

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2021-1017

TITLE: Resolution Supporting the University of Florida Committing to 100% Renewable Energy by 2040

AUTHOR(S): Senator Alejandra Chaparro, Senator Samuel Shoemaker

SPONSORS: Senator Santiago Clavijo-Gomez, Senator Ella McIver, Senator Zachary Roher, Judiciary Chairman Noah Fineberg

WHEREAS, climate change is an imminent threat to current and future generations at the University of Florida; and,

WHEREAS, at our current rate sea levels will rise up to 17 inches above the 2000 mean sea level by 2040 and up to 54 inches by 2070; and, [1]

WHEREAS, more than 40 colleges and universities obtain 100% or more of their electricity from renewable energy sources [2]; and,

WHEREAS, the entire University of California System [3], Florida State University [4], the University of West Florida [5], the University of Central Florida [5], the University of South Florida [6], and colleges throughout the nation [2] have committed to 100% renewable energy; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida's Office of Sustainability is currently updating its 2009 Climate Action Plan to address concerns about emissions and energy usage [7]; and,

WHEREAS, University of Florida students and college students throughout the nation have been at the forefront of climate action and change; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the need for the University of Florida to divest from fossil fuels to lead the State of Florida in renewable energy, following in the footsteps of colleges and universities throughout the country.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate urges the University of Florida to reduce their energy consumption through increased efficiency, to invest in electricity from renewable sources like solar and wind, to transition building systems to electric sources, and to swap fossil-fuel-powered vehicles for electric vehicles.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate urges the University of Florida to make a public commitment to transition towards powering the University using 100% clean, renewable energy by 2040, including all electricity, building systems, and campus-owned vehicles.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Office of Sustainability, President Kent W. Fuchs, Student Body President Trevor Pope, Student Body President-Elect Cooper Brown, Associate Vice President and Dean of Students Dr. Heather White, and Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. D'Andra Mull.

[1] <https://www.floridacclimateinstitute-uf.org/climate-change-compact-publishes-guidance-report-an-d-updated-regionally-unified-sea-level-rise-projection-for-southeast-florida/>

[2] <https://environmentamerica.org/reports/ame/america%E2%80%99s-top-colleges-renewable-energy-2020>

[3] <https://www.utilitydive.com/news/university-of-california-system-commits-to-100-clean-energy-by-2025/532419/>

[4] <https://environmentfloridacenter.org/news/flc/student-government-florida-state-university-it%E2%80%99s-time-commit-100-renewable-energy>

[5] <https://environmentfloridacenter.org/news/flc/student-governments-ucf-and-uwf-call-100-percent-renewable-energy-commitments>

[6] [http://www.usforacle.com/2021/03/23/sg-passes-resolution-in-support-of-a-100-renewable-energy-university-by-2040/#:~:text=The%20Student%20Government%20\(SG\)%20Senate,100%25%20renewable%20energy%20by%202040.](http://www.usforacle.com/2021/03/23/sg-passes-resolution-in-support-of-a-100-renewable-energy-university-by-2040/#:~:text=The%20Student%20Government%20(SG)%20Senate,100%25%20renewable%20energy%20by%202040.)

[7] <https://news.ufl.edu/2019/11/campus-climate-action-plan/>