

Climate & Heat Health Task Force Public Workshop #6
Trees and Streets – March 29th 2022
10:30 AM - 12 PM
Workshop Notes

Group 1

- Introductions: Name, Affiliation(s), interest in this particular workshop

- Jane Gilbert
- Chelsea Clark
- Megan Donovan, UM Civic Engagement
- Christian Kamrath, County office of resilience
- Wren Ruiz, Urban Health Partnerships
- Diego Molina-Castrillon, CLEO
- Micah Hundley, Atlantic Council
- Aida Curtis, Landscape architect
- Esber Andiroglu, UM architecture
- Omar Leon, Miami Beach urban forester
- Aaron DeMayo,
- Gaby Lopez, Neat Streets Miami/Million Trees Miami
- Jen Cheek, Urban Health Partnerships, director of healthy streets and public spaces
- Tamia Medina, FL dept of health
- Christianah Oyenuga, The Nature Conservancy FL
- Michelle Aleman, MDC Office of budget, grants management
- Jim Murley, MDC office of resilience

Questions:

1. How could the County and its partners create better engagement opportunities on their efforts to cool down our most vulnerable neighborhoods?

- Aaron DeMayo – implementing programs to help lower wealth areas

- Aida Curtis – comes down to education; people need to understand the value of trees; many people often only see trees for their aesthetic purposes; need more understanding of how trees capture carbon, protect from heat, etc. Also need to call out the engineers – they need to be prioritizing trees in development as well.

- Diego MC – could reach out to title 1 school coordinators to get a foot in the door in those communities to link these ideas and education process

- Esber A – Pilot prototypes – assembling the right partners to connect with most vulnerable communities with smallest tree canopy. Directly engage with residents and stakeholders in a

community. Piloting thermal imaging using drones to demonstrate how neighborhoods and homes can see a tangible change.

- Gaby L – MDC developed the Complete Streets Design Guidelines which many municipalities have adopted. In place, need to execute them.
- Tamia Medina - 100%. Complete streets is something FDOH and our Health Equity office are looking at as committee project. The issue is getting municipalities and departments to implement the guidelines like Gaby said.
- Jen Cheek – How do I participate as a regular citizen to be a champion to move these ideas along? How is the County and cities interacting on these issues?
- Omar Leon – studies show that 80% of our tree canopy is on private property – if you want to make an impact, there should be a strong emphasis on planting on private property – possibly amending codes and permitting. Majorly managed by private citizens, so he’s looked into a city wide or countywide incentive program for tax incentive or similar to provide that their trees continue to provide benefits.
- Christian K – tactical urbanism, bringing in plants or benches into an area – maybe there’s a way to survey or talk to local business to see if they’re interested to bring in trees to their spaces. Observe and see if people like that, start a conversation about the benefits of trees. Mobile pop-up park to take to different areas to start the conversation.
- Gaby/Micah - Resiliency Pod could be good tool

2. What other policies or actions should the County and its partners consider to cool our streets or to enhance and maintain our tree canopy?

- Aida – look at cost for tree removal – way too cheap and easy to remove a tree without permit. Large tree is \$270 after the fact. In the city of Miami, a lot of developers have no problem removing trees because it’s cheaper to remove and develop property. Need to think about this and think about trees as vital infrastructure, encourage people to design around them rather than removing. Also need to regulate arborists to make sure they’re being environmentally responsible.
- Omar – what Aida mentioned is true – tree permitting and preservation ordinances need to be drafted to incentivize developers and property owners to protect their tree canopy. County code needs to be looked at – the thresholds for requiring a tree permit are set too high. Also, the state bill – it’s been amended as we speak, new amendments will require much more stringent documentation for it to be authorized. Also should not be a palm-centric county. Need to look at county-wide tree masterplan + how to manage our urban forests in a more sustainable way – this will lead to a higher tree canopy percentage.

- Christian K - Not sure if it's already within our CDMP, but i think there are state/federal programs that encourage 'safe streets to schools' mostly in the context of funding improvements pedestrian safety from vehicles, but think that definition of 'safe' should be expanded to be more holistic and consider safety from risks of extreme heat. In terms of framing, describing streets with trees that provide shade (as well as better air quality), fewer folks may be against making streets safer (but must be also be very sensitive to related issues of gun violence, etc. - though i believe there is evidence that areas with more trees create healthier, stress reducing environments which loosely correlates to reduced violence)
- Aaron – recommend to strengthen connections to schools. Top recommendations – reducing quantity % of palms / incentivizing green roofs – allow for greater covered space from 20% to 40% / how to increase housing in the city, zoning changes. Keeping existing tree canopy – Upper Buena Vista – site had large banyan tree and large oaks – project changed to save these trees – he had to write letters to the city to allow them to keep trees and build under the canopy. Create a business case for keeping existing tree canopies.
- Esber – Similar effort in NY where they looked at introducing greening of public right of way and private properties, for flood management – good example model (he sent this via email – can connect us to the contact there)

