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**PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Think you know what's in your water? Think again, Florida scientists say**

**WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (Sept. 9, 2025)** — Scientists, nonprofit leaders and state officials will gather Friday, Sept. 12, at The Reef Institute, 3301 Electronics Way, West Palm Beach, Florida 33407, for a Coral Reef Tour and Waterways Protection Panel hosted by the Clean Earth Initiative. The event, running from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., will include a tour of the Coral Reef Lab and a panel discussion on the hidden contaminants threatening Florida's waters.

Florida's drinking water, rivers and reefs are increasingly contaminated by PFAS — toxic "forever chemicals" linked to cancer, immune system harm and developmental delays — along with other contaminants of emerging concern (CECs), including pharmaceuticals, pesticides and industrial waste. Dr. Graham Peaslee, a nationally recognized PFAS researcher, will lead a discussion on the impact of these man-made pollutants in Florida waters.

Panelists will also include representatives from:

- Frank Ramos, Save the Water
- Terry Cain, Estero Bay Buddies
- Joe Balog, Mighty River Recovery
- Jim Moir, Marine Resources Council

Frank Ramos, founder and CEO of Save the Water, will address CECs and share updates on his Everglades Project, which monitors and works to remove harmful contaminants from one of Florida's most critical freshwater ecosystems. "Protecting Florida's waterways is essential to the health of our communities, our ecosystems and our economy," Ramos said. "Events like this bring science and policy together so we can take meaningful steps toward safeguarding water for future generations."

Florida state officials are expected to attend, showcasing the need for stronger collaboration between policymakers, scientists and local organizations. Organizers hope the event will spark greater public awareness and encourage policy changes to protect families, fisheries and Florida's \$37 billion tourism economy.

The Coral Reef Tour and Waterways Protection Panel is open to media, nonprofits and community members interested in learning more about the chemicals threatening Florida's waters and how to take action.

For more information or to register, visit [cleanearthinitiative.org/events](https://cleanearthinitiative.org/events).

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