

## **Cover Letter for Letters of Commitment and Support**

### **1. Letters of Commitment**

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4. The City of Kissimmee
5. Keep Winter Park Beautiful & Sustainable Advisory Board
6. The East Central Florida Regional Planning Council
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13. Florida Solar Energy Center (FSEC)
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### **Letters of Support**

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32. The Sierra Club of Northeast Florida (SCNEF)
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49. Career Source Northeast Florida
50. Blue Zone Project



# CITY OF CLEARWATER

POST OFFICE BOX 4748, CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33758-4748  
600 CLEVELAND STREET, SUITE 600, CLEARWATER, FL 33755  
TELEPHONE (727) 562-4040 FAX (727) 562-4052

CITY MANAGER

March 15, 2024

Mayor Woody Brown, Chair  
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100  
Pinellas Park, Florida 33782

RE: City of Clearwater Commits to the "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" Project.

Dear Mayor Brown,

I am writing to express the city of Clearwater's commitment to the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's (TBRPC) application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Phase II Implementation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. The TBRPC's proposed "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" (SSERC) project reduces greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) while creating more resilient communities for those most affected by climate change.

The TBRPC is leading a Coalition that includes the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the Jacksonville, FL MSA, the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA and the Orlando- Kissimmee-Sanford MSA. These four (4) MSAs represent over 8.6 million residents, almost 40% of Florida's population.

The city of Clearwater is a coastal community on the West Coast of Florida and the third largest city in the Tampa Bay region with approximately 120,000 residents. The city is actively pursuing reductions in GHG emissions, or "carbon footprint," of both its government operations and the community at-large through innovative programs laid out in its Sustainability Action Plan, Greenprint 2.0 and forthcoming recommendations from the citywide Vulnerability Assessment project that is currently underway.

The city supports the SSERC project which includes goals to reduce GHG emissions by expanding energy efficiency educational programs and tools for residents, creates high performing buildings for climate and community resilience and expands clean and affordable energy by increasing solar installation. To ensure the success of the project, we support energy efficiency upgrades and economically supportable solar energy projects which directly support local "climate-smart" jobs. The city is interested in increasing community resilience through adaptation projects as well as public education and public outreach programs.

Our participation in the project will help ensure its success by providing expertise in sustainability and resiliency, decision-making power at the local policy level, and providing Clearwater's local perspectives to the project.

Please give the TBRPC's application the highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Poirrier  
City Manager

Brian J. Aungst Sr., Mayor

Mark Bunker, Councilmember  
Kathleen Beckman, Councilmember



David Allbritton, Councilmember  
Lina Teixeira, Councilmember



P.O. Box 296  
Largo, FL 33779  
LARGO.COM

March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Mayor Woody Brown, Chair  
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100  
Pinellas Park, Florida 33782

RE: City of Largo Partnership for the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition (SSERC)” Project.

Dear Mayor Brown,

I am writing to express the City of Largo’s intent to partner on the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council’s (TBRPC) application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Phase II Implementation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. The TBRPC’s proposed Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition (SSERC) project aligns strongly with our city’s priorities, including the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the increase of energy resilience across our community.

The TBRPC is leading a Coalition that includes the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the Jacksonville, FL MSA, the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA, and the Orlando- Kissimmee-Sanford MSA. These four (4) MSAs represent over 8.6 million residents, almost 40% of Florida’s population.

The City of Largo is excited to support the SSERC project because it builds on the work we have championed over the last several years as well as the future targets outlined in our City’s Sustainability and Resilience Action Plan. This includes the creation of resident energy programs, energy-efficiency upgrades to municipal buildings, the deployment of solar across sectors, and the prioritization of these projects in Largo census tracts that are disadvantaged by multiple social, economic, and environmental burdens.

Please give the TBRPC’s application the highest consideration.

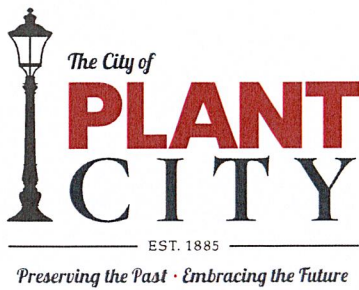
Sincerely,

John P. Curp (he/him/his)  
City Manager  
City of Largo  
(727)586-7454 | [CityManager@largo.com](mailto:CityManager@largo.com)

YOUR COMMUNITY OF CHOICE

*Naturally*





**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER**

March 7, 2024

Mayor Woody Brown, Chair  
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100  
Pinellas Park, Florida 33782

RE: City of Plant City - Partnership for the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition (SSERC)” Project.

Dear Mayor Brown,

I am writing to express The City of Plant City’s intent to partner on the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council’s (TBRPC) application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Phase II Implementation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. The TBRPC’s proposed “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” project reduces greenhouse gas emissions while creating more resilient communities for those most affected by climate change.

The TBRPC is leading a Coalition that includes the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the Jacksonville, FL MSA, the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA, and the Orlando- Kissimmee-Sanford MSA. These four (4) MSAs represent over 8.6 million residents, almost 40% of Florida’s population.

The City of Plant City is ready to forge a partnership with the SSERC in which we identify potential projects for implementation.

The City of Plant City is excited to support the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” project because it aligns with local priorities, enhances social resilience by expanding existing workforce training and hiring partnerships, creates job opportunities for low-income residents, and expands ongoing work developing a skilled workforce.

Please give the TBRPC’s application the highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Bill McDaniel  
City Manager



# *City of Safety Harbor Florida*

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HOME OF ESPIRITU SANTO MINERAL SPRINGS

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750 Main Street ± Safety Harbor, Florida 34695 ± (727) 724-1555  
FAX 724-1566

March 15, 2024

Courtney Wright, Senior Planner  
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100  
Pinellas Park, Florida 33782

RE: Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition Project

Dear Courtney,

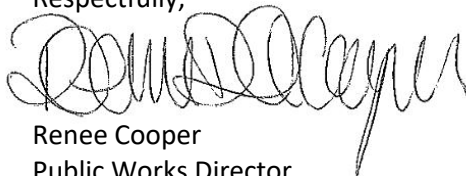
The City of Safety Harbor is involved as a partner in Clean Air Tampa Bay providing opportunities for greenhouse gas reductions through the Priority Climate Action Plan. As a partner municipal agency in the TBRPC, the City of Safety Harbor supports the Regional Planning Council's application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Phase II Implementation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program.

Resiliency and sustainability are not just a local issues, but global issues to be addressed. Regional Planning Councils, like TBRPC, are best suited to begin working on large scale projects, such as the "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" (SSERC), to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions by expanding energy efficiency.

The City of Safety Harbor completed our own Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory in 2022 with the assistance from ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability USA. After completing our own study, we know how valuable Phase II of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program could be to the entire Tampa Bay region.

To ensure the success of the SSERC project, the City can provide staff expertise, best practices, and opportunities to connect with other workforce partners. Our support and participation in the project will help ensure its success.

Respectfully,



Renee Cooper  
Public Works Director

Cc: Jamie Ahrens, Assistant Public Works Director  
Colin Bartholomew, Public Works Program Coordinator



## *City of South Pasadena*

7047 SUNSET DRIVE SOUTH  
SOUTH PASADENA, FLORIDA 33707  
PH: (727) 347-4171 FAX: (727) 345-0518  
WWW.MYSOUTHPASADENA.COM

March 19, 2024

Mayor Woody Brown, Chair  
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100  
Pinellas Park, Florida 33782

RE: City of South Pasadena Partnership for the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition (SSERC)” Project.

Dear Mayor Brown,

I am writing to express the City of South Pasadena’s intent to partner on the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council’s (TBRPC) application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Phase II Implementation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. The TBRPC’s proposed “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” project reduces greenhouse gas emissions while creating more resilient communities for those most affected by climate change.

The TBRPC is leading a Coalition that includes the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater-Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the Jacksonville, FL MSA, the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA, and the Orlando- Kissimmee-Sanford MSA. These four (4) MSAs represent over 8.6 million residents, almost 40% of Florida’s population.

The City of South Pasadena is ready to forge a partnership with the SSERC in the effort to create resilient communities and mitigate climate change.

South Pasadena is excited to support the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” project because environmental changes like sea level rise and the increasing intensity of hurricanes are significant threats to the entire city due to the proximity to water and high population density. All of South Pasadena sits in a Level A evacuation zone and with a median age of 68, the community is especially vulnerable and would greatly benefit from the SSERC Project.

Please give the TBRPC’s application the highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Arthur Penny  
Mayor



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG

KENNETH T. WELCH, MAYOR

March 15, 2024

Mayor Woody Brown, Chair  
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100  
Pinellas Park, Florida 33782

RE: City of St. Petersburg Commits to the "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" Project.

Dear Mayor Brown,

I am writing to express the City of St. Petersburg's ("City") support for the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's (TBRPC) application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Phase II Implementation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. The TBRPC's proposed "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" project reduces greenhouse gas emissions while creating more resilient communities for those most affected by climate change.

The TBRPC is leading a Coalition that includes the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the Jacksonville, FL MSA, the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA, and the Orlando- Kissimmee-Sanford MSA. These four (4) MSAs represent more than 8.6 million residents, almost 40% of Florida's population.

The City of St. Petersburg prioritizes planning and implementation of projects to increase community resilience to climate change. In 2019, we released our Integrated Sustainability Action Plan which affirms our commitment to transitioning to 100% clean energy and provides an action plan to meet this goal. The City commits to the "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" (SSERC) project because it directly aligns with our goals and initiatives, including helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, expands clean and affordable energy by increasing large scale solar installation, will bring benefits to disadvantaged communities, and will create local workforce opportunities.

The City is ready to assist with planning and implementing the SSERC. To ensure the success of the project, we commit to participating in meetings and planning efforts, providing community-based perspectives, leveraging staff expertise in energy efficiency and renewable energy, and providing decision-making power at the policy level to affect change. I respectfully request your positive consideration of TBRPC's application.

Sincerely,

Kenneth T. Welch  
Mayor





Board of County  
Commissioners

Address:  
P.O. Box 1366  
477 Houston Street  
Green Cove Springs, FL  
32043

Phone: (904) 269-6352

Fax: 904-278-4731

**County Manager**  
Howard Wanamaker

**Commissioners:**

Mike Cella  
District 1

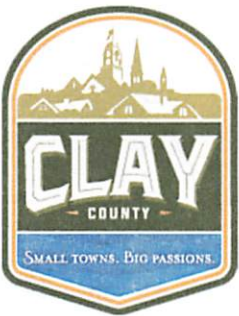
Alexandra Compere  
District 2

Jim Renninger  
District 3

Betsy Condon  
District 4

Kristen Burke, DC  
District 5

[www.claycountygov.com](http://www.claycountygov.com)



March 26, 2024

Mayor Woody Brown, Chair  
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100  
Pinellas Park, Florida 33782

RE: Clay County Board of County Commissioners Commits to the "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" Project

Dear Mayor Brown,

I am writing to express the Clay County Board of County Commissioners' support for the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's (TBRPC) application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Phase II Implementation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. The TBRPC's proposed "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" (SSERC) Project reduces greenhouse gas emissions while creating more resilient communities for those most affected by climate change.

The TBRPC is leading a Coalition that includes the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the Jacksonville, FL MSA, the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA, and the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA. These four (4) MSAs represent over 8.6 million residents, almost 40% of Florida's population.

Clay County is a growing community of 234,701 residents located on the St. Johns River in Northeast Florida. As the County plans for the future, grant funding for planning and implementation projects through programs like CPRG is important for successful resiliency in our community.

The Clay County Board of County Commissioners commits to support the SSERC Project because it creates high performing buildings for climate and community resilience in otherwise vulnerable areas and is ready to provide input related to the planning and implementation of the SSERC Project. To ensure the success of the Project, we commit to create high performing public buildings for climate and community resilience as we plan for future growth in Northeast Florida. Several examples of anticipated facility projects over the next five years include new fire stations, a new animal shelter, and a new administrative building that provides public services.

Our participation in the Project will help ensure its success by providing community-based perspectives and engaging in regional conversations about the future of resiliency efforts in Florida with other SSERC partners.

As a participant in the Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition, the County is committed to its goals and scope of work. If sub-awarded funding, we will work with the SSERC members, TBRPC, and the City of Jacksonville/Jacksonville, FL MSA, and community partners to ensure the success of the Project. As an implementer, we will adhere to the agreed upon roles, responsibilities, contributions, resources, and commitments our MSA lead organization will provide to ensure project success, as well as the coalition's operating model and statement of accountability to the U.S. EPA.

