

ALACHUA COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN POLICIES RELATED TO SOLAR ENERGY AND FACILITIES

Future Land Use Element

- Policy 5.1.2 The following uses are considered institutional and governmental uses in Alachua County:
- (a) Public and Private Educational Facilities (meeting State of Florida compulsory education requirements), Day Care Centers, and Nursery Schools.
 - (b) Community Services (e.g. civic and government facilities, fire and emergency services, law enforcement, health facilities, community service organizations, correctional facilities).
 - (c) Public Utility, Communications or Infrastructure Services (e.g. utility transmission and distribution facilities, landfills).
 - (d) Religious Facilities; and
 - (e) Cemeteries.

OBJECTIVE 5.2 - LOCATION AND COMPATIBILITY

- Policy 5.2.1 The following criteria shall determine the appropriateness of potential institutional locations and uses requiring special use permits shall be demonstrated prior to establishing the institutional use:
- (a) Optimum service area.
 - (b) Optimum operating size.
 - (c) Access to clientele.
 - (d) Compatibility of the scale and intensity of the use in relationship to surrounding uses, taking into account impacts such as, noise, lighting, visual effect, traffic generation, odors.
 - (e) Nature of service provision.
 - (f) Needs of the clientele.
 - (g) Availability and adequacy of public infrastructure to serve the particular use.
 - (h) Preservation and strengthening of community and neighborhood character through design.
 - (i) Consistency with the goals, objectives, and policies of the Conservation and Open Space Element.

Policy 5.2.2 Institutional facilities shall be designed and located for integration into the surrounding community. Land use decisions concerning location of institutional uses shall take into consideration environmental justice.

OBJECTIVE 5.5 - PUBLIC UTILITY, COMMUNICATION, OR INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

Infrastructure and utility structures, such as communication towers, personal wireless service facilities, radio and television antennas, water and sewer, and energy generation and distribution facilities shall be designed and located to eliminate or minimize adverse visual impacts on the landscape.

Policy 5.5.1 Public utilities distribution facilities (electrical, gas, telephone, and cable) shall be located in common corridors where practical from an engineering and economic standpoint to reduce land costs and to minimize the impacts of exposing new land to such uses. The land development regulations shall specify the factors that would be applicable to the location of such utilities distribution facilities in common corridors to the extent such locational decisions are within the County’s legal authority. Factors that shall be addressed in determining practicality include things such as compliance with federal, state and local codes, safety and maintenance requirements relating to horizontal and vertical separation of facilities, soil and subsurface conditions and structures, efficiency and sustainable delivery to the end user, and ability of different utility providers to secure necessary coordination with other providers in a timely manner.

- (a) Public utilities shall be permitted in all land use categories subject to appropriate locational criteria in the land development regulations.

Definitions:

Public utility (electric, gas, telephone and cable): Every person, corporation, partnership, association, or other legal entity and their lessees, trustees, or receivers, whether or not owned, controlled, or operated by a public entity, supplying electricity, gas (natural, manufactured, or similar gaseous substance), telephone, or cable to or for the public.

Energy Element

GOAL

REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND FOSSIL FUEL CONSUMPTION; MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF RISING ENERGY COSTS; AND PROMOTE THE LONG-TERM ECONOMIC SECURITY OF ALACHUA COUNTY THROUGH ENERGY CONSERVATION, ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY PRODUCTION.

STRATEGY:

Priority 1

Practice energy conservation.

Priority 2

Maximize energy efficiency.

Priority 3

Promote and invest in renewable energy production.

Policy 2.1.1. The land development regulations shall provide, and encourage the use of, energy efficient design techniques such as passive solar design for streets and houses, sustainable landscaping, and techniques identified in Objective 5.1 of the Conservation and Open Space Element and Policy 2.2.5 of the Housing Element.

Policy 4.1.2 The County shall collaborate with other local governments to investigate the use of alternative fuel sources such as biofuel, methane, electric and/or solar in government fleets.

OBJECTIVE 5.2

Increase the use of renewable energy in County government.

Policy 5.2.1 The County's goal by 2030 is that 100% of energy purchased or produced for County facilities be from solar photovoltaic sources, with an interim target of 50% by 2025.

Policy 5.2.3 Pursue funding to develop alternative energy facilities that would be capable of producing energy from anaerobic digestion, solar energy, biodiesel or other forms of sustainable energy resources.

OBJECTIVE 6.2

Increase the use of solar and other forms of renewable energy by County residents, businesses and agricultural operations.

Policy 6.2.1 Encourage and provide incentives for installing solar arrays on rooftops and other impervious spaces, and remove any barriers to their installation in such areas.

Policy 6.2.2 Provide incentives for use of open space areas within Rural Clustered Subdivisions for renewable energy production in accordance with Policy 6.2.12 of the Future Land Use Element.

Policy 8.1.3 Partner with local utility providers, municipalities and the University of Florida to make information available to the public on their personal energy usage and possible conservation techniques, the benefits of using renewable energy, and the local, state and federal incentives and programs available to assist with the installation of solar and other forms of renewable energy.

DEFINITIONS

Passive solar design: A broad term used to describe non-mechanical design of a building's infrastructure that allows regulation of internal temperature. Principles include orientation of room, location of windows and thermal mass (a material's ability to store heat).

Renewable Energy (see also Alternative Energy): Systems that generate energy from non-fossil fuel resources that are locally harvested, collected or concentrated in such a way as to not deplete nor imperil the resource base from which they are derived. These systems are meant to supplant fossil fuel based energy production and are best implemented after conservation and energy efficiency opportunities have been maximized. (e.g. solar photovoltaic panels or solar thermal systems, geothermal energy for heating or cooling of structures, biomass, biodiesel, cellulosic ethanol, wind turbines, methane production via anaerobic digestion from organic materials and discarded foodstuffs).

Housing Element

Policy 2.2.5 Alachua County shall collaborate with the Alachua County Cooperative Extension Office, the banking community, the builders' associations and other interested parties, to determine ways builders can incorporate "Sustainable Building" technologies in the construction of affordable housing, through the following areas:

- (b) Energy (e.g., Energy Star ratings, traditional, local vernacular techniques of climate sensitive design, passive solar design, landscaping for energy conservation, site development and unit orientation (e.g. north/south rather than east/west windows)) that takes advantage of the natural shade and lighting available, radiant barrier and ridge and soffit venting, earth sheltered design, solar heating and cooling systems, photovoltaic systems, gas water heating systems, ductwork, fans, energy recovery ventilators, programmable thermostats, energy efficient appliances)