IMPACT REPORT 2023
Dear CLEO member,

As I sit writing this today, Florida ocean waters are reaching world-record levels over 100F. In the United States, more than 57 million people have been exposed to climate-induced extreme heat. As Canada's and Greece's wildfires continued to burn, choking millions with smoke and urging many to seek refuge. The future we have been predicting is here, and our energy independence from choking planet-polluting fuels is pivotal to get out of this crisis. Fortunately, even though the world is literally on fire, we are making significant strides to decarbonize our energy system!

Global renewable generation grew an impressive 83 percent, confirming the downward trend of fossil-fueled power generation despite the energy crisis caused by the war in Ukraine. China was the biggest contributor, adding 141 GW to the continent’s new capacity vs. 29.1 GW from North America (something to keep in mind when skeptics and politicians blame China for our climate woes). Additionally, thanks to climate investments from the Biden-Harris administration, the U.S. clean energy workforce grew 3.9%, outpacing overall U.S. employment, and electric vehicles increased +27% from 2021 to 2022, accounting for 59% of all net new jobs in motor vehicles. This is great news!

However, annual renewable power capacity additions must grow three times the current level by 2030 if we want to stay on a pathway to limit global warming to safe levels. Sadly, the fossil fuel industry continues injecting misinformation and/or blocking progress while politicians kick the can down the road. Just last week in Florida, Governor DeSantis vetoed a bipartisan bill that would have scaled the growing EV sector in our state (see CLEO’s statement here). He also rejected federal funds ($346 million) for energy efficiency initiatives, dollars that could have stimulated our state’s economy.

These unreasonable acts are a detriment to Floridians and must stop! Energy efficiency is one of the easiest and most cost-effective ways to combat rising temperatures, reduce energy costs for Floridians, and improve the competitiveness of Florida’s businesses. The CLEO Institute remains dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of clean energy solutions and will call out these senseless actions. We also continue to galvanize public opinion and educate Floridians on the need for climate action.

The next pages highlight our work in just these past six months, which YOU have helped power through your incredible support! We could not do our work without you, so I hope you are proud of what you are helping power! Together, we can create a future where Florida, the Sunshine State, can thrive with the power of the sun while protecting our environment for generations to come. Let's keep at it, and for now, rejoice on the following pages that fill us with great pride and stubborn optimism!

With much gratitude,

[Signature]

Executive Director, CLEO Institute
Empowering Florida's Climate Leaders

The CLEO Institute is a trailblazing women-led nonprofit, nonpartisan organization based in Florida. Since its founding in 2010, CLEO has been at the forefront of climate literacy, advocacy, and engagement. With a focus on addressing climate change and promoting climate justice, CLEO collaborates with local, state, and federal governments, businesses, academia, and communities to advocate for long-term equitable solutions. Our commitment to education, empowerment, and action drives us forward, empowering all Floridians to play a crucial role in addressing the climate crisis.

The Urgency of Climate Action & Our Approach

Florida, with its coral reefs, Everglades, and pristine beaches, is a treasure we must protect for future generations. However, the alarming rise in sea surface temperatures, reaching the mid-90s and even encroaching 100 degrees Fahrenheit, paints a grim picture of the impacts of climate change on our coastal waters. The unprecedented warmth causes marine heat waves and coral bleaching, posing serious threats to our delicate ecosystems. The Climate Crisis poses an existential threat to our future, demanding urgent action and immediate attention to protect our communities, especially the most vulnerable among us.

CLEO's approach centers on diversity, inclusion, and empowerment. We embrace our roles as advocates for climate action, heeding the urgency of the science and connecting the dots to significant justice issues that demand immediate attention. Our team, diverse in age, race, ethnicity, and background, reflects the communities we engage with, effectively and equitably executing our work. Our GenCLEO youth movement, spearheaded by young leaders like Neelam Patel and Sarahi Perez, is instrumental in demanding climate action and driving change at local and state levels.

The CLEO Institute's unwavering commitment to education and empowerment drives our collective mission to demand climate action and ensure a safe, just, and healthy environment for all. We stand united, advocating for equitable and sustainable solutions collaborating with communities, businesses, and governments to mitigate the impacts of climate change.
CLIMATE RESILIENT SCHOOLS
CLIMATE EDUCATION

Through classroom presentations, events, and teacher trainings, the CLEO Institute has engaged with various school districts in Florida: Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Orange County Public Schools, Osceola County Public Schools, Hillsborough County Public Schools, and Broward County Public Schools.

