Join us for a lunch & learn webinar...

POWERING COMMUNITIES through COVID-19

September 11 | Noon Eastern

VOTE SOLAR  THE CLEO INSTITUTE  CATALYST MIAMI
Olivia Nedd
Policy Director, Access & Equity Program
Intro for audience: Who are you?

» Name

» Organization

» Where you’re zooming in from
Salome Garcia

Policy and Campaigns Manager

The CLEO Institute
SCIENCE
**Greenhouse Gas Effect**

Incoming energy, mostly in the form of light, enters the atmosphere and is absorbed by the Earth.

Outgoing energy, mostly in the form of heat or infrared waves, is trapped by Greenhouse Gases.

GHG’s absorb Earth’s outgoing heat and radiate it back, creating a blanketing effect.
Carbon Dioxide Levels
May 2020: 414ppm

For millennia, atmospheric carbon dioxide had never been above this line

1950 level

Credit: Vostok ice core records for carbon dioxide concentration and temperature change
Human activities are responsible for almost all of the increase in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere over the last 150 years.\textsuperscript{1} \textit{IPCC}
EARTH IS GETTING HOTTER
The last 5 years have been the hottest on record.
Sea Level Rise in FL
Main Drivers: Thermal Expansion & Land Ice Melt

By 2050
2+ feet of sea level rise

By 2100
A rise of as much or more than 8-10 feet cannot be ruled out.
Decrease in Air Quality

OZONE IN THE LOW ZONE
- Stratosphere
- Protective Ozone Layer
- Troposphere
- Dangerous Ground-Level Ozone

Pollution + Heat & Sunlight = Ozone

Source: EPA
Climate Central
Minorities Bare Disproportionate Burden From Air Pollution
ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM

- Exposed to 63% more pollution than they produce
  - Latinx Americans
- Exposed to 17% less pollution than they produce
  - Black Americans
  - Non-Hispanic White Americans
Environmental Racism Is Nothing New

Race is the most significant predictor of a person living near contaminated air, water, or soil.

56% of the population near toxic waste sites are people of color.

People of color:
- Have 38% higher nitrogen-dioxide exposure.
- Are 2x more likely to live without potable water and modern sanitation.
- Have seen 95% of their claims against polluters denied by the EPA.
Heat & Justice

How are marginalized communities **feeling the heat**?

**Housing:** US Dept HUD (Housing and Urban Development) does not require A/C units in affordable housing.

**Transportation:** Many people rely on public transportation, walking, and biking.
The Economic Damage from Climate Change in the United States
Estimated Change to Each State’s GDP ($)

Article & Sources:
https://howmuch.net/articles/the-economic-damage-from-climate-change-in-the-united-states
http://science.sciencemag.org/content/356/6345/1362
http://www.governing.com

howmuch.net
MENTAL HEALTH

- Anxiety
- Depression
- PTSD
- Aggression & Violence
- Crime
- Suicide
- Domestic Violence

48% of Americans believe climate change is already impacting our mental health.
ENERGY
ENERGY BURDEN: WHAT IT IS AND HOW RENEWABLES CAN HELP

Defining what is and isn’t affordable when it comes to energy is tricky, but this much is clear: low-income families are suffering disproportionately under the current energy landscape.

Energy shut-offs statewide
Importance of Energy Freedom

Extreme Heat Days for Floridians
Energy Freedom

Where do Floridians get their energy from?
Who is our energy coming from?
WHAT CAN YOU DO IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

• Talk about it (Your Voice).
• Stay responsibly informed.
• Set up a virtual Climate Workshop for your family, friends, community.
• Stay civically engaged at all levels.
• Consume sustainably and mindfully.
• Support climate-conscious businesses.
LAUNCH DAY

Installations will be staggered:

- Miami (9/9)
- Tampa (9/16)
- Orlando (9/23)

Following the statues we will host an educational webinars & town halls:

- Killer Heat: The Urgency Of Rising Temperatures with UCS (9/10)
- Town Hall with NBC6: The Financial & Health Impacts Of Heat On Our Underserved Communities (9/11)
- Climate Crisis Impacts in Florida with Chief Meteorologist John Morales (9/17)
- Surviving Florida Summers: Heat Stress on Outdoor Workers (9/24)
“Hey, it’s reality. It’s a crisis. Pay attention.”
A SPECIAL PARTNERSHIP

We would like to invite you to help amplify this campaign in order to make the climate crisis a top priority for Floridians. We will be providing you with a social media tool kit that will contain messaging, hashtags, and links to the videos of the statues melting, with the call to action to learn more about heat, and sign the Florida Climate Pledge. All digital content will be for Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter.

