June	26, 2025			
2:30 J	pm			
County Administration Building - Grace Knight Conference Room				
12 SE 1 Street, 2nd Floor, Gainesville, FL 32601				
		Pages		
1.	Call to Order			
2.	Review of Agenda			
3.	Approval of Minutes - May 22, 2025	1		
4.	Environmental Protection Department - Resiliency Office Presentation - Climate Action Plan	8		
	Presenter: Resiliency Specialist Jennison Kipp			
5.	Member Comments			

- 6. Public Comment
- 7. Adjournment

Economic Development Advisory Committee

Date:	May 22, 2025
Time:	2:30 pm
Location:	UF Innovate, Room 140
	747 SW 2nd Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601, USA

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 PM.

Members in Attendance: Linda James Carrie Bush, Alexander Hamilton-Sanchez, Levy Odera, Sarah Rockwell

Members Absent: Ying Xu, Nedra Goettling

Others in Attendance: Jessica Hurov, Bailey McClellan, Nephtali Dzubin, Matthew Traum, Lillian Withers, Melissa Kuchma, Dr. Rachael Seidler, Jordan Callaham

2. Review of Agenda

Romona Jackson made a motion to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Linda James and approved unanimously.

3. Approval of the Agenda Packet and Minutes from the February & March meetings

Linda James moved to approve the revised February meeting minutes and Carrie Bush seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Romona Jackson motioned to approve the March meeting minutes, and Carrie Bush seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. UF Innovate Presentation, 20mins

Lilly Withers, the Admin coordinator for UF Accelerate, presented for UF Innovate on their program offered at the Hub. UF Innovate | Accelerate was started in 1995. Sid Martin is their second building in Alachua, which opened in 1995; it is strictly biotech. At the Hub, it is mixed use; whether the company is trying to create a video game or a drone, UF Innovate tries to provide the resources to build the client's company up. UF Innovate does connect to resources wherever the companies go. Since opening, UF Innovate created 2,500 jobs and approximately 2 billion in capital. The Hub building opened in 2011, and it houses 60 companies. Given that it is mixed use, some are dedicated to biotech while others are generic.

UF Innovate ensures to provide resources to Stage 1 companies and Stage 2 companies.

Stage 1 – *Precede*: This stage is related to building up funding. Funding sources include government grants, among other sources. However, given that funding can be limited, UF Innovate wants to assist companies in optimizing their funding by providing some immediate resources for a lesser cost:

- Space: lab, wet lab, or office
- Equipment: microscope, etc.
 - Shared equipment in Core Lab

Stage 2 - Build: This stage is helping with the business and what to do next, or the business plan. Some features include customer discovery and selling points for the company. This is the stage for businesses who have a physical foundation and trying to move upwards.

- The Hub has 67 offices, 11 wet labs, 20 dry labs
- Sid Martin has 14 offices, 22 wet labs, 3 dry labs
- UF Innovate maintains a constate line of communication between themselves and their companies.
 - They host networking events, webinars, and seminars, which are free to the public.
 - Examples of services offered to companies include consultations to determine needs and logistics: such as if a company approaches UF Innovate for support in marketing.

Graduation from UF Innovate:

- Separation from building, but still given access
- They are considered alumni companies

Three different memberships

- Resident
 - Physically present in the building

- Access to UF Innovate 24/7 for all support and services
- External
 - o Able to operate separately from the building
 - Services are available as needed
 - Ability to utilize the Core Lab with shared equipment
- Graduate
- Separation from building, similar to External, but with more access
- They are considered alumni companies

UF Innovate has pushed 300 companies through both Sid Martin and the Hub.

- Approximately 70 companies at present
 - o 16 External
 - 6 at Sid Martin
 - o 60 at the Hub
 - o 400 clients are present at the Hub at any given point in time

UF Innovate offers tech licensing and its own marketing team. The public is encouraged to work with UF Innovate and connect businesses to resources.

At the Hub, UF Innovate tries to get companies acquired, which is considered a success for the company.

- Several companies succeeded in this way through UF Innovate.
 - Ie: Rapid Genomix, Actionable Quality Assurance, Applied Food Technologies, Feathr, Neobiosis, etc.

UF Innovate is leaning more into clean tech and space tech, including Astraeus Space, which have a net zero on the effects that they have on the earth.

In terms of UF Innovate's connection to UF, they are separate from education and are instead focused on research.

TECHNOLOGY LICENSING PRESENTATION

Melissa Kuchma, Assistant Director, Licensing Officer, presented on technology licensing offered through UF Innovate.

UF Innovate is the innovation arm of the university. Tech licensing protects all the technology that goes through the university.

