

Good news: the state legislature's attempt to pass a law requiring citizens to pay the state's legal fees when challenging a decision by the Department of Environmental Protection and losing in court was defeated in the house... or the provision removed from the house bill before sending it on anyway. Next up is for all Florida's prominent conservation organizations, including the Florida Native Plant Society, and advocates to continue their opposition and have the measure stricken from the partnering senate bill.

Great news: in a move hailed by many environmentalists as "the most significant move any President has ever made on stopping fossil fuels," [the Biden administration announced](#) earlier this week it would be delaying a decision on a Louisiana liquefied natural gas (LNG) export project that would be the United States' largest.

The White House is directing the Department of Energy (DOE), which decides whether LNG exports are in the "public interest," to expand a review of LNG export projects to include more climate change criteria. The review could lead to delays of another 16 proposed LNG export projects.

Remember, natural gas is a fossil fuel and while burning it releases fewer carbon emissions than burning oil or coal, it is NOT a clean energy source.

While we often talk about personal actions to reduce our individual climate footprints and fight climate change, the scale of this global cataclysm cannot be addressed at the individual level, it requires dramatic federal action like this. Expanding America's capacity to extract and export fossil fuels is incompatible with slowing climate change and maintaining a livable planet.

LINK: <https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/white-house-pauses-decision-17-lng-export-terminals-nyt-reports-2024-01-24/>

LINK: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2024/01/26/statement-from-president-joe-biden-on-decision-to-pause-pending-approvals-of-liquefied-natural-gas-exports/>

LINK: <https://apnews.com/article/lng-exports-biden-europe-climate-russia-24a7730a3b8449273fec73824ce26001>

More good news: our friends at local native plant landscaping company Wacca Pilatka posted to their Instagram a story I had not seen where [North Carolina has now mandated](#) native trees, plants and shrubs be used exclusively for any new plantings in state parks, historic sites and roadways. Imagine the impact this could have if a similar program were adopted in Florida.

LINK: <https://nc.audubon.org/news/native-plants-policy-conservation-funding-increases-pass-legislature>

---

The so-called "Kingston" development project which would add a new city to the middle of Florida panther habitat in southwest Florida continues to generate [more and more attention](#) from the public and conservation groups opposed to it. Kingston has become the biggest new battleground in Florida pitting conservationists and the environment against developers.

LINK: <https://www.fortmyersbeachtalk.com/2024/01/24/endangered-florida-panther-threatened-by-10000-home-development-in-lee-county/>

---

A major step in the decades long, tens of billions of dollar [Everglades restoration](#) took place last week.

LINK: <https://www.southcentralfloridalife.com/okeechobee/stories/stormwater-treatment-area-to-clean-lake-water,63012>