



Alachua County
Environmental Protection Department

Alachua County Climate Action Plan (CAP) v2 Update – Evening Workshop

BOCC

August 26, 2025



Alachua County Draft (v2) Climate Action Plan: Purpose Statement

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



Alachua County Draft (v2) Climate Action Plan: 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 (v2) Climate Action Plan: Localized Planning Framework & Processes

- **Comprehensive and integrated strategy** to maximize resiliency for all
- **Engagement goal:** 20% of Alachua County's population aware of CAP
- **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

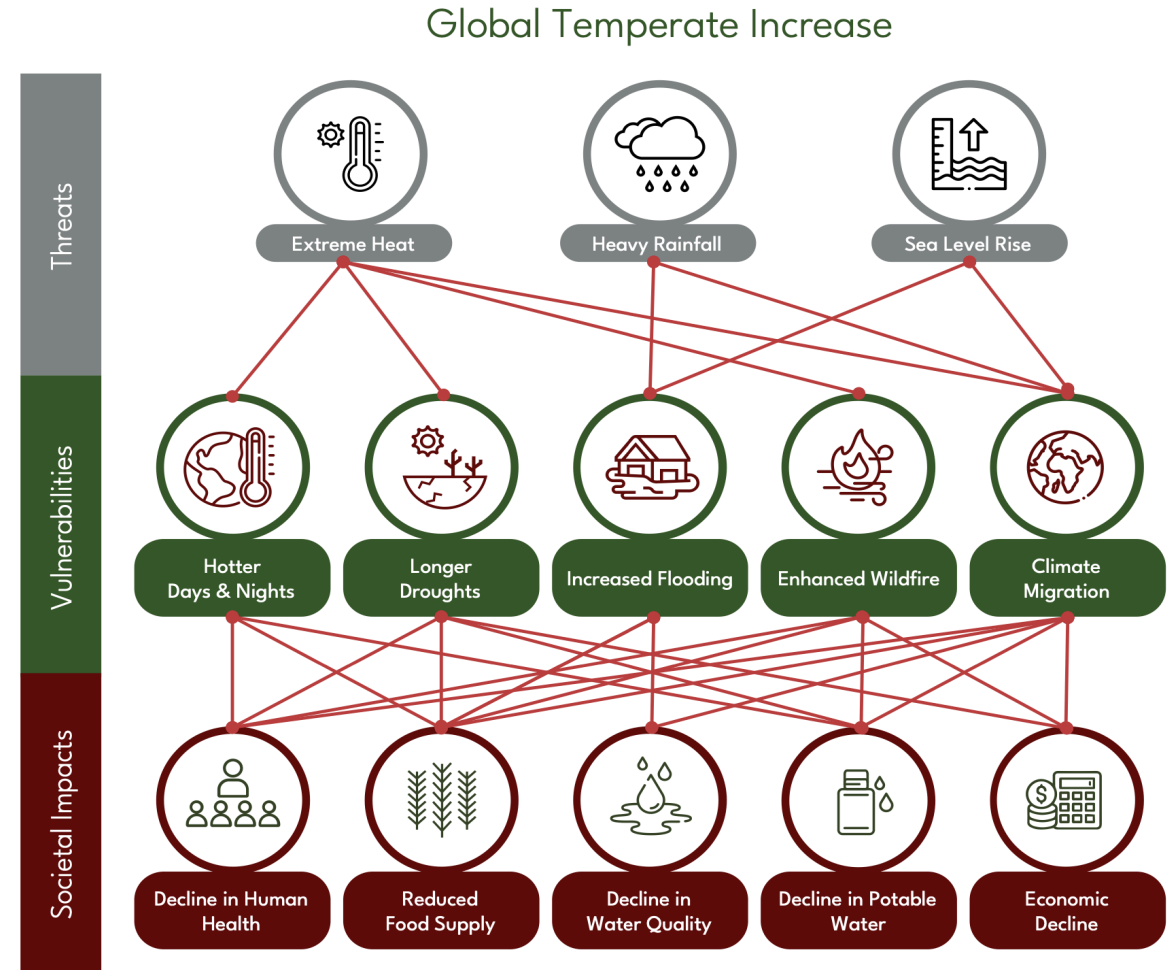


Image Source: Florida Adaptation Planning Guidebook



Alachua County Climate Vulnerability Assessment: Threats > Vulnerabilities > Societal Impacts