We encourage the U.S. EPA to give the Jacksonville, FL MSA project proposals and TBRPC's application the highest consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Cella". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mike" and last name "Cella" clearly distinguishable.

Mike Cella, District 1

Vice Chair, Clay County Board of County Commissioners





# city of PALM COAST

## Palm Coast City Council

160 Lake Avenue  
Palm Coast, FL 32164  
386-986-3710

City Council, Palm Coast

160 Lake Ave.

Palm Coast, Florida 32164

Subject: Letter of Support for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Application

Dear Environmental Protection Agency,

The City Council of the City of Palm Coast expresses our commitment for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) application in partnership with the Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council (NEFPRPC), Jacksonville Metropolitan Statistical Area (JAX MSA) and the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's (TBRPC) application.

Our city is committed to environmental stewardship and recognizes the critical importance of addressing pollution and its impacts on our communities. The collaboration between the City of Palm Coast, NEFPRPC, TBRPC and JAX MSA underscores our shared commitment to regional environmental sustainability and resilience. We believe that leveraging resources and expertise across jurisdictions is key to achieving meaningful and lasting impact in addressing climate-related issues. If awarded the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant, the City of Palm Coast is fully prepared to diligently pursue and responsibly utilize the funds to implement the proposed projects in application. We are committed to transparency, accountability, and maximizing the benefits of this grant to serve our community and advance environmental protection efforts. Thank you for considering our letter of support for this important grant application. We look forward to the opportunity to contribute to CPRG efforts and collaborate with the EPA, NEFPRPC, TBRPC-MSA, JAX-MSA and other state-wide MSAs towards a more sustainable and resilient future.

Sincerely,

David Alfin, Mayor



*please recycle*

[palmcoastgov.com](http://palmcoastgov.com)



CITY OF  
**ST. AUGUSTINE**  
— EST. 1565 —  
NATION'S OLDEST CITY

March 27, 2024

Mayor Woody Brown, Chair  
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100  
Pinellas Park, Florida 33782

RE: City of St. Augustine Commits to the "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" Project

Dear Mayor Brown,

We are writing to express the City of St. Augustine's support for the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's (TBRPC) application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Phase II Implementation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. The TBRPC's proposed "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" project reduces greenhouse gas emissions while creating more resilient communities for those most affected by climate change.

The TBRPC is leading a Coalition that includes the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the Jacksonville, MSA, the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA, and the Orlando- Kissimmee-Sanford MSA. These four MSAs represent over 8.6 million residents, almost 40% of Florida's population.

The City of St. Augustine (City) is the oldest continuous city in the U.S. that hosts over 5 million tourists a year. The City is working to become more sustainable and resilient and has a goal to become a zero- carbon footprint community.

The City of St. Augustine commits to supporting the "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" (SSERC) with a project goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by expanding energy efficiency within City owned buildings. The City is looking to create a high performance building for climate and community resiliency.

As a participant in the SSERC, the City is committed to its goals and scope of work. If awarded funding, we will work with the TBRPC, COJ, other SSERC members and community partners to ensure the success of the project. As an implementer we will adhere to the agreed upon roles, responsibilities, contributions, resources, and commitments our MSA lead organization will provide to ensure project success, as well as the coalition's operating model and statement of accountability to the U.S. EPA.

Please give this TBRPC's application the highest consideration.

Mayor Woody Brown  
March 27, 2024  
Letter of Commitment  
Page 2 of 2

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Johnson  
Sustainability Specialist  
Utilities & Public Works



Stephen Slaughter, P.E.  
Director, Utilities & Public Works





## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

15470 FLIGHT PATH DRIVE ♦ BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA 34604  
P 352.754.4002 ♦ F 352.754.4477 ♦ W [www.HernandoCounty.us](http://www.HernandoCounty.us)

March 13, 2024

Mayor Woody Brown, Chair  
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100  
Pinellas Park, Florida 33782

RE: Hernando County Commits to the "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" Project.

Dear Mayor Brown,

I am writing to express Hernando County's support for the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's (TBRPC) application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Phase II Implementation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. The TBRPC's proposed "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" (SSERC) project reduces greenhouse gas emissions while creating more resilient communities for those most affected by climate change.

The TBRPC is leading a coalition that includes the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the Jacksonville, FL MSA, the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA, and the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA. These four (4) MSAs represent over 8.6 million residents, almost 40% of Florida's population.

Hernando County is one of the TBRPC member governments and is actively pursuing opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the conversion to electric vehicles, identifying opportunities for new bus operations and maintenance facility, and improving response times for emergency services through the construction of new fire stations. Hernando County commits to the SSERC project because it reduces greenhouse gas emissions by expanding energy efficiency educational programs and tools for residents; creates high performing buildings for climate & community resilience in disadvantaged communities; expands clean and affordable energy by increasing large scale solar installation. Additionally, SSERC enhances social resilience by expanding existing workforce training and hiring partnerships, creating job opportunities for low-income residents, and developing a skilled workforce.

Hernando County is ready to assist with the planning and implementing the SSERC. To ensure the success of the project, we commit to supporting this partnership by providing expertise, best practices and opportunities to connect with other workforce partners, including the Pasco-Hernando Workforce Board, the Greater Hernando County Chamber of Commerce, Pasco-Hernando State College and the Hernando County School District. In addition, Hernando County commits to work with the Coalition to develop a training

program that provides hands-on training in electrical, solar installation, and construction fields; and supports the project with staff resources as financially feasible.

Our participation in the project will help ensure its success by providing community-based perspectives to the project, expertise in energy efficiency and renewable energy, decision-making power at the policy level to affect change, and access to a network of workforce development partners.

Please give the TBRPC's application the highest consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Rogers", is written over the printed name.

Jeffrey Rogers, P.E.

Hernando County Administrator







**Hillsborough**  
**County** Florida

**WATER RESOURCES**

PO Box 1110, Tampa, FL 33601-1110  
813-307-1000

March 8, 2024

Mayor Woody Brown, Chair  
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100  
Pinellas Park, Florida 33782

**BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS**

Donna Cameron Cepeda  
Harry Cohen  
Ken Hagan  
Pat Kemp  
Gwendolyn "Gwen" Myers  
Michael Owen  
Joshua Wostal

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

Bonnie M. Wise

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

Christine M. Beck

**COUNTY INTERNAL AUDITOR**

Peggy Caskey

**ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

George Cassady

RE: Hillsborough County Partnership for the "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition (SSERC)" Project

Dear Mayor Brown,

I am writing to express Hillsborough County's intent to partner on the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's (TBRPC) application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Phase II Implementation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. The TBRPC's proposed "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" project reduces greenhouse gas emissions while creating more resilient communities for those most affected by climate change.

The TBRPC is leading a Coalition that includes the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the Jacksonville, FL MSA, the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA, and the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA. These four (4) MSAs represent over 8.6 million residents, almost 40 percent of Florida's population.

Hillsborough County is ready to forge a partnership with the SSERC, in which we will identify potential projects for implementation.

Hillsborough County is excited to support the "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" project because it aligns with regional priorities, enhances social resilience by expanding existing workforce training and hiring partnerships, creates job opportunities for low-income residents, and expands ongoing work by developing a skilled workforce.

We encourage the review committee to give the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition application the utmost consideration.

Sincerely,

*Kevin S. Moran*

Kevin Moran, Division Director  
Hillsborough County Environmental Services Division





## OFFICE OF THE CITY COMMISSION

MAYOR OLGA GONZALEZ

101 CHURCH STREET, SUITE 500 - KISSIMMEE, FLORIDA 34741 - 407.518.2315

March 25, 2024

Mayor Woody Brown, Chair  
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100  
Pinellas Park, Florida 33782

RE: The City of Kissimmee Commits to the "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" Project

Dear Mayor Brown,

I am writing to express my community's commitment for the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's (TBRPC) application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Phase II Implementation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. The TBRPC's proposed "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" project reduces greenhouse gas emissions while creating more resilient communities for those most affected by climate change.

The TBRPC is leading a Coalition that includes the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the Jacksonville, FL MSA, the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA, and the Orlando- Kissimmee-Sanford MSA. These four (4) MSAs represent over 8.6 million residents, almost 40% of Florida's population. The City of Kissimmee is focused on creating sustainable solutions to maintain a viable quality of life and support opportunities to build capacity for affordable housing within our community.

The City commits to the "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" (SSERC) project because we understand the importance of fortifying community resilience in disadvantaged communities. Our proposed solar projects will not only utilize clean and affordable energy but will ensure community sustainability through affordable housing and social resilience by expanding access to community spaces.

Please give the TBRPC's application the highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Olga Gonzalez  
Mayor, City of Kissimmee





401 South Park Avenue • Winter Park, Florida 32789

407-599-3463 • cityofwinterpark.org

**Natural  
Resources &  
Sustainability**

March 20, 2024

Mayor Woody Brown, Chair  
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100  
Pinellas Park, Florida 33782

**RE: The City of Winter Park Commits to the "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" Project**

Dear Mayor Brown,

I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's (TBRPC) application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG). TBRPC's proposed "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" (SSERC) Project reduces greenhouse gas emissions while creating more resilient communities for those most affected by climate change.

As a community-rooted commission, our focus is on ensuring year-round access to quality government assistance, even during disasters. The city of Winter Park will utilize these funds to install rooftop solar at our Community Center designating the facility as the city's first resilience hub. This initiative also reflects the city of Winter Park's goal to achieve 80% of our power from renewable energy (mostly solar) by 2035, and achieving 100% renewable energy by 2050.

The Climate Pollution Reduction Grant offers a vital chance to advance our shared goals of expanding resilience efforts within our city and throughout the state. City of Winter Park was a founding member of the Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition (SSERC) and is strongly committed to its goals and scope of work. If awarded funding, we will work with the TBRPC, SSERC members, and community partners to ensure the success of the project.

Thank you for considering our endorsement of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's (TBRPC) application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG). We look forward to continued collaboration and collective action towards a healthier and more prosperous future.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
  
2D4FC52697454BC...

Phil Anderson  
Mayor, City of Winter Park



**TBRPC**  
TAMPA BAY REGIONAL  
PLANNING COUNCIL

## Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition Project

*Florida to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions While Benefiting Low-Income Households*

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) is partnering with counties and cities across Florida to request \$199,999,999 in United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) funding to implement the “**Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition**” (SSERC) Project. Florida’s growing population faces risks of rising sea levels, increased intensity of hurricanes, increased heat, and wildfires. Climate stressors are expected to impact communities of color and low-income communities disproportionately. The SSERC Project will reduce greenhouse gases while creating more resilient communities for those most affected by climate change.



*Downtown St. Augustine Flooding During Tropical Storm Ian*

### The State-Wide Partnership:

TBRPC will lead the SSERC Project for a historic coalition that includes the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metro Area MSA, the Jacksonville, FL Metro Area MSA, the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA, and the Orlando- Kissimmee-Sanford MSA. **With over 8,600,000 residents, the SSERC Project represents almost 40% of Florida’s population.** Working together, the 15 counties and 91 cities will strategically deploy Federal resources and leverage existing grant funding to maximize the benefits of the CPRG grant funding.

### The Project Scope:

The SSERC Project will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by providing home energy efficiency tools, installing solar and energy efficiency upgrades on municipal buildings and in community facilities in disadvantaged census tracts to create high-performing buildings that enhance community resilience, and deploying large scale solar to increase energy grid reliability. SSERC will implement a statewide and regional workforce training and hiring program to benefit low-income community members and expand the number of climate-smart jobs within the state.

**Reduce Energy Usage and Costs:** Energy efficiency tools combined with education are low-cost strategies that yield greenhouse gas reductions and reduce energy burden for low-income and disadvantaged community groups. To ensure these programs benefit low-income residents, educational workshops and toolkits will be provided in disadvantaged communities in trusted and easily accessible public or nonprofit facilities. Tool kits may include energy audit equipment, energy and water efficiency devices, and educational materials in multiple languages best reflecting those spoken in the regional area. Workshops will focus on bi-lingual (English and Spanish) energy efficiency education but will offer additional translation services as needed so all community members can learn resource-saving strategies. To increase the program's reach, SSERC will train and provide stipends to local trusted advocates to assist program staff with workshops and enable in-home evaluations and installations focusing on disadvantaged communities. Appropriate individuals will partner with local housing authorities and utility companies to perform energy sweeps in housing authority properties to offer residents tips on how to conserve energy and perform minor installation of LED bulbs.





