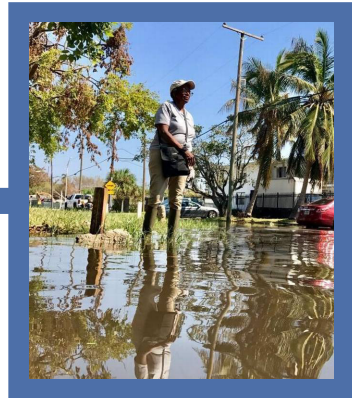




## FACING THE CHALLENGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE AS FRIENDS

### BEVERLY G. WARD SOUTHEASTERN YEARLY MEETING, USA

*"I continue to be inspired by the work being done by individuals, committees, and Meetings. Though much remains to be done, I am sustained by what I am witnessing in the world"*



Beverly Ward collecting samples of floodwater in Miami's Upper Eastside. Photo credit: Joey Flechas

South Florida is particularly vulnerable to rising tides, and many communities experience "sunny day flooding" and coastal flooding as a result of seasonal 'king-tides'. King tides have worsened in recent years and flooding of streets and yards in the lower parts of South Florida is becoming a common occurrence.

I work with a team of local representatives from non-profits, church groups, and city agencies to collect king-tide data and work with residents of Shorecrest, a diverse neighbourhood in northeast Miami, Florida where 19 to 32 percent of residents live below the federal poverty level. Many of the rental apartments are concentrated in Shorecrest's southeastern corner where flooding occurs predictably with the king tides, creating health and safety challenges.

Our work was based on the Rising Together model to increase climate resilience in low-income communities of color in coastal Florida and beyond to respond to the impacts of climate change.

This model is important because it provides the affected communities with tools, techniques, and other resources to collect data, tell their stories about the impacts of climate change, and develop effective transition solutions for the people involved.

Quakers all around the world are taking climate action, striving to live faithfully in a sustainable way on the earth. Read more stories online at [www.fwcc.world/sustainability](http://www.fwcc.world/sustainability)