3. What other stakeholders need to be involved?

- Christianah O – engineers must be brought in re significance of natural infrastructure and to help change the narrative during development.
- Jim Murley – neighborhood associations, organized groups in cities and county will speak to value of this infrastructure
- Megan D – Developers
- Aaron - RE safety toward schools - the COM Task Force Report - Item E.27 - <https://www.miamigov.com/Planning-Zoning-Land-Use/Miami-21-Task-Force>
- Christian K - perhaps local indigenous voices and cultures who have a deeper and more nuanced understanding of the value & sacredness of trees/nature -- seen as kin to us humans. small business districts/corridors/groups looking to make their area more attractive/beautiful
- Jen Cheek – schools – bringing in insight from how they could benefit from these, in particular title 1. Other community groups, friends of parks groups, etc. Private residences – making sure that we’re considering landlords for areas that are predominantly renters.
- Omar L – having representation from capital improvement departments – being tasked with large scale resilience projects county-wide – bringing them on board to understand importance of tree canopy.

4. What are other municipalities and NGO partners that we haven't mentioned doing locally?

- Esber A – engaging FES – Florida Engineering Society – all licensed engineers have to complete continuing education hours – could create a course to force the topic.
- Aida – never have budget for trees, public works projects don't need to comply – the disconnect between what the county is trying to do and what community is trying to do.
- Wren Ruiz - I can't really speak out loud at the moment, but wanted to type out my input: I feel that those of us who participate in plans review need to continue/increase advocacy for the landscape components of projects (private and public). Often landscape is the first one to be whittled down from its requirements per the codes/standards, and it becomes a common practice to do this. Ensuring those with the last word at the review stage understand the importance of minimizing how lenient we are with developers/designers/construction with tree requirements. Lastly, working with community partners and community members to gain a deeper understanding of where the shade is most needed. They are the most familiar and can provide the best insight of what transit stops are most in need and what other public areas are most used and most exposed based on what uses are triangulating that cause people to be in those areas (public institutions/service centers, community resources, etc.)
- Megan D – local community redevelopment agencies, lending institutions
- Jim M – the Underline – hope to be a native plant nursery. People are angry that trees are being cut down and palms are being planted. It is a public project that we have to maintain – hope that we can engage the Underline folks. Also, in the downtown area, there's a study underway to redevelop the entire area – this plan needs to incorporate the values we're discussing today.

GROUP 2

Facilitator: Sandra St. Hilaire

Notetaker: Ludovica Martella

Introductions

- Lisa Colamnares
- Jen Posnes, UM Office of Civic Engagement
- Kim Brown, MDC
- Gloria Antia, City of Miami Parks and Services
- Victor Robles, landscaper supervisor for Miami Parks
- Natalia Brown, climate justice at Catalyst Miami
- Deanne Leach, Dade County resident, registered nurse
- Quatisha, Chief of Environmental resources
- Amy Horton Tavera, County office of management and budget
- Beatriz Cruz, Architect

- Paulina Saldarriaga , Student
- Ryan Shedd, city of Miami planning department
- Jeanette Ruiz, Miami climate alliance
- Motsa Dubois, resident
- Deanne Leach, dade county resident, registered nurse
- Kai Valle, native plant, sanctuary landscape designer

Questions

1. How could the County and its partners create better engagement opportunities on their efforts to cool down our most vulnerable neighborhoods?