### **High-Performing Buildings for Climate & Community Resilience:**

Community-serving buildings assist with meeting low-income community members' social and economic needs and are among the first places people turn to for help after natural disasters. The project will identify community assets such as schools, community centers, critical facilities, and libraries that serve disadvantaged residents. Communities will deploy funding to retrofit these facilities, increasing their energy efficiency through operational decarbonization upgrades

and solar installation with backup batteries where feasible. These facilities will be more resilient, whether in blue or gray sky situations, and will improve services to community members. The community facilities will ensure vulnerable residents have access to safe spaces with services following events such as hurricanes, tornados, and electric grid failures.

**Large Scale Solar:** To significantly reduce greenhouse gases while bolstering the energy grid, the SSREC Project will deploy large scale solar projects. Low-income residents will benefit from these investments through increased resilience in the energy grid and potential reduced utility costs, both of which impact low-income residents.

**Statewide Workforce:** To overcome the current lack of well-trained employees and create a workforce pipeline, project partners will work together to seek partnerships with existing workforce development groups to create a statewide workforce training program and regional programs focused on increasing opportunities for low-income community members in the green economy. Training will be held in community facilities within disadvantaged communities that are easily accessed. The project will integrate local contractors to provide participants with hands-on training in building energy audits, electrical upgrades, solar installation, and the construction skills required to implement the SSREC Project. As a condition of working on projects funded with CPRG, contractors will be required to hire local workers trained through the workforce development programs, creating more economically resilient communities.



With US EPA's investment, the SSERC Project will distribute federal funding to the participating MSAs equitably using a population model. The SSERC project is a holistic approach to addressing climate change by focusing on:

- 1) **GHG-Reduction:** Electric power generation and use account for roughly 40% of the state's GHG emissions. Renewable resources supply about 7% of Florida's total in-state electricity net generation. Energy efficiency technology and solar represent a large potential for significant GHG reduction in the state.
- 2) **Long-Term Sustainability:** The proposed scope reduces the state's reliance on non-renewable energy within the building and energy sectors. It implements structural changes that move the state closer toward a carbon-neutral future.
- 3) **Climate Change Adaptation:** High-performing community facilities will ensure Floridians (especially disadvantaged groups) will be better protected from the effects of climate change as the state works to reduce GHG emissions and implement further climate adaptation measures.
- 4) **Environmental Justice:** SSERC's focus on low-income communities and workforce development programming ensures vulnerable residents are not left behind as the state switches to a green economy.

**Please join us in making the Sunshine State a leader in mitigating the impacts of global warming on our communities, creating a brighter future for us all.**

*For questions, put your contact Name, Title, at Phone Number or Email.*







March 18, 2024

Mayor Woody Brown, Chair  
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100  
Pinellas Park, Florida 33782

RE: Pasco County Partnership for the "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition (SSERC)" Project.

Dear Mayor Brown,

I am writing to express Pasco County's intent to partner on the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's (TBRPC) application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Phase II Implementation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. The TBRPC's proposed Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition (SSERC) project reduces greenhouse gas emissions while creating more resilient communities for those most affected by climate change.

The TBRPC is leading a Coalition that includes the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the Jacksonville, FL MSA, the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA, and the Orlando- Kissimmee-Sanford MSA. These four (4) MSAs represent over 8.6 million residents, almost 40% of Florida's population.

Pasco County is ready to forge a partnership with the Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition in which we work within our County community and with our stakeholders to identify potential projects for implementation. We are excited to support the SSERC project because it enhances social resilience by creating job opportunities for low-income residents and expands the existing workforce training and hiring partnerships.

Please give the TBRPC's application the highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Marc A. Bellas  
Chief Resilience & Sustainability Officer



## Office of Resilience & Asset Management

March 15, 2024

Mayor Woody Brown, Chair  
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100  
Pinellas Park, Florida 33782

RE: County Partnership for the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition (SSERC)” Project.

Dear Mayor Brown,

I am writing to express Pinellas County’s intent to partner on the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council’s (TBRPC) application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Phase II Implementation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. The TBRPC’s proposed “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” project reduces greenhouse gas emissions while creating more resilient communities for those most affected by climate change.

The TBRPC is leading a Coalition that includes the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the Jacksonville, FL MSA, the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA, and the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA. These four (4) MSAs represent over 8.6 million residents, almost 40% of Florida’s population.

Pinellas County is ready to forge a partnership with the SSERC in which we support the project with staff resources from our Office of Resilience and Asset Management. The County has expertise in energy efficiency and renewable energy to help guide local initiatives from SSERC.

Pinellas County is excited to support the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” project because it aligns with local priorities and enhances our community’s resilience by increasing access to sustainable energy.

Please give the TBRPC’s application the highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Mills  
Director  
Office of Resilience and Asset Management

400 South Fort Harrison Avenue, Suite 312  
Clearwater, FL 33756  
Phone (727) 464-7517  
V/TDD (727) 464-4062  
Pinellas.gov





March 26, 2024

Mayor Woody Brown, Chair  
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100  
Pinellas Park, Florida 33782

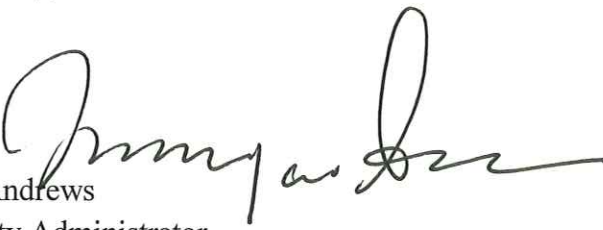
RE: St. Johns County Letter of Commitment – Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition Project.

Dear Mayor Brown,

I am writing to express my county's commitment for the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's (TBRPC) application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Phase II Implementation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. The TBRPC's proposed "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" project reduces greenhouse gas emissions while creating more resilient communities for those most affected by climate change.

St. Johns County is dedicated to creating and maintaining safe and sustainable buildings and facilities for its citizens. St. Johns County commits to the "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" (SSERC) project because it creates high performing buildings for climate and community resilience. St. Johns County is ready to assist with the planning and implementation of the SSERC. If sub-awarded funding, we will work with the TBRPC, COJ and other SSERC members, and community partners to ensure the success of the project. Please give the TBRPC's application the highest consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Joy Andrews  
County Administrator  
St. Johns County, Florida



03/25/2024

Subject: Support for the Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition Project

To Whom It May Concern,

CareerSource Central Florida (CSCF) understands the critical importance of promoting a sustainable and resilient energy infrastructure amidst the pressing challenges of climate change. Our mission is to advance economic growth, environmental sustainability, and social equity, aligning perfectly with the goals of the Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition Project. This initiative aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while directly benefiting lower-income households across Florida, a goal we ardently support.

As the designated workforce development board serving Orange, Osceola, Lake, Seminole, and Sumter counties, CSCF is uniquely positioned to actively support and propel this project's success within the Orlando - Kissimmee - Sanford Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) and beyond. Our commitment is to bolster workforce expansion in critical sectors such as solar, HVAC, and electric utilities, prioritizing recruitment from communities most impacted by climate change.

**Key Commitments from CSCF include:**

**Partnership with Existing Apprenticeship Programs:** CSCF will collaborate exclusively with apprenticeship programs that already have a relationship with us. This targeted approach ensures the optimal use of our resources, promoting successful and meaningful outcomes for both participants and the industries we serve.

**Promotion and Advertisement:** Our promotional efforts will highlight opportunities within these sectors through our well-established networks, ensuring widespread awareness among relevant companies and organizations, particularly those within the counties we serve.

**Recruitment in Lower Income and Disadvantaged Communities:** Our focus remains on supporting communities identified as Lower-Income and Disadvantaged Area Census (LIDAC) zones, ensuring equitable access to training and employment opportunities.

**Educational Outreach to Employers:** CSCF will engage employers in the solar, HVAC, and electric utility sectors to underscore the benefits of participating in apprenticeship programs. We will guide the creation of supportive work environments that enhance employee retention and satisfaction. We will also assist companies in accessing resources, enhancing the appeal of these sectors to a broader workforce.

We look forward to the potential for collaboration and are eager to contribute to creating a sustainable and prosperous future for Florida. For further discussion on this initiative, please feel free to contact me at [NBlanco@careersourcecf.com](mailto:NBlanco@careersourcecf.com).

Sincerely,

Nilda Blanco  
Sr. VP of Workforce Operations  
CareerSource Central Florida

Careersourcecentralflorida.com 1.800.757.4598

A proud partner of the American Job Center network

CareerSource Central Florida is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

All voice telephone numbers on this document may be reached by persons using TTY/TDD equipment via 1-800-955-8771 - Voice: 1-800-955-8770.



March 8, 2024

Mayor Woody Brown, Chair  
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100  
Pinellas Park, Florida 33782

RE: Florida Solar Energy Center (FSEC) Partnership for the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition (SSERC)” Project.

Dear Mayor Brown,

I am writing to express FSEC’s intent to partner on the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council’s (TBRPC) application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Phase II Implementation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. The TBRPC’s proposed “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” project reduces greenhouse gas emissions while creating more resilient communities for those most affected by climate change.

The TBRPC is leading a Coalition that includes the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the Jacksonville, FL MSA, the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA, and the Orlando- Kissimmee-Sanford MSA. These four (4) MSAs represent over 8.6 million residents, almost 40% of Florida’s population.

FSEC, Florida’s premier energy research institute located at the University of Central Florida, was founded by the state legislature to support the growth of solar energy. In operation for nearly 50 years, its programs have expanded to include all facets of renewable energy and energy efficiency. This project fits well within our mission, which is to “research and develop energy technologies that enhance Florida’s and the nation’s economy and environment, and to educate the public, students and practitioners on the results of the research.” As such, workforce development within the clean energy sector is central to our mission. FSEC is excited to support the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” project as it will stimulate the growth and expansion of the Florida Solar Energy Apprenticeship Program. A skilled and trained workforce is in high demand in the rapidly growing solar energy industry. Providing training and job opportunities for low-income residents and underserved populations is one of the goals of the apprenticeship program.

FSEC is ready to forge a partnership with the SSERC in which we share expertise and resources in providing energy practitioner instructional services. Our participation in the project will help ensure its success by providing access to solar energy industry employers and state of the art training to help grow the clean energy workforce. Please give the TBRPC’s application the highest consideration. I can be reached at [ckettles@fsec.ucf.edu](mailto:ckettles@fsec.ucf.edu) if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

*Colleen Kettles*

Colleen McCann Kettles, JD, Director  
Workforce and Business Development Division





# East Central Florida Regional Planning Council

455 N. Garland Avenue, Orlando, FL 32801 Suite 414  
Phone 407.245.0300 • [www.ecfrpc.org](http://www.ecfrpc.org)

Tara McCue, AICP  
Executive Director

March 22, 2024

Mayor Woody Brown, Chair  
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100  
Pinellas Park, Florida 33782

RE: The East Central Florida Regional Planning Council Commits to the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” (SSERC) Project.

Dear Mayor Brown,

I am writing to express the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council’s (ECFRPC) commitment to the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council’s (TBRPC) application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Phase II Implementation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. The TBRPC’s proposed “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” project reduces greenhouse gas emissions while creating more resilient communities for those most affected by climate change.

The TBRPC is leading a Coalition that includes the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the Jacksonville, FL MSA, the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA, and the Orlando- Kissimmee-Sanford MSA. These four (4) MSAs represent over 8.6 million residents, almost 40% of Florida’s population.

The ECFRPC is a council of governments who provides program and project, policy and planning assistance to governments and organizations within the 8-county east central Florida region. Through its East Central Florida Regional Resilience Collaborative program, the Council has committed to a 2030 science-based emissions reduction of 53.4% from our 2019 baseline regional greenhouse gas inventory. By participating in the Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition the ECFRPC aims to contribute resources, expertise, and commitment to the collective effort to reduce carbon emissions, promote sustainable practices, and enhance resilience in alignment with our shared goals.

ECFRPC commits to the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” (SSERC) project because it reduces greenhouse gas emissions by expanding energy efficiency educational programs and tools for residents; creates high performing buildings for climate & community resilience in disadvantaged communities; expands clean and affordable energy by increasing large scale solar installation; and

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## Executive Committee

### Chair

Julian Green  
City Commissioner  
City of Wildwood

### Vice Chair

Peggy Choudhry  
County Commissioner  
Osceola County

### Secretary

Mindy Gibson  
City Councilmember  
City of Satellite Beach

### Treasurer

Doug Shields  
County Commissioner  
Lake County

### Immediate Past Chair

Amy Lockhart  
County Commissioner  
Seminole County

### Member at Large

Craig Curry  
County Commissioner  
Marion County

### Member at Large

Jake Johansson  
County Councilmember  
Volusia County



enhances social resilience by expanding existing workforce training and hiring partnerships, creating job opportunities for low-income residents, while investing in the development of a skilled workforce.