- Completed July 2024 and serves as **foundation for CAP**
- Identified specific **local assets** at risk from **specific threats**
- Foundation for understanding most effective and impactful **resiliency opportunities**

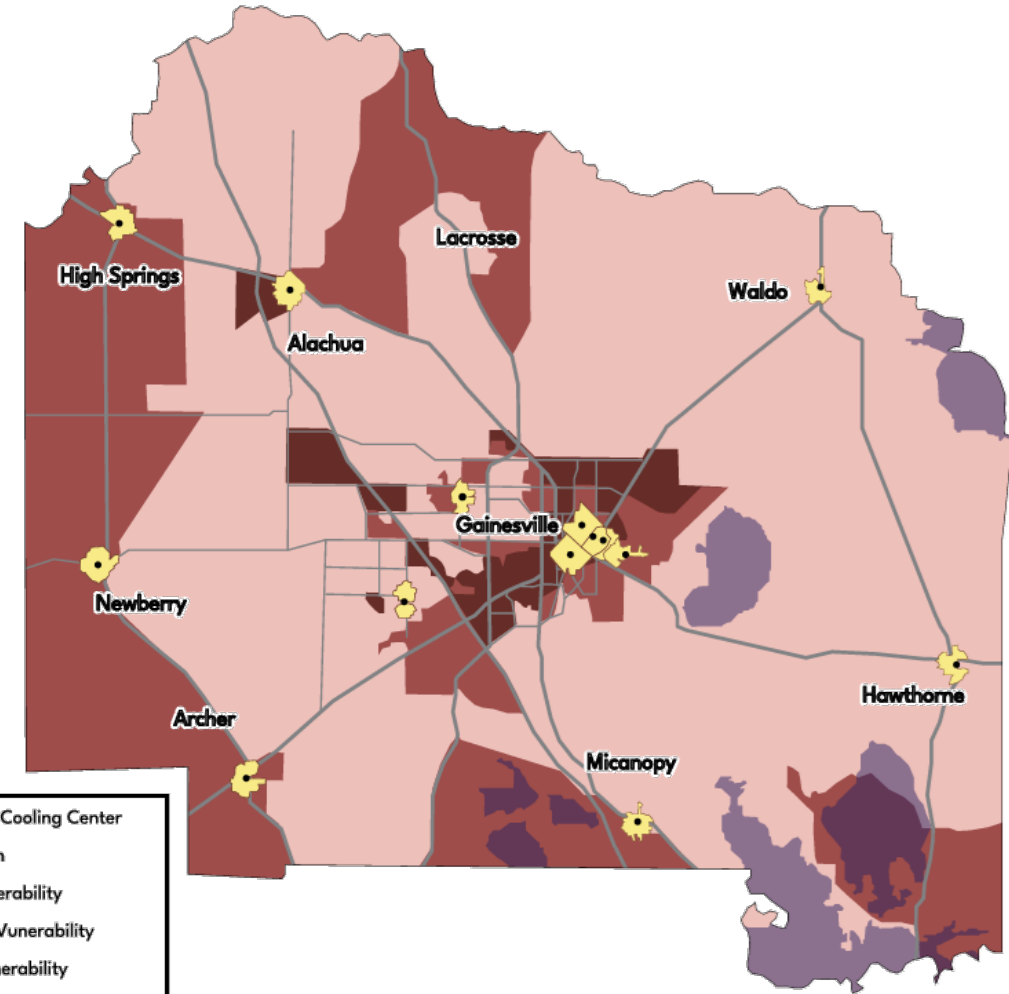


Alachua County Climate Vulnerability Assessment: Extreme Heat Threats

Table 3.

