



Alachua County
Environmental Protection Department

Alachua County Climate Action Plan

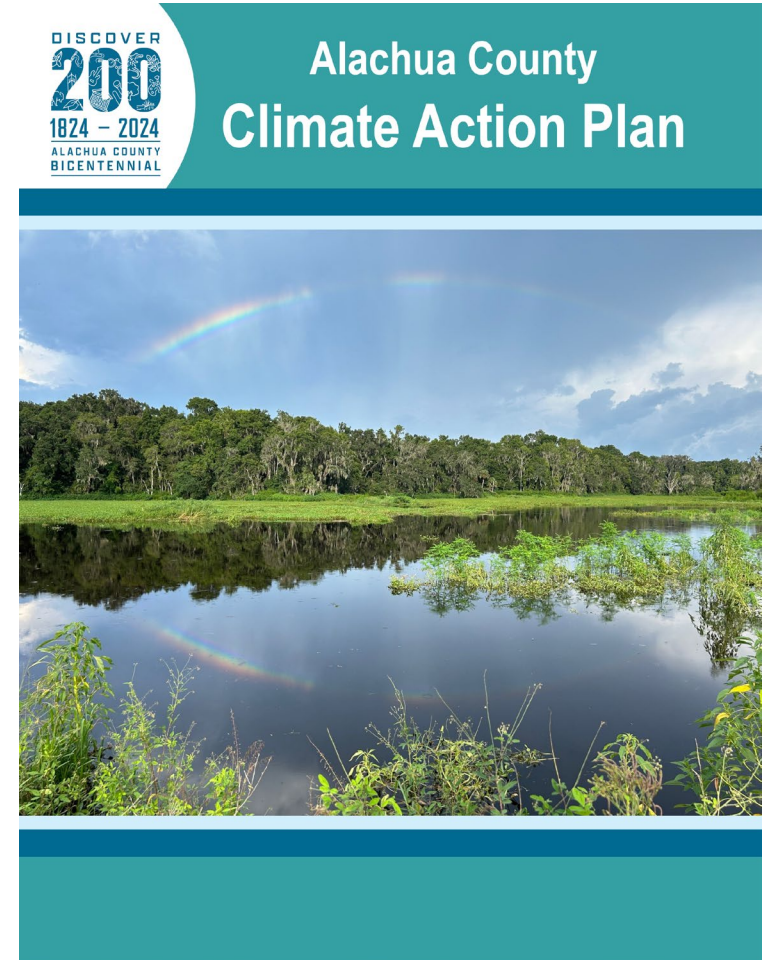
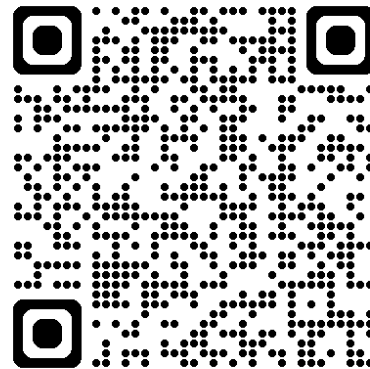
BOCC Agenda Item 25-00864

November 4, 2025



Alachua County Climate Action Plan: Overview

- Purpose: *“To guide, develop, and cultivate environmentally, socially, and economically resilient strategies and solutions to climate change for the whole community.”*
- **Final Climate Action Plan (CAP)** documents and related information posted online at tinyurl.com/Climate-Initiatives



Alachua County Climate Action Plan: Content

- Executive Summary
- Introduction
- Ch 1: Agriculture & Food Security
- Ch 2: Energy Security & Efficiency
- Ch 3: Flood Management & Infrastructure
- Ch 4: Heat & Health
- Ch 5: Land Use & Transportation
- Ch 6: Natural Resources & Conservation
- Ch 7: Waste Management & Resource Consumption
- Ch 8: Water & Aquifer Protection
- Appendices