We have engaged more than 830 Floridian students through CC101 presentations and speaking at youth-focused events!

In March 2023, our GenCLEO High School students went to Washington D.C. to push for climate change literacy and mental health access resolutions with legislators.
In February 2023, The CLEO Institute sponsored the 5th Annual Broward Youth Climate Summit.

In partnership with Climate Advocates Voces Unidas, our youth members participated in the National Climate Innovation Challenge.
Areas with poor air quality tend to be near high levels of traffic and industry rather than near green spaces. These areas disproportionately include low-income communities of color, and researchers see much higher asthma rates and other respiratory diseases in these populations. In a changing climate, air pollution and indoor air quality worsen and these intersectional issues were studied by the students utilizing data and citizen science utilizing air quality monitors around their schools and communities.

In April 2023, CLEO published a report in the National Science Teacher Association journal. This report summarizes the findings and conclusions from a 3-month student-led citizen science fellowship.
THE CLIMATE CRISIS
WITH CRISIS COMES OPPORTUNITY
The March CLEO Speakers Network cohort had 24 participants. After completing the course, most participants felt more confident talking about climate and found the CLEO Policy Handbook helpful and valuable to engage with politicians or elected officials.

"I've also learned how to communicate my thoughts when it comes to the climate crisis... I am able to talk to my peers a lot more and really, effectively communicate with them on the history behind this, how we got here and why it's so important to talk about it, and the actions that we need to take."

Esther Perceval
CSN graduate

**TRAINING OBJECTIVES**

At the end of the CLEO Speakers Network training, participants will be able to:

- Connect with their climate story.
- Support ideas by using impactful stories/engaging examples.
- Speaks clearly with appropriate vocabulary.
- Increase confidence in the power of your voice, sharing your story with your community and elected officials (best practices will be shared in final workshop!)

**SPRING COHORT 2023**

The March CLEO Speakers Network cohort had 24 participants. After completing the course, most participants felt more confident talking about climate and found the CLEO Policy Handbook helpful and valuable to engage with politicians or elected officials.
More than 24 women finished last cohort and in April 2023, The Miami Herald covered our latest cohort!

ARTICLE HERE!

EMPOWERING RESILIENT WOMEN
CLIMATE RESILIENCY & ADVOCACY

At front lines of climate battle, a Miami course prepares women of color to lead the fight

BY ARIANNA OTERO
APRIL 06, 2023 5:30 AM

Nayshma Jones, director of the CLEO Institute’s Empowering Resilient Women program, embraces one of the cohort members as she arrives. KEELY SANCHEZ/SOUTH FLORIDA MEDIA NETWORK
CLIMATE PRESENTATIONS IN SPANISH
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Latinos are the second-largest racial and ethnic group in Florida at 26% of the population.

CLEO HOSTED 15+
SPANISH-SPEAKING
EVENTS IN FLORIDA
January-June 2023
On May 15, 2023 Miami-Dade County announced the launch of the county's second annual Heat Season.

On May 15th, The National Weather Service (NWS) lowered the threshold for extreme heat warnings and advisories in Miami-Dade County thanks to the advocacy of many community members and organizations like The CLEO Institute. The new standards will better protect residents from the rising risks of extreme heat, which the county estimates kill about 34 people and hospitalizes hundreds more each year.
The CLEO Institute co-facilitates working groups and collaborates with local government and academic institutions on extreme heat. We support community outreach, mitigation and adaptation initiatives, and local campaigns. We are supporting the Chief Heat Officer's office in disseminating information to communities in Miami-Dade County on the new heat advisory thresholds, available resources, and actions from reducing risks from exposure.

We are currently working with local partners and County government to hold a series of county heat training for community members. This training will be conducted in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole.
The CLEO Institute has been sounding the alarm about the impacts of climate change and has included climate anxiety in presentations, social media posts, and emails. It has collaborated with other organizations to raise awareness about this growing issue affecting many, especially our youth!

Louis Aguirre, from Channel 10, did a segment about Climate Anxiety and included interviews with our Executive Director, and members of GenCLEO.

WATCH VIDEO HERE
MIAMI
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - 5K EARTH DAY EVENT

MIAMI’s ‘Walk the Talk’ Earth Day Run/Walk event aims to educate and inspire

MIAMI-Dade County releases climate action plan 1-year progress report

Over 400 participants

27+ corporate sponsors
VP KAMALA HARRIS VISITED MIAMI TO ANNOUNCE $562M FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCY & INVITES CLIMATE LEADERS TO MEET.

