



***SWFL CLIMATE AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVE  
LEE AND COLLIER COUNTY  
COMMUNITY CONVERSATION WORKSHOPS***

**May 25-26, 2022**

***FACILITATOR SUMMARY***

Summary prepared by  
The FCRC Consensus Center

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# THE SWFL CLIMATE AND COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

## Background

The Southwest Florida Climate and Community Initiative is a regional effort to help communities adapt to changing environmental conditions and reduce the drivers of climate change in Southwest Florida. The Initiative is focused on bringing together leaders, businesses, neighbors, and residents to understand that what we do today can make a difference tomorrow. The Initiative recognizes that an array of issues has led to changes in our weather, land, and waters, and believes we need to pursue a range of solutions to make a difference in securing a prosperous and healthy future for Southwest Florida.

## Workshop Agenda and Approach

On May 25 and 26, 2022, the Initiative held two Community Conversation Workshops in Lee and Collier counties. The workshops brought together invited community leaders and expert panelists to help participants better understand the science and impacts of climate change, and explore what Southwest Florida can do to address those impacts in our region.

Each workshop began in the morning with a conversation between the panelists and participants focused on understanding the science and impacts of climate change. These conversations did not consist of traditional presentations followed by questions and answers. Rather, a list of potential questions was included in the workshop materials as a prompt for thought. The moderator and participants took turns posing questions to the panel – some from the prepared list, some not – and the moderator then facilitated discussion among panelists and participants to explore the question.

In the afternoon, participants discussed how to move the conversation about climate change forward in Southwest Florida. The first part of this discussion focused on the communities and constituencies represented by the participants, and sought to understand their level of awareness about climate change and the impacts of most concern to them. The second part of the discussion focused on identifying and exploring potential regional strategies that could help Southwest Florida mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.

Participating community leaders and the organizations they represented are listed in Appendix A. The workshop agenda, panel member bios and the questions provided as prompts for thought are included in Appendix B. Video and audio recordings of the panel and participant discussions for each workshop can be found on the Initiative's website at: [swflclimate.org](http://swflclimate.org).

## UNDERSTANDING THIS SUMMARY

This document summarizes key points and strategy suggestions from the afternoon discussions at both workshops. In each workshop, discussion ranged freely over many issues, often moving from one to the

next and back again as participants explored connections and relationships between the topics they were discussing.

To make it easier to understand the range of the conversations, this document first summarizes participants' discussion of climate change awareness and impacts in the communities and constituencies represented by participants. It then identifies and explores some of the themes running through participants' discussion of strategies, and groups specific strategy suggestions by issue.

During the strategy discussions, many of the themes and suggestions were common to both workshops. Even when discussing the same issue, however, participants in each workshop often emphasized different aspects of it or offered different approaches to addressing it. Additionally, some issues were only addressed in one of the workshops. To retain a sense of these differences, the themes and the suggestions under each issue are further grouped and identified by workshop.

The summary is not a verbatim record, nor is it a traditional minutes of the conversation for either workshop.

## AWARENESS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND IMPACTS OF MOST CONCERN

Participants in both workshops raised very similar considerations during their discussion of these topics. For that reason, their conversations are summarized together in this section.

### Awareness

Rather than trying to gauge the degree of climate change awareness in the communities they represent, participants in both workshops focused instead on factors that affect awareness among members of those communities.

Participants agreed that, with some variations, people in those communities and constituencies are much more aware of the *impacts* of climate change (more severe storms, coastal and inland flooding, and increased temperatures) than of the fact that climate change is producing those impacts. They are focused on coping with the impacts rather than on the cause of the impacts. Helping communities throughout the region connect climate change impacts with their causes was seen as a challenge by participants.

Awareness varies somewhat by location within the region. Participants suggested that there is often more skepticism in the rural communities of the heartland counties. One participant suggested that in some of the rural communities "people just don't buy it". Creating a space to talk about climate change in those circumstances requires building a relationship of trust and demonstrating commitment. Participants agreed that in these communities, conversation about climate change needed to happen in the context of activities that help the community address what it views as more pressing issues. Participants also noted that language barriers may be an issue in some communities.