- Joanna: create programs between neighborhoods- plant a tree and plant a neighbor tree, sister neighborhoods or sister blocks just as we have sister cities.
- Kai Valle: Consider switching landscape gas machinery (as polluting as traffic according to research) to e-equipment or battery operated equipment. Many cities are switching all of the above which exacerbates climate change and causes severe heat in cities. Thanks for your time. I'd also ask that you educate residents. Switch from cancer-causing asphalt and bitumen for paving streets. this causes severe pollution and extreme heat. The toxic chemicals end up polluting our air, water and land and hurts human health. We have many new non polluting or less polluting materials. Piggybacking on old contracts will only exacerbate climate change. thanks!
- Jeanette: reach those that are in unincorporated miami dade.
- Joanna: Maybe we could do a citizen tree census all across the county and municipalities? NYC has done this—<https://www.nature.org/content/dam/tnc/nature/en/documents/State-of-the-Urban-Forest-NYC.pdf>
- Education is fundamental. through radio, tv psas,
- Joanna: Could there be a protect landscape workers program? An incentive program of some kind, and maybe an equipment exchange program to get the gas powered blowers out of use? These are the people who suffer directly from heat impacts. The heat impacts, their exposure to pesticides, also maybe some sort of program to defray costs towards cleaner trucks/vehicles
- Kim: The County's Landscape Code (Chapters 18A and 18B) govern lot trees and street tree requirements.
https://library.municode.com/fl/miami_-_dade_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOOR_C118AMIDECOLAOR
- Natalia: model thrive305
- Ryan Shedd: The county and municipalities should continue coordinating on roadway design (especially pressuring FDOT on state roadways to allow more trees, closer to the roadway) to make street trees as easy to plant as possible. The county could use ROW to plant trees there.

- Kai: I would like for county to please consider Native trees in order to avoid pesticides, insecticides, biocides, weed killer, herbicides, etc. After installation, they don't require watering or pesticides. I'd also please ask that you switch highly toxic, cancer-causing asphalt and bitumen for road and street paving, to non-polluting materials. Also, please consider switching landscape gas machinery (as polluting as traffic according to research) to e-equipment or battery operated equipment. Many cities are switching all of the above which exacerbates climate change and causes severe heat in cities. Thanks for your time. I'd also ask that you educate residents on the dangers of misting systems, pesticides, insecticides, spraying of lawns. Every single drop ends up in our water systems. Thanks again.
- Jeanette: What can we do about unincorporated Miami-Dade County?

2. What other policies or actions should the County and its partners consider to cool our streets or to enhance and maintain our tree canopy?

- Victor: Another concern is the tree pruning for power lines. Power lines should be underground ROW and parking lots family oriented events with children so that we can change the negative narrative around trees.
- educate the internal staff
- pilot projects using new material around bus stops
- Kai: would it be possible to start a reward program for being part of the solution to help end extreme heat and pollution?

3. What other stakeholders need to be involved?

Joanna: health care systems could get involved.

Also, FDOT and FPL should have a seat at the table and have involvement in these discussions.

4. What are other municipalities and NGO partners that we haven't mentioned doing locally?

- FIU tree service going on in coconut grove?
- NYC is doing a survey as well. link before.
- School board - they are putting shade screens in the palyards and they could do tree planting as well
- Model the biscayne bay outreach. We could bring all of the heat groups in a summit
- Get in touch with Christianah Oyenuga from Orlando

- Landscaper of florida, providing trainings for developers and homeowners
-

GROUP NUMBER: 3

Facilitator: Galen Treuer

Note Taker Name: Brenda Krebs

Participants and Introductions:

- Brenda Krebs
- Carol Lindsey – semi retired family nurse practitioner, on Florida Clinicians for Climate Action, also part of CLEO
- Catherine Toms – Sr Advisor Healthcare Without Harm, Florida Clinicians for Climate Action, grew up in Miami, lots of memories of trees – smell and bark, tree climbing
- Cheryl Holder – health impact
- Galen Treuer – facilitator
- Grace Perdomo – head of Transit Alliance, largest grassroots effort – Better Bus Network, looking at complete streets, trees and affordable housing
- James Duncan – RER/DERM, helps with Adopt a Tree, committed to canopy
- Jonathan Klopp – Resilience for City of Miami
- Joy Klein – an arborist, DERM’s EEL program, before that Adopt-a-Tree, part of County masterplan
- Karina Castillo – jumping between groups
- Maria Linden – student, Johns Hopkins public policy for health, lives in Coral Gables near 8th Street can feel change in temperature
- Meenakshi Chabba – Extreme Events Institute at FIU, PhD student, evaluates risk mitigation, big advocate for nature-based solutions
- Megan Hennings – UM law student, Climate and Equity platform for mapping, she is helping with the policy toolkit, helps w/ SMASH
- Nancy Jackson – works w Eileen Higgins in Dist. 5 on Neat Streets
- Oscar Londoño – Exec Director of ReCount – representing farmworkers
- Robert Hevia – Emergency Manager City of Miami
- Robert Molleda – National Weather Service, meteorologist, sends out weather alerts
- Rolando Jimenez – no mic capability
- Zelalem Adefris – Climate VP of Policy & Advocacy

1. How could the County and its partners create better engagement opportunities on their efforts to cool down our most vulnerable neighborhoods?

