



Broward Sierra Bulletin

Please Recycle



VOL. XLVIII NO. 3 **March 2026**

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Our biggest event of the year, **Earth Day**, will be held on **March 8, 2026** at Anne Kolb Nature Center (see Page 2):

Please Join the  for a Fun-Filled

EARTHDAY 2026

We still need donors! (see Page 3):

BECOME AN EARTH DAY SPONSOR TODAY

Sierra Club Broward Group Event 3/08/2026
 Anne Kolb Nature Center Hollywood Beach, Florida
 Contact: adrienesierraleader@gmail.com

BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION

Please note: Registration for the Earth Day Art Contest is closed, so join us at the event and see the student’s artwork and route for your favorites!

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Please Join the



SIERRA CLUB
BROWARD GROUP

for a Fun-Filled

EARTH DAY 2026

FROM
AQUIFERS
TO OCEANS,
OUR
WATER IS
UNDER
ATTACK

**POLLUTERS
PROFIT,
FLORIDIANS
PAY**

**\$1.4
BILLION
ANNUALLY**

**WATER IS
AT THE CENTER OF
EVERYTHING**

JOIN THE
WATER
ROUND
TABLE

**"HOW TO
FIGHT BACK
& WIN"**

MOLECULAR
TOXICOLOGIST
**DR. JAMIE
DEWITT**

ACTIVIST
**KATRINA
SHADIX**

ENVIRONMENTAL
BIOCHEMIST- FIU
**DR. NATALIA
SORES QUIENTE**

BROWARD MAYOR
BEAM FURR

LIVE
MUSIC

FOOD
TRUCKS

STUDENT
PLASTIC WASTE
ART CONTEST



SCHEDULE

NATIVE
PLANT
WORK
SHOP

NATURE
TRAILS
KAYAKING

VENDORS
EXHIBITS

GAMES
PRIZES
GIFTS

SUNDAY, MARCH 8TH 8:30-5:00 ANNE KOLB NATURE CENTER

751 Sheridan Street, Hollywood, Fl 33019 Contact: Adrienesierraleader@gmail.com

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Individuals With Disabilities Requiring Accommodations - Contact Sierra Club 7 Days In Advance

Here's the link for the Earth Day page: <https://www.sierraclub.org/florida/broward/2026-earth-day-celebration>



**WATER IS
AT THE CENTER OF
EVERYTHING**

YOU CAN BE TOO!

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Contact: adrienesierraleader@gmail.com

BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION

WE NEED YOUR HELP

**All Sponsors Will Receive: Recognition On Our Social Media & Print Advertising,
Special Shout-Outs Throughout the Event & a Gift of Appreciation**



MANATEE \$1000

Organization name included in our Welcome Banner at the event. & a Plaque of Appreciation Presentation

SEA TURTLE \$500

Organization name included in our Welcome Banner at the event. & a Plaque of Appreciation Presentation



RIGHT WHALE \$250

Organization name included in our Welcome Banner at the event



SEA GRASS \$50

Please join the Sierra Club Broward Group in creating a very special & meaningful event

Scan QR code or contact: adrienesierraleader@gmail.com



[April General Meeting](#)

Elisa Jones, Solid Waste Authority of Broward County

Thursday April 2, 2026 – In Person only!

Meeting begins promptly at 6:30 PM

[Veterans Park: 7600 NW 50th Street
Lauderhill, FL 33351](#)

**REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED – BRING
YOUR FILLABLE BOTTLE – NO PLASTIC
BOTTLES**

[Registration Required - Click Here](#)



PROUDLY PRESENTS:



[Topic: Trash & Recycling Beyond the Curb: We Have a Plan](#)

Every minute in Broward County we are generating 20,000 pounds of waste! Most of it ends up in the landfill or waste-to-energy plant. With the waste-to-energy plant at capacity and the in-county landfill nearing capacity, we need to divert as much of our valuable waste as possible. Approximately 62% of the waste sent to the landfill or waste-to-energy plant could be diverted with the programs presented in the Master Plan. Disrupting the status quo is required to meet the needs of our growing population and economy.

Broward County stands at a pivotal moment in its environmental and public service evolution. As one of the most populous and diverse counties in the State of Florida, we are both uniquely challenged and uniquely positioned to lead in the transition to a more sustainable, efficient, and equitable solid waste and recycling system.

Elisa Jones is an admin and outreach staff member at the Solid Waste Authority of Broward County and a proud Broward Sierra Group member.