UF Pathways: a program that brings faculty and helps them with startups to equip them for the business world. This program helps to train those faculty and helps to bolster start up formation, which helps economic development of UF innovate.

The venture fund, a \$2 million fund, started in 2020. This investment goes to UFbased startups. Those startups need to have foundation at UF. They can fund UF-based technology. The requirement is that it must go into a company that has licensed technology with UF.

Tech licensing: They have 383 invention disclosures. These are split up into a portfolio of where each have about 500 technologies and multiple patents. With these disclosures, UF Innovate meets with the faculty, evaluating what is novel and marketable about the technology. UF Innovate is trying to get UF technologies out into the world. UF Innovate wants that impact of those research dollars.

- Ranked #2 tech transfer in the country
- Budget to write patents: \$75 million to protect the university by filing patents
- In fiscal year 2024, 437 patents were filed. 169 issued as United States patent without foreign patent. Patents take a long time.
- They want to be able to license those out and get that technology out. There have been 279 license agreements where new technologies go out to companies. Of those companies that took UF technology, there have been 9 startups.
- Research phase is first.
- 800 material transfer agreement to UF, with its number steadily rising.
- Faculty must be on board. The goal is to have faculty disclose instead of publishing before getting a patent. There is generous IP revenue sharing.

Member Carrie Bush asked a question regarding impacts on research due to federal funding, and Licensing Officer Melissa Kuchma provided some of the ways in which companies are bringing in research dollars, which is not all from the federal government. For example, a substantial amount is from sponsored research agreements. Melissa answered Romona Jackson's question about engagement, stating that she is constantly reaching out and has talked with a large multinational company that is now going to visit to meet researchers here at UF. Chair Sarah Rockwell asked If there was a risk with pure scientific research, given that it is not often patentable. Melissa Kuchma provided insight into corporate interests that there is a preference things that are coming along sooner rather than 10-20 years.

One of Melissa Kuchma's projects is the space research consortium, which is coming at a high level due to the Governor signing off on it. It's a collaboration between three universities, including the University of Florida. The aim is a free flow of research and funding, as well as bringing corporate research and driving up the space economy in Florida. It will be seen how organizations like Astraeus fit into this as well as more universities. The goal is to get Florida to be a space hub to compete with Texas and California due to a launch space off the coast here.

5. Astraeus Space Institute Presentation, 20mins + Q/A

Dr. Rachel Seidler, Professor at University of Florida, and Deputy Director Astraeus Space Institute gave the presentation. Dr. Seidler introduced Jordan Callaham, the Assistant Director of Administration.

Astraeus Space Institute was founded at UF a little over a year ago, receiving UF strategic funds to set up the institute.

Leadership Team:

- Founding & Acting Director: Rob Ferl
- Deputy Director: Rachael Seidler
- Assistant Director of Administration: Jordan Callaham
- Assistant Directors:
 - o John Conklin, professor of mechanical aerospace engineering
 - Builds sensors that go into space to understand behavior of black holes
 - o Jamie Foster
 - Corporate engagement
 - Engaging with Kennedy Space Center
 - o Terry Harpold, English professor

- Studies science fiction literature
- Interacts with public and Institute
- Book readings at local bookstores with authors publishing in space fiction
- Amy Williams
 - Workforce development with students
 - New certificate programs
 - Finding internships
- Leadership Council: people on campus who are department chairs or meeting centers or institutes that connect with space to some degree. This allows Astraeus Space Institute to get a broader representation.
 - Warren Dizon
 - Elizabeth Lada
 - Anna-Lisa Paul
 - Siobhan Malany

Priorities and goals of the institute:

- Astraeus Space Institute serves as a go-to space resource for the academic industry, government, and the public related to space.
- They in the process of building a network of partners across government, academia, and industry.
 - There is a new space universities consortium with the Kennedy Space Center, signed in January 2025.
- Astraeus Space prioritizes space research excellence, particularly with faculty.
 - Pilot funding offered for people who are working on large grant proposals.
- Their goal is to develop the space workforce (majors, minors, certificates, internships, continuing education, workshops, etc.)
- The Institute is proud of the breadth of expertise that are represented:

- Faculty at UF are conducting planetary science research, people who are working on manufacturing in space or on sensors to fly into space, people who are controlling satellites, or, like Dr. Seidler, who are looking at physiological changes when people go into space, some faculty study science fiction literature.
- The goal of the Institute is to represent any space related research interests.

In the Q&A section, Carrie Bush asked a question about workforce development and whether the Institute is engaging with up-and-coming young adults? Dr. Seidler stated that they are not engaging with high schoolers just yet, but hosting engagement events, like telescope nights. Dr. Seidler offered to get Carrie in touch with Amy Williams, who directs workforce development.