James – Areas of conflict: with the toolkit, it is not clear how much of this toolkit residents can use? At schools, often there is top-heavy management in that prevents the best planting practices. Also trees in

front of people's house might be impacting critical issues, so the amount of landscape space in proportion to the size of the house is difficult. Everyone can get 2 trees each year through Adopt a Tree. I could say a lot more but will pass it on to others.

Zelalem – trees are surprisingly controversial. For ex. in Little Haiti, Zelalem was helping with an application to plant trees, and she heard so many complaints about County trees planted years ago, and now there are problems. So glad to hear there is now an arborists. Concerns on getting fines for yard trees damaging sidewalks and then they were charged fees. Tree upkeep is an undue financial burden for many people. People asked can we have the trees that we want? Some trees can make a mess, such as mango trees. Because of sidewalks, there is very little space in public areas that have room for trees, so perhaps consider amending those rules. Also, how do we prioritize our efforts

Maria Linden – from individual perspective, from student focus, how are the advertising efforts for this getting out? We need to better engage the general public. That way you will hear more from the people living in the neighborhoods.

Joy – when we developed Adopt a Tree in the early 2000s, we knew that it was important for people to have fruit trees. One of our first efforts was to offer a workshop on how to care for these trees. The problem is that it is only for property owners. One of the best approaches was to approach churches, since they have a lot of land area. A lot of churches also have feeding programs, so they could use the fruits. Also Post Offices would be a great place to plant more trees. Team up with a public partner to care for these trees. In my neighborhood, an abandoned right of way (old transit corridor) that wasn't being used and where the homeless are living, needs to be cleaned up the area and plant better trees. Also, our blueways need trees – the right tree in the right place is key. Richmond Heights – strong history of black veterans buying single-family homes. Would help to have more encouragement of trees in those areas.

Grace – Transit Alliance three basics

1. People want to learn
 - a. tie info to other critical issues, such as health
 - b. tie into MDCPS curriculum
 - c. use technology to map shaded areas, as done in Barcelona to help people know where to take a walk in the shade
2. Drive change
 - a. Bike lanes – there is already federal money for that, add trees
 - b. Work on multi-modal transit options
3. We are all different – so play to different strengths

2. What other policies or actions should the County and its partners consider to cool our streets or to enhance and maintain our tree canopy?

Dr. Cheryl Holder – Richmond Heights is a great example. Tie in the importance of walking in outreach to the community about trees. So the trees then represent personal health. What are our major indices that we can improve on in the next 6 months. For example, improving depression. Lowering COPD, premature births. All of this information will help increase engagement.

James Duncan – really liked what Joy said about how natural areas improve urban environments. The No. 1 driver to lower temperature is canopy size, which is not a surprise. When rethinking the location and NOT just taking things off the streets, you need to take lessons from the environment and forests. Great to create a pocket park by adding trees to small areas that don't have them.

Dr. Cheryl Holder – on tree canopy size, can we give away larger trees?

James – We give away smaller trees because cost is not always an issue. The smaller trees are easier for people to plant and care for

Dr. Holder – but if we need a dramatic improvement now, we need to plant larger trees now

Galen – we have to stop cutting down our trees! The ones already in communities are the best.

Megan – for question No. 2, I wonder if anyone has done analysis of Zoning Codes and their impact on tree canopy. Seems to look more at building materials, rather than divestment and plants

James – we need to update our development code

Galen – yes, there are different challenges at County and city levels

Jonathan – FPL along US 1, in grounding powerlines, there should be less concern about tree canopies interfering with electrical wiring. Also more possibilities now for white roofs

Questions 3 and 4: What are other municipalities and NGO partners that we haven't mentioned doing locally? What other stakeholders need to be involved?

Meenakshi – we don't have the indigenous plant representation that we need. Many large-scale projects do not take this into consideration and they need to

Joy – all trees in Adopt a Tree are locally grow. Clean Streets plan goes back 30 years ago requesting that we make sure to preserve the seeds of our endangered trees. We are having to procure seeds and plant two years down than the line. We have given out a lot of mango trees, but often the little spaces people have they need to park or for kids to play. Let's be wholistic and listen to what people want.

Maria – one of the things I am noticing in the language is 30 percent tree canopy, but I think we need prioritize the lowest canopy areas, rather than just a 30 percent total. The lowest are Medley, Hialeah and Opalocka

James – Oscar, thank you for your question. Because of all the sub-contracting involved, it is difficult to get everyone to comply with our County standard format that is part of our qualification to become a vendor for the County

Oscar – there should be better ways to ensure compliance with ALL sub-contractors

James – yes, this is done already with minority-owned businesses

Galen – we are currently working on values-based procurement. This is moving and happening. There will be a white paper coming out from the Mayor's Office

Group 3 Chat

From Lynn to Everyone: 10:32 AM

Good morning, listening in, got class

From Victor Robles to Everyone: 10:32 AM

Good morning everyone!

