Jacksonville Climate Center

Designing out Waste

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The Climate Center is a proposal for Jacksonville that responds to the city's initiatives to create a resilient future. Building upon this interest in intelligent and resilient infrastructures, the Climate Center will be a think-tank for circular infrastructure to limit waste, save energy and improve the region's resources. We propose that Jacksonville has the potential to become a model Circular City with a Circular Economy. A futuristic but conscious approach to the future life in the city.

This project provides the opportunity for Jacksonville to take regional leadership in climate change research focused on enhancing the sustainability of the city's economy. The Center facilitates innovation through public-private partnerships, academic research and education, environmental justice policy, and advocacy.

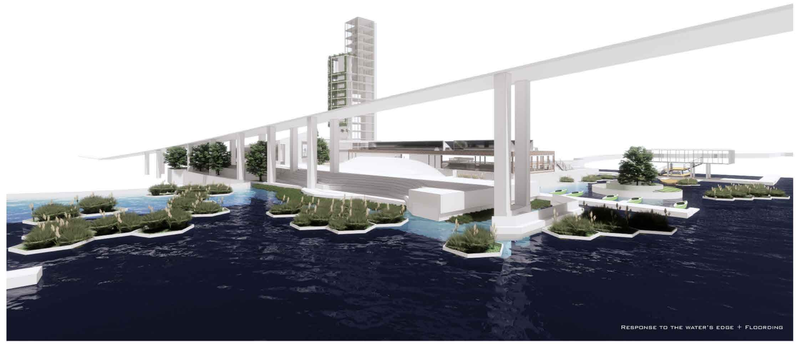
The project will be located in the city's industrial zone, surrounded to the north and south by solid waste facilities. The Center found its home in an abandoned Ford assembly plant, a historic industrial building designed by architect Albert Kahn in 1920 and closed in the 1960s. This old assembly plant qualifies as one of "Jacksonville's Most Endangered Historic Buildings."

The industrial plant is known for its 800 ft. skylight panels that provided natural light into the assembly facility and, over the years, has been the site of many failed developments due in large part to its urban location. The Climate Center proposes to repurpose this building to create Makerspace and Learning Hubs, bringing new life to its industrial past. Research on site will emphasize reconsidering waste in the city and innovations of the circular economy of cities.

Since the site has such remarkable water features, the Center research will also include flood mitigation and green infrastructure, responding to the landscape by blending new and old infrastructures with floating wetlands and sponge landscapes. The waterfront development will also include a new ferry stop and water taxies to facilitate new water-based mobility to the site and kayaks for researchers and visitors to reach floating labs.

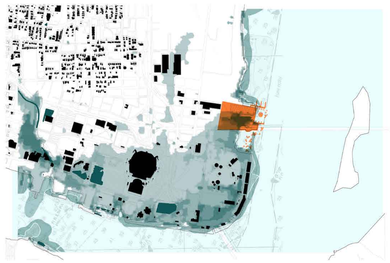
North Longitudinal Section

Hazardous Waste Proximity — Risk Management Facility Proximity — Water Discharge Indicator



Response to the water's edge + Flooding

Site Location on the St. John's River



Jacksonville's Current Projected Flooding Map

Education and Learning in The Community

If cities proactively use circular infrastructure to limit waste, save energy and improve their resources, we could protect our cities and their growing populations — before it's too late."

Forbes Magazine

Jacksonville
Orange Park
Fernandina Beach
Yulee
Hilliard
Callahan
Baldwin
Macclenny
Glen St. Mary
Folkston
Kingsland
St. Marys
Woodbine
Nahunta
Brunswick
Jesup
Hazlehurst
Baxley
Blackshear
Waycross
Alma
Nicholls
Douglas
Ocilla
Fitzgerald
Tifton
Ashburn
Sycamore
Cordele
Vienna
Dublin
Eastman
Hawkinsville
Cochran
Abbeville
Eastman
Dublin
Vidalia
Lyons
Swainsboro
Metter
Statesboro
Claxton
Reidsville
Glennville
Hinesville
Ludowici
Jesup
Darien
Kingsland
Folkston
Hilliard
Yulee
Fernandina Beach
Orange Park
Jacksonville
Baldwin
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Glen St. Mary