Average Number of Days per Year that the **Maximum** Heat Index would trigger an NOAA Alert.

	Very Warm 80-89°	Hot 90-104°	Very Hot 105-129°	Extremely Hot ≥130°
Baseline	26	64	95	36
2030	23	51	94	53
2040	27	55	81	70
2070	24	54	75	107
2100	20	43	68	138



- ★ 15 Minute Walk Time to Cooling Center
- Cooling Center Location
- Low Extreme Heat Vulnerability
- Medium Extreme Heat Vulnerability
- High Extreme Heat Vulnerability
- Water

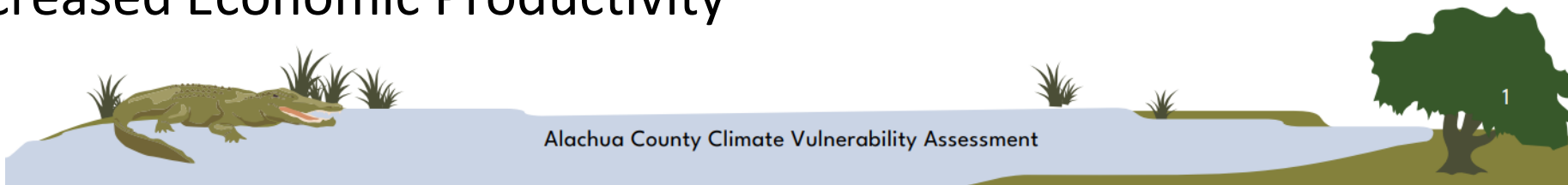


Alachua County Climate Vulnerability Assessment: Impacts = Real Economic, Ecological, and Social Costs



Without action, Alachua County faces **significant** impacts from climate change.

- 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



Alachua County Draft (v2) Climate Action Plan Chapters

Introduction

1. Agriculture & Food Security
2. Energy Security & Efficiency
3. Flood Management & Infrastructure
4. Heat & Health
5. Land Use & Transportation
6. Natural Resources & Conservation
7. Waste Management & Resource Consumption
8. Water & Aquifer Protection

Appendices



CAP v2 Posted for Ongoing Review & Feedback

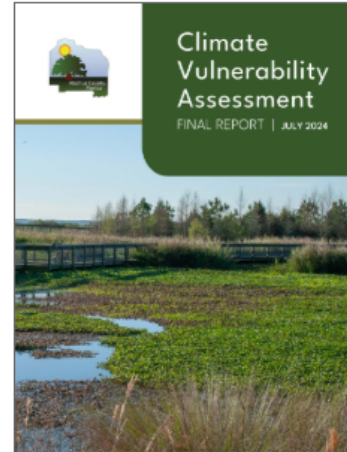
www.alachuacounty.us/Depts/epd/Pages/Climate-Initiatives.aspx

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 releasing current drafts of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) to receive input from the public and our Citizen Climate Advisory Committee (CCAC) prior to its approval and adoption. The draft CAP posted here was released in August 2025 and includes links to the complete document and to individual sections or chapters. If you have specific comments or suggestions about the draft CAP, please share them by filling out the [Draft Climate Action Plan Form](#).

- [Full Alachua County Draft Climate Action Plan](#)
- [Title Page and Acknowledgements](#)
- [Introduction](#)
- [Chapter 1: Agriculture and Food Security](#)
- [Chapter 2: Energy Security and Efficiency](#)
- [Chapter 3: Flood Management and Infrastructure](#)
- [Chapter 4: Heat and Health](#)
- [Chapter 5: Land Use and Transportation](#)
- [Chapter 6: Natural Resources and Conservation](#)
- [Chapter 7: Waste Management and Resource Recovery](#)
- [Chapter 8: Water and Aquifer Protection](#)
- [Appendix A: Alachua County Climate Vulnerability Assessment](#)
- [Appendix B: Draft CAP – Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Excerpts](#)
- [Vocabulary & Acronyms](#)



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Alachua County Draft (v2) Climate Action Plan