Participants suggested that barrier island and coastal residents may be more aware of climate change because increased coastal flooding can be tied to increased storminess and sea-level rise, but that some residents still do not necessarily make the connection between climate change and the impacts they are

experiencing. Participants also noted that some newer and higher income areas have been built to standards that reduce their vulnerability to storm and flooding impacts. And because residents of those areas are likelier to have resources to mitigate the immediate impacts of climate change they are sometimes less interested in focusing on those impacts.

On the one hand, participants believed it more important for policy makers to be aware of climate change than for ordinary people on the street to be aware of it. On the other, participants believed if ordinary people are not aware of it, they won't vote for candidates who are.

Some participants pointed to research showing that younger demographics are more aware of and willing to discuss climate change, and that this attitude cuts across political parties.

## Impacts of Most Concern

Participants in both workshops cited several impacts as potentially of great concern in the communities and constituencies they represent. These impacts included:

- heat effects
- inland flooding
- coastal flooding
- increasingly severe storms
- impacts to water supply
- impacts to infrastructure

In both workshops, participants emphasized that many of these impacts are of greater concern as they affect lower income communities and individuals throughout the region because these often lack the resources to mitigate or respond to the impacts. They may be unable to evacuate in advance of storms because of limited transportation options or the costs associated with evacuating. They are likelier to live in older housing that may be less able to withstand more severe storms, and more costly to keep cool. They are less likely to have sufficient financial resources to recover after storm losses. They may be likelier to work in occupations that expose them to increasing daytime heat. Across the board, the resources available to individuals and communities affect the severity of the impacts as they experience them.

Overall, participants characterized the impacts of climate change, especially but not exclusively in lower income communities, as a public health issue.

## THEMES AND STRATEGIES

### Overarching Themes

Several overarching themes appeared repeatedly throughout the discussion of strategies. In part, participants saw these as valuable strategies in themselves. To an even greater extent, however, participants wove these into their discussions as central to the implementation of most if not all the other, more issue-specific strategies they suggested.

## *Education and Awareness (Lee and Collier)*

Raising awareness about climate change and its impacts was by a significant margin the most frequent focus of discussion. Strategies to promote awareness of climate change and its impacts were the most frequently suggested and elaborated upon. Many of the suggestions focused on ways to reach specific communities or segments of the broader Southwest Florida community. In some cases, participants talked about coordinated strategies as well as specific actions that might be used to implement those strategies. Suggestions included:

### Lee Workshop Suggestions:

- Develop materials and ways to approach Homeowners Associations. These provide an avenue to reaching large numbers of people.
- Property manager associations can provide access to property managers who can in turn reach large numbers of people.
- Engage churches. Some but not enough are engaged. Approach this as “stewardship of the earth.” The religious community is a natural ally.
- The interfaith community as apolitical provider of trainings and information.
- Leadership programs already typically have an environment day. Work with them to incorporate climate change into the curriculum.
- Use the watershed education with teachers using climate change as a content area.
- Use a diversity of outreach and advocacy approaches. Include story telling. Incorporate the efforts of individuals who may not be experts. You don’t have to be an expert to communicate concern.
- Use community-based education efforts.
- Work with county extension offices in each county.
- Enhance new resident education programs, and use them to reach a greater percentage of people new to the region.
- Include climate change in certification programs for local elected officials.
- Educate on composting and organic waste.
- Pursue a “trusted voices” approach to providing information in rural communities. Work with those who are helping those communities address pressing needs.
- Establish “ambassador” programs.
- Pursue a “trusted voices” approach to providing information to the business community. Work with chambers of commerce and other organizations.

### Collier Workshop Suggestions:

- Educate and train and raise awareness in the community. Provide tools for doing this, and engage the private sector including Chambers of Commerce. Build public/private coalitions.
- People need to see climate action impacts in their own neighborhood. Collect visuals to document impacts in their own area. Show people there is something here.
- Chronicle the impacts with photos of nuisance flooding. Southeast Florida uses a citizen science coalition.
- Lower income individuals may be too busy dealing with the challenges of day-to-day life while upper income individuals may be too insulated from impacts to concern themselves. Message to the middle ground.