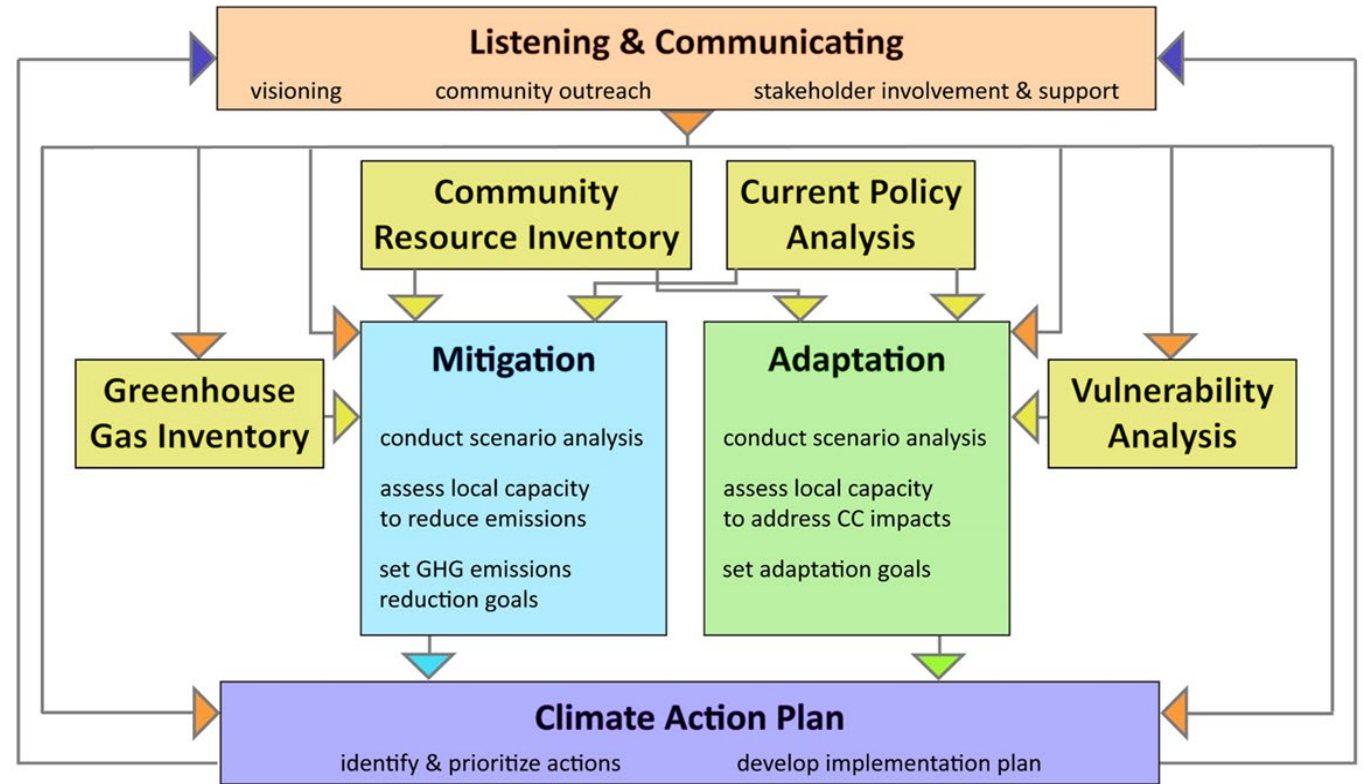


Alachua County Climate Action Plan: Process

- Citizen Climate Advisory Committee (CCAC)
 - 2023 Climate Fair
- CAP v1 Drafting by Staff
 - Climate Vulnerability Assessment
 - 2024 Climate Summit
- CAP v1 Input & v2 Draft
- CAP v2 Board Workshop
 - Final CAP Acceptance

2020

2025



*adapted from "Guiding Principles for City Climate Action Planning", UN Habitat for a Better Urban Future