Chair Sarah Rockwell asked a question about certifications and new programs so that high school counselors know about what is being offered at UF and advise high schoolers accordingly. Dr. Seidler replied that those programs are still in progress. Jordan Callaham added that the extension department indicates that there are new special interest courses available soon to gauge interest. Dr. Seidler suggested a campus wide handout to distribute to the school board. When students get to UF campus for college, they can find the Space Institute at engagement events. Sarah stated that students think UCF is the main school for space engineering programs. Jordan responded that UCF is known for building rockets and UF is known for space biology, as in how we are going to live and work in space. In other words, UF is concerned with taking humanity into space.

6. Member Comments

After the presentation, the members of EDAC individually introduced themselves and shared their affiliations.

7. Public Comment

None.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.

9. Upcoming EDAC Meetings



Alachua County's Draft Climate Action Plan (CAP)

Alachua County EPD Resiliency Office Jennison Kipp, Resiliency Specialist

Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) | June 26, 2025 8

Environmental Stewardship



1824 - 2024 ALACHUA COUNTY BICENTENNIAL

Alachua County's Climate Action Plan

Purpose:

To guide, develop, and cultivate environmentally, socially, and economically resilient strategies and equitable solutions to climate change for the whole community.





What is Resiliency?

"The *capacity of interconnected social, economic, and ecological systems to cope* with a climate change event, trend or disturbance, responding or reorganizing in ways that maintain their essential function, identity and structure."







Alachua County Draft (v1) Climate Action Plan: Localized Planning Framework & Process

- Comprehensive and integrated strategy to maximize resiliency for all
- Aligned with Comp Plan: "living document" that serves as a roadmap for measurable action
- **Climate target**: reduce GHG emissions by 80% (from 2009 baseline) by 2050
- **Engagement goal**: 20% of Alachua County's population aware of CAP

CONTEXT

- Assemble a steering committee
 Set guiding principles and
- Set guiding principles and motivations
 Establish planning area and doce
- Establish planning area and describe geographic context
- Define public outreach approach and opportunities for community participation

VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

- Conduct an exposure analysis
- Conduct a sensitivity analysis
- Assign focus areas

ADAPTATION STRATEGIES

- Assess adaptive capacities
- Prioritize adaptation needs
- Identify adaptation strategies
- Integrate into existing plans

- IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES
- Assess implementation capabilities
- Create a schedule of activities, actions, and actors
- Monitor and evaluate

Image Source: Florida Adaptation Planning Guidebook





Alachua County Climate Vulnerability Assessment

- Completed July 2024
- Identified specific assets at risk from specific threats
- Foundation for understanding resiliency action opportunities





Climate Change Impacts = Real Economic, Ecological, and Social Costs

- Increased Health Risks
- Increased Healthcare Costs
- Increased Utility Bills and Financial Burden
- Decreased Economic Productivity

- Increased Educational Disruptions
- Decreased Property Values
- Increased Strain on Social Services
- Increased Air Quality Impacts







- Agriculture & Food Security
- Energy
- Flood Management & Infrastructure
- Heat & Mental Health
- Land Use & Transportation
- Natural Resources & Conservation
- Waste Management & Resource Consumption
- Water & Aquifer Protection
- Green Industries







Join us and share your feedback on CAP v1!

www.alachuacounty.us/Depts/epd/Pages/Climate-Initiatives.aspx

Climate Initiatives Click here to submit comments!

Alachua County is dedicated to being a resilient community in the face of climate changes and impacts affecting our community today and into the future. To accomplish this goal, the County Commission is working to adopt a Climate Action Plan in 2025.

Climate Action Plan

The county is currently releasing first drafts of climate action plan chapters to receive input from the public and our Citizen Climate Advisory Committee. These chapters will be added to the list below as they become available. If you have specific comments or suggestions you can fill out the <u>Draft Climate Action Plan Form</u>.

- <u>Vocabulary and Acronyms</u>
- Waste Management and Resource Consumption
- Water and Aquifer Protection
- Water Strategies Table
- Natural Resources and Conservation
- Energy
- Flood Management and Infrastructure
- Land Use and Transportation
- Heat and Mental Health
- Agriculture and Food Security



8





Environmental Stewardship

Alachua County Draft (v1) Climate Action Plan Alachua County Climate Action Plan Alachua County Climate Action Plan

- 1) Green Industries chapter drafting (strategies for creating circular economies and getting to "triple bottom line")
- 2) Timeline and milestones of key policies, programs, and projects
- **3)** Performance data baselines, targets, and metrics summary (quantitative and qualitative)
- 4) Comprehensive Plan & Unified Land Development Code References Appendix
- 5) Key Players & Partners Appendix

Draft Executive Summary

This document provides an overview of Alachua County's Draft Climate Action Plan, including its purpose, planning approach, context, content, and contributor acknowledgements.