Next Steps

- 1) Ongoing, **strategic coordination** with Citizen Climate Advisory Committee (CCAC), County staff, community partners, and collaborators.
- 2) Draft "**Circular Economy**" chapter: economic and workforce development opportunities; communicating triple-bottom-line strategies.
- 3) Continue **public engagement** and inviting feedback, incorporate **final round of edits and staff review**, and **finalize draft CAP** with Executive Summary prior to BoCC approval and adoption.
- 4) Begin transitioning to a **living document via a dynamic climate dashboard**: beta test with Zencity.
- 5) Host **Climate Festival** on November 15, 2025 in Newberry.

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



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CAP v2 “Agriculture & Food Security”

Chapter Purpose

Ensure the continued viability, sustainability, security, and accessibility for all to the food system in Alachua County in the face of climate change.

Promote locally produced foods and goods to reduce food distribution impacts, reach those most in need, and promote local economic benefits.

Draft chapter online at: [Official V2 CAP Agriculture Chapter.pdf](#)

Chapter Primary Author: Sean McLendon, CPM
(Tourism & Economic Development)



CAP v2 “Agriculture & Food Security”

Chapter Key Goals

Goal 1.1 – Strengthening Local Food Systems

- **STRATEGY 1.1.1** – Increase local agriculture’s access to markets.
- **STRATEGY 1.1.2** – Incentivize climate-smart and sustainable agriculture.

Goal 1.2 – Build Upon Workforce & Entrepreneurship Programs

- **STRATEGY 1.2.1** – Collaborate with local and state partners to expand agricultural workforce, entrepreneurship and innovation programs.

Goal 1.3 – Commercial Organic Waste Composting & Local Fertilizer Use

- **STRATEGY 1.3.1** – Incentivize the use of local organic waste compost as fertilizer on agricultural lands.



CAP v2 “Agriculture & Food Security”

Chapter Key Goals, cont.

Goal 1.4 – Build a Local Food System Culture through Engagement and Agritourism

- **STRATEGY 1.4.1** – Develop a Farm-to-Table education program in Alachua County.
- **STRATEGY 1.4.2** – Promote Agritourism in Alachua County.

Goal 1.5 – Expand Protection of Agricultural Lands

- **STRATEGY 1.5.1** – Implement Agricultural Land Protection Strategy under the Alachua County Forever Program to increase conservation of farmlands through acquisition of agricultural conservation easements.



CAP v2 “Agriculture & Food Security” Exemplary Programs & Projects

- Small Farmer Grant program
- Fresh Food Pathways (Food Hub) project
- Community Gardens project
- Agricultural Land Protection Strategy & new Agricultural Land Conservation Board
- American Farmland Trust Land Transfer Navigator Program



CAP v2 “Agriculture & Food Security”

****Priority Action Items****

- ***1-Year (2026)***

- Initiate an “Agribusiness Incubator” program and commercial food waste collection and composting pilot program.
- Develop an agricultural easement template prioritizing soil health protections.
- Identify pathways, funding, and incentives for Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) on agricultural lands.
- Conduct feasibility study for soil carbon sequestration measurement on county-owned lands and easements.

- ***5-Years (2030)***

- 30% of Alachua County land and waters are protected through fee simple acquisitions and conservation easements.
- Development and expansion of regional food hubs and processing facilities.



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CAP v2 “Energy Security & Efficiency”

Chapter Purpose

Accelerate progress towards net zero greenhouse gas emissions by transitioning from non-renewable energy fuels, purchasing from renewable energy sources, and increasing energy efficiency in buildings and infrastructure.

Draft chapter online at: [Official V2 CAP Energy Chapter.pdf](#)

Chapter Primary Author: Betsy Riley, PhD
(EPD Resiliency Office, formerly SEEDS)



CAP v2 “Energy Security & Efficiency”

Chapter Key Goals

Goal 2.1 – Energy Efficiency and Conservation

- **STRATEGY 2.1.1** – Emphasize energy efficiency and conservation to maximize cost efficiency and social responsibility.