Alachua County Climate Action Plan: Prior Board Motions

- August 26: **Draft Climate Action Plan Evening Workshop**
 - Direction to complete in November
- September 9: **Alachua County Strategic Guide Adopted**
 - Environment and Conservation Focus Area: *“...adoption and implementation of the Climate Action Plan...”*

Focus Area	Board Level Objectives
Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote economic growth by working collaboratively to support quality job creation, business development, and expanded access to economic opportunity throughout Alachua County. • Strengthen local public-private partnerships and advocate for state and federal investments to advance targeted economic development across the county, particularly in key areas such as food systems, circular economy, the Airport Gateway, and the Forward Focus initiative in Eastern Alachua County. • Leverage partnerships, marketing, and strategic communications to support local business retention, expansion, and attraction efforts that align with Alachua County’s values and long-term vision, especially those that support self-sufficiency, upward mobility, and generational wealth by providing training, policy innovation, and address socio-economic challenges.
Emergency Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure effective emergency response by aligning services with master plans, improving fire/rescue workforce stability, reducing response times, improving outcomes, and preparing for, developing mitigation strategies, and proactively responding to both natural and man-made disasters and developing and managing post disaster coordination. • Strengthen the County’s capacity to adapt emergency services to emerging risks, population growth, policy shifts, and community health needs. • Evaluate, implement, and/or expand innovative care models, such as community paramedicine, to address gaps in service delivery, reduce reactive emergency response needs, and improve outcomes for high-need populations.
Environment and Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect, invest in, acquire sensitive land resources, and improve the County’s natural resources — including, but not limited to water quality and supply, conservation and agricultural lands, and all other natural resources — through sound policy and ongoing stewardship. • Develop and strengthen collaboration with local jurisdictions, public and private agencies, and community partners to address regional environmental challenges and leverage shared solutions.



Alachua County Climate Action Plan: Updates Following August Board Workshop

- Added Manager’s Message and Executive Summary.
- Addressed CAP functional relationship with County Comprehensive Plan, Strategic Guide, and implementation process questions.
- Corrected errors, including clarifying confusing ‘Action Item’ wording and streamlined narrative throughout for consistency and readability.
- Drafting 1-page “snapshots” of overall CAP and topical areas for public outreach.



Alachua County Climate Action Plan: Actions Following Board Acceptance

- **Energy Security & Efficiency:** Lydia B. Stokes Foundation grant-funded County building solar array and Community Investment Fund (\$110K)
- **Flood Management & Infrastructure:** Rebuild Florida Infrastructure Repair Program (IRP) funding proposal to raise State Road 26 and improve Hatchet Creek stream crossing (\$28.6M requested)
- **Vulnerability Adaptation Planning:** County staff and Jones Edmunds evaluating and prioritizing 25 potential resiliency projects that reduce flooding, erosion, and risk to County infrastructure and critical assets



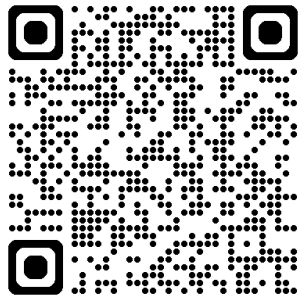
Alachua County Climate Action Plan: Actions Following Board Acceptance (cont.)

- **Natural Resources & Conservation:** Initiating Phase 1 Urban Forest Management Plan, including proposal to FDACS 2024 Community Forestry Capacity Grants (up to \$50K requested)
- **CAP Dashboard & Ongoing Outreach:** Transitioning final CAP into a transparent, dynamic, and actionable platform for public engagement
- **New “Circular Economy” Chapter:** Expanding on the *Triple Bottom Line* sections of the CAP and addressing economic and investment opportunities for County climate action



Alachua County Climate Action Plan: Next Steps

- Final CAP Board approval
- Climate Festival in Newberry
Saturday, November 15th
- CAP implementation with
annual and 5-year updates



- **County Climate Initiatives** at tinyurl.com/Climate-Initiatives
- **Climate Festival Registration** at tinyurl.com/Climate-Festival