Purpose

Climate change is already affecting Alachua County through extreme heat, more intense storms, increased flooding, water pollution, and rising housing costs. Population growth, including net migration of residents from Florida's coastal communities, is compounding these direct climate impacts to the County. Alachua County's draft Climate Action Plan (CAP) is a **comprehensive and integrated strategy** for responding to these climate vulnerabilities by fostering resilience and sustainability. Its **purpose** is to guide, develop, and cultivate environmentally, socially, and economically resilient strategies and equitable solutions to climate change for the whole community. In practical terms, the CAP serves as a roadmap for the County to adapt and put resiliency into action, protecting public health, safeguarding natural resources, and ensuring a vibrant quality of life for all who live here.

The written draft CAP is not intended to be the final version of the Alachua County Climate Action Plan. Rather, it is the first draft and serves as a mechanism to receive public input prior to finalizing it. In short, it is a **living document** designed to evolve. Once adopted, the final plan will be a digital document that we can consistently update. It will also be transitioned in 2026 to a **climate dashboard** that facilitates dynamic and efficient implementation of all CAP strategies and action items. Future updates will expand measurements of success, track progress, and refine strategies. Just as climate change affects the entire community and its shared resources, Alachua County CAP strategies encourage all residents to stay involved, stay informed, and help shape a cleaner, safer, more resilient future.

Planning Approach

The Alachua County Draft CAP has been developed following the <u>Florida Adaptation Planning</u> <u>Guidebook's</u> localized planning framework, which outlines four key phases: 1) context, 2) vulnerability assessment, 3) adaptation/mitigation strategies, and 4) implementation (Figure E.1). The Plan explicitly considers and accounts for the varying needs of urban, suburban, and rural areas, underscoring the necessity of place-based solutions. Another factor that distinguishes the unique nature of this process is that Alachua County will be the first *inland* county in Florida to

CAP v1 April '25 Executive Summary DRAFT (May '25) Page 1 of 6

200 BZ4 – 2024 CAP v1 "Energy" Chapter Key Strategies

- 1) Improving Energy Efficiency: reduce the amount of energy required to power our homes and buildings without sacrificing (and sometimes improving) convenience and comfort
- 2) Promote Electrification of Buildings and Transportation Systems (because more of the electricity supply is coming from low- to noemission technologies; means to shift to a clean energy economy)
- 3) Increase Renewable Energy (especially Solar PV) Generation Capacity (for County-owned buildings, residential owner-occupied and rental properties, and utility-scale generation)





Investments in Energy Resiliency: ACEEP

https://alachuacounty.us/Depts/Sustainability/Pages/ACEEP.aspx

Alachua County Energy Efficiency Program

About Property Owners

Renters Small Business Owners

About the Program

Please note that the information contained on this website is informational only, and does not replace the information, standards, and requirements outlined in the formal paperwork that participants will fill out as part of their participation in this program.

The Alachua County Energy Efficiency Program (ACEEP) is designed to help lower utility bills for Alachua County residents by creating a fund to improve the energy efficiency of rental units. Participating units can request home upgrades ranging from better attic insulation to more energy efficient electrical appliances such as refrigerators and air conditioners.

Participants can receive up to \$15,000 per rental unit. Participating property owners will be asked to commit to maintaining the affordability of the unit for a length of time depending on their chosen award amount.

Participation in the program requires the consent of both the renter and the property owner. To learn more, you can select the "Property Owner" or "Renter" tab at the top of this page, or the "FAQ" tab to read Frequently Asked Ouestions about the specifics of the program. Contact aceep@rebuildingtogetherncf.o rg 352-450-4965

This program is for all renters in Alachua County, including the County's smaller municipalities, and the City of Gainesville. If you are a Gainesville homeowner, you can view information on a similar program run by the City of Gainesville.



EDAC | June 26, 2025





Alachua County Energy Efficiency Program (ACEEP) "Triple Bottom Line"



\$400 in annual utility bill savings per unit (average) following program upgrades





24 properties fully enrolled

Average Lease: ~\$1,000/month





Average Program Term:~6.8 years (max 7) Average Upgrade Cost: ~\$13,300 (max \$15k)





Alachua County Energy Efficiency Program (ACEEP) "Triple Bottom Line"



Alachua County Energy Efficiency Program (ACEEP) Client Stories







CAP "Green Industries" Chapter: Your Ideas?

- Title?
- Scope?
- Strategies & Programs?
- Partners?

people Sustainability	
planet profit	

Image Source: Harvard Business School Online



