

If you like [stinking beaches full of dead fish](#), you'll love Florida!

Florida politicians who treat the environment like a special interest are about to learn that in Florida, the environment is the economy. Outbreaks of red tide are sending residents and [visitors alike running from beaches](#) in the southwest part of the state.

LINK: <https://www.fox4now.com/news/local-news/lee-county/visitors-say-impacts-from-red-tide-are-turning-them-away-from-newly-reopened-beaches>

LINK: <https://winknews.com/2023/02/27/red-tide-floods-swfl-coasts-with-dead-fish-breathing-issues/>

Clean water in Florida isn't just a public health and safety issue, it's an economic issue in a state fueled by coastal tourism. That hasn't stopped the state Department of Environmental Protection – I mean Protection – from [doing it's absolute least](#) in holding polluters (mining, agriculture, development) accountable for poisoning our water.

LINK: <https://floridaphoenix.com/2023/03/02/dep-drags-its-feet-on-halting-pollution-of-floridas-precious-springs/>

Never to be deterred by reality, a new preemption bill filed in the Florida legislature would prevent local governments from "adopting laws, regulations, rules, or policies relating to water quality or quantity, pollution control, pollutant discharge prevention or removal, and wetlands." Another attempt by state Republicans to take power away from local governments and coalesce that power in Tallahassee, see: school boards.

A conservation lobbyist I heard from last week speaking off the record said she expects the environmental/conservation legislation/bills coming out of this legislature to be the worst she's ever seen.

Some good news, after spending decades and billions of dollars on Everglades restoration, [the efforts appear to be working.](#)

LINK: <https://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/environment/article272574129.html>

Love beef, but hate its harmful impacts on the environment? To say nothing of the cruelty to animals, the amount of fossil fuel emissions, water and land required to raise beef to feed the world is nothing short of cataclysmic.

The Audubon Society has developed a program working with ranchers and retailers around the nation to make [beef production more environmentally friendly](#), and, in fact, environmentally supportive.

LINK: https://www.audubon.org/conservation/where-to-buy-conservation-ranching-products?ms=digital-eng-email-ea-newsletter-engagement_20230226_conservation-ranching_newsletter&utm_source=ea&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=engagement_20230226_conservation-ranching&utm_content=newsletter

["Path of the Panther,"](#) a feature-length documentary about the Florida Panther, panther conservation efforts and the Florida Wildlife Corridor is in theaters now.

LINK:

https://pathofthepanther.com/?en_txn1=e.ch_fl.eg.x.gpn.0301.n.sas.loc_fl&en_txn8=NewSch.WJEMSA2302NPNZNZZE02Z00-ZZZZZ-ST00&lu=72cbb21b-3a33-4505-b2f6-1dc548534a04&customer_id=19567367

With spring migration nearing, Duval Audubon Society is hard at work trying to increase participation in its [“Lights Out Duval”](#) program which asks businesses, particularly high rise office buildings, to turn off their lights at night which become a death trap for migrating birds.

Perhaps the simplest action you can take to help wildlife is turning your lights off at night. It helps moths and insects tremendously.

LINK: <http://duvalaudubon.org/index.php/2015-07-13-17-02-27/lights-out?idU=1>