

Saving the Mangroves

Climate Change, Ocean Acidification and Florida’s Natural Solution

Our oceans are heating up, becoming more acidic, and forming catalysts for climate disasters like hurricanes.

Most of us are unaware that while we go through daily activities, we are emitting a greenhouse gas that warms the climate – carbon dioxide. Car emissions, electricity, and air conditioning are all powered by fossil fuels in Florida. The combustion of these fuels warms both our atmospheres and our ocean. Our oceans absorb most of our emissions, leading them to become more acidic. Ocean acidification is bleaching vital coral reef ecosystems and harming the livability of all marine life.



It’s time to listen to nature: Florida already has a natural climate solution.

Mangroves are one of the world’s most powerful climate solutions. They have intricate root systems that grow in the water, stabilizing coastlines from erosion caused by flooding, storm surges, tides, and hurricanes. Furthermore, mangroves do an *amazing* job of absorbing our carbon dioxide from the air and oceans and returning oxygen to the planet.

With Florida being a peninsula, and Florida Gulf Coast University residing within a coastal community, **climate change is knocking at our doorstep**. Due to corporate interests of Florida developers, many mangrove forests have been destroyed in replacement of concrete. However, storm walls have been proven to be ineffective, and with climate change, Fort Myers will only see worse hurricanes to come.

As students, we can take action by informing our local developers and Environmental Projects Manager that mangroves are a vital climate solution that must be implemented now. We can also take matters into our own hands by collecting mangrove seeds and planting them on shorelines. FGCU – let’s create some real change!

Eagle News Submission

Summarize

Cassandra Jordan

To: executive@eaglenews.org

Thu 10/9/2025 2:06 AM

protectingthemangrovescj.pdf

788 KB

Hello Eagle News!

My name is Cassandra Jordan, and I am an FGCU freshman working with Kathleen Crawford, FGCU's Sustainability Coordinator as a Campus Representative for the Project Green Challenge. This challenge is a global student-led challenge for young voices to work towards climate action.

I have a short article I've written as a call to action for other young voices to create positive change. I will have it uploaded below. This is just the article I've submitted for my daily challenge - if needed, I would be happy to write a longer article about climate action, Florida's natural solutions, and how students can take action towards sustainability with Project Green. And of course, you can edit it in any way you like or add any other photos.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding my submission! Thank you!

Best,

Cassandra Jordan