Goal 2.2 – Electrification

- **STRATEGY 2.2.1** – Promote energy independence through electrification.

Goal 2.3 – Renewable Energy

- **STRATEGY 2.3.1** – Become an institutional leader in renewable energy adoption.

Goal 2.4 – Energy Infrastructure Resiliency

- **STRATEGY 2.4.1** – Build an energy infrastructure that is resilient to extreme heat and storms.



CAP v2 “Energy Security & Efficiency” Exemplary Programs & Projects

- **Alachua County Energy Efficiency Program (ACEEP)**
- **Cenergistics**, LLC customized energy tracking and conservation program for County facilities.
- **Energy Conservation Investment Program (ECIP)** to construct County-owned solar installations (with goal of 100% of energy purchased or produced for County facilities from solar photovoltaics by 2030).
- **Project EMPOWER** through DOE LEAP grant to develop solar projects in low-income neighborhoods through community collaborations.
- **Climate Action Plan v2 Workshop**



CAP v2 “Energy” Chapter Highlight: ACEEP and the Triple Bottom Line



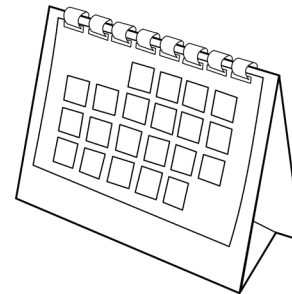
\$400 in average annual utility bill savings
per unit following efficiency improvements



32 properties
fully enrolled



Average Lease:
~\$1,060/month



Average Program
Term: ~6.8 years
(max 7)



Average Upgrade
Cost: ~\$13,760
(max \$15k)



CAP v2 “Energy Security & Efficiency”

Priority Action Items

- ***1-Year (2026)***

- Expand ACEEP to include EMPOWER Coalition neighborhoods.
- All new County building and rooftop projects include solar installation request for proposals (or similar) when ECIP funding permits.
- County-owned buildings: Develop 5-year strategy for energy-efficiency improvements and 100% electrification of all new construction.

- ***5-Years (2030)***

- Long-term funding strategy for ACEEP.
- Fuel- and cost-efficient county vehicle fleet: strategic hybrid & EV purchasing.
- Strategic plan for hardening energy infrastructure and partnerships with municipalities to ensure energy security during and after extreme weather events.



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CAP v2 “Flood Management & Infrastructure” Chapter Purpose

Reduce the impact of flooding and extreme weather events on citizens, businesses and critical infrastructure by developing a multidisciplinary plan and action strategy to maintain a resilient community.

Draft chapter online at: [Official V2 CAP Flooding Chapter.pdf](#)

Chapter Primary Authors: E. Shane Williams, PhD & P.E. (City of Gainesville) and Lalit Lalwani, P.E. (Public Works)



CAP v2 “Flood Management & Infrastructure” Chapter Key Goals

Goal 3.1: Improve Physical Infrastructure

- **STRATEGY 3.1.1** – Expand stormwater and flooding infrastructure in Alachua County.

Goal 3.2: Expand Stormwater Planning

- **STRATEGY 3.2.1** – Add requirements for developments near floodplains and flood-prone areas.
- **STRATEGY 3.2.2** – Protect critical infrastructure.
- **STRATEGY 3.2.3** – Develop an Alachua County Watershed Masterplan.



CAP v2 “Flood Management & Infrastructure” Chapter Key Goals, cont.

Goal 3.3 – Expand Stormwater and Flooding Policy

- **STRATEGY 3.3.1** – Adopting policies that facilitate low-impact development of stormwater infrastructure.

Goal 3.4 – Improve Flooding Communication

- **STRATEGY 3.4.1** – Provide informative, accessible data on potential flooding risks.



