

# Scenic Watch



News  
August 2022

Energy savings:  
"Electronic Signs going dark in Germany and Spain" Is UK next?



Photo: AV Magazine

"Switch off digital signs off at night to save energy. Government decrees that out-of-home advertising spaces, as well as display and LED signage in shop windows, are switched off from 10pm-6am to prevent an energy shortage from September.

The German government has ordered that analogue and digital out-of-home advertising spaces, as well as digital signage (displays and LEDs) in shop windows

and neon letters on facades, must remain switched off between 10pm and 6am...

The EU's gas emergency plan came into force this month, under which member countries have to save 15% on gas. Germany has a self-imposed target of 20%.

The measures come less than three weeks after Spanish shops and government offices were required to turn off digital signage displays and lighting after 10 pm, as part of the country's commitment to reducing its gas consumption by 7%..."

-- AV Magazine in Digital Signage

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[Read related article "EU energy crisis explodes: Spain orders citizens to TURN OFF lights - UK could be next" here](#)

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Save Money on Air Conditioning:

"More trees, not cooling centers, are South Florida's answer to increasingly hot summers"



Lack of Shade Photo: Kimberly Miller

"Late July blistered with sandy skies and soupy air in South Florida as a slug of Saharan dust drained clouds of rain while moisture clung to the surface like hot gum on a shoe.

The combination of a dry middle atmosphere blocking showers and moisture near the ground drove the heat index, or 'feels-like' temperature, into the triple digits from the East Coast to the Gulf of Mexico.

On 58th Street in West Palm Beach - a block of asphalt barren of shade trees - it reached 93.9 degrees near noon July 22 with a relative humidity of 58%. That means it felt like 108 degrees.

'My electric bill was almost two-fold in June from what it was in March,' said 27-year-old Varun Parshad, who sought shade with his dog Nala at Osprey Park, eight blocks south of 58th Street. 'I try to be more disciplined with the temperature settings.'

But the Baltimore native likes to sleep with the thermostat on 69 degrees, which means his \$40 bill in March was more than \$80 in June...

Six miles to the southwest, the National Weather Service's official gauge at Palm Beach International Airport registered 88 degrees at noon with a feels-like temperature of 100 degrees.

Spruce Avenue and 58th Street in West Palm Beach have no shade trees and only a few spindly palms.

The city has dedicated \$7,700 to plant green buttonwoods in areas along 58th and 57th streets. The difference between 58th Street and the airport is significant enough when meteorologists and emergency officials have to make heat-related decisions...

Still, officials recognize that temperatures fluctuate by neighborhood, and it's something some cities are trying to mitigate as they plan for a warmer future stoked by climate change...



City officials are dedicating \$7,700 to plant 14 green buttonwood trees on 57th and 58th streets to throw some shade on the sunbaked blacktop. The money comes from a 'tree mitigation' fund that developers pay into if they can't meet city requirements for trees on their properties. As of late July, there was \$582,000 in the account...

Palm Beach County's emergency operations center is well-equipped to handle a hurricane, but there is no history of a cooling center ever opening.

'Our homes are typically set up with air conditioning because you can't not have it,' said Penni Redford, West Palm Beach's resilience and climate change manager. 'But then the question becomes, can you afford it?'

She points to public libraries as a place people could go to cool off for now. But a cooling center in the future isn't out of the question...

So, trees are, for now, what West Palm Beach has focused on as a way to cool neighborhoods and encourage more walking and biking to meet the city's goal of



reaching net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

It promised in 2015 to plant and give away 10,000 trees in 10 years. The tally by the end of 2022 is expected to be about 7,000.

Florida's iconic palm tree, however, isn't even an option at the tree giveaways because they offer little shade to baking urban heat islands and capture minimal amounts of carbon - a greenhouse gas contributing to global warming.

As city officials look for more ways to cool concrete jungles and balance carbon emissions, the priority for new plantings is often broadleaf hardwood trees, not the idyllic palm..."

-- Kimberly Miller, Palm Beach Post

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"Meet the teenager who helped push Florida toward cleaner energy"



Photo: Robin Loznak, Our Children's Trust

"For most of his 15 years, Levi Draheim led a beachy life on a barrier island on Florida's east coast, swimming, surfing and sailing in the nearshore waves. He dreamed of someday becoming a marine biologist. But Levi's world is changing...

Levi Draheim lived on a barrier island on Florida's east coast until recently, when he and his family say climate change impacts like flooding prompted them to move to the mainland.

"It's kind of disappointing not being able to live on the barrier island anymore, because there's so much fun stuff that I could do. Most of my friends, they live on the barrier island," says Levi, now in Melbourne, Fla. "It's a mix of disappointment and also frustration, frustration with leaders."

Earlier this year, Florida Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried announced a plan to put the state on a path toward cleaner energy, cutting the emissions Florida contributes to the climate disruptions that are already battering it. Behind the plan was a focused campaign by some 200 young Floridians all under the age of 25. Levi was the youngest.

### Young Floridians filed a petition

The young Floridians had found something in state statutes, with help from Our Children's Trust, an advocacy group, that Florida leaders, including Fried, apparently had overlooked: that Fried's department is mandated to set goals for enhancing renewable energy use in the state. In Florida, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services oversees the state's Office of Energy.