ECFRPC is ready to assist with the planning and implementing of the SSERC goals. To ensure the success of the project, we commit to work with Coalition members. Our participation in the project will help ensure its success by tracking and maintaining momentum of projects and programs in the east central Florida region, increasing the network of engaged organizations to broaden the reach, and accelerate emissions reduction opportunities through our shared goals.

We are excited about the transformation this initiative will bring and are ready to contribute to its success.

Sincerely,



Tara McCue, AICP  
Executive Director

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#### **Executive Committee**

<b>Chair</b> Julian Green City Commissioner City of Wildwood	<b>Vice Chair</b> Peggy Choudhry County Commissioner Osceola County	<b>Secretary</b> Mindy Gibson City Councilmember City of Satellite Beach	<b>Treasurer</b> Doug Shields County Commissioner Lake County	<b>Immediate Past Chair</b> Amy Lockhart County Commissioner Seminole County	<b>Member at Large</b> Craig Curry County Commissioner Marion County	<b>Member at Large</b> Jake Johansson County Councilmember Volusia County
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March 26, 2024

Mayor Woody Brown, Chair  
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100  
Pinellas Park, Florida 33782

RE: Southeast Sustainability Directors Network Commits to the "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" Project.

Dear Mayor Brown,

I am writing to express the Southeast Sustainability Directors Network's (SSDN) commitment to support for the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's (TBRPC) application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Phase II Implementation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. The TBRPC's proposed "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" project reduces greenhouse gas emissions while creating more resilient communities for those most affected by climate change.

The TBRPC is leading a Coalition that includes the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the Jacksonville, FL MSA, the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA, and the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA. These four (4) MSAs represent over 8.6 million residents, almost 40% of Florida's population.

SSDN is a network of over 110 local government practitioners from a ten-state region in the South that are committed to addressing climate change in their communities. Our network supports the scaling of best practices throughout the region through peer learning, provides programs that support communities' access to federal funding, and promotes our communities' understanding of their local policy landscape. SSDN commits to the "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" (SSERC) project because it reduces greenhouse gas emissions by expanding energy efficiency tools for residents; expands clean and affordable energy by increasing large scale solar installation; and enhances social resilience within disadvantaged communities by expanding workforce training and hiring partnerships and creating job opportunities for low-income residents.

SSDN is ready to assist in the success of SSERC by committing to provide ongoing capacity building support to the local government partners and sharing best practices with them from communities throughout the South and around the country. Our participation in the project will help ensure its success by providing expertise in energy efficiency and renewable energy to the project and providing decision-making guidance at the policy level to affect positive change.

Please give the TBRPC's application the highest consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Meg J", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Meg Jamison  
Executive Director | Southeast Sustainability Directors Network  
[meg@southeastssdn.org](mailto:meg@southeastssdn.org) | 423-416-0839





TNC Florida  
Winter Park Office  
1035 S Semoran Blvd Suite 2-1021B,  
Winter Park, FL 32792

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1301 Constitution Avenue N.W.  
Washington, DC 20004

March 21, 2024

**Subject: Letter of collaboration for Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) application, led by the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council on behalf of the Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition (SSERC).**

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter of collaboration in support of the Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition (SSERC) grant proposal submitted by the lead applicant, The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council. The SSERC proposal will enable much needed-coordination and investment to address climate vulnerabilities, promote energy equity, and cultivate economic opportunities in clean energy technologies across 4 MSAs in Florida. Importantly, the SSERC proposal has been strategically developed by leaders in multiple major metro areas, with an aim to complement existing climate initiatives and other federal funding opportunities to accelerate climate action and J40 initiatives in Florida.

As a global environmental non-profit with deep connections across Florida, The Nature Conservancy in Florida (TNC) is uniquely positioned to support the SSERC proposal on fronts:

1. Complementing additional federal investments; and
2. Expanding climate-related market opportunities in Florida

In Florida, the TNC Climate Team is committed to making the most of the opportunities made available under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). To this end, TNC is supporting federal funding applications for climate action through a vast network of local and community leaders across the state. As a result, TNC is positioned to facilitate significant synergies and co-benefits across federal funding programs, as described below.

TNC is a coalition lead on the Florida Solar For All (FSFA) application, which is seeking \$250 million from the EPA to establish a statewide, non-profit Solar for All program in the absence of state leadership. The FSFA application is particularly notable because it offers unique opportunities to align workforce development initiatives on clean energy technologies that complements the SSERC workforce development efforts.

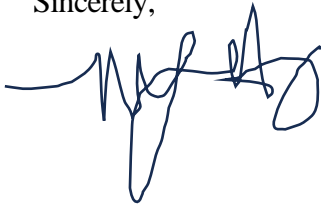
The FSFA program aims to promote and prioritize a solar job pipeline and apprenticeship opportunities within low income and disadvantaged communities (LIDACs) through the Florida Solar Energy Apprenticeship Program, hosted by the University of Central Florida. All solar installers associated with the FSFA program will participate in apprenticeships and prevailing wage standards. Over the five-year award period, FSFA anticipates the enrollment of approximately 2,000 apprentices. On behalf of the FSFA coalition, TNC is committed to working closely with the SSERC leads on workforce development and apprenticeship initiatives. This collaboration will enable economy of scale, and an expanded program, designed to fulfill FSFA and CPRG objectives.

Apart from FSFA, TNC is supporting grant applications to promote climate action on other fronts, such as the Department of Energy (DOE) Energy Improvement in Rural and Remote Areas grant; the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Climate Resilience Regional Challenge; and the EPA Community Change program. TNC is thus positioned to ensure the SSERC can leverage and amplify market and workforce development benefits, best practices, and effective climate solutions that arise from these funding streams.

The SSERC proposal represents a transformative opportunity to scale much-needed climate investment in one of the most climate-vulnerable geographies in the nation. TNC can and will help the SSERC make the most of the CPRG funding opportunity. I look forward to working with the SSERC leadership to support an inclusive, enduring program to promote climate action, clean energy market development, and energy equity in Florida.

Please feel free to contact me at [Morgan.Higman@tnc.org](mailto:Morgan.Higman@tnc.org) or (850) 508-3042 with any follow up questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Morgan Higman', with a stylized, flowing script.

Morgan Higman  
Climate Strategy Director  
The Nature Conservancy, Florida



March 26, 2024

RE: Aspen Institute Supports the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” Project.

To Whom It May Concern,

The Aspen Institute is writing to express strong support for the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council’s (TBRPC) application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Phase II Implementation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. The TBRPC’s proposed “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” project reduces greenhouse gas emissions while creating more resilient communities for those most affected by climate change.

The TBRPC is leading a Coalition that includes the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the Jacksonville, FL MSA, the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA, and the Orlando- Kissimmee-Sanford MSA. These four (4) MSAs represent over 8.6 million residents, almost 40% of Florida’s population.

The Aspen Institute is a global nonprofit organization committed to realizing a free, just, and equitable society. Founded in 1949, the Institute drives change through dialogue, leadership, and action to help solve the most important challenges facing the United States and the world.

The Aspen Institute supports the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” (SSERC) project as it aligns with the goals of our Sustainable Cities Fellowship, which seeks to prepare the rising generation of climate leaders with industry-needed training, skills, and experience, combined with the Aspen’s Institutes leadership programming and network, creating a unique pathway for future career opportunities in city management.

We are excited to support the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” project because it enhances social resilience by expanding existing workforce training and hiring partnerships, creates job opportunities for low-income residents, and expands ongoing work developing a skilled workforce.

Please give the TBRPC’s application the highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Greg Gershuny  
Executive Director, Energy & Environment Program  
Vice President  
Aspen Institute



March 27, 2024

**RE: Blue Zones Project Jacksonville Supports the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” Project.**

To Whom It May Concern,

Blue Zones Project Jacksonville is writing to express strong support for the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council’s (TBRPC) application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Phase II Implementation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. The TBRPC’s proposed “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” project reduces greenhouse gas emissions while creating more resilient communities for those most affected by climate change.

The TBRPC is leading a Coalition that includes the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the Jacksonville, FL MSA, the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA, and the Orlando- Kissimmee-Sanford MSA. These four (4) MSAs represent over 8.6 million residents, almost 40% of Florida’s population.

Blue Zones Project Jacksonville is a community-led wellbeing initiative working to make the healthy choice the easy choice in Jacksonville, FL. That work is directly intertwined with the health of the built and natural environment of our zip codes of focus (32206, 32208, 32209, 32210, 32244). It is crucial to center equity in the effort to address climate change and improve the resilience and sustainability of Low-Income/Disadvantaged Communities (LIDAC).

LIDAC communities, like those in Jacksonville’s North and West sides, bear a higher energy burden and tend to have outdated and underfunded community facilities. The “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” (SSERC) will serve to enhance social resilience, expand job opportunities and workforce development, and invest in the resilience and sustainability of our more vulnerable communities.

We are excited to support the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” project and we ask that you give the TBRPC’s application the highest consideration.

Sincerely,

*Nicole Hamm*

Nicole Hamm  
Executive Director

*Marlo Zarka*

Marlo Zarka  
Public Policy Lead

*Hayley Spring*

Hayley Spring  
Public Policy  
Coordinator

*Lewan Brunson*

Lewan Brunson  
Public Policy  
Coordinator



March 26, 2024

**RE: CareerSource Northeast Florida Supports the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” Project**

To Whom It May Concern,

As President of CareerSource Northeast Florida (CSNEFL), I am writing to express my support for the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council’s (TBRPC) application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Phase II Implementation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. The TBRPC’s proposed “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” project reduces greenhouse gas emissions while creating more resilient communities for those most affected by climate change.

The TBRPC is leading a Coalition that includes the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the Jacksonville MSA, the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA, and the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA. These four (4) MSAs represent over 8.6 million residents, almost 40% of Florida’s population.

As the workforce development organization for Northeast Florida and the Jacksonville MSA, CSNEFL works to forge strong partnerships with local communities, elected officials, business, labor, and education leaders to improve workforce education, employment, and training opportunities for Duval, Nassau, St. Johns, Clay, Putnam, and Baker counties. Our mission is to connect workers to jobs and businesses to the talent they need to thrive. We provide innovative services that build a talent pipeline for the jobs of today and the future.

We are excited to support the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” project because it will enhance social resilience by expanding existing workforce training and hiring partnerships, create job opportunities for low-income residents, and expand ongoing work developing a skilled workforce.

Please give the TBRPC’s application the highest consideration.

Sincerely,

*Bruce Ferguson, Jr.*

Bruce Ferguson, Jr.  
President

March 26, 2024

**RE: CareerSource Northeast Florida Supports the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” Project**

To Whom It May Concern,

As President of CareerSource Northeast Florida (CSNEFL), I am writing to express my support for the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council’s (TBRPC) application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Phase II Implementation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. The TBRPC’s proposed “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” project reduces greenhouse gas emissions while creating more resilient communities for those most affected by climate change.

The TBRPC is leading a Coalition that includes the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the Jacksonville MSA, the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA, and the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA. These four (4) MSAs represent over 8.6 million residents, almost 40% of Florida’s population.

As the workforce development organization for Northeast Florida and the Jacksonville MSA, CSNEFL works to forge strong partnerships with local communities, elected officials, business, labor, and education leaders to improve workforce education, employment, and training opportunities for Duval, Nassau, St. Johns, Clay, Putnam, and Baker counties. Our mission is to connect workers to jobs and businesses to the talent they need to thrive. We provide innovative services that build a talent pipeline for the jobs of today and the future.

We are excited to support the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” project because it will enhance social resilience by expanding existing workforce training and hiring partnerships, create job opportunities for low-income residents, and expand ongoing work developing a skilled workforce.

Please give the TBRPC’s application the highest consideration.

Sincerely,

*Bruce Ferguson, Jr.*

Bruce Ferguson, Jr.  
President



March 28, 2024

The CLEO Institute  
2103 Coral Way, 2nd floor  
Miami, FL 33145

Mayor Woody Brown, Chair  
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100  
Pinellas Park, Florida 33782

RE: The CLEO Institute Supports the Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition.

Dear Mayor Brown,

The CLEO Institute wishes to express our strong support for the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's (TBRPC) application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Phase II Implementation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program.

The Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition's Project - as proposed by the TBRPC - will reduce greenhouse gas emissions growing resilience in the very communities most impacted by climate change. The impacts will be significant as the TBRPC is leading a Coalition representing over 8.6 million residents, almost 40% of Florida's population which includes the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the Jacksonville, FL MSA, the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA, and the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA.

This is critical work as Florida has historically ignored the opportunity to capture cost effective energy efficiency and conservation measures so the need is great. In the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy's most recent annual ranking, out of 53 utilities nationally, Florida's investor-owned utilities are in the back of the pack at 52nd, 48th and 40th.

The CLEO Institute is pleased to support the "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" (SSERC) project because the effort will help reduce climate pollution and bring benefits to historically marginalized communities in Florida. The CLEO Institute led on community engagement for the City of Tampa's Climate Action and Equity Plan and shares the goal of reducing energy burdens to build wealth. Climate pollution puts us at all risk but the most vulnerable feel it first and worst. It's critical that the SSERC will enhance social resilience by expanding existing workforce training and hiring partnerships. There is a great opportunity to create job opportunities for low-income residents, and expand ongoing work to develop a skilled workforce.

The CLEO Institute respectfully requests that the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's application be given the highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Yoca Arditi-Rocha | Executive Director, The CLEO Institute



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

March 28, 2024

The Honorable Michael S. Regan  
Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

**Re: Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition application to EPA CPRG Program**

Dear Mr. Regan:

I write to you today regarding the Tampa Bay's Regional Planning Council's (TBRPC) Coalition application for the US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) funding. Florida's growing population faces risks of rising sea levels, increased intensity of hurricanes, increased heat, and wildfires. TBRPC has described their "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" (SSERC) Project to me as a comprehensive way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while creating more resilient communities for those most affected by climate change and accelerating the green economy with workforce development.

TBRPC is leading a Coalition that includes the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metro Area MSA, the Jacksonville, FL Metro Area MSA, the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA, and the Orlando- Kissimmee-Sanford MSA, the home of my congressional district. These four (4) MSAs represent over 8.6 million residents, almost 40% of Florida's population. Together, they are proposing this project that would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by expanding energy efficiency educational programs and tools for residents; creating high-performing centers to build resiliency in disadvantaged communities; and growing clean and affordable energy by increasing commercial solar installation.

I encourage you to give TBRPC's Coalition grant application your full and fair consideration consistent with all agency guidelines and regulations. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Darren Soto".

Darren Soto  
Member of Congress





# DR. WALTER L. SMITH LIBRARY

March 20, 2024

Mayor Woody Brown, Chair  
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100  
Pinellas Park, Florida 33782

Dear Mayor Brown,

I am writing to express unwavering support for the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's (TBRPC) application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Phase II Implementation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. The TBRPC's proposed "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" project was created to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while making more resilient communities for those most impacted by climate change. The TBRPC is leading a Coalition that includes the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the Jacksonville, FL MSA, the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA, and the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA. These four (4) MSAs represent over 8.6 million residents, almost 40% of Florida's population.

The Dr. Walter L. Smith Library has served the Tampa Bay area for more than 18 years. We have provided a safe haven for education for children and adult education. We have grown to act as a meeting place for community organizations and people to gather for meetings and to hold events, like our Toxic Bus Tour, where various concepts and ideas are shared regarding environmental justice so community solutions can be made. We have served organizations like the League of United Latin American Citizens, Sierra Club, The Urban Progress Alliance have utilized our facilities in order to build resilience in our communities. The Dr. Walter L. Smith Library supports the "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" (SSERC) project because it supports the concept of public education and building resilience in our underserved frontline communities. Our staff is well equipped to act as a collaborator to support the implementation of potential projects.

The Tampa Bay area is excited to support the "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" project because it aligns with local priorities that enhance social resilience by expanding existing workforce training and hiring partnerships, creates job opportunities for low-income residents, and expands ongoing work developing a strong community and a skilled workforce for a great future.

Please give the TBRPC's application the highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Walter L. Smith, II MPH, MLA, LEP  
CEO/Dr. Walter L. Smith Library & Museum  
[wsmithlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:wsmithlibrary@gmail.com)

[wsmithlibrary.org](http://wsmithlibrary.org)

905 N. Albany Avenue Tampa, Florida 33606

813.531.1845



March 27, 2024

Mayor Woody Brown, Chair  
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100  
Pinellas Park, Florida 33782

**RE: EDF Supports the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” Project**

Dear Mayor Brown,

I am writing to express the Environmental Defense Fund’s (EDF) support for the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council’s (TBRPC) application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Phase II Implementation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. EDF is excited to support the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” (SSERC) project. By reducing energy usage and adding on-site energy production for buildings in low-income and disadvantaged communities, the project will reduce energy costs and improve social services available in these communities. The project reduces greenhouse gas emissions while creating more resilient communities for those most affected by climate change.

EDF is a science and economics focused environmental nonprofit organization with more than 50 years of service in identifying and combating environmental harms and strengthening the ability of people and nature to thrive. EDF works in more than 30 countries and is proud to have more than 3 million contributing members to tackle climate change.

The TBRPC is leading a Coalition that includes the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the Jacksonville MSA, the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA, and the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA. These four MSAs represent over 8.6 million residents, almost 40% of Florida’s population. The grant would generate significant economic and pollution reduction benefits while focusing investments in underserved communities.

This coalition effort will enable CPRG funds to be spent efficiently and cost effectively for high impact by distributing across four MSAs and then distributing to local jurisdictions within each region. The Coalition will prioritize investments in publicly owned buildings. Coalition members will perform energy audits of public buildings and identify the best emissions reduction benefit potential for energy efficiency measures and solar installation (where applicable).

The SSERC project will also set aside funding for workforce development. This funding can create job opportunities for low-income residents, especially considering the project’s focus on improving facilities in low-income and disadvantaged communities. Such opportunities enhance community resilience by improving stability and quality of life for its members. Participation of low-income residents in the clean energy workforce can give them access to good-paying jobs and provide them with new skills that are marketable to other occupations.

It is estimated that more than half of low- and moderate-income (LMI) households in Jacksonville, Orlando, Tampa, and Miami have energy burdens that exceed 7.2 percent – well above the national average of 5.1 percent<sup>1</sup>. The Coalition will distribute educational toolkits to residents of low-income communities to help them save energy and costs.

The SSERC project will provide a valuable social service to low-income and disadvantaged Floridians by creating high-performance public buildings in their communities. Once modernized to be more energy efficient and reduce the emissions intensity of their energy use, these buildings will become more comfortable and healthy spaces for residents to gather. This in turn will make them community hubs that strengthen the social fabric of the community, strengthen ties between residents and service providers, and increase neighborhood resilience. Where the building has a solar system, it can also provide energy resiliency to residents during power outages if battery backup is also installed.

Florida is the third-largest energy-consuming state in the U.S. and the second-largest electricity producer, with natural gas generating about 74 percent of its electricity<sup>2</sup>. Thus, it can make an outsized impact on the country's efforts to achieve a carbon-free electric power system and net-zero economy. Despite Florida's vulnerability to climate change it has endless opportunity for energy efficiency, but consistently falls far short of the national average and does not have statewide Energy Efficiency Resources Standards in place.

The State of Florida did not participate in the planning grant phase of the CPRG program. **Therefore, this Coalition application presents the most significant opportunity for Florida to reduce the state's GHG emissions** under the CPRG program, given the planned scope of implementation and level of coordination involved in this application.

EDF has more than 250,000 members in Florida and stands ready to support the Coalition to identify potential projects for implementation, provide scientific and economic research, and connect with stakeholders. The Coalition's focus on energy efficiency measures adopts a cost-effective approach to cutting emissions, with huge potential impact. It is estimated that by 2040 Florida has the potential to save nearly 34,000 GWh by deploying energy efficiency across the residential, commercial, and industrial sectors. This is 12 percent of all state sales of energy – the highest energy efficiency potential of any state.

Please give the TBRPC's application the highest consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dawn Shirreffs", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dawn Shirreffs, Florida Director  
Environmental Defense Fund

<sup>1</sup> William D. Bryan and Grace Parker. *Affordability Pathways through Energy Efficiency in Florida*. Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance (SEEA), 2023.

<sup>2</sup> *Florida: State Profile and Energy Estimates*. Energy Information Administration (EIA), accessed March 22, 2024.



March 24, 2024

Mayor Woody Brown, Chair  
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100  
Pinellas Park, Florida 33782

RE: Enterprising Latinas, Inc. (ELI) Supports the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” Project.

Dear Mayor Brown,

I am writing to express Enterprising Latinas’ Inc. (ELI) strong support for the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council’s (TBRPC) application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Phase II Implementation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. The TBRPC’s proposed “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” project will reduce greenhouse gas emissions while creating more resilient communities for those most affected by climate change. The TBRPC is leading a Coalition that includes the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the Jacksonville, FL MSA, the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA, and the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA. These four (4) MSAs represent over 8.6 million residents, almost 40% of Florida’s population.

Enterprising Latinas, Inc. (ELI) is women’s economic development 501 © 3 corporation whose mission is to create pathways of opportunities for low-income women, particularly Latinas in the Tampa Bay region by teaching new skills, creating networks of mutual support, and advocating for innovative solutions to promote economic mobility and equity. As a women of color-led organization founded in 2009 and in operation since 2014, Enterprising Latinas (ELI) recognizes the imminent threat of climate change in the Tampa Bay region particularly understanding that the low-income communities we serve will bear the brunt of its adverse impacts, exacerbating existing socio-economic vulnerabilities.

Over the past 10 years we’ve helped to shift the economic trajectory of hundreds of women living in underserved rural communities in South Hillsborough County by advocating for land-use policies that protect the community against gentrification and create the opportunity for neighborhood revitalization. Through our workforce training programs we’ve trained over 300 individuals to obtain higher paying jobs or becoming self-employed by launching and growing their own micro-enterprises. We’ve spurred the creation of 200+ new businesses that are already making an impact with their \$1.2M of investment in their businesses and the community. ELI is closing the digital divide in a rural part of Hillsborough County, that today serves over 550 very low-income families with a free WIFI Network that we built. We created a community opportunity HUB where over 2,000 families per year gain access to services that were not available in the community where they live.

Enterprising Latinas, Inc. supports the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” (SSERC) project given its commitment to focus on disadvantaged census tracts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. By skilling up residents in the impacted areas, this effort will increase the economic mobility of low-income individuals while also improving the energy efficiency of homes, community facilities and municipal building with solar and energy efficiency upgrades that will create high-performing buildings that enhance community resilience, and deploys large scale solar to increase energy grid reliability.

Proud member of



NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION FOR  
LATINO  
COMMUNITY  
ASSET  
BUILDERS



5128 State Road 674  
Wimauma, FL 33598

P.O. Box 1298  
813.699.5811

[enterprisinglatinas.org](http://enterprisinglatinas.org)



Through our partnership with the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” (SSERC), we see the opportunity to invest in a cleaner economy that will spur innovation and economic growth while building more equitable, resilient communities. In this pursuit, ELI will offer:

- **Job Training Programs:** Offer training programs focused on green jobs and sustainable industries to equip individuals with the skills needed for employment in sectors contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- **Green Entrepreneurship Support:** Facilitate entrepreneurship development programs tailored to support ventures focused on renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, eco-tourism, and other environmentally conscious businesses.
- **Access to Green Technology:** Provide access to affordable green technologies such as energy-efficient appliances, solar panels, and water-saving devices to help households reduce their carbon footprint while saving on utility bills.
- **Green Infrastructure Projects:** Collaborate with local governments and community organizations to implement green infrastructure projects, such as community gardens, urban forests, and green spaces, which not only mitigate climate impacts but also create employment opportunities.
- **Green Job Placement Services:** Establish partnerships with businesses and organizations involved in green industries to facilitate job placement and career advancement opportunities for individuals seeking employment in environmentally sustainable sectors.
- **Climate Resilience Training:** Offer workshops and training sessions on climate resilience strategies, including disaster preparedness, sustainable land use practices, and community-based adaptation measures, to empower individuals and communities to withstand the impacts of climate change.
- **Policy Advocacy and Community Outreach:** Engage in advocacy efforts to promote policies and regulations that support climate change mitigation and economic mobility, advocating for equitable access to resources and opportunities for all community members.

We look forward to our partnership with the SSERC to benefit low-income community members and expand the number of climate-smart jobs within the state. Please give the TBRPC’s application the highest consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth Gutierrez".