CAP v2 “Flood Management & Infrastructure” **Priority Action Items**

- **1-Year (2026)**
 - Require all new construction to be outside of floodplains.
 - Select watershed for study and develop Watershed Master Plan.
 - Develop planning strategies for protecting critical infrastructure; apply for Florida Resiliency grants.
- **5-Years (2030)**
 - Expand Green Stormwater Infrastructure/Low Impact Design in areas already developed, including retrofits by County and private property owners.
 - Create regional stormwater basin in areas of historical flooding.
 - Higher free board for structures located near rivers and lakes.



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CAP v2 “Heat & Health” Chapter Purpose

Build collaboration and advance awareness and capacity to address climate-related public health impacts and implement solutions that improve community health outcomes.

Draft chapter online at: [Official V2 CAP Heat and Health Chapter.pdf](#)

Chapter Primary Author: Lara Colley
(Community Support Services)



CAP v2 “Heat & Health” Chapter Key Goals

Goal 4.1 – Increase Citizen Awareness of Heat and Heat-Related Illnesses

- **STRATEGY 4.1.1** - Recommend best management practices for outdoor workers, student athletes, and others who engage in strenuous exercise.
- **STRATEGY 4.1.2** – Expand Alachua County Ready to include heat advisories and warnings.

Goal 4.2 – Increase the amount of Cooling Centers in Alachua County

- **STRATEGY 4.2.1** – Identify buildings throughout the County that can be used as cooling centers.
- **STRATEGY 4.2.2** – Educate citizens about Alachua County cooling centers.



CAP v2 “Heat & Health” Chapter Key Goals, cont.

Goal 4.3 – Prevent the Spread of Vector-Borne Diseases

- **STRATEGY 4.3.1** – Increase awareness of Vector-Borne Diseases and Prevention.

Goal 4.4 – Crisis Center Phone Lines

- **STRATEGY 4.4.1** – Increase County preparedness and understanding of psychological impacts of climate change.



CAP v2 “Heat & Health” **Priority Action Items**

- ***1-Year (2026)***

- Add extreme heat outlooks, watches, advisories, and warnings to Alachua County Ready alerts.
- Develop integrated information campaign focused on heat and health BMPs and resources including an interactive map of cooling centers.
- Expand Crisis Center and Alachua County Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD) trainings for staff and community partners.

- ***5-Years (2030)***

- Establish nighttime emergency shelters for extreme heat and add two new cooling centers to the south and west of the I-75 corridor.
- Establish shuttles between cooling centers and emergency shelters lacking public transportation access.



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CAP v2 “Land Use & Transportation”

Chapter Purpose

Increase housing density while conserving undeveloped land and maximizing transportation choices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change impacts.

Draft chapter online at: [Official V2 CAP Land Use and Transportation Chapter.pdf](#)

Chapter Primary Authors: Mike Castine, Jessica Kluttz,
and Alison Moss (Growth Management)



CAP v2 “Land Use & Transportation”

Chapter Key Goals

Goal 5.1 – Acquiring Metrics

- **STRATEGY 5.1.1** – Acquire metrics for developing timelines and targets for all strategies and action items within the Land Development and Transportation Chapter.

Goal 5.2 – Sustainable Future Land Development

- **STRATEGY 5.2.1** – Increase sustainable land development practices.

Goal 5.3 – Transportation Mobility Districts

- **STRATEGY 5.3.1** – Implement and expand Transportation Mobility Districts in Alachua County.



CAP v2 “Land Use & Transportation”

Chapter Key Goals, cont.

Goal 5.4 – Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

- **STRATEGY 5.4.1** – Increase the use of electric vehicles and supporting infrastructure.

Goal 5.5 – Expand Integrated Natural, Historic and Scenic Resources

- **STRATEGY 5.5.1** – Develop a multi-use, integrated network of routes throughout Alachua County.

Goal 5.6 - Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation

- **STRATEGY 5.6.1** – Strategically plan bicycle and pedestrian transportation routes.
- **STRATEGY 5.6.2** – Increase bicycle safety for general public.
- **STRATEGY 5.6.3** – Increase pedestrian-bicycle safety for students.



CAP v2 “Land Use & Transportation”

Chapter Key Goals, cont.