- Coordinate messaging using environmental “factoids” on a regular basis. We need bite-sized messaging that people can easily absorb. Focus on one aspect to start, then provide action steps. Make it clear what we want people to do.
- The League of Women Voters is trained to give presentations showing what happens in a community. Develop an outreach program.
- Find a billboard on I-75 to show the day’s heat index during the summer, with historical comparison to add perspective.
- Broaden the message to reach more people beyond sea-level rise.
- Provide presentations to Rotary Club. Use maps showing flooding from hurricanes seems to have the most impact. That gets people to focus. The ACUNE model is very compelling.
- Develop bookmarks with focus on sea-level rise and solar energy, protecting water quality, reduce plastics, etc.
- You have to make it personal: educate people that they are eating plastic.
- Climate change is so big and overwhelming that some people feel they cannot have any impact. We need to show how small or local efforts make a difference. Show them something tangible.
- Include education on sustainability.
- Include climate change topics in training for new residents.
- The Florida Associate of Counties has educational programs for commissioners and staff. Include climate change in those.
- There is an extension service office in each county, and they now have environmental officer in several counties. Work with them.
- Grow awareness in under-served communities with trusted voices.
- Small businesses are impacted. Think about how they can be engaged. Show how it will impact them.

### *Building Alliances, Collaborating and Breaking Down Silos (Lee)*

Lee County participants saw building alliances and working together as an indispensable tool for implementing many of the issue-specific strategies discussed during the meeting. This can be seen clearly, for example, in the Lee Workshop education strategies in the preceding section, almost all of which talk about working with existing groups or organizations to reach different segments of the community and distribute information.

Participants also frequently referenced the value of collaborating to leverage limited resources and the need to work together because of the scale and urgency of the problems related to climate change.

Participants talked about many different types of alliances and collaboration: across sectors, in partnerships including public, private and NGO efforts; and within sectors, in the form of collaboration and coordination between local governments and different levels of government, or alliances of civic, environmental, or business groups.

While most of the discussion of alliances and collaboration took place in the context of strategies to address specific issues, some alliance and collaboration strategies were proposed on their own. These included:

- Commit to continuing collaboration among the organizations and individuals participating in the Climate and Community conversations.
- Municipal alliances for carbon mitigation and other measures.
- Sharing information and approaches between cities.
- Partnerships between NGOs and business.
- Reaching out to continue bringing more individuals, organizations, and communities “to the table”.
- Emphasize our interconnectedness.
- Nurture trustful relationships with local officials.

### *The Role of Local and State Government as Champion (Lee)*

Many of the Lee County participants believed that local and state governments have a key role to play in championing many of the issue-specific strategies discussed during the workshop. In some cases, this is because the issue can be directly addressed by government action. Many of the issue-specific strategies in the next section include a component amenable to, and sometimes dependent on, direct local or state government action. In other cases, participants spoke of the role of government, especially local government, in leading by example and creating a culture that says, “this can be done”.

Finally, many participants noted the unusual opportunity for local government action produced by the current confluence of federal and state policies focused on climate change adaptation.

### *Advocacy (Collier)*

The idea of organizing for advocacy recurred repeatedly in the Collier County conversation. At times, participants approached advocacy from the perspective of organizing and coordinating the activities of stakeholder groups and civic and religious organizations for maximum impact. At other times, participant discussion focused on the how to advocate with specific groups of decision-makers most effectively, especially local elected officials. Specific suggestions included the following:

- Making people aware of the issue doesn’t mean they want to be the one to deal with it. Focus on those who should take action: city and county government. We need them to develop a climate action plan. We need a constituency to support the development of action plans. We should focus on year-round folks as the most invested in the community. Reach out to them in the places they already gather.
- Engage with decision makers. The League of Women Voters holds forums for voters to meet decision-makers. Go and ask questions. Current commissioners are not friendly to climate change issues.
- Demand action plans with community participation in developing those plans.
- Press government to invest in research and development of new technologies.
- Report the stances of elected officials. They respond to the loudest.
- We need a local version of the Citizen Climate Lobby.
- Ensure coordinated collective action by people working together for greater impact.
- Design an easy on ramp for collective action.
- Go to communities to ask what their concerns and solutions are.

## Issue-Specific Strategies

Discussion during the meeting ranged freely over many issues and strategies, often moving from one issue to the next and back again as participants explored connections and relationships between the topics they were discussing. The facilitators grouped the suggestions and strategies into the following issue areas.