APRIL 2nd ECO ACTION MINUTE: SUBMIT YOUR PLEDGE during the meeting to support the BSWA's efforts! Let your city commissioners know you stand behind the work of the Authority.

APRIL 2nd IN-PERSON ACTIVITY: MINI ZERO WASTE SWAP! Let's work hard to keep nice things out of the landfill. Bring some items you have around your home or garage that are in good and usable condition that you no longer want for other members to take home and reuse. Examples: kitchen, office or art supplies, textiles, books, small appliances, electronics, garden supplies, etc. Any swap items leftover from the evening will be packed up and donated.

IMPORTANT NOTE: *Please don't bring the whole house or the junk drawer! We are simply asking you to be thoughtful about whether someone might like to have this or use that. We recommend showing up around 6:15 PM if you have a lot of giveaway stuff to lay out on the tables.*

BREAKING: The Trump administration is handing over the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas companies.

They're doubling down on a failed oil and gas leasing program from Trump's first term that would transform the Arctic Refuge's Coastal Plain into an industrial oil field.

If this plan moves forward, drilling will fragment critical habitat and permanently scar the land—threatening caribou herds, polar bear cubs, and the Gwich'in people's culture, food security, and way of life—all for the benefit of private oil and gas interests.

We've been here before and we know what it takes to win: we're pushing back in courtrooms, corporate boardrooms, and the halls of Congress, powered by coalition partners and grassroots support. But we can't do it without your immediate support.

Your donation helps us defend the Arctic Refuge for the public good—not corporate profit.

Donate today to help protect the Arctic Refuge for future generations.

Also, [Trump's EPA announces aggressive rollback of environmental protections | PBS News](#)

THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION IS COMING FOR THE ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE—AGAIN. WE WON'T LET THEM TAKE IT.

The Trump administration is pushing unlawful oil and gas leasing on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's Coastal Plain, reviving a failed plan from his first term. Drilling endangers public lands, vital wildlife habitat, and Indigenous communities' way of life. Help us fight to protect this ecologically sensitive and sacred landscape.

DONATE NOW



[Donate to the Sierra Club | Sierra Club](#)

MSN News Reports

How much damage plastic bags from grocery stores really cause to the environment?



Let's get a show of hands for people who throw away plastic bags after one use (I'm shamefully raising mine). The lifespan of most plastic bags is just minutes long, and they're typically dumped after their primary purpose — carrying groceries — is served.

This can have detrimental and even dangerous consequences for the environment on micro- and macroscopic levels. Plastic pollution permeates all sectors of the environment: agriculture, marine life, air, water sources, urban areas, and more.

Globally, around 500 billion plastic bags are used each year, with over one million used every minute. Despite being labeled as recyclable, only one out of 200 plastic bags end up at a recycling unit, leaving the vast majority to go to landfill sites. Once there, plastic bags break down at dramatically slow rates; it can take hundreds or even thousands of years for them to degrade. During that process, plastic bags fragment into [smaller pieces called microplastics](#), which are tiny, harmful particles that pollute soil, water, and even air, causing them to enter the food chain and eventually, our own bodies.

But plastic bags are dangerous long before the breakdown process. Wildlife, and in particular, marine animals can mistake discarded plastic bags for food, clogging their intestines and leading to starvation and death. Additionally, the vast majority of plastic bags are made from non-renewable resources such as polyethylene and/or petroleum, which makes their production a key component in the depletion of fossil fuels and emission of greenhouse gases.

The dangers of plastic bags are globally-recognized phenomena. Several European countries and Japan have levied taxes and fees on plastic shopping bags in order to limit their production and use. In the U.S., there have been bans, fees, taxes, size restrictions, and PSAs on the local, state, and federal levels to reduce plastic bag use. Most recently, California banned the use of all plastic shopping bags in 2026. Studies have proven these restrictions produce desirable outcomes, with [one study](#) finding that these policies led to a 25 to 47% decrease in Stateside plastic bag debris.

How much damage plastic bags from grocery stores really cause to the environment? (*Continued*)

Other solutions have been introduced to curb plastic shopping bag use and [make grocery shopping greener](#). Producers have spawned biodegradable and compostable alternatives, yet even these have shown to have negative environmental effects without proper disposal. Many [grocery stores sell branded reusable bags](#) made from cotton and canvas to be used in place of the provided plastic bags, yet these, too, have their own environmental detriments (cotton requires a great deal of water to produce, and can't be composted).

