



ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA

Declaration for a resource-efficient & resilient county

Declare that **energy security & sustainability** are the focus for our future. Annually review & analyze peak oil production & decline, & its potential local effects. Use this 'lens' to re-envision public service delivery.

Invite & engage the public: sustain process for consumers, energy providers, & local governments to plan & execute actions that achieve a secure & affordable energy future. Facilitate the conversation.

Take bold steps, quickly, to reduce countywide fossil fuel & water use, upgrade energy efficiency of all buildings, & implement renewable energy systems. Adopt an Alachua County Energy Element (Comprehensive Plan): establish specific goals & dates by which to achieve them; & use incentives & legislation to accomplish goals.

Adopt guiding principles: (1), optimize energy & water conservation on a per capita basis; (2), achieve maximum efficiencies in building envelopes, machinery, & appliances; and then, (3), effect optimum use of local renewable energy resources. Resolve to aggressively cut electricity consumption.

Prepare for energy-uncertain future: develop & adopt 'emergency energy curtailment & contingency plan' to delineate priority cutbacks in energy use in the event of critical energy shortages. Include steps to immediately implement in the public sector, & those that can be encouraged in the private sector. Annually update.

Maximize local resource & energy-efficient food production and processing within County food shed. Reduce County government fossil-fuel use: 50% GHG reduction by 2030, & 80% GHG reduction by 2050. Use Interlocal Agreements to accomplish county-wide energy self-sufficiency goals.

Reduce community use of liquid fossil fuels: by 2020,

- Increase vehicle occupancy/ridership by at least 25%.
- Double fuel consumption efficiency of Alachua County government fleet. Move to non-fossil fuel fleets as soon as possible. Encourage commercial & private fleets to accomplish same.
- Reduce by 1/2 the 13,500 annual (2008) miles driven by each registered Alachua County driver.
- Reduce single occupancy vehicle trips by 25%.
- Maximize mobility opportunities: create infrastructure & pathways for NEVs & other electric vehicles; expand public transit, telecommuting & flexible operating hours; use van pools; car pools; ridesharing; car share companies. Encourage MTPO to adopt these policies & goals.

Include review of peak oil production & decline in all analyses of transportation needs: (1), determine potential future transportation & land use scenarios necessary to mitigate local effects of peak oil production & decline; & (2), recommend alternatives to accomplish transportation & land use mitigation strategies.

Make energy security & sustainability the primary consideration in decisions about land use mix, density with amenities & design. Adopt land use & development policies that maximize energy efficiency & result in reduced countywide energy consumption.



ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA

Declaration for a resource-efficient & resilient county

Maximize carbon sequestration throughout all County operations. Minimize carbon credits that must be purchased for government operations & power production. Develop County organizational capacity to participate in carbon markets (revenue source).

Capture economic opportunity of energy technology & develop green-collar employment:

- Encourage the location & development of energy-efficiency & renewable energy technology businesses & industry clusters. Support existing local businesses engaged in same.
- Further develop the County Transfer Station for use by clusters of waste-based industries. Invite industry to use Alachua County waste & discards in manufacturing or related activity
- Support local production of non-fossil fuel-based transportation fuels (minimum 5.0 million gallons per year), with feedstock grown in a certified sustainable manner. Ensure feedstock does not compete with food production. Sustainable growth of energy crops on environmentally damaged lands (closed County landfills) could provide revenue or liquid fuel for County government.

Require that life-cycle GHG analysis & energy costs form the basis of all County government decisions:

- Use or generation of fuel/sources (give equal consideration to minimizing toxic pollutants and strict enforcement of US EPA guidelines);
- County building construction & purchasing;
- Waste management policy.

Support local nonprofit organizations that help disadvantaged populations: develop County bulk purchasing method to provide lower-cost weatherization & energy-efficiency materials to be used by local non-profit groups. Accomplish dual public purpose of promoting energy security for our neighbors with lower incomes, & increased safety in currently substandard homes. Require full disclosure (using an approved energy rating system, such as Home Energy Rating System - HERS) of total monthly costs, including rent and all utilities.

Weatherize & increase efficiency of all County buildings. Reserve a percentage of annual CIP budget for energy conservation & energy efficiency projects. Use funds to purchase energy conservation equipment, building materials & programs that demonstrably reduce energy consumption.

Become a local government renewable energy provider, either through distributed or utility-scale production. Require use of solar energy & other renewable energy resources in new buildings; encourage increased use in existing buildings. Encourage distributed, renewable power generation & a countywide "smart grid". Advocate equitable net metering & feed-in tariffs.

Create innovative financing mechanisms to encourage & effect optimum use of energy-efficiency upgrades, other energy saving measures & renewable energy in owned & rental property. Develop pilot projects that seek a reduction in government energy use. Identify & seek out funding partners for energy conservation, energy efficiency, renewable energy & sustainability activities.

Make energy issues the focus in both State and Federal legislative efforts. Demand that the United States government adopt an energy strategy that mitigates peak oil & decline, & provides financial assistance to local government & regional implementation to accomplish these goals.