



## July Annual Joint Meeting – Program and Potluck



Wednesday, July 12, 2023, 6:00 – 8:30pm

Tampa Garden Club

2629 Bayshore Blvd., Tampa 33629

Tampa Audubon, Sierra Club Tampa Bay Group,  
hosted by Florida Native Plant Society (Suncoast Chapter)

Potluck - Please bring a dish to share. Suncoast will provide drinks, plates, and eating utensils. Meet with members of all 3 organizations for good food and an inspiring presentation!

**Speaker: William Freund, president and founder of fStop Foundation, a nonprofit organization using videos and photography to create conservation awareness.**

Mr. Freund will present on the importance of wildlife crossings and corridors. Using wildlife cameras, fStop has captured stunning footage documenting panther movement. The footage supports the design and placement of crossings on major roadways, which would otherwise be significant barriers.



## Protesting TECO Rate Hikes

Food & Water Watch (FWW) is partnering with Sierra Club and other local organizations in protesting Tampa Electric (TECO) rate hikes. TECO customers are facing increasing energy costs that are a direct result of fossil fuels and Emera (TECO owner) prioritizing massive executive compensation packages and shareholder returns.

**In the last four years, the average TECO electric bill has gone from \$99 per month to \$162 per month. That's an additional \$756 per year!**

Additionally, some of this increase is attributed to new investments in fossil fuel infrastructure, like the conversion of the Big Bend powerplant to gas from coal. Since utilities don't need to assume any of the costs of continuing to use these expensive dirty fuels, they continue to double down on natural gas... locking us into decades more of fossil fuels.

FWW is campaigning against the fossil fuel induced electricity rate hikes with various actions, including urging the Hillsborough Board of County Commissioners to pass countywide policy action to phase out fossil fuels, increase energy efficiency and invest in resiliency.

**For more information and to take action:**

**Please sign the Food and Water Watch petition protesting rate hikes.**

**(<https://secure.foodandwaterwatch.org/act/florida-elected-officials-no-more-rate-hikes>)**

For more details in the campaign, please contact **Brooke Ward** ([bward@fwwatch.org](mailto:bward@fwwatch.org), 727-599-4902).

## 2023 Executive Committee

Group Chair / ICO: Rocky Milburn  
(813) 966-9785  
[rocky.milburn@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:rocky.milburn@florida.sierraclub.org)

Vice-Chair / Parliamentarian  
Political Chair: Gary Gibbons  
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Conservation: Nancy Stevens  
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Outings Chair: Shirley Denton  
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Events/Tabling Chair: Michael Newett  
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Communication Chair: Rob Jordan  
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Plastics Chair/Media Contact:  
Janet Stanko  
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Transportation Chair: Jim Shirk  
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Co-Treasurer: Don Kruse  
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## Other Officers & Assignments

Secretary: Kathy Crosby  
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Treasurer: Andy Harris  
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Recycling Chair: Barbara Heineken  
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Membership Chair / Volunteer  
Coordinator: Dianne Skripek  
[@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:@florida.sierraclub.org)

Program Chair: Bonnie Newett  
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ICO Webmaster: Bob Rice  
[bob.rice@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:bob.rice@florida.sierraclub.org)

Newsletter: Corky Crowley  
[corky.crowley@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:corky.crowley@florida.sierraclub.org)

Tampa Bay Sierra Club Stadium  
Recycling Initiative: Dave Varrieur  
(813) 503-6970  
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Media Contact: Cheryl Van Beek  
[cheryl.vambeek@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:cheryl.vambeek@florida.sierraclub.org)

Outings Leader/Trainer: Ed Shindle  
[Ed.Shindle@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:Ed.Shindle@florida.sierraclub.org)

## MONTHLY PROGRAM – IN PERSON! (& VIRTUAL)

Wednesday, August 9, 2023 – 7:00pm

C. Blythe Andrews, Jr. Public Library  
2607 E. Dr. MLK, Jr. Blvd, Tampa 33610

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### Impacts of Pollution on Human Health and Some Solutions

**SPEAKER: MARIA SGAMBATI, MD -  
Biologist, Physician-Scientist, Professor  
at Hillsborough Community College,  
Design and Implementation of Public  
Outreach and Education programs  
around Environmental Health.**



Dr. Sgambati's story, "I grew up in Florida in the 1960's and remember mourning that I'd probably never see a bald eagle in the wild. Hearing the heartbeat of the earth at a young age, I went on to study Biology and then on the medical school to study human health. Ten years of my professional career were at the National Institutes of Health where I worked on projects related to cancer causality and prevention. Ten years ago, pulled by the ocean and longing for a life in flipflops, I returned to Florida where I have done a mix of environmental work, teaching at the collegiate level, and consulting. More recently these have focused on climate change and health and specific topics like air quality and health."