Elizabeth (Liz) Gutierrez

Founder/CEO, Enterprising Latinas, Inc. (ELI)

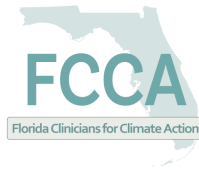
Proud member of



5128 State Road 674  
Wimauma, FL 33598

P.O. Box 1298  
813.699.5811

[enterprisinglatinas.org](http://enterprisinglatinas.org)



Florida Clinicians for Climate Action

March 29, 2024  
Mayor Woody Brown, Chair  
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100  
Pinellas Park, Florida 33782

RE: Florida Clinicians for Climate Action Supports the Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition Project.

Dear Mayor Brown,

I am writing to express the Florida Clinicians for Climate Action's strong support for the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's (TBRPC) application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Phase II Implementation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. The TBRPC's proposed "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" project reduces greenhouse gas emissions while creating more resilient communities for those most affected by climate change.

The TBRPC is leading a Coalition that includes the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the Jacksonville, FL MSA, the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA, and the Orlando- Kissimmee-Sanford MSA. These four (4) MSAs represent over 8.6 million residents, almost 40% of Florida's population.

Florida Clinicians for Climate Action (FCCA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to informing our peers, policymakers, and patients about the health risks from climate change and about the health benefits of climate action. We advocate for equitable implementation of climate solutions. FCCA supports the Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition (SSERC) project because it mirrors our priorities as it will address climate change mitigation, adaptation, and improves health, especially among vulnerable communities in Florida with a high energy burden.

Please give the TBRPC's application the highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Shauna Junco, PharmD  
Board President, Florida Clinicians for Climate Action



Florida Solar Energy Industries Association  
5077 Fruitville Rd, Suite 109-206  
Sarasota, FL 34232

March 29, 2024

Mayor Woody Brown, Chair  
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100  
Pinellas Park, Florida 33782

RE: The Florida Solar Energy Industries Association Supports the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” Project.

Dear Mayor Brown:

I am writing to express strong support for the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council’s (TBRPC) application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Phase II Implementation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. The TBRPC’s proposed “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” project reduces greenhouse gas emissions while creating more resilient communities for those most affected by climate change.

The TBRPC is leading a Coalition that includes the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the Jacksonville, FL MSA, the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA, and the Orlando- Kissimmee-Sanford MSA. These four (4) MSAs represent over 8.6 million residents, almost 40% of Florida’s population.

As the Florida Solar Energy Industries Association, our mission is rooted in protecting and promoting the interests of the solar energy industry across the state. The “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” project embodies this mission by emphasizing renewable energy solutions and the growth of solar energy. By fostering collaboration and innovation within the energy sector, together, we can drive positive change and create a more sustainable future for Florida.

We endorse the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” (SSERC) project, as it aligns with our organization's mission and presents opportunities to expand solar energy infrastructure and workforce development across the state. By identifying and implementing projects that promote renewable energy usage and resilience, we can collectively work towards building a cleaner, more sustainable energy future for all Floridians.

We urge you to give the TBRPC’s application the highest consideration, as it represents a significant opportunity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to a more sustainable future for Florida.

Please give the TBRPC’s application the highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Wendy E Parker, APR, CEM  
Executive Director  
Florida Solar Energy Industries Association (FlaSEIA)

March 26, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

Florida State College at Jacksonville is writing to express strong support for the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's (TBRPC) application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Phase II Implementation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. The TBRPC's proposed "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" project reduces greenhouse gas emissions while creating more resilient communities for those most affected by climate change.

The TBRPC is leading a Coalition that includes the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the Jacksonville, FL MSA, the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA, and the Orlando- Kissimmee-Sanford MSA. These four (4) MSAs represent over 8.6 million residents, almost 40% of Florida's population.

Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ) began serving the community in 1966 and currently provides affordability and accessibility to over 45,000 non-traditional college students seeking to enhance skills prior to entering the workforce. FSCJ retains community college standards including open admission and enrollment into associate degree programs and workforce education programs. The programs offered by FSCJ help students increase long-term earning potential by preparing them for careers in high-wage, high-demand fields.

We are excited to support the "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" project because it will help expand existing workforce training and create job opportunities for low-income residents.

Please give the TBRPC's application the highest consideration.

Sincerely,

*Dr. Cedrick Gibson, AVP*

Cedrick Gibson  
AVP Workforce Development & Entrepreneurship  
Florida State College at Jacksonville





March 15, 2024

Mayor Woody Brown, Chair  
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100  
Pinellas Park, Florida 33782

RE: Groundwork Jacksonville Supports the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” Project.

Dear Mayor Brown,

Groundwork Jacksonville (GWJax) is writing to express strong support for the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council’s (TBRPC) application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Phase II Implementation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. The TBRPC’s proposed “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” project reduces greenhouse gas emissions while creating more resilient communities for those most affected by climate change.

The TBRPC is leading a Coalition that includes the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the Jacksonville, FL MSA, the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA, and the Orlando- Kissimmee-Sanford MSA. These four (4) MSAs represent over 8.6 million residents, almost 40% of Florida’s population.

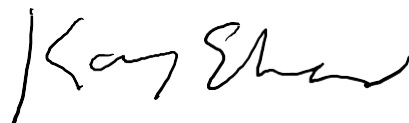
GWJax is the City of Jacksonville’s nonprofit partner established to clean and redevelop Hogans and McCoys creeks and build the Emerald Trail, a 34-mile network of trails, greenways and parks that will encircle the urban core and connect 14 historic neighborhoods to downtown, the creeks, and the St. Johns River.

GWJax supports the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” (SSERC) project because it enhances our efforts to protect residents in the economically and environmentally vulnerable neighborhoods along the Trail from the threats of climate and displacement. One example is our home repair program where GWJax works with residents in owner-occupied homes to install cool roofs; repair or replace walls, windows and doors, bathroom, and kitchen fixtures, electrical, plumbing, and HVAC systems; remediate mold; and beautify home exteriors and landscape. The SSERC educational workshops and toolkits will expand opportunities to connect with residents to provide low-cost strategies that yield greenhouse gas reductions and reduce energy burden for low-income and disadvantaged community groups.

We are excited to support the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” project because it aligns with local priorities.

Please give the TBRPC’s application the highest consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kay Ehas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and a stylized "E".

Kay Ehas  
Chief Executive Officer





March 26, 2024

RE: JAXUSA Partnership Supports the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” Project.

To Whom It May Concern,

JAXUSA Partnership is writing to express strong support for the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council’s (TBRPC) application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Phase II Implementation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. The TBRPC’s proposed “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” project reduces greenhouse gas emissions while creating more resilient communities for those most affected by climate change.

The TBRPC is leading a Coalition that includes the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the Jacksonville, FL MSA, the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA, and the Orlando- Kissimmee-Sanford MSA. These four (4) MSAs represent over 8.6 million residents, almost 40% of Florida’s population.

JAXUSA Partnership is the JAX Chamber’s private, nonprofit economic development division. Our mission is to be a catalyst for economic growth and maximize the region’s unique resources to aggressively recruit jobs and capital investment to our seven-county focus area in Northeast Florida. This grant request aligns with our Regional Strategic Plan to support Talent Development, Business Development, Quality of Life as well as Infrastructure Development.

We are excited to support the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” (SSERC) project because it aligns with local priorities, enhances social resilience by expanding existing workforce training and hiring partnerships, creates job opportunities for low-income residents, and expands ongoing work developing a skilled workforce.

Please give the TBRPC’s application the highest consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anna Lebesch", written in a cursive style.

SVP Strategy and Talent, JAXUSA Partnership



225 North Pearl Street  
Jacksonville, FL 32202-4513

March 26, 2024

RE: JEA Supports the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” Project.

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of JEA to express our support for the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council’s (TBRPC) application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency Phase II Implementation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program. The TBRPC’s proposed “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” project reduces greenhouse gas emissions while creating more resilient communities for those most affected by climate change.

The TBRPC is leading a Coalition that includes the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the Jacksonville, FL MSA, the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA, and the Orlando- Kissimmee-Sanford MSA. These four (4) MSAs represent over 8.6 million residents, nearly 40 percent of Florida’s population.

As the largest community-owned utility in Florida, JEA supports the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” project because it aligns with our long-range clean energy goals.

In addition to moving the State of Florida toward renewables like solar and energy efficiency, the project also supports economic improvement. It aligns with local priorities, enhances social resilience by expanding existing workforce training and hiring partnerships, creates job opportunities for low-income residents, and expands ongoing work to develop a skilled workforce.

We ask that you please give the TBRPC’s application the highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Laura M. Schepis  
JEA Chief External Affairs Officer



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0910**

March 29, 2024

The Honorable Michael S. Regan  
Administrator  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Washington, DC

Re: Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition"  
(SSERC) Project

Dear Administrator Regan:

I write to support the Tampa Bay's Regional Planning Council's (TBRPC) Coalition application for the US EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) funding. Florida's growing population faces risks of rising sea levels, increased intensity of hurricanes, increased heat, and wildfires. Climate change impacts low-income and disadvantaged communities disproportionately, and the TBRPC's proposed "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" (SSERC) Project reduces greenhouse gas emissions while creating more resilient communities for those most affected by climate change.

TBRPC is leading a Coalition that includes the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metro Area MSA, the Jacksonville, FL Metro Area MSA, the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA, and the Orlando- Kissimmee-Sanford MSA. These four (4) MSAs represent over 8.6 million residents, almost 40% of Florida's population. Together, they are proposing a project that reduces greenhouse gas emissions by expanding energy efficiency educational programs and tools for residents; creating high-performing centers to build resiliency in disadvantaged communities; and expanding clean and affordable energy by increasing commercial solar installation. They are working together to expand existing workforce training and hiring partnerships, with a focus on low-income residents, to create a workforce pipeline for the green economy and ensure that federal investment benefits disadvantaged communities.

I encourage you to give TBRPC's Coalition grant application your full and fair consideration consistent with all applicable laws and regulations. Thank you for your consideration and please notify my office of any funds awarded.

Sincerely



Maxwell Alejandro Frost  
Member of Congress



March 25, 2024

Mayor Woody Brown, Chair  
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100  
Pinellas Park, Florida 33782

RE: LULAC Florida Supports the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” Project.

Dear Mayor Brown,

I am writing to express our strong support for the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council’s (TBRPC) application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Phase II Implementation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. The TBRPC’s proposed “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” project reduces greenhouse gas emissions while creating more resilient communities for those most affected by climate change.

The TBRPC is leading a Coalition that includes the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the Jacksonville, FL MSA, the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA, and the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA. These four (4) MSAs represent over 8.6 million residents, almost 40% of Florida’s population.

League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Florida is The Mission of the League of United Latin American Citizens is to advance the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, housing, health and civil rights of the Hispanic population of the Florida. We see the implementation of this project to be in alignment with our mission.

LULAC Florida supports the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” (SSERC) project because it could positively impact our Hispanic community. LULAC Florida will work with TBRPC to ensure the project is implemented in a culturally competent and appropriate manor that will invite our community to participate.

Please give the TBRPC’s application the highest consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eliseo Santana', is written over a circular blue stamp. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Eliseo Santana MBA  
Florida State Director  
LULAC Florida



Serving the communities of Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns Counties

100 Festival Park Avenue  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
(904) 279-0880  
(904) 279-0881  
www.nefrc.org  
info@nefrc.org

***Bringing Communities Together***

March 29, 2024

RE: Northeast Florida Regional Council Supports the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” Project.

To Whom It May Concern:

The Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) is writing to express strong support for the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council’s (TBRPC) application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Phase II Implementation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. The TBRPC’s proposed “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” project reduces greenhouse gas emissions while creating more resilient communities for those most affected by climate change.

The TBRPC is leading a Coalition that includes the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the Jacksonville, FL MSA, the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA, and the Orlando- Kissimmee-Sanford MSA. These four (4) MSAs represent over 8.6 million residents, almost 40% of Florida’s population.

The NEFRC is one of ten Regional Planning Councils (RPCs) in the State of Florida, and our mission is to celebrate the unique assets of Northeast Florida and to engage its people, businesses, governments, and organizations in constructing solutions to issues such as energy resilience.

NEFRC supports the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” (SSERC) project because it will allow multiple entities throughout the State of Florida to work together on a specific outcome (greenhouse gas reduction) from one of the core programs common to the RPCs (Resiliency).

