

## **Sustainable Environment – Category Summary**

**This category is made possible in deep partnership with Miami-Dade County and dedicated to the life and memory of Harvey Ruvin, a long time County employee with a passion for environmental education and sustainability.**

Thanks to a new partnership with **Miami-Dade County**, there is increased funding to support the Sustainable Environment category of Community Grants in 2023 with a focus on Environmental Education and alignment with the County's priorities.

Through the Sustainable Environment category, the Foundation seeks to develop a healthier, more resilient community by promoting action on the restoration of Biscayne Bay and the Everglades, protecting our most vulnerable residents from the effects of extreme heat, clean water, and expanding awareness and action on the climate crisis and its local effects. Organizations responding to the pending environmental crises and pressing needs will be prioritized. Examples of priorities include:

- **“One Water, One Bay” Education:** Provide education services and amplify action towards the connectedness of our water in South Florida, its impacts, sources and ways to prevent water pollution and increase preservation efforts for quality water sources. The sensitivity of the County's natural environment of the Everglades and Biscayne Bay to phosphorous and similar pollutants shall be emphasized in any programs relating to environmental water quality protection.
  - Preservation and restoration of Biscayne Bay and the Florida Everglades through education and action efforts. Proper usage of fertilizers in landscaping and education on the county's fertilizer ordinance.
  - Prioritization and amplification of quality drinking water and the benefits of using reusable bottles. Protection of the environment through proper use of toilets and sinks (i.e. environmental impact of “flushable wipes” and damage caused by improperly dumped cooking oil, medications, etc.)
  - Importance of water conservation and proper ways to conserve water. Awareness of water pollution connectedness between illegal dumping, litter and stormwater canals, Biscayne Bay as well as localized flooding. The impacts of rising groundwater on public and private infrastructure.
- **Climate Change|** Education and action on extreme heat/energy conservation/urban forestry and the reduction of climate change impacts (air pollution, sea-level rise, extreme heat, etc.)
  - Awareness and action on the implications of climate change and sea level rise on Miami-Dade, including effect on water supply, “sunny day flooding” and hurricane resilience. Amplifying the importance of energy conservation and renewable energy.

- Importance of local agriculture. Environmental importance of the Everglades, Biscayne Bay, and other natural areas.
  - Education on local threatened and endangered species and critical habitats.
  - Education and action on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and its benefits.
- 
- **Zero Waste Education |** Provide education and action on the county's "Zero Waste" goal. Importance of recycling and proper waste disposal. Impact of littering and illegal dumping.
  - **Climate Change Adaption|** Provide education, awareness and action on the science of climate change for businesses and residents, planning for the future, and responding to its effects (I.e. rising sea levels, unstable weather patterns, warmer climates, etc.)
  - **Smart Growth and Sustainable Land Use**