### *Agriculture and Rural Areas*

- Transition from chemical-heavy agriculture to more organic methods.
- Invite agriculture to the table to understand how climate change manifests for them, and work with them to address it.
- Provide incentives for transitions to water farming and carbon sequestration.
- Put organics back in the soil.
- Reduce fertilizer use.

### *Building and Development*

Lee Workshop Suggestions:

- Require or incentivize increased energy efficiency in new buildings (see Boston and Orlando examples).
- Use the incentive program in Orlando that reduces tax burden as a model.
- Planting trees and native plants and nurturing them to reduce heat island effects.
- Update land use planning and land development codes to promote adaptation and resiliency.
- Reduce parking ratios and mandate permeable pavement.

### *Corporate and Business Action and Buy-In*

Lee Workshop Suggestions:

- Reach out to corporations to solicit buy-in. Some are interested in helping. Bring them into the fold and utilize their capacity to reach goals.

### *Energy*

Lee Workshop Suggestions:

- We need state-wide guidance for reduction of fossil fuels. This could include:
  - A statewide utility strategy.
  - Renewable portfolio strategies or requirements for utilities.
  - Renewable energy standards.
  - Power purchase agreements with utilities to help with equity.
  - Community solar.
- Mobile power kiosks, USDA funded.
- Use biogases.
- Use community-based energy solutions to help reach poorer communities. Include micro grids and use solar.

- Devote more resources to alternative forms of energy.
- Additional investment in clean energy.

### *Green Infrastructure*

#### Lee Workshop Suggestions:

- Green infrastructure should be a focus of effective municipal investment. It has sometimes been treated in a superficial way.
- Land acquisition and conservation has the potential to increase mitigation capacity in a number of different ways (stormwater management, flood abatement, heat abatement, etc.)
- Provide guidance for the application of green infrastructure and living shoreline approaches by governmental and private entities.
- Native planting for coastal residents.

#### Collier Workshop Suggestions:

- Invest in Conservation Collier, and keep that land in conservation.
- Ensure surrounding land use doesn't impact those conservation lands.
- Small efforts can make a difference if long-term. Plant trees that absorb carbon rather than palm trees, support changing septic systems to sewer.

### *Individual and Community Action*

- City initiatives to reduce food waste. This is low hanging fruit.
- Educate women and girls in family planning.
- Convert green waste in the community into mulch and other products to reduce chemical impacts on waters.
- Compost.
- Tap into financial resources of the community.

### *Local Government Planning and Action*

#### Lee Workshop Suggestions:

- Conducting vulnerability analysis and informing communities about their vulnerabilities.
- Engage with the community in resiliency and recovery planning.
- Adopt development regulations that promote resiliency.
- Transition local government vehicle fleets to electric power.

#### Collier Workshop Suggestions:

- Emphasize Smart Growth Plans – interconnected small-town examples.
- Consider revisiting the County Comprehensive Plan.
- Government needs to take vulnerability analysis tools seriously and plan accordingly.
- Naples has reviewed its comprehensive plan to include climate considerations.
- We need to weave in climate impacts to all elements of the comprehensive plans.

- We need new design standards or incentives for new development with standards that address climate change.
- Audubon has a model ordinance tool kit any city can use.
- Look at codes that have worked in other areas.
- Educate then activate.
- See what works in other communities. Naples is following up on its vulnerability assessment. Seek grants to develop climate mitigation plan.
- We need to reevaluate city landscape ordinances. Make it easier to tackle and change. Don't limit messaging on personal responsibility. Focus messaging for particular communities.
- Change landscaping and yards. Look at the Davis Triangle project as an example of where the county could have done something but changed zoning to allow more coverage. Governing bodies need to be more responsible with zoning decisions.

### *Opportunities Related to Current State and Federal Policy*

Lee Workshop Suggestions:

- State and federal policies are aligned now to address the climate issues, resulting in the availability of unprecedented amounts of funds to address adaptation and mitigation. Southwest Florida should get its act together to pursue those funds.
- Underscore the urgency, and the limited window of opportunity.

### *Transportation*

Lee Workshop Suggestions:

- Transition to electric buses.
- Promote mass transit opportunities.

Collier Workshop Suggestions:

- To reduce congestion and emissions, increase the number of jobs accessible by public transit.

