

[“Super clams”](#) are being deployed in the Indian River Lagoon to help clean the water. The Indian River Lagoon is a key manatee habitat and has been increasingly ruined by polluted water flows sent there from Lake Okeechobee thanks to BIG SUGAR. When you hear about the big manatee die-off taking place, that is largely occurring in the Indian River Lagoon as a result of polluted water and algae blooms there killing the sea grass beds which manatees feed on.

This is an example of a “green” solution to an environmental crisis. Using nature to remedy manmade environmental calamities. Other examples are dune restorations, oyster bed installations and using coastal mangroves to mitigate storm surge and coastal flooding during hurricanes, planting trees in cities to reduce the [“urban heat island” effect](#).

Despite the efficacy of “green” infrastructure solutions to combating climate change impacts and their much cheaper costs and ancillary benefits like supporting biodiversity, developer-run and controlled Florida continues only exploring “gray” infrastructure solutions – concrete, dams, dikes, levees, drainage pipes, pumping stations, raising roads. The governor thinks Florida can [build its way to climate resiliency](#) without acknowledging building has caused many of the problems we’re facing. He also didn’t miss a chance [to bring the culture wars into hurricane recovery](#).

Unmentioned in the damage reports from across the state after Ian are how Florida’s dramatic increase in impervious surfaces – parking lots, shopping malls, roads, rooftops, our “built environment” – have worsened flooding and storm surge as estuaries, dunes, trees, native plants and other green/natural “speedbumps” to hurricanes, storm surge and flooding have been pulled out and paved over. Climate change related sea level rise is a huge reason why storms and their damage are becoming worse, so too is overdevelopment taking away places for this excess water to go without impacting people.

Don’t expect that subject to garner any attention considering Florida’s 100-year mania for development. There’s too much money and political power in continued runaway development, and very little in finding greater harmony with nature.

LINK: https://www.tcpalm.com/story/news/local/indian-river-lagoon/2022/09/26/super-clams-clean-indian-river-lagoon-florida-oceanographic-society-cca/8065267001/?utm_source=tcpalm-DailyBriefing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=daily_briefing&utm_term=list_article_thumb&utm_content=PTCN-1267CN-E-NLETTER65

LINK: <https://www.epa.gov/heatislands>

<https://floridaphoenix.com/2022/09/29/hurricane-ian-proves-politicians-are-trying-to-fool-us-if-theyre-tackling-climate-change/>

<https://floridaphoenix.com/2022/09/30/dont-even-think-about-looting-desantis-warns-about-ian-hit-areas-were-a-2nd-amendment-state/>

Looking for good news? Here’s GREAT news. [Senator Joe Manchin’s so-called “dirty deal”](#) which was mentioned in last week’s newsletter was DEFEATED! Manchin sought to "streamline" the permitting process for energy projects by implementing the fossil fuel industry’s wish list—undermining the protections of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Clean Water Act (CWA), undercutting opportunities for public comment and Tribal consultation, and setting obstacles to those seeking legal

redress. It was an attempt to further silence frontline communities, who even under the current regulatory system bear the inequitable burden of health impacts from fossil fuel pollution.

This is a stunning victory for conservation against fossil fuel interests that probably wouldn't have happened even under the Obama Administration and is the result of pressure from grassroots environmental organizations.

For all the importance personal decisions and local community groups have on influencing climate change and the biodiversity collapse, they don't compare to the impact of major federal policy like this when combating those two crises.

LINK: https://www.commondreams.org/views/2022/09/28/defeat-manchins-dirty-deal-win-environmental-justice-and-health-equity?utm_term=Autofeed&utm_campaign=Echobox&utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Twitter#Echobox=1664449657

[The amusing, amazing and inspiring story](#) of how Tallahassee-based best-selling author Jeff VanderMeer "rewilded" his yard.

LINK: https://www.audubon.org/magazine/fall-2022/best-selling-author-jeff-vandermeer-finds-nature?fbclid=IwAR0XxCsNsySLUg4U_IJ2BNeBJ6npKMizOFg8xISDy3SNQJ8nMAiki4evYW8

Here's a fun one: [this Icelandic company](#) will pay someone \$55,000 to move to Iceland and live a "simpler life."

<https://www.thrillist.com/news/nation/siggis-move-to-iceland-contest>