

You might not think it's the case, but nationwide, [solar energy companies and conservationists are often in opposition](#). Primarily, it's because utility grade solar energy production requires massive amounts of land, and the easiest land to purchase and place the solar panels on is undeveloped, often valuable to wildlife.

Last week, for the first time, solar companies and environmental groups agreed on a broad-based, nationwide framework about how to proceed when these obstacles arise, potentially setting the stage for a much-needed expansion and quickening of solar energy production.

LINK: <https://www.latimes.com/environment/newsletter/2023-10-11/column-solar-companies-and-environmentalists-say-theyre-ready-to-stop-fighting-theyd-better-be-boiling-point>

The U.S. needs solar and the world needs the U.S. to ramp up its renewable energy production because our 100 year addition to fossil fuels just resulted in the Earth experiencing [its warmest September on record](#) with record high temperatures, record-high global ocean surface temps, and record-low Antarctic sea ice coverage. 2023 shaping up to be the warmest year on record.

LINK: <https://www.noaa.gov/news/topping-charts-september-2023-was-earths-warmest-september-in-174-year-record>

The most recent episode of [my "Welcome to Florida" podcast](#) centered on the ghost orchid!

LINK: <https://www.pandora.com/podcast/welcome-to-florida/episode-173-the-ghost-orchid/PE:1308303577>

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has completed two findings on Endangered Species Act petitions to [uplist the Florida manatee back to "endangered" status](#) and give the animal back the protections it enjoyed before delisting in 2017. Manatee populations had rebounded and were steady prior to 2021 and 2022 when poor water quality across the state killed the seagrass beds the animals rely on as a food source and their numbers crashed.

YOU can voice your support for relisting manatees as endangered by contacting Nicole Rankin, Division of Conservation and Classification Manager, telephone: 404-679-7089, email: Nicole_Rankin@fws.gov.

Feel free to email and copy my text:

I support the relisting of manatees across Florida as endangered as is being considered by FWS-R4-ES-2023-0106-0001.

Since the animals were delisted in 2017, their numbers have crashed due to starvation, the result of poor water quality across Florida killing the sea grass they rely on for food.

This iconic animal found nowhere else in the United States is critical to Florida's biodiversity, identity and tourism and they need "endangered" status protection to secure their survival.

Thanks,

NAME

Interesting column on [beach renourishment programs](#) across Florida.

LINK: <https://www.sun-sentinel.com/2023/10/05/adding-more-sand-to-floridas-beaches-isnt-enough-to-save-them-opinion/#lnizadza1hq5dv3ik3u>

The latest [state sponsored hunt for pythons](#) in the Everglades resulted in 230 being killed, not even a dent in the total population.

LINK: <https://www.heraldtribune.com/story/news/local/2023/10/08/pythons-in-florida-everglades-hard-snake-to-eradicate/71042487007/>