## Next Steps

The Climate and Community Initiative will use the results of the Community Conversation Workshops to frame discussion at a Regional Climate and Community Summit in the fall of 2022. The Summit will be held at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Pointe Resort in Bonita Springs. The Summit will feature nationally and regionally recognized experts, and engage participants in answering three questions: What can I do individually? What can my community do? What can our leaders do?

## APPENDIX A – PARTICIPANT LISTS

Collier Workshop Participants	Lee Workshop Participants
Athan Barkoukis Shawn Clem Eileen Connolly-Keesler Nikkie Dvorchak Patricia Forkan Joyce Geary Natalie Hardman Solemi Hernandez Brad Havemeier Katie Laakkonen Lynn Martin Robert Moher Mary Lynn Myers Britt Patterson-Weber KC Schulberg Paul Shea Lindsey Touchette Andy Wells-Bean Myra Williams	Patricia Dobbers David Dutro Halle Goldstein Jennifer Hecker Bob Moore Jill Palmer Holley Rauen Gary Robbins Linda Sechrist Carrie Schuman

## APPENDIX B – AGENDA, PANEL BIOS AND PROMPTS FOR THOUGHT

### COMMUNITY CONVERSATION WORKSHOP

#### AGENDA

(Note: All times given are for the Lee Workshop. Times for the Collier Workshop were one half-hour later.)

#### Meeting Objectives

- Provide an overview of current climate change science and projected impacts
- Identify aspects and impacts of climate change of most concern to SWFL communities
- Explore support for potential strategies to address those impacts
- Explore how to advance the conversation about climate change and resiliency in SWFL

#### 9:30 - 9:45 Welcome

Agenda Review and Overview of the Climate and Community Initiative

#### 9:45 - 10:45 Climate Change Science Primer– presentation and conversation with panelists

Panelists: Joanne Muller, Climatologist  
Brian Bovard – Carbon, Forests & Ecosystems  
Mike Savarese, Coastal Geologist  
Molly Nation, Climate Science Education

#### 10:45 - 11:00 Break

#### 11:00 - 12:30 Climate Impacts – presentation and conversation with panelists

Overview of vulnerabilities to climate change in Southwest Florida, including geographic and social distribution of impacts, in the short, medium and long term. What do we know and what do we still need to find out?

Panelists: Gene McAvoy, Regional Extension Agent, Hendry County  
Jay Gupta, Public Health Professional  
Seneshaw Tsegaye, Civil Engineer  
Shelton Weeks, Real Estate Economics  
Win Everham, Ecologist

#### 12:30 - 1:00 Lunch

# COMMUNITY CONVERSATION WORKSHOP

## AGENDA

- 1:00 - 2:00**     **Community Engagement Sessions - community concerns and suggestions**
- Discussion to gather, collate, and synthesize community concerns and suggestions, facilitated by the FCRC Consensus Center, followed by group reports to plenary.
- Small group discussions** - For the organizations, constituencies or communities you work with:
- What is the level of awareness regarding climate change challenges and anticipated impacts in Southwest Florida?
  - What aspects of climate change are likeliest to affect them? Which of these are of most concern?
- 2:00 - 2:15**     **Break**
- 2:15 - 3:45**     **Conversations in Plenary (attendees, panelists and convenors) – Finding the way forward**
- Small group reports
- Overview of types of resiliency strategies – Ana Puszkin-Chevlin, Regional Director, Growing Climate Solutions
- Discussion to gather, collate, and synthesize community concerns and suggestions.
- What kinds of resiliency strategies do we think are possible for Southwest Florida? How would these impact Southwest Florida communities?
  - What role could community organizations play?
  - What should Southwest Florida do to move this conversation forward?
- 3:45 pm**     **Adjourn**

## PANELISTS

**Dr. Brian Bovard / bbovard@fgcu.edu.** Brian is a Program Coordinator and Associate Professor of Wetland Ecology in the Department of Ecology and Environmental Studies within Florida Gulf Coast University's Water School. He received his Ph.D. in Plant Physiological Ecology from Duke University and acts as a community partner with the Naples Botanical Gardens working on projects related to the use of native species in green roof designs. His current research focuses on the responses of forest ecosystems to predicted changes in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and climate, and the role forest ecosystems play in both carbon storage and hydrologic processes.

