

# CATALYST

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## Script for Policymaker Engagement

### Strategy at a Glance

This script would be used by Catalyst’s community partners to advocate for heat protection policies among:

- State legislators (e.g., during Lobby Day in Tallahassee in March 2023)
- County officials

#### Purpose:

- State legislators: Establish champions within the legislature for heat protection and other climate-healthy policies; advance heat protection legislation in partnership with those champions.
- County officials in Miami-Dade and Broward counties: Pilot the heat protection policy locally to build momentum for ultimate adoption statewide.

#### How to use:

- Refer back to the CCHE Messaging Framework guide to augment sections with community-specific examples as needed.

## DRAFT Script

### *Start with relationship-building opening:*

Thank you for taking the time to connect. With your help, [Miami-Dade County/the State of Florida] has already done so much to make our community safer in the face of extreme heat, flooding and other disasters—[list examples, if true; otherwise, open with some other spirit of common ground]. We remain grateful for your efforts to [give example of specific climate justice efforts, where relevant; otherwise, omit].

### *Define the problem (climate change and health impacts):*

We are here today to talk about one of the oldest workplace hazards that, despite countless deaths and untold costs to hard-working families across the state, continues to this day. That hazard is extreme heat.

This isn't just an abstract problem or one of discomfort. In the past 30 years alone, 815 U.S. laborers died of heat-related causes and more than 70,000 others were injured, according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.<sup>1</sup> Here in [Florida/Miami-Dade County], that number is [x/y].

These problems are only increasing. Current climate forecasts predict that in 30 years, the number of days over 100 degrees Fahrenheit will nearly double<sup>2</sup>—resulting in three full months a year that are above 100 degrees.

### *Define the problem (disproportionate impacts):*

The fact is, all of this hurts some of us much more than others. From agricultural workers to the laborers who build our roads, hospitals and the infrastructure that serves as the backbone of our economy, it is those who work outdoors who bear the brunt of extreme heat.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: <https://time.com/6181785/outdoor-workers-heat-climate-change/>. Consider bringing this article as a leave-behind for this meeting.

<sup>2</sup> Click on counties for county-specific data at this link: <https://www.axios.com/local/tampa-bay/2022/08/16/florida-extreme-heat-projections>.

### *Outline the solution:*

It is long past time to protect the outdoor workers who make our collective prosperity possible. We propose heat protection legislation that will provide outdoor laborers with two 15-minute breaks per day and access to shade and safe drinking water.

In a democracy like ours—in these modern times—this is the very minimum we can do in order to:

- Health: Save lives. It's that simple: This is one of those rare chances you have as a legislator to make a choice that is guaranteed to save lives.
- Prosperity: The toll on workers is one that can be measured in real human lives—among the people who build our roads, homes and schools, ensure we are fed, who rescue us in emergencies, and who make up your electorate. Economists also look at this issue from the perspective of lost earnings. Recent research by the Rockefeller Foundation and the Atlantic Council indicates that lost earnings due to high heat days is more than \$44 billion *annually*—a number they estimate will roughly double in the next few decades.<sup>3</sup> Despite the impact of high heat on outdoor workers' lives and livelihoods—including, at times, their death—these workers still experience few protections due to the warming they endure.<sup>4</sup>
- Equity: Everyone should have access to these basic protections. By taking this step, you will let the community know that you are looking out for us all.

This policy is common sense—it saves lives and saves money.

We know you have given this topic thought as well. We would love to explore what gets you excited about this opportunity to serve our community, and how we can work with you to make it happen.

### *Time for Q&A with the legislator.*

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<sup>3</sup> Source: <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/extreme-heat-saps-billions-in-worker-productivity/>.

<sup>4</sup> Source: <https://time.com/6181785/outdoor-workers-heat-climate-change/>.

*Iterate the solution statement with emphasis on points of agreement with the official, e.g.:*

We are grateful to know that, like us, you see the importance of working together to ensure that all of us—no matter who we are or where we live—have access to basic workplace protections from extreme heat.

By doing so, we can [note, this list contains examples that an advocate can choose from depending on their audience and what they think will help to seal the deal]:

- Do right by outdoor workers and all they do to safeguard our prosperity.
- Make our outdoor workplaces safer and less vulnerable to climate change.
- Provide more opportunities for everyone to thrive.

*Closing: Calls to action:*

<i>Advancing the conversation if successful:</i>	<i>Pivot if the individual has questions that need to be resolved before they can explore this further:</i>	<i>Pivot if the individual indicates that they are opposed and are not open to additional conversation:</i>
<p>Would you be willing to co-sponsor this legislation? If so, what support do you need from us to help advance this bill within the legislature?</p>	<p>Today’s conversation was meant to level-set, so that we could get a sense of your interest and curiosity related to this issue. So we appreciate your candor.</p> <p>You’ve raised important question(s) about [repeat the Qs, and ask for clarification if you’re not certain that you heard them right]. We will gladly look into these and get back to you so that we can</p>	<p>Today’s conversation was meant to level-set, so that we could get a sense of your interest and curiosity related to this issue. So we appreciate your candor.</p> <p>Please know that our office remains open to you should you have any questions as others in the [state/county] explore this opportunity. I will leave my card in case you ever wish to discuss this opportunity</p>

	<p>provide more comprehensive answers than we can at this moment.</p> <p>Shall we set a time to reconnect in two weeks to further discuss our answers to your questions and where to go next?</p>	<p>for our community further. I am always happy to be a sounding board and a resource to you.</p>
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