunity to reinvest their interest in a new venture.



State

- Bond income is exempt from State Income Taxes
- Contribute to project funds
 - Match
 - Specific



Federal

- Bond income is exempt from Federal Income Taxes
- Contribute to project funds
 - Match
 - Specific



Private

- VC, Private equity, and Impact/Angel Investors
- Creating a friendly business atmosphere



How Can F.I.U. Contribute?



Institute of Environment

- Efforts by the department are using data-driven solutions to further investigate and resolve regional environmental concerns.
- Leading and innovative research initiatives.

Water Quality Monitoring Network - Biscayne Bay Health

- Critical investigations of the bay are identifying the alarming factors contributing to algal blooms and fish kills.



Thank You!



Andrea Negrin

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Vanessa Gomez



Andrea's notes:

Feedback:

Dr. Rosio

- Clear implementation plan
 - Total price tag
 - Specificity for implementation
- 1 main takeaway (if we were to present to policymakers)

Rose Lopez

- Specificity: who is affected by the policy (minority groups, coastal communities) BE SPECIFIC W GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATIONS!
- More graphics, less text
- Talk more, read less

Josh's notes:

FEEDBACK

- Who would oppose?
- Local counsel people
- Timeline
- Clear and concise well organized
- Areas for improvement
- How to implement strategies
- Core take away concept
- Spread responsibility
- Specificity - who is affected by the problem, number (pricetag), more graphics.