



COMMUNITY
WEATHERIZATION
COALITION

Report on Annual Accomplishments 2024

In late 2024, the Community Weatherization Coalition (CWC), hit a major milestone for our organization, reaching **2,000** households served since our 2008 with our in-home and DIY tune-up programs! Our organization has faced a lot of hardships with our funding the past few months. The most heartbreaking was our 16+ year partnership and service contract from Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU) coming to an end in October. As difficult as this news was, the CWC will persevere, and we are determined in our efforts to continue to save as much money and resources for our neighbors as possible.

The CWC has scaled in a sustainable way and since spring of 2023, as we have maintained four paid staff, two full-time and two part-time. Our newest part-time Program Assistant, Hannah Rye, is our first staff member fluent in Spanish. She started as a volunteer last fall, working on finishing translating our materials and was hired this April. She is now helping us with outreach and booking to increase community member accessibility to our tune-up services.

We are very excited to share the news that the [Alachua County Energy Efficiency Program \(ACEEP\)](#) was reviewed by the County Board of Commissioners in November 2024 and has been approved to expand to a full program after the pilot phase. The program will be evolving to help increase its success, including expanding the service area and allowing our team to also serve residents within city limits. This ACEEP program works to help low-income renters in Alachua County with next level energy efficiency upgrades such as new HVAC systems, water heaters, air sealing, and more, while maintaining affordability in rental costs. CWC schedules and performs tune-ups on qualified units and our partners at Rebuilding Together coordinate the contractors and next-level upgrades. After a slow start and setbacks to the program, our team collaborated with researchers to address barriers. We held focus groups this summer with property owners to gain valuable insights to improve the program, and with the skilled support of an American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) Technical Assistance Grant and their team's expertise, developed surveys which were distributed to rental property owners and tenants this summer.

We continue to advocate and provide training for expansion of home energy efficiency programs in Alachua County and in other counties in Florida, supported by a two-year grant from UF IFAS Extension, and we continue to be engaged as a community team member with the Alachua County NAACP, CareerSource, Santa Fe College, Alachua County Public Schools, City, County, and local utility to work with the US Department of Energy EMPOWER Project to develop ambitious energy programs for three underserved local neighborhoods. Through an innovative institutional solar leasing program, the coalition aims to generate long-term benefits from solar energy for communities in need of these and other improvements through lease funds channeled into a community-managed fund to pay for these improvements over at least three decades. A pilot began in late 2024 to provide next-level energy upgrades and weatherization services to households from each of the three targeted neighborhoods in Gainesville to help build trust, lower utility bills, improve safety and comfort and help keep people in their homes. We are grateful to be a part of this project driven by the community and to see where they take us in the coming months, and years, ahead!

Highlights from 2024:

- 29 DIY households reached.
- Carried out 150 in-home tune-ups, and an additional 42 ACEEP-qualified in-home tune-ups targeting low-income rental properties, for a total of 192 in-home tune-ups.
- Trained 57 volunteer energy coaches in 2024, to help us serve our neighbors here in Alachua County and beyond! Several UF IFAS Extension Agents joined us at both our spring and fall sessions to learn from our program, in aims to take it home to their counties and adapt CWC-like programs.
- Served 4 homeowners in 2024 with our upgrade program, to address next-level repairs such as low-flow toilets, water heaters, energy efficient refrigerators, address air gaps, and more to deepen our impact.
- Coordinated over 120 generous volunteers who gave their time last year and contributed over 3,000 hours to help their neighbors & conserve natural resources.



Other major accomplishments in 2024, include the following:

The Florida Energy Equity Coalition (FEEC), a Task Force initiated by the CWC with UF IFAS County Extension in 2020, has been successful this year in moving towards a funded pilot program in Florida counties. The FEEC team has received \$189,000 in funding for a two-year pilot program which will be administered by UF's Program for Resource Efficient Communities (PREC). The funding will provide resources to extension agents in counties where home energy efficiency programs are being expanded. The funds include \$18,000 over the next two years to the CWC to compensate for training and consulting services provided. In late June, two CWC staffers and a skilled CWC volunteer joined PREC and Stetson University staff and AmeriCorps members in partnership with the Neighborhood Center of West Volusia in Deland, Florida to train Extension agents and provide training and support for eight residents. Our biannual energy coach training sessions hosted 5-7 Extension Agents at each session this year. We are so excited to see what they'll do in the months ahead with their newfound energy efficiency skills and CWC training, and now funding to support them in their efforts!



From inspiring new energy and water efficiency programs across the state, to playing a key role in a rental upgrade pilot program for our most vulnerable and utility-burdened Alachua County neighbors, we are grateful to our supporters who allowed us to **serve 225 households** in 2024 while continuing to adapt, learn, and grow to best serve our neighbors.

In gratitude,



Alane Humrich
CWC Program Director