We are excited to support the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” project because it aligns with regional priorities, enhances social resilience, and creates job opportunities for low-income residents. Please give the TBRPC’s application the highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Payne, AICP  
Chief Executive Officer

**Follow Us.**



EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



813-738-3201

info@thepowerofhelp.org

Tampa, Florida



To:

March 15, 2024

Mayor Woody Brown, Chair  
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100  
Pinellas Park, Florida 33782

RE: The Power Of Help Supports the "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" Project

Dear Mayor Brown,

I am writing to express strong support for the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's (TBRPC) application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Phase II Implementation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. The TBRPC's proposed "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" project will reduce greenhouse gas emissions while creating more resilient communities for those most impacted by climate change.

The TBRPC is leading a Coalition that includes the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the Jacksonville, FL MSA, the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA, and the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA. These four (4) MSAs represent over 8.6 million residents, almost 40% of Florida's population.

The Power Of Help is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting sustainable energy solutions and initiatives that promote environmental stewardship and climate resilience especially in historically marginalized areas of our state. Our mission is to collaborate with partners to implement projects that mitigate the impacts of climate change while ensuring economic and social benefits for local communities. The Power Of Help supports the "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" (SSERC) project because it presents an exceptional opportunity to advance these goals through innovative and inclusive approaches to reduce energy waste and building resilience. This project perfectly aligns with our commitment to enhancing community preparedness and adapting to the challenges posed by climate change.

The Power of Help is excited to support The "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" project because it will achieve meaningful reductions of GHG and other air pollutants, particularly in low-income and disadvantaged communities. The Project will enhance social resilience by expanding existing workforce training and hiring partnerships, while creating job opportunities for low-income residents, and expanding ongoing efforts to develop a skilled workforce. These innovative programs are replicable and can be "scaled up" across multiple jurisdictions.

With these priorities, the SSERC project will not only address the urgent need for climate action but also will foster economic growth and improve the quality of life for the most vulnerable populations in Florida.

Therefore, I urge you to give the TBRPC's application the highest consideration. This project represents a critical step forward in our collective efforts to build a more sustainable and resilient future for Florida. The Power Of Help is committed to supporting the TBRPC and its partners in this endeavor, and we look forward to the positive impact the "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" will have on our communities and the environment.

Sincerely,

*Wanda V. Mays*

Executive Director  
The Power Of Help





March 26, 2024

SUBJECT: Support for the Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition Project

To Whom It Concerns,

The Sierra Club of Northeast Florida (SCNEF) supports the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's (TBRPC) application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Phase II Implementation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. The proposed "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" project can reduce greenhouse gas emissions while creating more resilient communities for those most affected by climate change.

Given that the TBRPC is leading a Coalition that includes the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the Jacksonville, FL MSA, the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA, and the Orlando- Kissimmee-Sanford MSA, the proposed grant will positively impact a substantial portion of Florida. More specifically, these four MSAs represent over 8.6 million residents, almost 40% of Florida's population.

The Sierra Club of Northeast Florida (SCNEF) is a regional environmental advocacy organization with members residing in Duval, St Johns, and Clay counties. The SCNEF is very active in efforts to increase regional resilience and is leading the Renew Jacksonville Campaign, an effort to get Jacksonville to commit to operating on 100% renewable energy. Thus, this grant aligns with many of our organizational priorities.

The SCNEF supports the "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" (SSERC) project because it will help increase the resilience to extreme weather while providing regions with funding to address unique regional resiliency needs. Our organization feels "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" project aligns with our local priorities and will yield many social, economic, and environmental benefits. Please give the TBRPC's application serious consideration.

Sincerely,

*J. Logan Cross, Chair*  
Sierra Club of Northeast Florida  
[logan.cross@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:logan.cross@florida.sierraclub.org)  
904-710-6247



TNC Florida  
Winter Park Office  
1035 S Semoran Blvd Suite 2-1021B,  
Winter Park, FL 32792

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1301 Constitution Avenue N.W.  
Washington, DC 20004

March 21, 2024

**Subject: Letter of collaboration for Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) application, led by the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council on behalf of the Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition (SSERC).**

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter of collaboration in support of the Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition (SSERC) grant proposal submitted by the lead applicant, The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council. The SSERC proposal will enable much needed-coordination and investment to address climate vulnerabilities, promote energy equity, and cultivate economic opportunities in clean energy technologies across 4 MSAs in Florida. Importantly, the SSERC proposal has been strategically developed by leaders in multiple major metro areas, with an aim to complement existing climate initiatives and other federal funding opportunities to accelerate climate action and J40 initiatives in Florida.

As a global environmental non-profit with deep connections across Florida, The Nature Conservancy in Florida (TNC) is uniquely positioned to support the SSERC proposal on fronts:

1. Complementing additional federal investments; and
2. Expanding climate-related market opportunities in Florida

In Florida, the TNC Climate Team is committed to making the most of the opportunities made available under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). To this end, TNC is supporting federal funding applications for climate action through a vast network of local and community leaders across the state. As a result, TNC is positioned to facilitate significant synergies and co-benefits across federal funding programs, as described below.

TNC is a coalition lead on the Florida Solar For All (FSFA) application, which is seeking \$250 million from the EPA to establish a statewide, non-profit Solar for All program in the absence of state leadership. The FSFA application is particularly notable because it offers unique opportunities to align workforce development initiatives on clean energy technologies that complements the SSERC workforce development efforts.

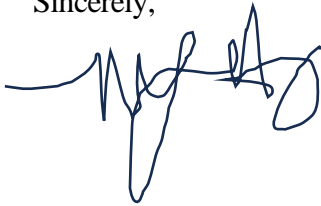
The FSFA program aims to promote and prioritize a solar job pipeline and apprenticeship opportunities within low income and disadvantaged communities (LIDACs) through the Florida Solar Energy Apprenticeship Program, hosted by the University of Central Florida. All solar installers associated with the FSFA program will participate in apprenticeships and prevailing wage standards. Over the five-year award period, FSFA anticipates the enrollment of approximately 2,000 apprentices. On behalf of the FSFA coalition, TNC is committed to working closely with the SSERC leads on workforce development and apprenticeship initiatives. This collaboration will enable economy of scale, and an expanded program, designed to fulfill FSFA and CPRG objectives.

Apart from FSFA, TNC is supporting grant applications to promote climate action on other fronts, such as the Department of Energy (DOE) Energy Improvement in Rural and Remote Areas grant; the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Climate Resilience Regional Challenge; and the EPA Community Change program. TNC is thus positioned to ensure the SSERC can leverage and amplify market and workforce development benefits, best practices, and effective climate solutions that arise from these funding streams.

The SSERC proposal represents a transformative opportunity to scale much-needed climate investment in one of the most climate-vulnerable geographies in the nation. TNC can and will help the SSERC make the most of the CPRG funding opportunity. I look forward to working with the SSERC leadership to support an inclusive, enduring program to promote climate action, clean energy market development, and energy equity in Florida.

Please feel free to contact me at [Morgan.Higman@tnc.org](mailto:Morgan.Higman@tnc.org) or (850) 508-3042 with any follow up questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Morgan Higman', with a stylized, looping flourish at the end.

Morgan Higman  
Climate Strategy Director  
The Nature Conservancy, Florida



March 27, 2024

**RE: Blue Zones Project Jacksonville Supports the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” Project.**

To Whom It May Concern,

Blue Zones Project Jacksonville is writing to express strong support for the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council’s (TBRPC) application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Phase II Implementation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. The TBRPC’s proposed “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” project reduces greenhouse gas emissions while creating more resilient communities for those most affected by climate change.

The TBRPC is leading a Coalition that includes the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the Jacksonville, FL MSA, the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA, and the Orlando- Kissimmee-Sanford MSA. These four (4) MSAs represent over 8.6 million residents, almost 40% of Florida’s population.

Blue Zones Project Jacksonville is a community-led wellbeing initiative working to make the healthy choice the easy choice in Jacksonville, FL. That work is directly intertwined with the health of the built and natural environment of our zip codes of focus (32206, 32208, 32209, 32210, 32244). It is crucial to center equity in the effort to address climate change and improve the resilience and sustainability of Low-Income/Disadvantaged Communities (LIDAC).

LIDAC communities, like those in Jacksonville’s North and West sides, bear a higher energy burden and tend to have outdated and underfunded community facilities. The “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” (SSERC) will serve to enhance social resilience, expand job opportunities and workforce development, and invest in the resilience and sustainability of our more vulnerable communities.

We are excited to support the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” project and we ask that you give the TBRPC’s application the highest consideration.

Sincerely,

*Nicole Hamm*

Nicole Hamm  
Executive Director

*Marlo Zarka*

Marlo Zarka  
Public Policy Lead

*Hayley Spring*

Hayley Spring  
Public Policy  
Coordinator

*Lewan Brunson*

Lewan Brunson  
Public Policy  
Coordinator



ORANGE COUNTY MAYOR

**Jerry L. Demings**

P.O. BOX 1393, 201 SOUTH ROSALIND AVENUE, ORLANDO, FL 32802-1393  
PHONE: 407-836-7370 • FAX: 407-836-7360 • EMAIL: MAYOR@OCFL.NET

March 15, 2024

The Honorable Woody Brown  
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100  
Pinellas Park, Florida 33782

RE: Orange County, FL Letter of Intent to sign the Memorandum of Agreement for the Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition.

Dear Mayor Brown:

I am writing to express my community's commitment to sign a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's (TBRPC) application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Phase II Implementation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. The TBRPC's proposed "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" (SSERC) project reduces greenhouse gas emissions while creating more resilient communities for those most affected by climate change.

Orange County is the fifth most populous county in Florida, and making our community more resilient and reducing our environmental impacts are top priorities. In 2019, I created the Chief Sustainability and Resilience Officer role to facilitate the County's Sustainable Operations and Resilience Action Plan. In addition, the Board of County Commissioners allocated \$100 million to acquire environmentally sensitive lands in our county, updated fertilizer use rules, enhanced tree protections, and set reduction goals for greenhouse gas emissions for our internal operations.

Orange County was a founding member of the Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition (SSERC) and is strongly committed to its goals and scope of work. If awarded funding, we will work with the TBRPC, SSERC members, and community partners to ensure the success of the project. The MOA will clearly describe the agreed upon roles, responsibilities, contributions, resources, and commitments each partner will provide to ensure project success and the coalition's operating model and statement of accountability to the U.S. EPA.

Sincerely,

Jerry L. Demings  
Orange County Mayor





401 South Park Avenue • Winter Park, Florida 32789

407-599-3463 • [cityofwinterpark.org](http://cityofwinterpark.org)

## Natural Resources & Sustainability

Mayor Wood Brown  
Chair  
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd  
Pinellas Park, Florida 33782

**RE: Keep Winter Park Beautiful & Sustainable Advisory Board (KWPBS) commits to the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” Project.**

Dear Mayor Brown,

I am writing on behalf of the Keep Winter Park Beautiful & Sustainable Advisory Board (KWPBS) to express our enthusiastic support for the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council’s (TBRPC) application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG). TBRPC’s proposed “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” (SSERC) Project reduces greenhouse gas emissions while creating more resilient communities for those most affected by climate change.

As a trusted Advisory Board deeply rooted in the community, KWPBS is committed to amplifying the message of sustainability and ensuring that all residents have an equitable access to renewable energy sources. This not only promotes environmental stewardship, it also enhances the overall well-being and resilience of our community and the commuters that we host. We firmly believe that the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant aligns with our mission and values, and we state our full support.

The Climate Pollution Reduction Grant offers a vital chance to advance our shared goals with improving underserved communities with energy efficiency efforts. As outlined in the grant proposal, this allows the City to expand its energy conservation program by providing energy efficiency tool kits to citizens and create a resilience hub at its Community Center. KWPBS is ready to assist with the planning and implementing of the Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition Project. To ensure the success of this project, we commit to work with the City of Winter Park’s Natural Resources and Sustainability Department and SSERC coalition members to ensure the success of both projects.

Thank you for considering our endorsement of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council’s (TBRPC) application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG). We look forward to continued collaboration and collective action towards a healthier and more prosperous future.

Warm regards,

Ben Ellis  
Keep Winter Park Beautiful & Sustainable Advisory Board, Chair



March 20, 2024

Mayor Woody Brown, Chair  
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100  
Pinellas Park, Florida 33782

RE: Solar United Neighbors Florida Supports the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” Project.

Dear Mayor Brown,

I am writing to express adamant support for the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council’s (TBRPC) application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Phase II Implementation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. The TBRPC’s proposed “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” project reduces greenhouse gas emissions while creating more resilient communities for those most affected by climate change.

