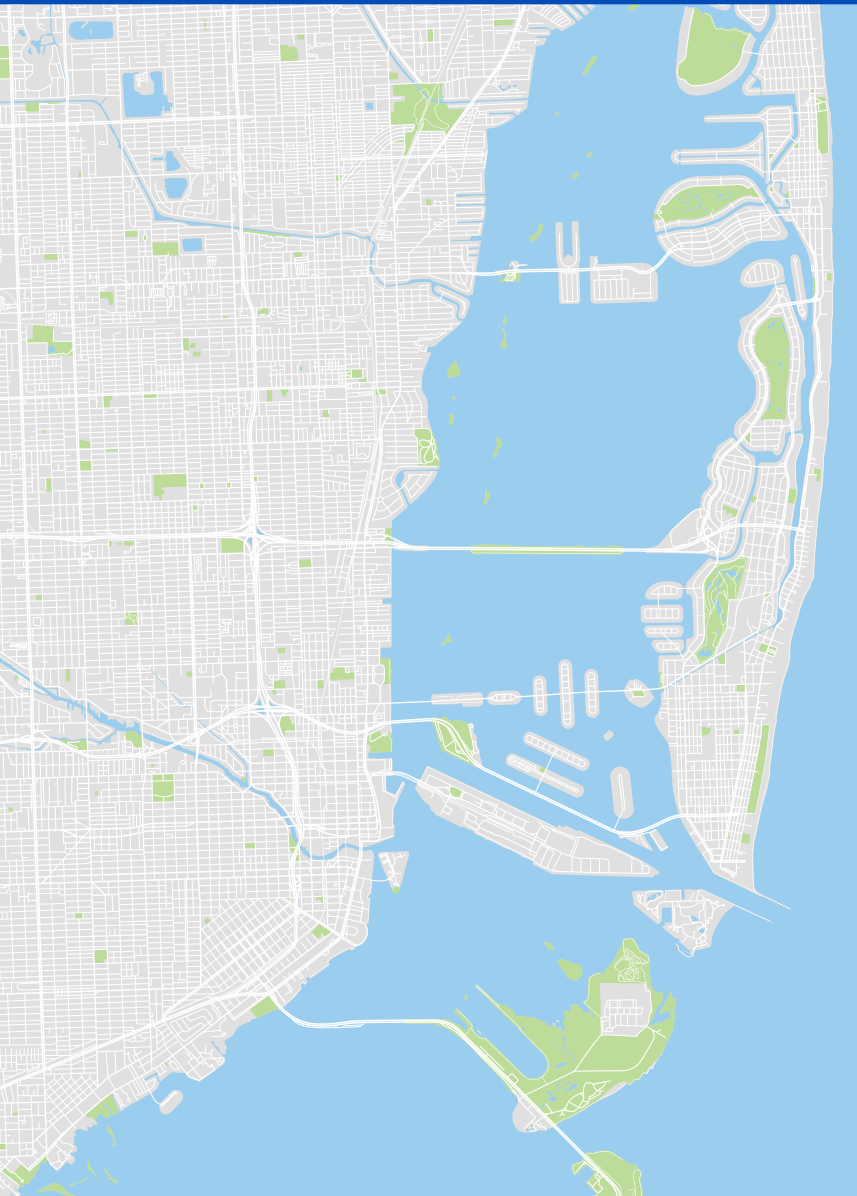


# Climate, Heat & Health Equity

A LEARNING TOUR OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY



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## Catalyst Miami

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

Advances economic and racial justice by investing in communities of color as they build the power they need to change unjust economic and political systems from the ground up.

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## The CLEO Institute

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

Works with communities across Florida to build climate literacy and mobilize climate action through climate crisis education and advocacy.

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## Dade County Street Response Clinic

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

Offers medical outreach and case management to serve those most affected by poverty and oppression in Miami Dade County through community programs, advocacy events and community-centered disaster relief.

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## Florida Clinicians for Climate Action

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

Engages Florida health professionals to learn about the health harms of climate change and advocate for equitable solutions that protect the community and support a sustainable future.

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## Miami-Dade County Chief Heat Officer

[miamidade.gov](http://miamidade.gov)

Focuses on public education, policies, and partnerships to prevent heat related illnesses and deaths.

