
Citizen Climate Advisory Committee (CCAC)

Annual Work Plan and Accomplishments Report: FY2025

FY2024 Chair: Jennison Kipp Searcy

Alachua County Liaison: Stephen Hofstetter

City of Gainesville Liaisons: Dr. Dan Zhu and Jennie Ford

Brief History of the Citizen Climate Advisory Committee

The Citizen Climate Advisory Committee (CCAC) was established by Resolution 20-68 on July 14, 2020.

Responsibilities and Duties

The CCAC provides an opportunity for citizen involvement in climate change issues and concerns affecting Alachua County, City of Gainesville, and the other municipalities within Alachua County. The committee will advise the Joint Water and Climate Policy Board on bold and innovative climate adaptation and mitigation strategies, policies, and target goals. The committee will also engage with relevant stakeholders, agencies, non-profits, and the community to ensure that neighborhoods and communities that are most impacted or disadvantaged by climate change are taken into account in the development of policy recommendations and action strategies. The committee will also assist the County, Gainesville, and other municipalities within Alachua County in the promotion of greater community awareness of climate-related issues and involvement in government climate mitigation and resiliency initiatives.

2024 Accomplishments

- Held public meetings on October 16, 2023, November 13, 2023, December 18, 2023, January 29, 2024, February 19, 2024, March 18, 2024, April 15, 2024, May 20, 2024, June 17, 2024, July 15, 2024, August 19, 2024, September 16, 2024 to gather public input on development of the Alachua County Climate Action Plan (CAP).
- Presented an annual update on CCAC activities to the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners on May 28, 2024.
- Heard presentations on City of Gainesville's Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) 'Race to Zero', Tree Protection Code, Waste Strategies, and Solar for All grants, GRU Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) analysis, LEED for Cities designation,
- Heard and provided input on CAP climate chapter presentations on tree protection and landscaping, Land Conservation and Agriculture Protection Strategies, Waste Strategies, Flooding and legal Challenges with Low Impact Development (LID) on private property, Water Resources, Community Engagement, Transportation and Land Use, Mental Health, Agriculture/Food security ... as well as presentations from the Community Weatherization Coalition, on Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding, and a review of the GRU IRP analysis and alternatives.
- Heard presentations from two EcoLoop proposals related to composting and made a motion supporting Sunshine Compost. CCAC also made a motion to recommend that potential

businesses at Ecoloop be expanded to include a variety of clean businesses, ranked according to staff's assessment of environmental and climate impact.

Goals for 2025

- Evaluate and provide input on draft CAP chapters with the goal of finalizing a draft that can be adopted by the Joint Water and Climate Policy Board in 2025.
- Participate in and provide feedback to staff on the November 16, 2024 Alachua County Climate Summit.
- Collaborate with the municipalities, non-profits, stakeholders and others within Alachua County to increase citizen participation in, and knowledge of what the County and City of Gainesville are doing to address climate concerns.