Behavioral change might be the key solution to mitigate plastic bag use. Consumers often struggle to break the plastic bag habit, especially if they don't know about or have access to alternatives. Education on and awareness of the dangers might not only help us change our attitudes but also might just save the planet. As each person uses about 83 plastic bags each year, that will be 83 less plastic bags that damage the environment micro- and macroscopically.

Our Broward Sierra Group New Political Chair

– Leah Weisburd, *Chair*

This is a critical election year where we have the challenge of electing political leaders for our beautiful Florida. We want strong environmentally concerned incumbents and candidates.

Our Broward Sierra Group is extremely excited that we are so fortunate to have members of our Group that see the need and step-up. We are proud to announce that Marcos Peña has volunteered to Chair our Political Committee (PolCom) this year. You may already know Marcos as he was part of this committee last year. For those of you that are new to PolCom, he will be participating in our Earth Day celebration on March 8th where he would love to meet you. Marcos will be participating in our forum at our Earth Day celebration. He is CEO of Green Planet Waterways Restorations, which is a nonprofit scientific research foundation dedicated to promoting sustainable practices, developing scientific solutions to remove pollution and protect our natural ecosystems.

If you would you like to participate on our Political Committee (PolCom) this year, and are a Broward Sierra Group member, please contact Marcos at marcos.bsg54@gmail.com or call him 786-676-3851. Our first meeting is scheduled for early March. We hope you will contact Marcos to let him know that you want to join and participate in our PolCom selecting and endorsing our environmental political champions.

Broward Sierra Group Junior Team

Anagha Iyer, *Broward Sierra Group-Junior Team Chair*

Our Junior Team tabled at the Youth Climate Summit on February 6, 2026. They were very busy with students wanting to know more about how they can protect our planet *by joining our TEAM*.

At the Broward Youth Climate Summit, the Broward Sierra Group – Junior Team hosted an engaging tabling event focused on building youth leadership in the local climate movement. Our team connected with more than 300 students throughout the day, sharing information about our initiatives and inviting them to get involved. We handed out candy to spark conversation and distributed seed packets to encourage students to take climate action into their own hands by growing native plants at home.

Our primary goal was to recruit new members to the Junior Team and expand participation in the Broward Green Schools Campaign. By explaining how students can advocate for campus sustainability—whether through waste reduction, energy conservation, or environmental education—we showed that climate leadership is accessible and impactful at any age. This event helped us build that pipeline of committed student leaders who will continue pushing for greener schools and a more sustainable Broward.





BROWARD GREEN SCHOOLS CAMPAIGN™

Campaign to promote environmental stewardship, sustainability, resiliency and energy conservation in Broward schools.

WHO ARE WE?

We are a group of Broward students ages 12-18 who have joined Broward Sierra Group - Junior Team and are working with Climate Reality Project of North Broward and Palm Beach County. On December 17, 2024, we got the Broward School Board to unanimously pass a resolution in support of transitioning the school district to renewable energy!

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS



School Board Resolution
On December 17, BCPS unanimously passed Resolution 25-122 in support of transitioning to clean energy.



Plantation Proclamation
On November 20, the City of Plantation passed a proclamation stating willingness to back our campaign.



Coconut Creek Proclamation
On October 10, the City of Coconut Creek also passed a proclamation stating their support.

BENEFITS OF JOINING

- Acquire leadership skills while organizing campaign and speaking to elected officials, school board members, and other stakeholders
- Practice graphic design and communication skills
- Earn community service hours.
- Meet students and environmental activists across Broward County
- Improve our community and expand your network and resume

JOIN + SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN!



or email
Andy at pl1913021@ahschool.com or
Julie at jl525174@gmail.com

Adopt a Dune: A Day of Family, Friends, and Giving Back

– Patryk Chmielewski, *Junior Team*

On January 10th, my family and I went to an Adopt a Dune event with the Broward Sierra Group. About 150 volunteers showed up, which made the beach feel really busy in a good way. Everyone was excited to help and ready to get sandy.

There were six nonprofit organizations at the event, and the Broward Sierra Group was a sponsor. A lot of Sierra Club members came, including many families. As a Junior Team member, it made me feel proud to see so many people working together to help the environment.

Our job was to plant native plants and sea oats on the dunes. We learned that sea oats help hold the sand in place and protect the dunes from erosion and storms. It was fun digging holes, planting, and seeing how much we could get done when we all worked together.

The Adopt a Dune event showed me that helping the environment doesn't have to be boring - it can be fun, active, and something families can do together.

