



Alachua County  
Environmental Protection Department

# Alachua County's Draft Climate Action Plan (CAP)

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# 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

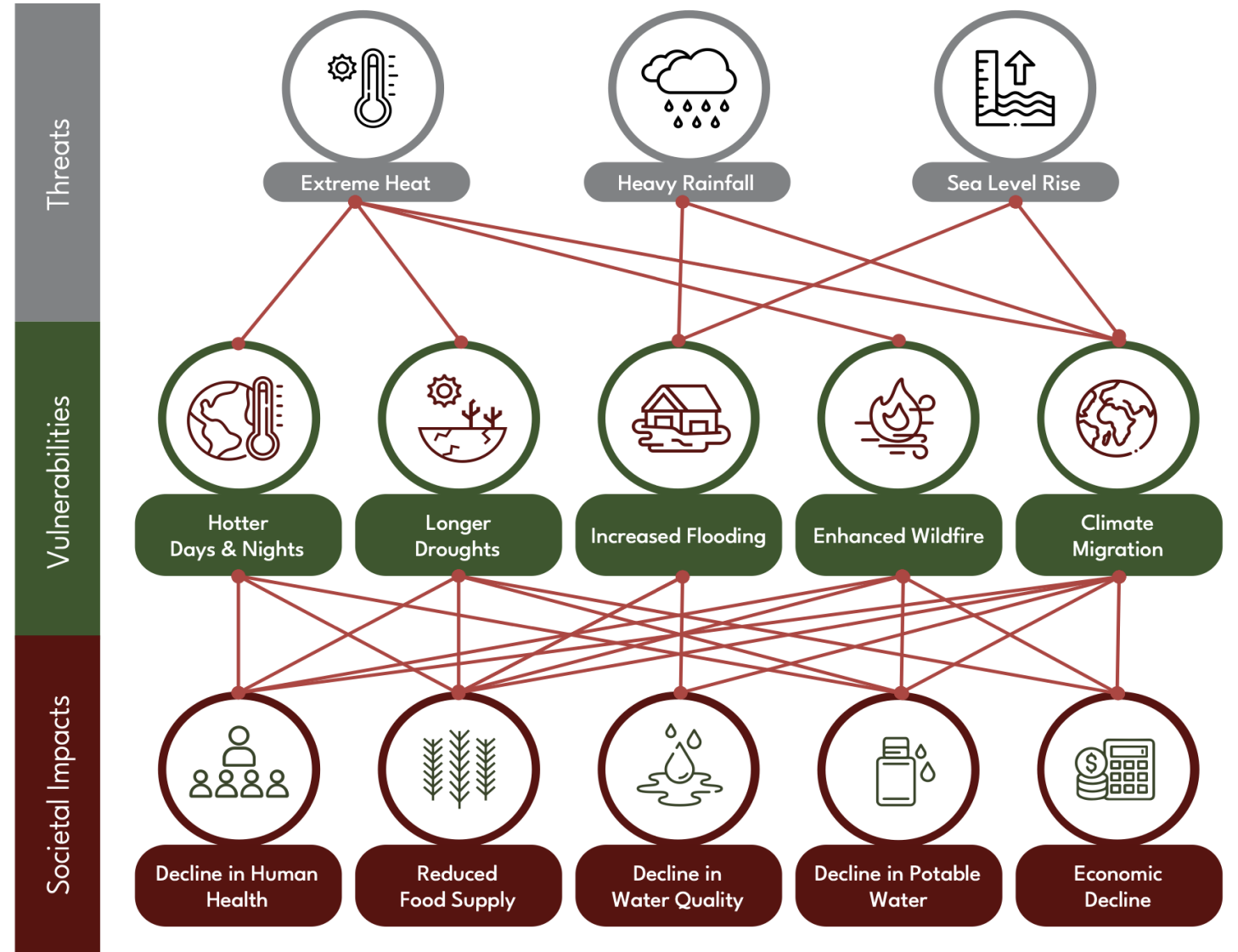


Image Source: Florida Adaptation Planning Guidebook



# Alachua County Climate Vulnerability Assessment

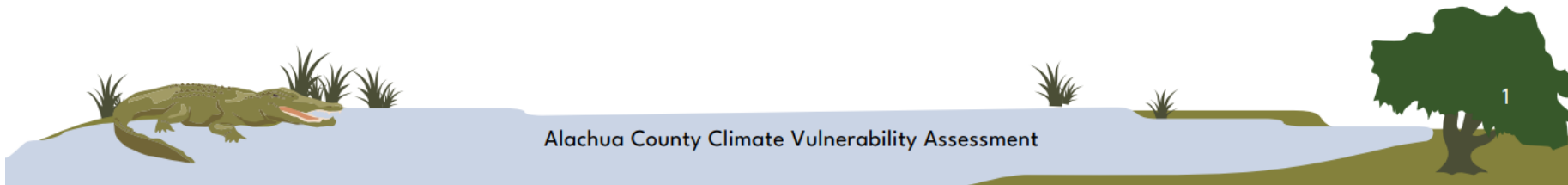
- Completed July 2024
- Identified specific **assets** at risk from specific **threats**
- Foundation for understanding **resiliency action opportunities**





# 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



# Climate Action Plan (v1) Draft Chapters

- 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](http://www.alachuacounty.us/Depts/epd/Pages/Climate-Initiatives.aspx)

## Climate Initiatives

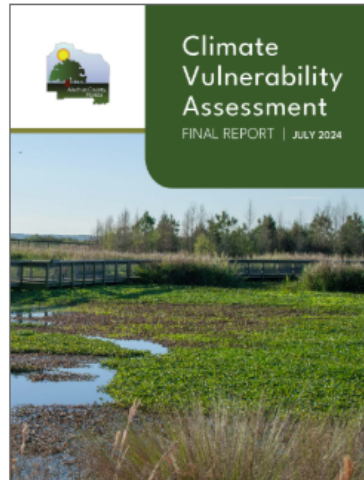
Click here to submit comments!