Goal 5.7 – Develop and Maintain Transit

- **STRATEGY 5.7.1** - Assist the providers of mass transit in Alachua County in their planning efforts through coordination, informational support, and participation in planning efforts.

Goal 5.8 – Rail Transportation

- **STRATEGY 5.8.1** – Investigate possibility of rail transportation systems in Alachua County.

Goal 5.9 – Increase Telecommuting and Remote Work Alternatives

- **STRATEGY 5.9.1** – Promote online telecommunication and remote work for Alachua County residents.



CAP v2 “Land Use & Transportation”

Priority Action Items

- **1-Year (2026)**

- Transportation: Finalize and adopt the County-Wide Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan and begin implementation; develop a connectivity index standard and fleet electrification plan; create a County-wide Safe Routes to School Program.
- Land Use: Finalize and adopt the Pine Hills Forest Special Area Study and Comprehensive Plan amendments to implement; incentivize higher residential densities.
- Create work plan for acquiring necessary metrics (vehicle miles traveled, transit ridership, aviation, mode share, etc.) to be integrated with CAP and climate dashboard.

- **5-Years (2030)**

- Transportation: Continued implementation of multi-modal network following adopted plans; provide a low-stress bicycle facility within ¼ mile of all urban cluster residents.
- Land Use: Long-term strategy to implement findings of Forward Focus for Eastern Alachua County (addressing community climate mitigation, affordable housing, employment, and health needs).



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CAP v2 “Natural Resources & Conservation” Chapter Purpose

Protect, restore and properly manage natural areas, trees and landscapes, and conservation lands in Alachua County while enhancing their resilience and improving their capacity to support climate adaptation and carbon sequestration.

Draft chapter online at: [Official V2 CAP Natural Resources Chapter.pdf](#)

Chapter Primary Authors: Emily Rodriguez and
Andi Christman (Environmental Protection)



CAP v2 “Natural Resources & Conservation” Chapter Key Goals

Goal 6.1 - Continuation and Expansion of Land Conservation Efforts through Alachua County Forever Program

- **STRATEGY 6.1.1** – Continuation of protection of environmentally significant lands through Alachua County Forever program.
- **STRATEGY 6.1.2** – Review land stewardship practices on Alachua County Preserves for opportunities to increase climate resiliency and implement selected compatible strategies. Prioritize vulnerabilities identified in the County’s Vulnerability Analysis.



CAP v2 “Natural Resources & Conservation” Chapter Key Goals, cont.

Goal 6.2 – Tree Protection Code Update

- **STRATEGY 6.2.1** – Increase Tree Canopy Retention Percentage
- **STRATEGY 6.2.2** – Update Specimen Tree List
- **STRATEGY 6.2.3** – Potential Tree Permit Changes

Goal 6.3 – Community/Urban Forest Management Plan

- **STRATEGY 6.3.1** – Develop Community/Urban Forest Management Plan



CAP v2 “Natural Resources & Conservation” Chapter Key Goals, cont.

Goal 6.4 – Landscaping Goals

STRATEGY 6.4.1 – Create resilient landscapes through sustainable landscaping practices.

Goal 6.5 – Climate Action Mapping

STRATEGY 6.5.1 – Develop more climate- and resilience-related maps.



CAP v2 “Natural Resources & Conservation” **Priority Action Items**

- **1-Year (2026)**

- Fund and support development of Community Forest Management Plan, including an ecological analysis, tree inventory, and Phase 1 Urban Forest Management Plan.
- Pass a BoCC resolution authorizing and adopting the “30x30” and “50x50” land conservation goals.
- Prioritize construction of Land Conservation Office and Field support facility at Four Creeks Preserve (currently in Capital Improvement Plan) to ensure program operations efficiency.

- **5-Years (2030)**

- Continue supporting the Alachua County Forever program priorities by maintaining budgetary levels, staffing priorities, and administrative efficiencies to achieve long-term land conservation goals.
- Fund and support completion of Community Forest Management Plan.
- Add all fee-simple ACF properties to the Registry of Protected Public Places.
- Implement action items for sustainable landscaping practices, including incentives for Low Impact Design/Development (LID) in new construction and reference tools and guidelines (e.g., the OUTSIDE New Yard Pattern Book).