What we need from you:
• The point of contact that handles your social media (if it’s not you)
• How far in advance do you need the digital content?

Please email this information to Natalia at nortiz@cleoinstitute.org
Protecting Ratepayers through the COVID crisis:

Tyler Fitch
Regulatory Manager, Southeast

Olivia Nedd
Policy Director, Access & Equity Program
Even before this crisis, energy was unaffordable for US households.

One in three households in the US deal with energy insecurity.

30 million households pay more than 6% of their income toward energy bills.

Studies have found that households in disadvantaged communities use less than affluent households, but pay more of their paycheck.
But COVID-19 has put those issues into hyperdrive.

Source: US Department of Labor
States acted to protect citizens early on in the crisis, but protections are rolling off...

Source: National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners
Who can help and what should they do?

State & local legislature.

Utilities.

Regulators.
We need to know the scale of the problem.

» Utility companies *don’t* report information on how many customers may be disconnected.

» Where we do have data, we see a looming crisis:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Households at risk of disconnection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>At least 560,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>More than 1 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>800,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

» We need to know the scale of the problem. *We need data.*
Ensure the most vulnerable are protected.

- **Long-term disconnection moratorium:** Disconnections are a public health risk & entrench economic damage. Long-term protection and immediate reconnection.

- **End punitive treatment of low-income customers.**
  - End late fees & disconnection/reconnection fees.
  - End negative credit reporting.
  - End deposits.

- **Humane payment plans.** We know the road to economic recovery will be long and we should give customers the chance to recover.
Who should bear the burden of economic disruption?

> Ratepayers who have been impacted by COVID-19?
> What about utility shareholders & profits?

Northam pushes for overdue electric bill bill forgiveness
Let’s envision a brighter, fairer future
Zelalem Adefris
VP of Policy & Advocacy, Catalyst Miami
Steering Committee Member, Miami Climate Alliance
zelalema@catalystmiami.org
Local Context

- 2.7 million people
- 900k households
- 21% of households in poverty
- 58% of households considered the working poor or in poverty
Low-income households in Florida cities in this study face high energy burdens. On average, half the low-income households in Jacksonville, Tampa, Orlando, and Miami have an energy burden greater than 7.2%, and a quarter of them, over 12%. The national average is 3.5%.
## Florida utility low income energy efficiency programs (2015 data)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Electric utility</th>
<th>Spending per residential customer ($)</th>
<th>Savings per residential customer (kWh)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Duke Energy Florida</td>
<td>$0.22</td>
<td>2.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida Power and Light Company</td>
<td>$0.02</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulf Power Company</td>
<td>$2.12</td>
<td>3.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacksonville Electric Authority</td>
<td>$1.66</td>
<td>2.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orlando Utilities Commission</td>
<td>$0.53</td>
<td>0.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tampa Electric Company</td>
<td>$6.29</td>
<td>7.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeast Median</td>
<td>$2.45</td>
<td>2.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Median</td>
<td>$2.58</td>
<td>2.86</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CLEAR

10-week grassroots advocacy & leadership training program

MCA Clean Energy Working Group

Open & inclusive collective organizing space

Catalyst to the Capital

Annual community-led advocacy trip to Tallahassee

Impacted communities need to be at the helm of policy design & decision-making
Because that's how we win, design, & hold elected officials accountable to better policies

- $450K increase in weatherization program funding
  - 2019
- Local resolution urging the PSC to implement meaningful energy efficiency goals
  - 2019
- Local resolution calling for a moratorium on shut-offs, which led to FPL postponing shut-offs
  - 2020
Zelalem Adfres
VP of Policy & Advocacy
Catalyst Miami
zelalema@catalystmiami.org
www.catalystmiami.org
@catalystmiami

ACTION ALERT:
https://cleanenergy.org/feeca

www.catalystmiami.org/clear_toolkit_library
www.catalystmiami.org/subscribe
Protecting Ratepayers through the COVID crisis:

Katie Chiles Ottenweller
Southeast Director

VOTE SOLAR
Protecting All Florida Ratepayers

When Gulf Power asked for special treatment for customers’ debts in July, CLEO Institute and Vote Solar intervened.

» No disconnections until 2021 at the earliest
» Comprehensive utility reporting
» Fair treatment of utility costs
» Expand debt forgiveness & energy efficiency

Florida Public Service Commission allowed Gulf’s special treatment, but ordered a workshop on our request.

Commissions will have to make more decisions in the future -- and they need to hear from us.
Call to Action

» Join the Florida Climate Pledge
» Read and share the Principles for Protecting Utility Customers in the Regulatory Response to COVID-19
» Take action to fix the Florida Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act
Questions? Ideas?