



REGIONAL RESILIENCE ACTION PLAN LAUNCH EVENT



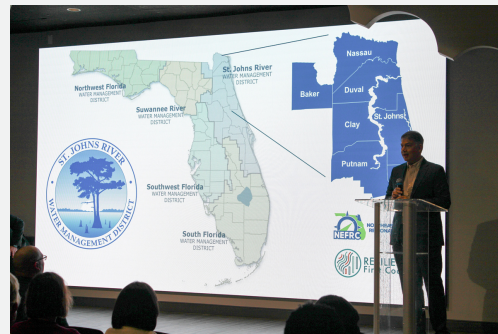
On October 27, 2025, Resilient First Coast (RFC), a program of Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC), hosted the official unveiling of the Regional Resilience Action Plan (RRAP) at the Jessie Ball DuPont Center in Jacksonville. The event brought together regional partners, local governments, and state agency representatives to celebrate the collaborative effort behind the plan and to look ahead to its implementation. Approximately 70 attendees represented a wide array of affiliations, evenly split between members and non-members of RFC. The RRAP was presented as a milestone in advancing regional coordination and strengthening the First Coast's ability to adapt and thrive amid environmental, social, and economic challenges.



Beth Payne, CEO of NEFRC, opened the event by emphasizing the value of regional collaboration and the importance of resilience within a broader context. **Eddy Bouza, State of Florida Chief Resilience Officer**, pointed out that the RRAP aligns with state priorities and is not meant to operate in isolation but to serve as a replicable interdisciplinary model for other communities both within and outside of Florida. **St. Johns River Water Management District Chief Resilience Officer, Tom Frick**, highlighted the plan's value in empowering the diverse communities of the region with their own unique resilience challenges to sustain long-term dialogue, learn from each other, and address shared vulnerabilities such as water quality and supply and similar issues. **Jessica Beach, St. Augustine Chief Resilience Officer**, defined regional resilience as the ability to adapt and thrive amid acute shocks and stressors, such as flooding, heat, and hurricanes. She described the foundation and purpose of the RFC Collaborative, Phase 1 of the RRAP, and how the RRAP enables leveraging all the resources in the region and maximizing what we are doing already.



Anne Coglianese, Jacksonville Chief Resilience Officer, provided an overview of Phase 2 of the RRAP, which culminated in 34 actions and 83 subactions developed over an eight-month process. She emphasized the non-duplicative nature of the RRAP, its role in addressing multi-county hazards from a regional perspective, and a shared vision for a Resilient First Coast: a durable and adaptive built environment, a vibrant quality of life, a thriving regional economy, and a healthy natural environment.



Fara Ilami, NEFRC's Regional Resilience Manager, walked participants through the plan's structure with a few specific examples and thanked those who worked on this collaborative effort. Looking ahead to Phase 3, she outlined a focus on metrics for success, funding for implementation, and additional resources to be leveraged. Closing the event, she invited continued collaboration through RFC, ensuring that the momentum built during this process continues to grow across Northeast Florida.