

Climate Citizenship, Economic Mobilization, Energy Transformation and the Green New Deal

Project Summary

The need to transition to a clean and renewable energy system is urgent. Following national events such as the 2021 winter disaster in Texas and local crises in Florida, such as the impact of sustained power outages following large hurricanes in 2017, energy has become an increasingly visible focal point of climate change discussions. While policy makers and analyst have always known that energy – sourced from fossil fuels – is at the heart of the climate crisis, the public at large has been less focused on the possibilities of both grid failure and the large scale transformation that is necessary to mitigate apocalyptic global warming. For years, in Florida specifically, sea level rise, increased flooding, and hurricane damage were the more popular topics in climate resiliency circles. This project re-centers energy by examining local city and county policies for energy transition in the Tampa Bay region of Florida. Using a transition management approach, we examine policies currently being enacted as well as those in the proposal stage; we conduct a stakeholder analysis to better understand the scope and impact of the proposed policies, especially in terms of their potential to perpetuate racial and class inequalities; finally, we examine how local environmental NGOs are working to promote collective citizen action in support of the economic mobilization and energy transformation laid out in the Green New Deal.