



Q1|2020 Activities and Impact

Growing Climate Solutions is up and running in Southwest Florida! In our first few months, we have built a network of supportive institutions, and formed a local Leadership Circle to guide and support our outreach and strategy. Our website and Facebook page are up and running and we have already held several climate education events, before Covid-19 reduced our ability for in-person meetings.

With great community support, our initiative has grown from planning stages to outreach and action. Ana Puszkina-Chevin, the Regional Director of Growing Climate Solutions, spent several weeks listening to community concerns and gathering ideas and commitments to action. Numerous prominent local companies and organizations have stepped up to align with the vision and mission of Growing Climate Solutions. These future partners will serve as models and motivators for local climate action, including educational events, mitigation activities and pollution reduction, and resilience. More than 50 local leaders attended an initial gathering on March 10th hosted by the Naples Daily News. [Twenty-three organizations](#) signed-on to become Growing Climate Solutions partners and support the principles of our organization. The [News-Press](#), [Gulfshore Business Daily](#) and [Florida Weekly](#) captured the morning's dynamic atmosphere and diverse mix of attendees. Outcomes from the Leadership Circle meeting have been synthesized and summarized in a forthcoming report.

Dr. Puszkina-Chevin also presented four educational climate talks at events organized by the First Presbyterian Church of Naples, the Press Club of Southwest Florida, The Conservancy Volunteers and the League of Women Voters. Collectively, she reached an audience of over 225, and two presentations, one for residents of The Quarry and the other for members of Women for a Better Lee were planned for early April, but must be rescheduled due to the COVID-19 crisis.

Electronic media outlets, once viewed as supportive of core community activities, have become increasingly central to the goals of providing a space for community building, engagement and information dissemination. These, and access to teleconferencing, will allow Growing Climate Solutions to continue to follow its mission of advancing climate awareness, protecting natural assets and empowering stakeholders to take local actions toward climate resilience. On March 31, for

example, six motivated volunteers met over ZOOM to initiate the first Growing Climate Solutions Solution Action Team. The Solution Action Teams are small groups willing to implement climate action or support projects envisioned by local leaders.

Growing Climate Solutions: Path to Positive strives to tap the talent and passion of local residents to advance climate resilience goals. We want to acknowledge the efforts of two volunteers, Kiah St. Onge, a FGCU student that is providing research support, and Vanessa Morris, who has followed up with community members interested in engaging with us and who helped at the March 10th meeting. To thrive, Growing Climate Solutions: Path to Positive wants to meaningfully connect with a broad segment of the Southwest Florida community. Please subscribe to our newsletters, visit the webpage, connect with us on social media and most important, encourage your friends to do as well. If you want to actively participate in climate-related projects and programs, contact Ana at **anap@growingclimatesolutions.org**, or you can support us financially with a donation.