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Join Zoom Meeting: Room opens at 6:45 & Program starts at 7:00 pm.

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83949261754?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83949261754?pwd=T1dNTINGOGk0bmtYVCtCWFFyNWNhUT09)

[pwd=T1dNTINGOGk0bmtYVCtCWFFyNWNhUT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83949261754?pwd=T1dNTINGOGk0bmtYVCtCWFFyNWNhUT09)

TAMPA BAY **Tampa Bay Inspiring Connection Outdoors (ICO)**



We want to **THANK ALL** of our volunteers who made 2022 / 2023 season of ICO a successful year. We will be planning our 2023 / 2024 season at the Annual August ICO meeting (TBA).

Join us on one of our outings this fall, and witness young students and their excitement of seeing the outdoors. It takes a village to organize our outings so thank you again to all our regular volunteers. PS - We are always looking for more enthusiast helpers – if you are interested in volunteering, contact Rocky Milburn, at [tbico@live.com](mailto:tbico@live.com)



## CITY of TAMPA DID IT! CLIMATE ACTION AND EQUITY PLAN

We had a big win when Tampa released their many years in the making the 156 page Climate Action & Equity Plan. This is our win – the people’s win...years of community organizing with allies has created this Plan. After federal agencies released guidelines for the **2022 Inflation Reduction Act**, our local government and nonprofit organizations can now get access to clean energy tax credits. This Plan will map out a future where we are able to address energy that is cleaner and renewable, the infrastructures of buildings and roads are stronger and help our families become healthier and more resilient to climate change. In a summary, the following 10 Climate Action Categories have been established.

**ENERGY**: Three goals and priorities of the Plan are to **Mitigate, Adapt, and Engage**. Mitigate, reduce carbon emissions and increase carbon capture. Adapt make infrastructural changes, acknowledge the future impacts of climate change. Engage listen to and support all our people along the way’

**WATER AND WASTEWATER**: Evaluate pump stations for renovations new processes and technologies that would save energy. Evaluate alternatives for the recovery and reuse of treatment process of water. Updating could help the risk of flooding.

**STORMWATER**: Conduct a comprehensive study of urban stormwater and leverage data / findings for equitable decision making. Both the Stormwater Department and the Parks and Recreation Department, will be working together to resolve problems of flooding and surface drainage solutions.

**TRANSPORTATION AND LAND USE**: Create safer more comfortable streets, trails, and pedestrian environments. Work with regional transit agencies to increase mobility options. Ensuring safe and equitable opportunities for evacuation during weather events.

**WASTE MANAGEMENT**: Educate the public about Waste Stream Management where waste is sent to be incinerated and results in energy, recycled metals, and fly ash. Create partnerships to reduce total solid waste that goes to the landfill. Invest in upgrades to facilities, services, and equipment.

**HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT**: Climate change will affect the way we build, especially along the coast. This will require modifications to policy and a reliance on building codes to keep people safe and promote resilient development. Provide resources to the community to weatherize and fortify existing housing. Develop specific policies for coastal areas and establish resilient building practices through this policy.

**COMMUNITY**: The City of Tampa will work toward a whole-community approach in addressing and protecting the public from the impacts of climate change. FEMA guidelines describe this as an approach that includes:

- ✦ Understanding and meeting the actual needs of the whole community.
- ✦ Engaging and empowering all parts of the community.
- ✦ Strengthening what works well in communities on a daily basis.

Educate the community about climate change through accessible and culturally aware form of communication. Expand municipal green jobs training and opportunities.

**HABITAT AND ENVIRONMENT**: Tampa’s diverse and productive ecosystems are one of our city’s most treasured assets and have come to define our culture and communities. Climate change will affect the dynamics that support these regional systems, especially along the coast.

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# TOP 12 NEW SINGLE USE PLASTIC ACTIONS FOR PLASTIC-FREE-JULY

Many of you already have reduced your single use plastic footprint because you “get it” with reducing waste. These actions, if undertaken all at once, can be overwhelming. Try adopting one action at a time to make it more manageable.