From Beatriz Baldan to Everyone: 10:34 AM

from Beatriz Baldan" Good morning from here rom Buenos Aires, Argentina

From Ludovica Martella to Everyone: 10:34 AM

Thank you for joining us!

From Chelsea Clark (she/her) to Everyone: 10:35 AM

miamifoundation.org/extremeheat

From Gaby Lopez to Everyone: 10:45 AM

Right-of-way Aesthetics & Assets Management Division (RAAM)

From Jennifer Tisthammer to Everyone: 10:49 AM

MDC Parks also acquires lands for Parks for public access to trees MDC Parks Natural Areas Management cares for trees with EEL in our Parks and Preserves

From Galen Treuer to Everyone: 10:59 AM

1. How could the County and its partners create better engagement opportunities on their efforts to cool down our most vulnerable neighborhoods?

2. What other policies or actions should the County and its partners consider to cool our streets or to enhance and maintain our tree canopy?

3. What other stakeholders need to be involved?

4. What are other municipalities and NGO partners that we haven't mentioned doing locally?

From Rolando Jimenez to Everyone: 11:05 AM

Galen this is Rolando Jimenez sorry but I have poor internet connection.

Sorry but my internet connetion

From Galen Treuer (he/him) Miami-Dade to Everyone: 11:05 AM

Thank you Rolando

From Galen Treuer (he/him) Miami-Dade to Everyone: 11:13 AM

1. How could the County and its partners create better engagement opportunities on their efforts to cool down our most vulnerable neighborhoods?

From Me to Rolando Jimenez: (Direct Message) 11:15 AM

Hi, Rolando. Your affiliation, please?

From Galen Treuer (he/him) Miami-Dade to Everyone: 11:18 AM

Here is the County trees website: <https://www.miamidade.gov/global/economy/trees.page>

From meenakshi chabba to Everyone: 11:20 AM

I agree, active maintenance support by experts in vulnerable communities is a must!

From Rolando Jimenez to Everyone: 11:21 AM

Sorry team but although

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From James Duncan to Everyone: 11:21 AM

Listening to the trees people want is soooo important!!!

From Rolando Jimenez to Everyone: 11:21 AM

Poor internet...sorry

From Karina Castillo to Everyone: 11:25 AM

Luckily the last meetings were recorded and are posted on The Miami Foundation website here - <https://miamifoundation.org/extremeheat>.

From Zelalem Adefris to Everyone: 11:25 AM

Yes James, basically I think some deep community engagement is necessary in every neighborhood without a robust tree canopy. & for that community engagement to be focused on listening. People have so many opinions and history with tree planting in their neighborhoods- it's important that they're heard and that changes are made in accordance to the feedback.

From James Duncan to Everyone: 11:27 AM

When I go to schools and do tree/canopy talks my first question is always what is your favorite tree and then I ask if they'd ever seen the trees we're planting before and I try to weave the cultural history with the identity of the trees. I have learned so much!!

From meenakshi chabba to Everyone: 11:29 AM

We should have small tree identification tags on each tree to spark curiosity and improve education about trees. It's a cost but with dividends

From Carol Lindsey to Everyone: 11:31 AM

Maybe kids could get community hours (if they aren't already) for being a part of tree planting.

From Galen Treuer (he/him) Miami-Dade to Everyone: 11:31 AM

2. What other policies or actions should the County and its partners consider to cool our streets or to enhance and maintain our tree canopy?

From joy klein to Everyone: 11:33 AM

Carol the county has always given community service hours for planting trees and doing hands on work with the EEL program

From Carol Lindsey to Everyone: 11:34 AM

Joy, Thank you for this information. I didn't know this. Also, I agree with Dr. Holder. The positive health impacts of planting trees should be included in the conversation.

From Catherine Toms to Everyone: 11:36 AM

Additional health benefit of trees: Cleaner air- provides results in improved air quality. The American Lung Association gave MDC a C in the latest State of the Air report card:
<https://www.lung.org/research/sota/city-rankings/states/florida>

From joy klein to Everyone: 11:37 AM

Tree plantings are very popular as we had as many of 250 people show up in the middle of July

From James Duncan to Everyone: 11:39 AM

There is also a tree vulnerability issue with planting large trees- they're less wind resistant and require time to adapt to their new environment

Many heat island requirements are pre-empted by the state but there is plenty of room for improvement!