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## South Florida Housing Link Collaborative

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

Consists of five groups dedicated to creating affordable, resilient and sustainable housing near transit to enable residents to access affordable, resilient, and sustainable homes and avoid the negative impacts of gentrification.

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## Solar Energy Loan Fund

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

Strives to create positive social, economic, and environmental impacts by helping people improve the health, safety, and quality of life in their homes while reducing operating costs and greenhouse gas emissions.

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## WeCount!

[we-count.org](http://we-count.org)

Organizes low-wage agricultural workers, day laborers, domestic workers, immigrant workers and families in South Dade to transform workplaces, neighborhoods.

### The Threat of Extreme Heat

Urban heat islands experience higher temperatures than surrounding areas because the roads, buildings, concrete, and structures in the built environment absorb and release more heat than natural environments with trees, flora and bodies of water. Decades of urban development geographic vulnerability, the drainage of wetlands, and extreme heat have contributed to the urban heat island effect that Miami-Dade County residents experience today. According to Shading Dade – a citizen science heat monitoring project launched by Florida International University's Sea Level Solutions Center, the Department of Journalism and Media and Catalyst Miami – between 1970-2020 the temperature on an average summer day in Miami increased by 2.4 degrees with an additional 79 more hot summer days above 90 degrees. Heat-related illnesses like heat stroke, worsened cardiovascular and respiratory disease, poor mental health and other health conditions are associated with extreme heat exposure.

In Miami-Dade County, increasing the tree canopy to help cool the environment, establishing cooling centers in public places for residents to use, introducing solar panels for energy efficiency, raising awareness through public information campaigns and educational programs, and centering equity in climate resiliency work to address the needs of Black, Indigenous and communities of color (BIPOC) disproportionately affected can help reduce the urban heat island.

For example, the South Florida Housing Link Collaborative and Solar Energy Loan Fund are working on housing, weatherization, and transit-oriented development projects to keep housing affordable, avoid resident displacement, reduce energy costs, and protect communities from natural disasters. In the aftermath of Hurricane Irma, the CLEO Institute created the Empowering Resilient Women Program to recognize the unique climate crisis impacts on women as first responders and caretakers at home and in marginalized communities under-resourced in emergency preparedness. The Dade County Street Response Clinic provides community-centered care, connects residents to urgent medical and psychological services, provides social psychological and medical support resources, and offers curbside consultation after a natural disaster and on an ongoing basis to unsheltered

residents through its Street Medicine team. Florida Clinicians for Climate Action provides training to clinicians and emergency medical technicians to respond to climate related health conditions, and education to increase public awareness about the relationship between climate and health.

Because low-income, immigrant and BIPOC families and communities are most vulnerable to the impacts of extreme heat, the Miami Climate Alliance and Catalyst Miami work for equity and resilience across issues like affordable housing, energy justice, climate and health, disaster preparedness, climate gentrification and participatory budgeting. In 2021, Miami-Dade county appointed Jane Gilbert as the world's first Chief Heat Officer, responsible for coordinating and improving heat protection efforts, launching the multi-stakeholder Climate and Heat Health Task Force, and initiating strategies that reduce the risks and impacts of extreme heat in vulnerable communities.

### Learn More About:

The relationship between climate change and health: [apha.org/news-and-media/multimedia/infographics/how-climate-change-affects-your-health](https://www.apha.org/news-and-media/multimedia/infographics/how-climate-change-affects-your-health)

How to accelerate investments at the intersection of climate change, health, and equity: [climatehealthequitytoolkit.org/about-toolkit](https://climatehealthequitytoolkit.org/about-toolkit)

### Climate Change, Health & Equity Initiative

In 2018, the Kresge Foundation launched the Climate Change, Health, and Equity initiative to mobilize equitable climate action by health care institutions, health practitioners and community advocates in ways that reflect the needs and priorities of low-income communities in American cities. To date, Kresge has committed more than \$22 million to accelerate action on climate change and reduce racial inequities in health by building the capacity of health institutions, transforming public health and health practice, and strengthening community-based leadership. Learn more about the Climate Change and Health Equity initiative: [kresge.org/initiative/climate-change-health-and-equity-cche/](https://kresge.org/initiative/climate-change-health-and-equity-cche/)