



Alachua County Board of County Commissioners

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Administration
Michele L. Lieberman
County Manager

February 27, 2024

UF President Ben Sasse
Office of the President
University of Florida
P.O. Box 113150
Gainesville, FL 32611-3150

Dear UF President Sasse,

On behalf of the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners, we strongly encourage the University of Florida (UF) to adopt their Climate Action Plan 2. Recognizing the severity of the climate crisis as emphasized by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) latest report, Florida is vulnerable to climate change impacts. The county urges the University to take proactive measures in line with its position as a leader in climate science.

The plan highlights the university's responsibility as a leader in climate science to adopt policies that mitigate climate change. The plan and other related efforts by the university should emphasize the necessity of addressing the climate crisis while prioritizing equity and justice, particularly for marginalized communities. Acknowledging the disproportionate impact of climate change on Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), we must work towards ceasing the historical exclusion of these communities from climate change mitigation efforts. The County values the importance of uplifting marginalized communities and is currently working hard to ensure that as we make progress towards resiliency, no one is left behind.

The County is drafting their Climate Action Plan that we hope to have adopted next year and look toward UF as a leader in climate science. For our community to have a successful approach to addressing climate change, we need to all be working together toward the completion of our climate action plans and similar efforts to be a thriving and resilient community. We look to the university to continue to be a leader in sustainability, renewable energy, climate science, and climate justice.

Sincerely,

Mary C. Alford, Chair
Alachua County Commission
Chr24.--

cc: Board of County Commissioners
Michele L. Lieberman, County Manager
Sylvia Torres, County Attorney
Stephen Hofstetter, Environmental Protection Department