



Introduction to the Climate Action Plan



What is the CAP?

The Alachua County Climate Action Plan (CAP) is a guide for responding proactively to local impacts from and vulnerabilities to climate change. The CAP lays out strategies and opportunities to protect our residents, natural resources, and local economy. It describes County programs and policies to implement these strategies today while also serving as a roadmap for future action. The CAP provides recommendations for building our community’s resilience to climate impacts and improving quality of life for all who call Alachua County home.

Engaged community organizations, local businesses, and citizens are essential to successful implementation of the CAP: they provide feedback, participate in climate initiatives and events, and carry out their own important climate work every day.

If you are reading this, you are part of the solution!

Why do we need a Climate Action Plan?

Florida is one of the states facing the greatest risks from climate change, yet it is also considered underprepared for them. The CAP helps address this gap.

Climate change refers to changes in the weather over a period of decades or longer, including altered temperature, precipitation, and wind patterns. These changes can produce extreme weather events and shift what we know as “normal” weather for this area.

In recent years, the County has had record heatwaves, severe drought, dangerous wildfires, rare cold snaps, and major hurricanes. These types of extreme events are how we experience global climate change at a local level.

What is the CAP based on?

In 2024, the County completed a climate vulnerability assessment that evaluated the impacts of climate-induced threats to residents, infrastructure, natural resources, and the local economy. It identified extreme heat, heavy rainfall, and sea level rise as the primary climate threats driving outcomes of hotter days and nights, more wildfires, increased flooding, longer and more severe droughts, and influx of climate migrants to Alachua County from southern and coastal Florida communities. These outcomes, in turn, drive adverse impacts to human health, food supply, economic well-being, and natural resources.

The CAP helps strengthen our capacity to survive and thrive in a changed climate. It includes 8 topical areas, 39 goals, 54 strategies, and 184 action items that reflect opportunities for Alachua County to become more resilient, creating pathways to a safer, healthier, and more prosperous community.

This summary provides highlights to help residents understand the overall goals of the plan.

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| Agriculture & Food Security | Energy Security & Efficiency | Flood Management & Infrastructure | Heat & Health | Land Use & Transportation | Natural Resources & Conservation | Waste Management & Resource Recovery | Water & Aquifer Protection |
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To see the whole Climate Action Plan, visit tinyurl.com/Climate-Initiatives