

Vocabulary and Acronyms

V2 Alachua County Climate Action Plan (CAP) Chapters

Introduction – *[to be completed]*

Adaptation	Adjustment in natural or human systems to a new or changing environment that exploits beneficial opportunities or moderates negative effects. (EPA Watershed Academy)
Fresh Food Pathways	
Food system	
Algae Bloom	Excessive algae in a body of water, largely a result of nitrogen and phosphorus runoff.
Anthropogenic	Human caused; human made.
Aquifer	“A large underground limestone reservoir;” “the primary source of drinking water in Alachua County.” (University of Florida)
Best Management Practices (BMPs)	“... defined by law as a means, a practice or combination of practices determined by the coordinating agencies, based on research, field testing and expert review, to be the most effective and practicable on-location means, including economic and technological considerations, for improving water quality in agricultural and urban discharges.” (FDACS)
Climate Anxiety	Intense fear of climate change and its impacts.
Climate Vulnerability Analysis	An analysis of Representative Concentration Pathways (RCPs) and Shared Socio-economic Pathways (SSPs). RCPs are “scenarios based on a defined set of emissions and concentrations of greenhouse gases, aerosols, and chemically active gases and land cover assumptions that lead to a heating effect called radiative forcing.” SSPs are scenarios that “represent pathways based on possible socioeconomic futures that account for various assumptions on how the global population will mitigate and adapt to climate change.”(Alachua County Climate Vulnerability Analysis)
Edible Grove	Land with “food-bearing trees and plants available to residents.” (City of Gainesville)

EMPOWER Project	Energy Modernization for People Opportunity, Work, Equity and Renewables Program; “evaluates the benefits and challenges of developing solar project in low-income neighborhoods.” (U.S. Department of Energy)
EVs	Electric vehicles
Extreme Heat	Excessive and prolonged high temperatures, often surpassing normal seasonal averages, posing risks to health, infrastructure, and ecosystems (County Vulnerability Analysis)
Food Desert	“... Regions of the country often feature large proportions of households with low incomes, inadequate access to transportation, and a limited number of food retailers providing fresh produce and healthy groceries for affordable prices” (USDA, 2012).
Green Roof	Some kind of vegetation, primarily in the form of rooftop gardens, on roofs. They have been proven to be an effective method of mitigating UHIs (EPA, 2023).
Greenhouse Effect	The process by which GHGs “trap” heat inside the atmosphere. While this is a natural process, adding excessive amounts of greenhouse gases increases temperatures beyond a suitable point.
Greenhouse Gas (GHG)	Water vapor, carbon dioxide (CO ₂), nitrous oxide (N ₂ O), methane (CH ₄), ozone (O ₃), etc. These appear naturally in the atmosphere, though anthropogenic emissions are contributing to excess amounts.
GRU	Gainesville Regional Utilities
Mitigation	Measures to reduce the amount and rate of future climate change by reducing emissions of heat-trapping gases or removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. (NCA5 Glossary)
Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)	Waste from households
Net Zero	When anthropogenic CO ₂ emissions equal anthropogenic CO ₂ removals; carbon neutrality (IPCC, 2018).
Race to Zero	A group of over 11,000 non-state actors committed to halving emissions by 2030; created by the United Nations High Level Climate Champions.

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. Climate resilience is a subset of resilience against climate-induced or climate-related impacts. (NCA5 Glossary)
Reuse Economy	An economy which minimized single-use plastic through reusing goods.
Runoff	Water that flows over surfaces or through subsurfaces as a result of precipitation. Runoff can pollute vegetation, waterbodies, and soils if it carries contaminants.
Sea Level Rise	The gradual rise in the average global sea levels, primarily attributed to the melting of polar ice caps and expansion of our oceans resulting from an increase in global temperatures.
Sensitivity	The extent to which an exposed asset is impacted
Sustainability	<p>This describes activities that include, but are not limited the following goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tend to improve social conditions for all kinds of people • Increase economic opportunities • Improve environmental protection or restoration efforts <p>Will continue to have these effects for the foreseeable future (Alachua County)</p>
Urban Farming	Agriculture (growing of crops and raising livestock) in an urban area through backyard farming, vertical farms, green walls, and more.
Urban Heat Island (UHI)	Excess heat in urban areas as a result of infrastructure re-emitting heat from the sun (EPA, 2023).
Urban Sprawl	Urban development pattern characterized by decentralization and fragmentation, subsequently creating a higher reliance on personal vehicles (OECD, 2018).
Walkable City	A city where infrastructure and city planning is centered around walking and biking rather than cars, ensuring easy access to walkways, bicycle lanes, etc

Wastewater	
Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)	The interface where wildland and forest vegetation meet residential structures and is where wildfire poses the highest risk to people and infrastructure (Alachua County Climate Vulnerability Analysis)
Zero Waste	Zero Waste principles recognize a Hierarchy of Material Management in the following order from most preferred to least preferred: 1) Extended Producer Responsibility and Product Redesign; 2) Reduce Waste, Toxicity, Consumption, and Packaging; 3) Repair, Reuse, and Donate; 4) Recycle; 5) Compost; 6) Down Cycle and Beneficial Reuse; 7) Waste-Based Energy as disposal; 8) Landfill Waste as disposal. (City of Gainesville)

Agriculture and Food Security

Food System	A food system encompasses all the steps and actors involved in producing, processing, distributing, and consuming food. It is a complex network that involves social, economic, environmental, and cultural factors. It is made up of several interdependent processes, including aggregation and distribution mechanisms, environmental support systems, and consumer behavior and demand.
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
UF/IFAS	University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences
Food Insecurity	Low food reports of reduced quality, variety, or desirability of diet. Little or no indication of reduced food intake. Very low food: reports of multiple indications of disrupted eating patterns and reduced food intake. ¹
Food Desert	“Low-income census tracts with a substantial number or share of residents with low levels of access to retail outlets selling healthy and affordable foods” ²
Food Hub	An aggregation and distribution facility that emphasizes purchasing from local producers to sell to institutional purchasers
ACF	Alachua County Forever
ALCB	Agricultural Land Conservation Board
AFT	American Farmland Trust

¹ [Food Security in the U.S. - Definitions of Food Security | Economic Research Service](#)

² [Mapping Food Deserts in the United States | Economic Research Service](#)