## Dining Out–Eating on the Go

**Starbucks:** Are you a Starbucks fan? Bring your own cup for in-store purchases; not available for online orders or drive up-yet. Starbucks brings back personal reusable cups to Starbucks cafes in the U.S. Make sure your cup is CLEAN. If you use their app, you can receive reward points.

**Skip the Stuff:** Ordering takeout to eat at home?—whether directly from the restaurant or from a delivery service—please tell them to “skip the stuff”—plastic eating utensils, condiment packets and straws—items you likely have at home and don’t need from the restaurant. They are on the “top 10” lists of items found in litter cleanups. If you have a drawer full of plastic eating utensils, donate them to homeless shelters who could use them.

**Beer:** If you are a beer fan, when possible, order draft rather than bottled or canned beer in the restaurant’s reusable drinkware.

**Groceries:** Buy items in a non-plastic container (i.e., paper or glass) such as eggs, milk, peanut butter, condiments, cooking oil, vinegar, maple syrup, or beer. Take reusable bags for groceries, produce or other purchases.

## Other Purchases

**UPS:** Give your bubble wrap & air pillows a second use. Take them back to the nearest UPS store. They don’t reuse Styrofoam packing including peanuts.

**Best Buy:** Now charges for single use bags at the checkout! It’s the surest way to get the customer’s attention and reduce single use plastic bags. Thank them on social media and in person. Here is Best Buy’s Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/bestbuy/>

Best Buy stores will take back electronics and appliances. They work with recyclers to dispose of the items: [Best Buy Recycling Standards](#)

**Used plastic plant pots and trays:** Take them to a nursery so they can reuse them.

**Make your event single-use plastic free. See tips in Sierra Club CA’s sustainable event resolution.**

## Feedback & Apps

**YELP:** The YELP restaurant app added sustainability attributes to its “amenities” list for eating establishments. If you leave a review, please comment on positive sustainability practices the establishment follows. We sometimes forget the value of leaving positive feedback. It demonstrates our concern for sustainability in restaurant practices; and shows that we are watching.

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## Continued from Page 4: - TOP 12 NEW SINGLE USE PLASTIC ACTIONS FOR PLASTIC-FREE-JULY

**Remark:** For negative or positive feedback, the Remark app (<https://remark.eco>) makes it easy to email the manager of a business with respectful comments on sustainability practices you would like them to follow or thank them for good practices.

Plastic-Free-July is a promotion to help us focus on our single use plastic actions; however we can adopt one at a time throughout the year.



## Help Pass Single Use Plastics Ordinances in Florida

Passing laws and ordinances is the most effective way to get behavior change to reduce single use plastic (SUP). Despite the pre emptions, and other restrictions at the state level-believe it or not-there is a lot of ordinance activity in Florida—ordinances passed and those in the pipeline. Local cities and counties want to protect their communities, natural areas and reduce recycling and trash management costs.

### The top 4 ordinances are:

1. **Smoking on beaches**, State legislation allows cities and counties to pass smoking bans on beaches. It is especially important to pass bans where adjacent municipalities have already passed them because it reduces confusion by beachgoers.
2. **Skip the stuff**, This applies to carryout restaurants where plastic eating utensils, condiment packets, napkins, straws would only be given on request of the customer.
3. **SUP bans on public property**, straws, Styrofoam, bottles.
4. **Straws on request only**.



Here is a link to the listing of cities and counties who have passed ordinances.

<https://plasticfreefl.org/sample-legislation/>

If you are willing to help pass a local ordinance, please reach out to your local Sierra Club group or to <https://plasticfreefl.org> to find out if there are other organizations working on an ordinance.

Your children and grandchildren will thank you.

*Janet L. Stanko*

*Sierra Club Florida Single Use Plastics work group chair*



## **STOP USING PLASTIC BAGS, PUBLIX**

If you have not signed our petition to ask Publix to stop giving out plastic bags at the checkout, please do so.

<https://addup.sierraclub.org/campaigns/stop-using-plastic-bags-publix>.

Message Publix or post on the Publix Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/publix/> . Share the petition on your social media.

If you have questions or would like to offer help on the media event, contact Janet Stanko at [janet.stanko@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:janet.stanko@florida.sierraclub.org)

## SOLAR UNITED NEIGHBORS Florida Solar 101

Right now, our electric bills are through the roof and going HIGHER! This is a good time to consider if solar is right for your home. Here's your opportunity to find out more about how solar works, and what it takes to go solar. Get answers to your questions from the comfort of your home via a Zoom meeting July 25<sup>th</sup> 2023, from 6:00-7:30pm. No obligation or cost, but this will be the last presentation for the Solar United Neighbors 2023 Hillsborough coop.