**Dr. Edwin Everham / eeverham@fgcu.edu.** Win is a Professor within the Department of Ecology and Environmental Studies in Florida Gulf Coast University's Water School. Dr. Everham received his PhD in Environmental and Forest Biology from the State University of New York and has been working at FGCU since before the University opened its doors in 1997. His research interests focus on how ecosystems unravel and respond to disturbance events. These events include natural events like hurricanes as well as anthropogenic events including climate change and the introduction of invasive species.

**Dr. Jayanta Gupta / jgupta@fgcu.edu.** Jay is an Associate Professor in FGCU's Marieb College of Health & Human Services, and directs the College's Bachelor of Science Program in Public Health. He received his medical degree from the University of Calcutta, India and PhD degree from the University of Cincinnati. His research focuses on elucidating the genetic and environmental risk factors behind complex diseases.

**Mr. Gene McAvoy / gmcavoy@ufl.edu.** Gene is a faculty member at the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF IFAS) and has served as the Regional Specialized Vegetable Agent (Rank Agent IV) in SW Florida and County Extension Director in Hendry County from 1997-2019. He is currently the Associate Director for Stakeholder relations at the UF IFAS Southwest Florida Research and Education Center in Immokalee.

**Dr. Joanne Muller / jmuller@fgcu.edu.** Joanne is Chair and Professor in the Department of Marine and Earth Sciences within Florida Gulf Coast University's Water School and received her PhD in Paleoclimatology from James Cook University in Australia. Her current research interests center on past climate change in tropical and sub-tropical latitudes with a special focus on the Southwest Florida region. Dr. Muller's expertise includes terrestrial and marine processes and their responses to future climate change.

## PANELISTS

**Dr. Molly Nation / mnation@fgcu.edu.** Molly is an Associate Professor of Environmental Education in the Department of Ecology and Environmental Studies within Florida Gulf Coast University's Water School. She earned her BS in Biology and an MA in Teaching from Georgia Southern University where she then taught high school and middle school before obtaining her

Ph.D. in Science Education from The University of South Florida. Her research and teaching interests include climate change education and issues of climate justice.

**Dr. Michael Savarese / [msavares@fgcu.edu](mailto:msavares@fgcu.edu).** Mike is a Professor of Coastal Resilience & Climate Adaptation within the Department of Marine and Earth Sciences within Florida Gulf Coast University's Water School. He has degrees in geoscience with background in coastal geology and paleobiology, and has been a faculty member at FGCU since the University's opening in the fall of 1997. Mike's current teaching and research interests concern the history of environmental change in coastal settings, particularly in response to human development, climate change, and sea-level rise. An understanding of the history of coastal evolution during times of comparable climatic change allows for sounder predictions of future outcomes. Mike has also successfully collaborated with computer modelers, using his field-based data to improve the predictive capabilities of flooding, geomorphologic, and ecological models.

**Dr. Seneshaw Tsegaye / [stsegaye@fgcu.edu](mailto:stsegaye@fgcu.edu).** Seneshaw is an Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental Engineering, Civil Engineering and Construction Management at Florida Gulf Coast University. He received his PhD in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of South Florida, and specialized in water resources. With a passion for building sustainable communities, Dr. Tsegaye's research focuses on Resilient and Smart Cities Strategies, specifically integrating urban water management, productive water use, and appropriate technologies for sustainable water management.

**Dr. Shelton Weeks / [sweeks@fgcu.edu](mailto:sweeks@fgcu.edu).** Shelton is the Lucas Professor of Real Estate in the Lutgert College of Business at FGCU. He received his PhD, MS, & BS degrees in finance from the University of Alabama. His research examines a wide range of topics in real estate with an emphasis on valuation and pedagogical issues.

## PANEL DISCUSSIONS

### “Food for Thought” Questions

*Points we hope to explore during the panel discussions and throughout the day . . .*

#### **Panel 1 -- Climate Change Science Primer: Potential Questions to Explore**

- What are greenhouse gases, where are they coming from, and how do they cause global warming?
- How do we know that much of the carbon dioxide entering the atmosphere is a consequence of the burning of fossil fuels?
- What are some of the “fingerprints” of climate change?
- How does warming cause sea-level rise?
- How severe might sea-level rise be? And why are the predictions so variable?
- Hurricanes have always been part of our lives here in SWFL. How does climate change influence storm activity and severity?
- What do we expect storms to do in the future and how might they impact Southwest Florida?
- Just how expensive are hurricanes?
- If the planet is warming, why do we often see such radical swings in temperature over short time periods?
- How is climate change affecting the natural world? We hear about changes in animal behavior; the movement of species geographically; and greater difficulty with exotic and invasive species.
- How might changes in wildlife populations in response to GCC impact human health or economies?
- How are climate change and harmful algal blooms related? Is one the cause or effect of the other?
- Why is climate change so difficult for the public to grasp and understand?
- How do you instill a sense of urgency and garner attention?
- Just how urgent is the problem? And is it too late to make a difference?