I'm really glad I got to be part of this event, and I hope we can do it again in the near future. It felt good knowing we helped protect the beach for animals, plants, and people.



Action Alert

SIERRA CLUB
FLORIDA CHAPTER

Tell Your Legislators:

Vote NO on
HB 299,
“Blue Ribbon
Projects”!

Representing one of the most sweeping rollbacks of local control in modern Florida history, HB 299 (“Blue Ribbon Projects”) is a dangerous bill that would drastically weaken local planning authority and open the door to unchecked, unnecessary development.

What's at Stake:

- ➔ Severe preemption of local control
- ➔ Automatic project approvals without proper review or oversight
- ➔ Giveaways and handouts to mega-landowners
- ➔ Encouragement of development without demonstration of need
- ➔ No guarantee of environmental protections

Take action now:
bit.ly/StopHB299

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Florida Legislative Session

Session week five saw three strong bills continue advancing toward passage in both chambers, while several others also moved forward with some changes.

Bill Tracking Updates

✓ Bills we support:


- HB 981/SB 1066 (Tributaries of St. Johns River) – Passed its final committee and is now headed towards a full Senate vote.
- SB 302 (Nature-based Coastal Resiliency) – Passed its final committee and is now headed towards a full Senate vote.

⚠ Bills we're opposing or watching:

- SB 290 (Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services – Passed the Rules Committee and is now headed towards a full Senate vote. While the so-called “gag language” was removed, it is still in the House version, and we continue to have concerns with the bill’s conservation lands provision.
- HB 1217 (Net-zero Policies by Governmental Entities) – Passed its second House committee and is now with the Commerce committee. We are continuing to actively oppose this bill in both chambers.
- SB 354 (Blue Ribbon Projects) – Passed the Appropriations on Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development Committee and is now headed to the Rules Committee. Though some amendments were adopted, they further stripped authority from local governments and raised more questions than solutions. We will share additional details on the bill’s negative impacts before it heads to its final Senate committee.

We're heading into week six of the legislative session with some very exciting news:

- SB 546/HB 441 (Conservation Lands) is quickly becoming the first priority bill we support to advance toward full passage.
- HB 441 will be heard on the House floor, and SB 546 will be taken up in the Senate Rules Committee on Tuesday, February 17.

Visit our Legislative Action Center to learn how you can take action and help pass Conservation Lands! 

[Legislative Action Center - ACTION ALERTS](#)

The session is moving fast. Make sure to keep an eye out for our updates, and check our [Legislative Action Center](#) regularly to stay informed and take action when it matters most.



Javier Estevez, Political and Legislative Director

Sierra Club Florida

February General Meeting

Everglades Restoration at 25 Years: What Still Needs to be Done and Why?



The Everglades (Photo Courtesy of Christopher McVoy)

<p>Thursday, February 26, 2026</p> <p>Doors Open: 7:00 PM</p> <p>Presentation from 7:15 - 8:15 PM</p>	<p>Lantana Road Branch Library</p> <p>4020 Lantana Road</p> <p>Lake Worth Corridor, FL 33462</p>
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A quarter century after the 2000 Congressional authorization of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, some in government have become reluctant to sustain funding and eager to declare "Mission accomplished!"

Dr. Christopher McVoy will use photos, maps, and models to help us understand why that declaration would be premature, and especially, why the Everglades still need our continued advocacy.

Christopher McVoy, Ph.D. is an Everglades expert, member of the board of Friends of the Everglades, author of *Landscapes and Hydrology of the Pre-drainage Everglades*, and recipient of the 2026 Everglades Coalition Public Service Award.

[Register Now!](#)



How To Control Your Emails

If you scroll down to the bottom of all mailings from the Sierra Club, it allows you to change some, or all, of the mailings you receive.

If you tire of the number of emails you get from the Sierra Club, please **DO NOT** hit **unsubscribe!** That will cut you off from our newsletter, *The Bulletin*.

The Bulletin shares issues we are working on, presenters scheduled for our General Meetings that you will want to attend, Outings that you will want to go on with our Outing Leaders, and so much more.

VERY IMPORTANT! - If you choose to forward your Sierra Club's mail to anyone, you must remove your name at the top and then go to the bottom and remove your name and email address. If not, the person(s) you send this copy to may choose to unsubscribe and you will be deleted, not the person that you sent it to!

For emails you don't want, you can control that by clicking on the **Manage Preferences** option at the bottom of every email. Once there, be sure to keep on subscribing to **My Chapter**, the first option. The rest of the options? Decide for yourself.