The TBRPC is leading a Coalition that includes the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the Jacksonville, FL MSA, the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA, and the Orlando- Kissimmee-Sanford MSA. These four (4) MSAs represent over 8.6 million residents, almost 40% of Florida’s population.

Solar United Neighbors Florida is a nonprofit that educates about, advocates for and implements distributed solar energy. We focus on consumer protection, building a sustainable market and ensuring energy democracy by penetrating under represented market segments. Solar United Neighbors supports the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” (SSERC) project because it complements and enhances our work. Working together, we can achieve more resilience and energy equity in our state.

Solar United Neighbors Florida is excited to support the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” project because it adds tools for residents, increases solar adoption, increases resilience, increases education and increases access to high-paying, sustainable green jobs.

Please give the TBRPC’s application the highest consideration.

Sincerely,



Heaven Campbell  
Florida Program Director  
Solar United Neighbors



March 8, 2024

Mayor Woody Brown, Chair  
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100  
Pinellas Park, Florida 33782

**RE: The Patel College of Global Sustainability at the University of South Florida (PCGS/USF) Supports the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” Project.**

Dear Mayor Brown,

I am writing to express our commitment to support the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council’s (TBRPC) application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Phase II Implementation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. The TBRPC’s proposed “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition (SSERC)” project reduces greenhouse gas emissions while creating more resilient communities for those most affected by climate change.

The TBRPC is leading a Coalition that includes the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the Jacksonville, FL MSA, the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA, and the Orlando- Kissimmee-Sanford MSA. These four (4) MSAs represent over 8.6 million residents, almost 40% of Florida’s population.

The Patel College of Global Sustainability at the University of South Florida (PCGS/USF)’s vision is to achieve sustainable development, both locally and globally, by fostering social, economic, and environmental sustainability; we accomplish this through teaching, research, mentoring students, and community outreach, as well as by generating practical knowledge and developing innovative technologies, skills, and policies.

PCGS/USF supports the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” (SSERC) project because we have previously worked with TBRPC as part EPA’s CPRG project, as well as DOE’s Clear Sky Tampa Bay initiative to perform technical evaluation and cost-benefit analysis on multiple energy efficiency and renewable energy projects for implementation at community, city, and county facilities in the region. PCGS/USF is interested in continuing to participate in the SSERC project with technical support and advice on training, assessments, analysis, and oversight. We would also provide sustainability student interns to support the project as required.

**Patel College of Global Sustainability**

University of South Florida · 4202 East Fowler Avenue, CGS101 · Tampa, Florida 33620-8100  
(813) 974-9694 · FAX (813) 974-2522 – [www.patel.usf.edu](http://www.patel.usf.edu)

The University of South Florida is an Affirmative Action/Equal Access/Equal Opportunity Institution

Please give the TBRPC's application the highest consideration.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

*Govindan Parayil*

40EFC933D03A41E...

Govindan Parayil, PhD, MS, MA

Dean, Patel College of Global Sustainability



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Govindan Parayil

gparayil@usf.edu

Dean &amp; Professor

University of South Florida

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March 15, 2024  
Mayor Woody Brown, Chair  
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100  
Pinellas Park, Florida 33782

RE:Rosebud Continuum Eco-Science Center Supports the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” Project.

Dear Mayor Brown,

I am writing to express strong support for the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council’s (TBRPC) application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Phase II Implementation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. The TBRPC’s proposed “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” project reduces greenhouse gas emissions while creating more resilient communities for those most affected by climate change.

The TBRPC is leading a Coalition that includes the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the Jacksonville, FL MSA, the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA, and the Orlando- Kissimmee-Sanford MSA. These four (4) MSAs represent over 8.6 million residents, almost 40% of Florida’s population.

The Rosebud Continuum Eco-Science Center is a 501C3 not-for-profit that “ blends ancestral knowledge and experimental science for sustainable futures” located on 19 acres in Land O Lakes, FL.

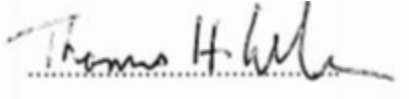
Rosebud has been a community partner with USF’s Patel College of Global Sustainability for the past 7 years and supports the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” (SSERC) project because it has been working with the local universities, schools and community businesses and neighbors to “life-test” crucial technologies for resilience. We demonstrate solar electric and solar thermal energy as well as food-waste-to-fuel-and-fertilizer biodigester technology, aquaculture, aquaponics, hydroponics and aeroponics, food forests and “precious plastics” waste upcycling along with wildlife conservation and native landscape “rewilding”. See [Rosebud Continuum blends ancestral knowledge, experimental science for sustainable future \(83degreesmedia.com\)](https://83degreesmedia.com)

Our Land O’Lakes based organization in Pasco County is excited to support the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” project because it aligns with local priorities, enhances social and

environmental resilience by expanding existing workforce training in sustainable development and eco-tourism, creates job opportunities for low-income residents, and expands ongoing work developing a skilled workforce.

Please give the TBRPC's application the highest consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas H. Culhane", written over a dotted line.

T.H. Culhane, Board Director and USF Community Partner  
For Maryann Bishop  
Founder, Director  
Rosebud Continuum Eco-Science Center  
22843 Hale Road  
Land O Lakes, 34639  
813 966 7911



March 29, 2024

Mayor Woody Brown, Chair  
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100  
Pinellas Park, Florida 33782

RE: Progress Village Civic Council Lends Support for the "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" Project.

Dear Mayor Brown,

I am writing to express Progress Village Civic Council's strong support for the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's (TBRPC) application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Phase II Implementation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. The TBRPC's proposed "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" project will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and lower utility bills while creating more resilient communities for those most affected by a warming climate.

The TBRPC is leading a Coalition that represents over 8.6 million residents, almost 40% of Florida's population and includes the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the Jacksonville, FL MSA, the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA, and the Kissimmee-Orlando-Sanford MSA.

Located in Hillsborough County within the Tampa Bay area, the Progress Village Civic Council is pleased to support the "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" project as it will address local needs and priorities to reduce energy burdens and also expands upon existing workforce training and grows hiring partnerships.

The Progress Village Civic Council is a civic organization comprised of resident leaders driven by progressive ideas, bold actions, and a strong foundation of support to improve the quality of life of residents through positive change. Our collaboration with this effort will provide another opportunity for us to do just that. The Progress Village Civic Council supports the "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" (SSERC) project because it provides an opportunity to pursue energy efficiency and weatherization to both reduce climate pollution and energy waste as well as increasing employment and training opportunities to implement these efforts.

Our community faces particularly high energy bills due to Florida's heavy reliance on fossil gas. Between 2019 and 2023, Tampa Electric (TECO) bills increased 62%. Last month, TECO filed a new request with the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) for yet another rate increase of at least \$1.1 billion over the next three years.

Given this critical need, we hope the EPA will give the TBRPC's application the highest consideration.

Sincerely,

*Twanda Bradley*

President, Progress Village Civic Council



March 20, 2024

Mayor Woody Brown, Chair  
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100  
Pinellas Park, Florida 33782

RE: Moms Clean Air Force Florida Chapter Supports the "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" Project.

Dear Mayor Brown,

I am writing to express strong support for the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's (TBRPC) application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Phase II Implementation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. The TBRPC's proposed "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" project reduces greenhouse gas emissions while creating more resilient communities for those most affected by climate change.

The TBRPC is leading a coalition that includes the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the Jacksonville, FL MSA, the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA, and the Orlando- Kissimmee-Sanford MSA. These four (4) MSAs represent over 8.6 million residents, almost 40% of Florida's population.

Moms Clean Air Force is a community of 1.5 million moms and dads united against air pollution—including the urgent crisis of our changing climate—to protect our children's health. Moms Clean Air Force Florida Chapter supports the "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" (SSERC) project because it aligns with our clean energy initiatives in Florida, such as the adoption of electric school buses and the transition away from natural gas.

On behalf of our 186,000 in the Moms Clean Air Force Florida Chapter, I am excited to support the "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" project because it will help overcome issues facing those most affected by the impacts of climate change, including children and low-income communities.

Please give the TBRPC's application the highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Emily Pickett  
Florida Organizer, Moms Clean Air Force





March 8, 2024

Mayor Woody Brown, Chair  
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100  
Pinellas Park, Florida 33782

RE: Florida Solar Energy Center (FSEC) Partnership for the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition (SSERC)” Project.

Dear Mayor Brown,

I am writing to express FSEC’s intent to partner on the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council’s (TBRPC) application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Phase II Implementation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. The TBRPC’s proposed “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” project reduces greenhouse gas emissions while creating more resilient communities for those most affected by climate change.

The TBRPC is leading a Coalition that includes the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the Jacksonville, FL MSA, the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA, and the Orlando- Kissimmee-Sanford MSA. These four (4) MSAs represent over 8.6 million residents, almost 40% of Florida’s population.

FSEC, Florida’s premier energy research institute located at the University of Central Florida, was founded by the state legislature to support the growth of solar energy. In operation for nearly 50 years, its programs have expanded to include all facets of renewable energy and energy efficiency. This project fits well within our mission, which is to “research and develop energy technologies that enhance Florida’s and the nation’s economy and environment, and to educate the public, students and practitioners on the results of the research.” As such, workforce development within the clean energy sector is central to our mission. FSEC is excited to support the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” project as it will stimulate the growth and expansion of the Florida Solar Energy Apprenticeship Program. A skilled and trained workforce is in high demand in the rapidly growing solar energy industry. Providing training and job opportunities for low-income residents and underserved populations is one of the goals of the apprenticeship program.

FSEC is ready to forge a partnership with the SSERC in which we share expertise and resources in providing energy practitioner instructional services. Our participation in the project will help ensure its success by providing access to solar energy industry employers and state of the art training to help grow the clean energy workforce. Please give the TBRPC’s application the highest consideration. I can be reached at [ckettles@fsec.ucf.edu](mailto:ckettles@fsec.ucf.edu) if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

*Colleen Kettles*

Colleen McCann Kettles, JD, Director  
Workforce and Business Development Division





# *City of Safety Harbor Florida*

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HOME OF ESPIRITU SANTO MINERAL SPRINGS

---

750 Main Street ± Safety Harbor, Florida 34695 ± (727) 724-1555  
FAX 724-1566

March 15, 2024

Courtney Wright, Senior Planner  
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100  
Pinellas Park, Florida 33782

RE: Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition Project

Dear Courtney,

The City of Safety Harbor is involved as a partner in Clean Air Tampa Bay providing opportunities for greenhouse gas reductions through the Priority Climate Action Plan. As a partner municipal agency in the TBRPC, the City of Safety Harbor supports the Regional Planning Council's application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Phase II Implementation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program.

Resiliency and sustainability are not just a local issues, but global issues to be addressed. Regional Planning Councils, like TBRPC, are best suited to begin working on large scale projects, such as the "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" (SSERC), to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions by expanding energy efficiency.

The City of Safety Harbor completed our own Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory in 2022 with the assistance from ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability USA. After completing our own study, we know how valuable Phase II of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program could be to the entire Tampa Bay region.

To ensure the success of the SSERC project, the City can provide staff expertise, best practices, and opportunities to connect with other workforce partners. Our support and participation in the project will help ensure its success.

Respectfully,

Renee Cooper  
Public Works Director

Cc: Jamie Ahrens, Assistant Public Works Director  
Colin Bartholomew, Public Works Program Coordinator



## *City of South Pasadena*

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March 19, 2024

Mayor Woody Brown, Chair  
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100  
Pinellas Park, Florida 33782

RE: City of South Pasadena Partnership for the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition (SSERC)” Project.

Dear Mayor Brown,

I am writing to express the City of South Pasadena’s intent to partner on the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council’s (TBRPC) application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Phase II Implementation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. The TBRPC’s proposed “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” project reduces greenhouse gas emissions while creating more resilient communities for those most affected by climate change.

The TBRPC is leading a Coalition that includes the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater-Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the Jacksonville, FL MSA, the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA, and the Orlando- Kissimmee-Sanford MSA. These four (4) MSAs represent over 8.6 million residents, almost 40% of Florida’s population.

The City of South Pasadena is ready to forge a partnership with the SSERC in the effort to create resilient communities and mitigate climate change.

South Pasadena is excited to support the “Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition” project because environmental changes like sea level rise and the increasing intensity of hurricanes are significant threats to the entire city due to the proximity to water and high population density. All of South Pasadena sits in a Level A evacuation zone and with a median age of 68, the community is especially vulnerable and would greatly benefit from the SSERC Project.

Please give the TBRPC’s application the highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Arthur Penny  
Mayor