From Catherine Toms to Everyone: 11:41 AM

To your point, Galen, are there any MDC policies that reward developers or require developers/ builders to keep larger trees when building new structures? Incentives- quicker permitting tied to keeping trees. Tax incentives for new home buyers to keep older trees?

From Galen Treuer (he/him) Miami-Dade to Everyone: 11:41 AM

3. What other stakeholders need to be involved?

4. What are other municipalities and NGO partners that we haven't mentioned doing locally?

From meenakshi chabba to Everyone: 11:41 AM

Just to add briefly, that in addition to local community needs, the biodiversity needs for our regions must be kept in mind when choosing species to plant

From Megan Hennings to Everyone: 11:41 AM

Thank you everyone! All very helpful information!

From Cheryl Holder to Everyone: 11:42 AM

hospital leadership

From Nancy jackson, she/her to Everyone: 11:42 AM

I'm super impressed with the wide variety of stakeholders.

From Catherine Toms to Everyone: 11:42 AM

Community Greening would be a good partner to work with residents or communities.
<https://communitygreening.org/>

From James Duncan to Everyone: 11:42 AM

@meenakshi you are 100% correct because vulnerability to disease is very hard

From Nancy Jackson, she/her to Everyone: 11:42 AM

Very glad to see so many scientists in the taskforce.

From Oscar Londoño to Everyone: 11:43 AM

Where does the County procure trees from?

From Grace Perdomo, Transit Alliance to Everyone: 11:43 AM

Community Gardens are great engagement opportunity!

From James Duncan to Everyone: 11:45 AM

We grow far enough in advance so that we can buy things folks aren't growing

If people get there mango they may learn about a cool native tree they want to try out!

From Cheryl Holder to Everyone: 11:45 AM

Well said Joy

From Robert Molleda to Everyone: 11:46 AM

NWS cannot publicly support any particular effort as this is a local/county issue. We are interested in any data that supports the evidence that areas with more dense tree canopies have lower temperatures. More consistent data in these areas would be very helpful for us to better define vulnerable areas for heat advisories/warnings.

From Jonathan Klopp to Everyone: 11:46 AM

Additional public green space in NW sectors could be a win-win

From Nancy Jackson, she/her to Everyone: 11:46 AM

Neat Streets Miami-Dade does already include equity priorities in their programming

From Catherine Toms to Everyone: 11:46 AM

Joy, speaking of taking care of seeds, does anyone in MDC work with the Svalbard Global Seed Vault to preserve native seeds:

<https://www.regjeringen.no/en/topics/food-fisheries-and-agriculture/svalbard-global-seed-vault/id462220/>

From Nancy Jackson, she/her to Everyone: 11:47 AM

We focus heavily in the areas with the lowest incomes and existing tree canopy.

From Joy Klein to Everyone: 11:47 AM

We work with Fairchild Tropical Garden who sends the seeds to the center for plant conservation

From Carol Lindsey to Everyone: 11:49 AM

Is there any way we could get engagement from high school students on their suggestions? They are very involved in a composting activity on Key Biscayne for example.

From joy klein to Everyone: 11:49 AM

We also collect local seed to grow up and some of our seeds source is what the connect to protect so that the local biodiversity make corridors for pollentors

From Catherine Toms to Everyone: 11:50 AM

cool!

From James Duncan to Everyone: 11:50 AM

No worries!

I like the initiative

Jane summary – For everyone to know, these notes will be posted online for all to see.

Galen summary – we need to listen to the community and let them choose their trees. There are rule changes that need to happen. Procurement process is one place where we can connect and help

Sandra summary – so many great ideas, in both the conversation and the chat. One idea that especially stood out was to create a sister neighborhood or street to have connections between plantings. Creating connections throughout our community. Also a desire to really prioritize native trees. Can create revenue streams in charging fees.

Nichole summary – a few ideas not already mentioned: take advantage of existing events and have more County. What about covering parking lots with solar. There are great examples in other countries. Make developers more accountable. Keep trees and plant them. Cool urban centers and corridors so that more people have access to trees. Landlords should really be engaged in this. Inform the community and educate them about safety. For example, falling branches. We had someone from Fairchild who also is going to help with this.

Jane – all of you who participated today are key stakeholders. Your dedication is critical. Thank you so much!

Chat at 12:02

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Yes James, basically I think some deep community engagement is necessary in every neighborhood without a robust tree canopy. & for that community engagement to be focused on listening. People have so many opinions and history with tree planting in their neighborhoods- it's important that they're heard and that changes are made in accordance to the feedback.