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CAP v2 “Waste Management & Resource Consumption” Chapter Purpose

Ensure high quality waste management services to Alachua County residents and minimize the amount of waste directed towards landfills and the environment.

Draft chapter online at: [Official V2 CAP Waste Chapter.pdf](#)

Chapter Primary Author: Gus Olmos, P.E.
(Solid Waste & Resource Recovery)



CAP v2 “Waste Management” Chapter

Key Goals

Goal 7.1 – Increase intergovernmental collaboration and lead by example.

- **STRATEGY 7.1.1** – Establish a solid waste reduction goal and formalize by adopting a resolution on zero waste.

Goal 7.2 – Establish Public-Private Relationships between Alachua County and Private Entities to Facilitate Zero Waste Goals

- **STRATEGY 7.2.1** – Increase the amount of accessible opportunities for the private sector to reduce waste.



CAP v2 “Waste Management” Chapter

Key Goals, cont.

Goal 7.3 – Phase out organics from waste

- **STRATEGY 7.3.1** – Increase resident and commercial opportunities and accessibility for composting.

Goal 7.4 – Recycling

- **STRATEGY 7.4.1** – Expand recycling programs and opportunities within the County.



CAP v2 “Waste Management” **Priority*

*Action Items**

- ***1-Year (2026)***

- Continue development of robust organic diversion and composting program in the County.
- Revise future contracts and franchise agreements with collections and processing vendors; include requirements and incentives addressing Zero Waste.
- Develop partnerships with the private sector to implement a large-scale reuse program.

- ***5-Years (2030)***

- Establish the processing facility infrastructure necessary for diverting organic materials from the waste stream.
- Establish uniform infrastructure, processes, and mechanisms for multi-family recycling.
- Expand food recovery networks to include food pantries.



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CAP v2 “Water & Aquifer Protection”

Chapter Purpose

Protecting Alachua County’s aquifer, springs, and surface water resources by implementing integrated water quality and conservation strategies and making infrastructure improvements to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change.

Draft chapter online at: [Official V2 CAP Water Chapter.pdf](#)

Chapter Primary Author: Stacie Greco
(Environmental Protection)



CAP v2 “Water & Aquifer Protection”

Chapter Key Goals

Goal 8.1 – Reduce Water Use

- **STRATEGY 8.1.1** – Reduce Landscape Irrigation
- **STRATEGY 8.1.2** – Reduce Water Use from Landscape Irrigation Wells
- **STRATEGY 8.1.3** – Improve Consumptive Use Permitting

Goal 8.2 – Increase Water Quality and Quantity

- **STRATEGY 8.2.1** – Improve Utility Water Supply and Wastewater Infrastructure Protection
- **STRATEGY 8.2.2** – Improve Water Quality Monitoring
- **STRATEGY 8.2.3** – Increase Aquifer Recharge



CAP v2 “Water & Aquifer Protection”

Chapter Key Goals, cont.

Goal 8.3 – Increase Water Efficiency in New Developments

- **STRATEGY 8.3.1 – Establish New Development Requirements**



CAP v2 “Water & Aquifer Protection”

Priority Action Items

- ***1-Year (2026)***

- Require use of soil amendments in new construction for residential and commercial landscapes through Landscaping Code to increase adoption in unincorporated areas.
- Finalize and implement an LID checklist for new development projects; review with project applicants early in the development review process.

- ***5-Years (2030)***

- Complete a model neighborhood in Alachua County that applies the principles of the New Yard Pattern Book for Florida’s Sustainable Single-Family Homes (OUTSIDE Collab resource)
 - ideally with use of native vegetation and no permanent irrigation or fertilizer use.
- Implement projects to increase aquifer recharge using reclaimed water or stormwater.
- Expand monitoring and analysis of water quality stations for surface water and groundwater; integrate with water supply and climate dashboard metrics.