## PANEL DISCUSSIONS

### Panel 2 -- Climate Impacts & Local Resiliency: Potential Questions to Explore

- Our communities rely on many types of outdoor workers. How will these people be affected in terms of human health consequences?
- What are “90+ heat index days”? How is this likely to worsen in the near future?
- We hear a lot about mosquito-borne illnesses. Is this really a problem?
- How is our energy usage likely to be impacted due to further warming? Is our infrastructure designed well-enough to handle the increased demand?
- We worry about people of greater social vulnerability (e.g., those with lower income, with no or inadequate housing, the elderly, etc.). How are they likely to be impacted? Are communities taking steps to ensure their health and well-being?
- What is nuisance or sunny day flooding? Are we seeing this already in our region? How serious is it likely to become?
- How might changes in wildlife populations in response to GCC impact human health or economies?
- What are the risks to our beaches, barrier islands, both a function of their protective value and their importance to our economy?
- What is “green infrastructure”? How can it be used to build resilience?
- How will our storm water management infrastructure be affected? How does a community go about upgrading this infrastructure?
- The same question, but for wastewater and potable water management.
- Are we seeing impacts on agriculture as a consequence of climate change? We hear a lot about the trouble with the citrus industry. Is climate influencing citrus production?
- Are agriculture practices already changing as a result of climate change? What crops are at future risk?
- There has been much worry generated about the impact of climate change (particularly due to sea-level rise and storm inundation) on the real estate industry (homeowners insurance, mortgages, property values, etc.). Have these fears been realized yet? Is the real estate industry already seeing an effect? What effects are most likely to occur over the short term?
- Are particular segments of the housing market at greater risk due to climate change? What are the broader economic implications of this risk?
- What are the most common barriers to implementing climate-resilient and sustainable practices at a community scale?



## APPENDIX C – MEETING EVALUATION SUMMARIES

### LEE WORKSHOP EVALUATION SUMMARY

The Collaboratory

May 25, 2021

Below is the compilation of meeting evaluations received from twelve of the participants in the SW FL Climate & Community Conversation Workshop at the Collaboratory in Lee County on May 25, 2022. Participants were asked to rate each of the following statements using a 1 to 5 scale, where 1 means strongly disagree and 5 means strongly agree.

	Disagree			Agree		= Avg.
	1	2	3	4	5	
<b>1. Please assess the following aspects of the workshop.</b>						
The agenda packet and materials were very useful.	0	0	0	5	7	= 4.58
The objectives for the workshop were made clear at the outset.	0	1	1	2	8	= 4.42
Overall, I am very satisfied with the workshop.	0	0	0	2	10	= 4.83
<b>2. Do you agree that each of the following meeting objectives was achieved?</b>						
Provide an overview of current climate change science and projected impacts	0	0	0	7	5	= 4.42
Identify aspects and impacts of climate change of most concern to SWFL Communities to Southwest Florida Communities	0	0	0	4	8	= 4.67
Explore support for potential strategies to address those impacts	0	0	2	5	5	= 4.25
Explore how to advance the conversation about climate change and resiliency in Southwest Florida	0	0	0	6	6	= 4.50
<b>3. Please tell us how well the facilitators helped the participants engage in the workshop.</b>						
The facilitators made sure all perspectives were heard and respected.	0	0	0	1	11	= 4.92
The facilitators helped us arrange our time well.	0	0	0	2	10	= 4.83
The facilitators helped participants clarify and refine ideas and and highlight or move toward consensus	0	0	1	4	7	= 4.50
<b>4. What did you like best about today's meeting</b>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We community participants were seriously included and respected for our concerns, input and perspectives</li> <li>• Interaction between panelists and attendees</li> <li>• All the different perspectives</li> <li>• The communicative nature</li> <li>• The openness of discussions</li> <li>• Exchange of ideas</li> </ul>						