The young Floridians filed a petition for rulemaking in January admonishing the state leaders and especially Fried for ignoring the statutory mandate. The petition called on the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and Fried to set goals for moving Florida toward 100% clean energy by 2050. Levi felt proud of holding elected leaders accountable but felt they were capable of more.

Florida's new goals call for 100% renewable energy by 2050..."

-- Amy Green, NPR produced in partnership with Inside Climate News.

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"Best place to park? In the shade, of course!"



Photo: Scenic Jacksonville

"We need many MORE shade trees planted throughout Jacksonville, like this Southern Magnolia, to ensure cooler walking, dining, lounging, spectating, strolling, biking and yes, parking spaces."

-- Scenic Jacksonville

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Scenic Manatee: "Palma Sola Causeway sign rules to be



enforced"



Photo: Kristin Swain, Anna Maria Island Sun

"As long as money doesn't exchange hands, watercraft rentals and other businesses are allowed to operate on the Palma Sola Scenic Highway corridor.

Anyone who's traveled the Palma Sola Scenic Highway has seen the roadside businesses popping up along Manatee Avenue - kayak, paddleboard, horseback riding and now, Jet Ski rentals.

While the Palma Sola Scenic Highway Corridor Management Entity (CME) can't stop the businesses from being there, they are working to reduce the visual impact on the scenic highway. Members met Aug. 10 to discuss improvements planned for the roadside and how they can help reduce the impact of the various businesses that have sprung up along the causeway's beach areas...

Co-chairs of the committee Ingrid McClellan and Craig Keys said they'd be willing to speak with vendors along the causeway and city of Bradenton code enforcement



officials about the proliferation of signage in the area. No advertising signage is allowed on the scenic highway and, while McClellan said they'd been allowing businesses to slide with sandwich board signs, she's noticed much larger business signs being used, including banners and flag signs that are pushed into the ground.

Members of the group agreed to not allow any business signage on the causeway going forward unless it's small and a part of a vehicle..."

-- Kristin Swain, Anna Maria Island Sun

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## "Named The Most Beautiful Small Town In Florida, Take A Closer Look At DeFuniak Springs"



Photo: Only In Your State Florida

"MSN Insider came out with a list of the best small towns in every state, and we're happy to say that DeFuniak Springs was named the most beautiful spot in Florida.

This panhandle gem is loaded with history, but also boasts a beautiful appeal that you don't want to miss out on. Plan a weekend trip to explore this delightful town and see what you've been missing.

DeFuniak Springs, Florida was originally founded as a 19th-century resort for railroad travelers, welcoming various notable guests from presidents to writers, musicians, and poets.

Today, visiting DeFuniak Springs will provide much of the same Victorian charm and architecture that it held way back when. Visit the Walton County Library, also known as the oldest library in the state before heading off to find a nice meal at a local mom-and-pop shop..."

-- Victoria Scott, WJHG/WECP

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## SIGN really for airplanes and pedestrian safety?

### Controversial "art mural" in DeFuniak Springs



Photo: Flickr JR P as seen in Only in Your State Florida

"DeFuniak Springs officials say they want the city to be a destination spot for tourists. One way of doing this is by promoting the arts.

'It's been a bit of a collaborative effort between Main Street and the city, and also with the Tree and Beautification Board,' said City Beautification & Tree Board Chair Kim Wennerberg. 'We're all trying to work together to make downtown more interesting and more of a destination...'

However, one street painting in particular continues to be controversial.

The project was intended to be more than art, though. **City officials said this street mural was part of a safety project, intended to slow drivers down.**

It has caused controversy because many say they don't like it.

Wennerberg said the city had the board conduct a survey on the street painting. More than 750 people participated in the survey. Wennerberg said the majority of the reactions have been negative.

'Even the mural here, I know there's been a lot of opposition about it in whether they like it or not, but, you know, **if you go overhead and with a lot of people flying over, they know where DeFuniak is,**' said local Greg Brack.

The future of the street painting remains unclear."

-- Marissa Roman, Only in Your State Florida

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A Place: Florida National Scenic Trail Northern  
Terminus Gulf Islands National Seashore





Photo: NPS

"The Florida National Scenic Trail , or just Florida Trail, is a federally-designated trail intended to offer a continuous non-motorized recreation opportunity showcasing the biodiversity, history, and culture of Florida.

Its northern terminus lies here on the white sands of Gulf Islands National Seashore. Follow it south for over 1,300 miles and you'll eventually find its southern terminus in the river of grass in Big Cypress National Preserve...

Florida is home to many unique environments, some of which are not seen anywhere else in the world. This gives trail users prime access to some of the best nature and wildlife viewing opportunities in the country. By traveling the Florida Trail, one can experience a variety of ecosystems including longleaf pine forests, sand dune scattered beaches, and hardwood hammocks. Wildlife viewing along the Florida Trail is also spectacular, providing visitors with the opportunity to see black bears, alligators, panthers, gopher tortoises, and many species of endangered birds including wood storks, red-cockaded woodpeckers, and roseate spoon bills. Whether exploring a secluded wilderness area or a Florida Trail Gateway Community, the Florida Trail is the perfect place to find an authentic outdoor experience."

-- National Park Service

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