IN DOING SO SHE LEARNED ABOUT CLEO’S EMPOWERING RESILIENT WOMEN PROGRAM AND LATER ACKNOWLEDGES PARTICIPANTS WITH INSPIRING LETTER.
After a two-year collaboration with scientists, community members, including The CLEO Institute as their community engagement partner for vulnerable communities, the City of Tampa announced on June 16th, 2023, the release of Tampa's first Climate Action & Equity Plan.

The Tampa Climate Action & Equity Plan holds immense significance in our collective efforts to combat the climate crisis and create a more equitable and sustainable future for Tampanians.

CLEO Institute team & our community ambassadors with Congresswoman Kathy Castor.

GenCLEO & CLEO Institute staff members.

READ MORE HERE
In February, 2023, The CLEO Institute facilitated and organized with several partners a day-long summit Energy Equity summit that included speakers Chris Castro, chief of staff at the U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of State and Community Energy Programs, Jeff Benavides, former chief sustainability and resilience officer for Orange County government, several panels including coal ash impacts from the Stanton Energy Center, energy burden, and an energy equity.

In April, Christy Folk gave a presentation about Youth and Civic Engagement at the Orlando Public Library to a group of 23 world leaders visiting with the International Visitor Leadership Program. Christy talked about the power of youth organizing in the climate movement to elected officials and government members from various countries hosted by the U.S. Department of State. CLEO's mission and vision were shared with the participants.
The EPA’s new federal coal ash safeguards are a big win for communities near coal plants. But it must regulate all coal ash at power plant sites. The EPA must finalize these new, important protections, even if industry opposes them. Our Program Manager in Orlando to testify in front of the EPA because Florida has 28 coal ash dumpsites.

Across the country, power plant owners have avoided cleaning up coal ash.

91% of coal plants are currently polluting groundwater above federal health standards with toxic pollutants.

EPA must move quickly to stop the flow of toxic releases from hundreds of leaking coal ash dumps and require effective coal ash cleanup.

The longer the EPA delays enforcement of coal ash regulations, the more toxic waste enters our water, and the more difficult cleanup will be.
CLEO was a sponsor of the 2023 Earth Day Festival, led by Citizens for a Sustainable Future attended by 500 people. GenCLEO interns presented a sustainable city model and asked local residents how they would build a climate-resilient community.

Our Youth Leaders continue to rally the City of Tallahassee to declare a climate emergency. They got a resolution sponsor, and are now working to get it on the commission agenda.
Ask me about the July 11 county Commissioner meeting!
Over 150 students attended and held meetings with Florida legislators during the 2023 legislative session.
JANUARY TO JUNE 2023
700 petition signatures collected
250 newly recruited GenCLEO volunteers
30 events hosted across Florida
Price of Paradise: Surviving Hurricane Ian

A Documentary by Climate Productions

A gripping documentary about the deadliest hurricane storm surge since Hurricane Katrina. With firsthand accounts from hurricane survivors, this film explores the human experience in the face of catastrophic natural disasters caused by a warming climate.

The CLEO Institute is featured in this documentary providing viewers with a broader understanding of the climate crisis.

TEDxNewRiver: Embracing Our Power to Influence Change

Caroline Lewis shared from the TEDxNewRiver stage how to embrace our innate power to create change around us.

She focuses on waking more people to spur innovation and scale climate solutions.

WATCH HERE
City of Tampa Releasing Its First Climate Action & Equity Plan

Here's how to celebrate Earth Day this weekend

Earth Day 5k for CLEO Institute – Miami hosts its 5k race to raise awareness on Florida's climate issues with a non-profit organization known as CLEO Institute. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held with Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava. Race participants will hear about the county's progress and achievements coming out of its Climate Action Plan.

Where: MAST Academy 2979 Rickenbacker Causeway

South Florida celebrates Earth Day with events promoting sustainability

Climate activists are 'excited' about Tampa's new Climate Action and Equity Plan
SOCIAL MEDIA

Through our social media accounts: @CLEOinstitue, we amplify our education and advocacy efforts!

6,685 Instagram
5,000 Facebook
3,521 Twitter
1,803 TikTok
1,464 LinkedIn

19,303 TOTAL FOLLOWERS

Follow us @CLEOInstitute

CLEO's Social Media team!