- Community networking
- Participation of everyone present
- Interactivity
- Q & A
- Different aspects of climate change and mitigation strategies were discussed by experts
- Different groups of people

**5. How could the meeting have been improved?**

- It was very well done, but might have been a bit more clear about our participation between now and the October 6<sup>th</sup> event
- Providing a follow-up date to come back together
- Well, how about some people of color to speak and more women!
- Little more clarity beforehand of the goals and outcomes
- N/A
- Inclusion of minority communities
- Not sure. We generated a good “possible” list. Maybe prioritizing would have been good, but we ran out of time/energy
- Warmer room. More attendees
- Be longer
- NA
- More participation from civic leaders
- Increase number of participants

**6. Do you have any other comments that you would like to add?**

- Thanks
- This is The Best climate summit, forum, etc., I’ve attended and I’ve been to lots!
- Well done!
- I hope to have more meetings like this in the future!
- Will there be a web presence for follow-up networking or sharing information or ideas?
- More of the same

# COLLIER WORKSHOP EVALUATION SUMMARY

Collier Community Foundation

May 27, 2021

Below is the compilation of meeting evaluations received from fifteen of the participants in the SW FL Climate & Community Conversation Workshop at the Collier Community Foundation on May 26, 2022. Participants were asked to rate each of the following statements using a 1 to 5 scale, where 1 means strongly disagree and 5 means strongly agree.

	Disagree			Agree		
	1	2	3	4	5 = Avg.	
<b>1. Please assess the following aspects of the workshop.</b>						
The agenda packet and materials were very useful.	0	0	0	3	12 = 4.80	
The objectives for the workshop were made clear at the outset.	0	0	1	6	8 = 4.47	
Overall, I am very satisfied with the workshop.	0	0	1	6	8 = 4.47	
<b>2. Do you agree that each of the following meeting objectives was achieved?</b>						
Provide an overview of current climate change science and projected impacts	0	0	0	5	10 = 4.67	
Identify aspects and impacts of climate change of most concern to SWFL Communities to Southwest Florida Communities	0	0	0	5	10 = 4.67	
Explore support for potential strategies to address those impacts	0	0	2	5	8 = 4.40	
Explore how to advance the conversation about climate change and resiliency in Southwest Florida	0	0	0	6	9 = 4.60	
<b>3. Please tell us how well the facilitators helped the participants engage in the workshop.</b>						
The facilitators made sure all perspectives were heard and respected.	0	0	0	2	13 = 4.87	
The facilitators helped us arrange our time well.	0	0	0	2	13 = 4.87	
The facilitators helped participants clarify and refine ideas and and highlight or move toward consensus	0	0	0	5	10 = 4.67	
<b>4. What did you like best about today's meeting</b>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hearing experts</li> <li>• Diversity of the group – representing cross-section of organizations</li> <li>• Morning presentations were excellent</li> <li>• Good assortment and cross section of stakeholders</li> <li>• Facilitators! By far the most worthwhile convening I've been to. I also loved how the panels were moderated- No PowerPoints! That's how it should be done everywhere.</li> <li>• Open discussion</li> <li>• As a new person to this group, it was very informational and a lot to unpack</li> <li>• Meeting like-minded people!</li> <li>• Fast paced, informative</li> <li>• Conversation – interaction with others in the community</li> <li>• Interactive discussion</li> </ul>						

- Great exchange of information and ideas
- Learning more about all of the different impacts of climate change – i.e., fire, heat, flooding, etc.

**5. How could the meeting have been improved?**

- How to achieve more cooperation with other NGO's
- Afternoon could have been a little shorter – many redundant comments
- Focus – expediency
- Goals accomplished. Good beginning
- Please don't ask audience members to self-identify as hard of hearing; speakers using microphones should be standard practice.
- Temperature of the room was way too cold
- Getting the materials (slide packet) in advance. Getting a list of the participants with contact information.
- Good job. No suggestions.
- Participation of the County
- Have more attendees from Collier County
- Include minority communities if possible

**6. Do you have any other comments that you would like to add?**

- Keep this group together to continue the dialogue
- The size of the overall group was just right
- Nothing additional – generally informative
- Hope to continue to meet
- How to register for the Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> event?