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 [Draft Climate Action Plan Form](#).

- [Vocabulary and Acronyms](#)
- [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](#)





# Alachua County Draft (v1) Climate Action Plan Synthesis & Next Steps

- 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

## *Alachua County Climate Action Plan*

### *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 [Florida Adaptation Planning Guidebook’s 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 “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 no-emission 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 Questions about the specifics of the program.

### Contact



[aceep@rebuildingtogetherncf.org](mailto:aceep@rebuildingtogetherncf.org)  
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](#).



# Alachua County Energy Efficiency Program (ACEEP) “Triple Bottom Line”



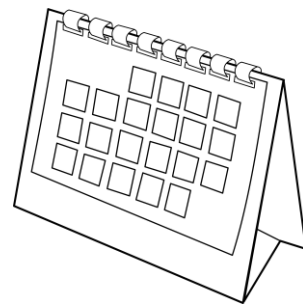
**\$400 in annual utility bill savings per unit**  
(average) following program upgrades



24 properties  
fully enrolled



Average Lease:  
~\$1,000/month



Average Program  
Term: ~6.8 years  
(max 7)

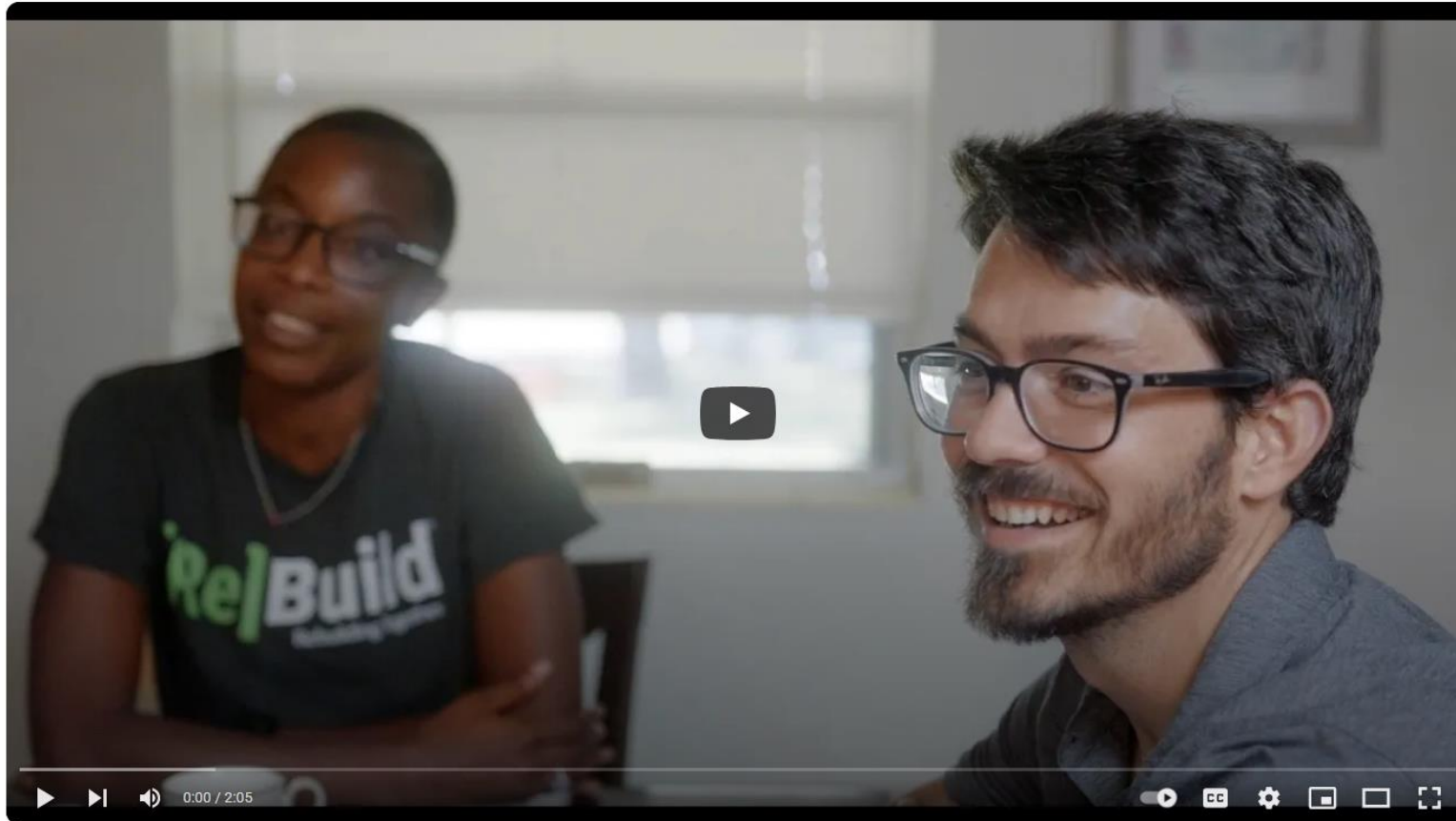


Average Upgrade  
Cost: ~\$13,300  
(max \$15k)





# 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?



Image Source: Harvard Business School Online