From James Duncan to Everyone: 11:27 AM

When I go to schools and do tree/canopy talks my first question is always what is your favorite tree and then I ask if they'd ever seen the trees we're planting before and I try to weave the cultural history with the identity of the trees. I have learned so much!!

From meenakshi chabba to Everyone: 11:29 AM

We should have small tree identification tags on each tree to spark curiosity and improve education about trees. It's a cost but with dividends

From Carol Lindsey to Everyone: 11:31 AM

Maybe kids could get community hours (if they aren't already) for being a part of tree planting.

From Galen Treuer (he/him) Miami-Dade to Everyone: 11:31 AM

2. What other policies or actions should the County and its partners consider to cool our streets or to enhance and maintain our tree canopy?

From joy klein to Everyone: 11:33 AM

Carol the county has always given community service hours for planting trees and doing hands on work with the EEL program

From Carol Lindsey to Everyone: 11:34 AM

Joy, Thank you for this information. I didn't know this. Also, I agree with Dr. Holder. The positive health impacts of planting trees should be included in the conversation.

From Catherine Toms to Everyone: 11:36 AM

Additional health benefit of trees: Cleaner air- provides results in improved air quality. The American Lung Association gave MDC a C in the latest State of the Air report card:
<https://www.lung.org/research/sota/city-rankings/states/florida>

From joy klein to Everyone: 11:37 AM

Tree plantings are very popular as we had as many of 250 people show up in the middle of July

From James Duncan to Everyone: 11:39 AM

There is also a tree vulnerability issue with planting large trees- they're less wind resistant and require time to adapt to their new environment

Many heat island requirements are pre-empted by the state but there is plenty of room for improvement!

From Catherine Toms to Everyone: 11:41 AM

To your point, Galen, are there any MDC policies that reward developers or require developers/ builders to keep larger trees when building new structures? Incentives- quicker permitting tied to keeping trees. Tax incentives for new home buyers to keep older trees?

From Galen Treuer (he/him) Miami-Dade to Everyone: 11:41 AM

3. What other stakeholders need to be involved?

4. What are other municipalities and NGO partners that we haven't mentioned doing locally?

From meenakshi chabba to Everyone: 11:41 AM

Just to add briefly, that in addition to local community needs, the biodiversity needs for our regions must be kept in mind when choosing species to plant

Group 4

Facilitator: Nichole Hefty

Notetaker: Julia Marturano

Attendees:

Tiffany Troxler – FIU Associate Professor

Mayra Cruz - PHd UM Heat and its impacts

Shari Lipner – Deputy emergency manager

Lynee Turkek – 3rd UM PHd

Amy Wedel – Florida Concrete and Paving

Willie Allen Fiella – PACT + mayors office, expansion of tree canopy, targeting neighborhoods with highest poverty rate (15 areas)

Joelle Deese – Adaptation and Energy in Key West

Laura Levey – Glove Guard

Kamilia Abdula – PACT

Melissa Hew – Resilience, Adaptation

Chris Uejio – FSU

Jorge Rodriquez – Park Manager, Bike Trail manager

Lydia Cuni – biologist on conservation team for Fairchild

Patricia Gomez – Miami-Dade office of Resilience

Scarlett Lanzas- Accountable Impact for sustainable

Questions:

1. How could the County and its partners create better engagement opportunities on their efforts to cool down our most vulnerable neighborhoods?

- Willie – Miami County Public Schools is sporadic in support of trees
 - o 2nd largest land holder in county, they can be doing a lot more
- Mayra – Taking advantage of Catalyst, Cleo, ect
 - o Get a sense of events of events that are coming up (Earth Day)
 - o Have one representative that can talk about trees
- Laura- connect homeowners association
 - o Right tree in the right place
- Melissa -In addition to partnering with local NGSs, partnering with local businesses that people frequent regularly could be helpful (i.e. supermarkets, gas stations, local restaurants etc.) - meet people where they are
 - o Being able to track the health/status of the trees after they've been given away would be great

- 3 people have attended adopt a tree events – need to get the word out about these events

2. What other policies or actions should the County and its partners consider to cool our streets or to enhance and maintain our tree canopy?

