



Sea levels are rising. Here is what you can do about it.

On a calm, sunny beach day, it is hard to imagine the seas we enjoy are rising at an accelerated, yet seemingly imperceptible rate, that is already impacting coastal communities around the globe including Surfside.

This is science we simply can't ignore. Rising sea levels can result in more deadly and destructive storm surges, in addition to more frequent high tides and flooding, which has prompted the Town of Surfside to proactively plan and prepare for sea level rise. The Mayor, along with the Town Commission and Town Administration, regularly engage with neighboring municipalities and environmental experts at the local universities to gain valuable insight and research that can be adopted for Surfside. Additionally, sea level rise continues to be at the forefront during discussions led by the Sustainability & Resiliency Committee and Planning & Zoning Board.

But this is a matter that requires the attention and collaboration of the entire community. Here are several tips to help minimize your impact on the planet:

1. **Support the Commission's environmental policies.** The Commission often takes the "long view" to urge environmental action by our regional, state and federal agencies and lawmakers and when enacting common sense policies to help shift behaviors within Surfside to safeguard our community.
2. **Reduce your footprint.** Learn how to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases you produce each day by visiting www.carbonfootprint.com
3. **Plant more plants and save trees.** Plants clean the air and soak up the rain.
4. **Reduce your energy use.** Turn off your lights and appliances when not in use and replace them with more energy efficient alternatives. Adjust your thermostat to reduce air condition use.
5. **Leave the car at home.** Luckily, Surfside is a pedestrian-friendly community and all necessities are in walking distance.
6. **Protect dunes and shorelines.** Dunes act as a natural buffer against the effects of seasonal and major storms like hurricanes and helps keep the erosive power of strong waves from reaching coastal structures. In the coming months, the Town of Surfside will undergo a *beach renourishment project* in order to address critical erosion of the public beach in Surfside.

To learn more about what the Town of Surfside is doing to mitigate the effects of sea level rise and climate change, refer to the Town website at www.townofsurfsidefl.gov. Feel free to also reach out to your elected officials and the Town Administration with questions.