Questions? [Flteam@solarunitedneighbors.org](mailto:Flteam@solarunitedneighbors.org)

Register at <https://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/event/florida-solar-101-july25/>

### Continued from Page 3      The Climate Action and Equity Plan

**HABITAT AND ENVIRONMENT:** Evaluate habitat, open space, and constructing healthy environments. Conserve and increase carbon sinks with a focus on wetlands and the hydrologic system. Explore opportunities to introduce nature-based solutions to the coastal edge. Work with the Tampa Bay Estuary Program to create a plan that reduces nutrient loads for the benefit of seagrass habitat in the bay. Develop elevated standards for habitat conservation, and establish a wetland policy to protect critical ecosystems. Strengthen the Parks and Recreation Department's efforts to manage and expand Tampa's tree canopy.

**FOOD:** Changing environmental conditions can also increase challenges related to food access and affordability. Drought, heat, and damaging storms can have major impacts on the local food system. The Plan will support and Promote Local Food Programs. Continue to work with regional organizations that provide food to those in need. Increase local food assets and establish community gardens through the Parks and Recreation Department.

**GOVERNING FOR RESILIENCE:** The City will continue to expand upon synergies between infrastructure departments, and coordinate planning efforts across departments to maximize efficiencies. This effort will increase our ability to enhance infrastructure and to integrate climate action initiatives into projects across City departments. Plan for the future. The City will use the most current and available science to support planning that looks to future conditions, so that our infrastructure is ready for diverse future scenarios.

For details go to <https://www.tampa.gov/document/climate-action-and-equity-plan-122846>

### TAMPA BAY



### OUTINGS

SIERRA CLUB

### Outings are Back!

For updated outings please go to our schedule, which we will publish on [MeetUp](#) page online [Upcoming events](#) | [Sierra Club Groups of the Greater Tampa Bay Florida Area \(Saint Petersburg, FL\)](#) | [Meetup](#) and our website

<https://www.sierraclub.org/florida/tampa-bay>.

Florida Seller of Travel Reference No. ST37115

Participant Agreement Waivers will be required for all participants through advance registration, call: (415) 977-5630 or [www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/](http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/)

All trips have experienced, trained, certified leaders.



**SIERRA CLUB**

TAMPA BAY GROUP

# Sierra Club Tampa Bay Group

July / August 2023



Nonprofit Org.

U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

TAMPA, FL

Permit No.

### Address Changes:

Please call (415) 977-5653 or email

[address.changes@sierraclub.org](mailto:address.changes@sierraclub.org)

Include your membership number located on the mailing label.

Tampa Bay Group

P.O. Box 1596

Thonotosassa, Florida 33592

### Web:

[florida.sierraclub.org/tampabay](http://florida.sierraclub.org/tampabay)



**Membership:** Join today for just \$15.00 and receive a FREE Sierra Club 1892 style Trail Cooler Tote at [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed, made payable to *Sierra Club*

Please charge my: MasterCard  Visa

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES INDIVIDUAL JOINT

INTRODUCTORY	\$15	\$20
REGULAR	\$39	\$49
SUPPORTING	\$75	\$100
CONTRIBUTING	\$150	\$175
LIFE	\$1000	\$1250
SENIOR	\$25	\$35
STUDENT	\$25	\$35
LIMITED INCOME	\$25	\$35

SIERRA CLUB  
P.O. BOX 421041  
Palm Coast, FL 32142-6417

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### Join the Tampa Bay Sierra Club Stadium Recycling Initiative!

The Tampa Bay Sierra Club Stadium Recycling Initiative Program is the only volunteer recycling program in the National Football League. Join us in recycling at the stadium and educating the guests about the importance of recycling. It's easy! email Dave Varrieur at [dave.varrieur@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:dave.varrieur@florida.sierraclub.org) to receive an email with the welcome letter package.

You only need to volunteer for two events annually. Then, you can be added to the list of volunteers for the concerts! The minimum age is 18, and we are currently recruiting a young demographic.



### Tampa Summer Fertilizer Ban Starts June 1-September 30!

The summer rainy season is here and the heavy rain doesn't water fertilizer in, it washes it away, right into the Tampa Bay, lagoons,



rivers, lakes and the Gulf that are the source of our fun. And fertilizer pollution can cause algae blooms and kill fish. That's why so many communities throughout Florida have restricted the use of lawn and landscape fertilizers from June-September. For more information on the fertilizer ban go to

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