

Florida Faces Significant Climate Change Risks, National Report Finds

BOCA RATON, Fla. (November 24, 2015) — Leonard Berry, Ph.D., founding director of FAU's Florida Center for Environmental Studies, spoke last week at a press conference marking the release of a climate change report, *States at Risk: America's Preparedness Report Card*. The conference, held at FAU's Student Union, focused on threats and preparedness issues facing Florida. The report is the first-ever quantitative assessment summarizing the changing nature of threats linked to climate change and the preparedness level for related risks in each of the 50 states.

"Florida faces significant current and future environmental threats – coastal and inland flooding and ever warmer weather," Berry said. "The combination of low elevation, a porous subsurface, and the longest sea coast in the U.S. makes us particularly vulnerable. We need to act now to understand and manage our future."

Prepared by Climate Central and ICF International, the report identifies climate change threats and priority threats for each state and defines actions that states must take to be prepared for those risks. The Report Card assigns grades to each state based on what it has already done relative to its threat levels and to other states. The Report Card evaluated five threats: extreme heat, drought, wildfire, inland flooding, and coastal flooding. Florida faces increasingly significant threats from extreme heat, drought, wildfire and flooding, resulting in an overall grade of C-.

To read the national summary report, click [here](#). To view Florida's report card, click [here](#).