- Tiffany - Laura mentioned the success around vegetable gardens. What a great entry point for trees
 - o Is the Grove station still intended to have the microgrid associated with it? If so, what a great precedent.
- Lynee - Parking Lots, add shading solar panels
 - o Mayra - And we have so many! And you could hopefully use them to charge your phone or electric cars
- Jorge- Storm Drains and watering trees
 - o Direct water right to the root ball
- Amy – special pervious concrete to let water infiltrate
- Andrea – Use non standard materials to help with trees
 - o Better understand the correlation
- Mayra - I just don't know if FPL would support a full scale effort, I can see them going for one location. They're not fans of community solar which this would get us closer to that
- Willie – need policy in place for developers to hold them more accountable for trees
 - o Mayra – Need incentives for these developers
 - § Fruit trees, help with food deserts
- Mayra – “cooling corridors” i.e. Philly
 - o When there is no access to cooling centers
 - o

Melissa - To Andrea's point - there is still more work we need to do in terms of data collection. As Jane mentioned we don't fully understand the ambient air temperature picture

- Mayra - ^agreed. We have students at UM working on this too. It's more complex than we realized trying to justify why some areas are cooler and why some are hotter.

3. What other stakeholders need to be involved?

- Mellissa – meet people where they are, go to local grocery stores
- Amy – industry and businesses (make pavement people partners)
 - o Help architects with design
 - o Pavements sponsoring a tree planting event
- Chris – Community needs to be educated before planting trees
- Lynee- People don't like trees due to public safety
 - o i.e. at night, branches falling
 - o therefore bring in public safety, insurance companies
- Bereatha – limited parking spaces, use non tree areas for parking the car

- Mayra - Little River Cooperative would be great for partnerships and educating people about trees: <https://littlerivercooperative.com/>
- Willie - Little River Cooperative would be great for partnerships and educating people about trees: <https://littlerivercooperative.com/>
- Shari – partner with transportation, lots of safety issues and encroachment problems

4. What are other municipalities and NGO partners that we haven't mentioned doing locally?

- o County hasn't leveraged its power over FPL
 - o County needs to step up and work with them FPL in order to
 - o Lynee- Agreed! FPL is one of the key stakeholders for addressing heat

<https://www.miamibeachfl.gov/city-hall/environmental-sustainability/urban-forestry/tree-programs/>

<https://www.miamibeachfl.gov/city-hall/environmental-sustainability/urban-forestry/tree-programs/>

Chris - NYC. Spent \$1billion in cooling infrastructure. targeted investments to highest heat illness areas.

Lydia - <https://dade.fnpschapters.org/newsletters/articles/> here are ready-made articles/handouts on native trees by Dade Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society (an NGO)

Jennifer – billboard on climate, unique insights

Lydia - MDC currently has a resolution to create a study/report on partnering with FPL and the Miami Blue Chapter of North American Butterfly Association to create butterfly habitat (which can include trees) on FPL property.

<http://miamiblue.org/miami-dade-feasibility-study-for-a-butterfly-garden/>

All Attendees – 92 at 10:53 a.m. (in alphabetical order by first name):

Ann-Karen Weller

Aaron DeMayo

Abby Diaz

Aida Curtis
Alejandro Zizold
Amanda Rosenfeld
Amy Horton-Tavera
Amy Wedel
Ann-Karen Weller
Beatriz Baldan
Brenda Krebs
Carol Lindsey
Catherine Toms
Chelsea Clark – host
Cheryl Holder
Chris Uejio
Christian Kamrath
Christianah Oyenuga
Deanne Leach
Destini Smith
Diego Molina-Castrillon
Esber Andiroglu
Gaby Lopez
Galen Treuer
Germán
Gloria Antia
Grace Perdomo, Transit Alliance
Ivanna
James Duncan
Jane Gilbert - host
Janiece Davis
Jeanette Ruiz
Jen Cheek

Jen Posner
Jennifer Tisthammer
Joanna Lombard
Joe Cornely – PROS
Joelle Desse
Jonathan Klopp – City of Miami
Jorge Rodriguez
Joy Klein
Julia Marturano
K Abdullah
Kai Valle
Kimberly Brown
Laura
Lauren Reilly
Lisa Colmenares
Ludovica Martella
Lydia Cuni
Lynée Turek-Hankins
Lynn
Maria Linden
Mayra Cruz
Meenakshi Chabba
Megan Donovan
Megan Hennings
Melissa Hew – Arcadis
Melissa Taveras
Micah Hundley
Michelle Aleman
Nancy Jackson
Natalia Brown

Natalia Rivas

Nichole Hefty

Omar Leon

Oscar Londoño

Patricia Gomez

Paulina Saldrarriaga

Premasagar Tasgaonkar

Quatisha Oguntoyinbo-Rashad

Robert Hevia

Robert Molleda

Rolando Jimenez

Ryan Shedd

Sandra St. Hilaire

Scarlett Lanzas

Shari Holbert Lipner

Shelby Buso

Tamar Pino

Tamia Medina

Telvin Debnam

Tiffany Troxler

Victor Robles

Willie Allen-Faiela

Wren Ruiz

Zelalem Adefris