

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2022-1002

TITLE: Resolution Recognizing and Upholding the Zero Waste Mission Commitment

AUTHOR(S): Minority Party Leader Gabrielle Adekunle

SPONSORS: Deputy Minority Party Leader Faith Corbett, Senator Oscar Santiago, Senator Spencer Gorelick, Senator Adrienne Weston, Senator Lila Turner, Senator Hiba Karim, Judiciary Chairwoman Casey Mason, Senate President Pro-Tempore Fineberg, Senate President Groux, Judiciary Vice Chair Sean Harkins, Majority Party Leader John Brinkman, Senator Andrew Priest, Senator Ryan Rosenfelt, Senator Mason Solomon, Senator Taylor Soukup

WHEREAS, on August 31st, 2021, the City of Gainesville Zero Waste Subcommittee, an extension of the Gainesville City Commission, addressed and implemented an updated solid waste ordinance in order to further the elimination of “all discharges to land, water, or air that are a threat to planetary, human, animal, or plant health”, as outlined by grassroots initiative Zero Waste Gainesville; and,

WHEREAS, the developments towards solid waste prevention came out of statistics projecting Alachua County’s 27th rank in county-wide recycling in 2019, and over 250,000 tons of solid waste added to landfills in recent years; and, [1]

WHEREAS, this ordinance reflects the Environmental Protection Agency’s recent “Food Recovery Hierarchy” which showcases the preferences in focused food recovery and food waste prevention policies, and the needs of waste source reduction overall as the *priority* within sustainability efforts; and,

WHEREAS, the need for cooperative and pragmatic climate action between the University of Florida and the greater Gainesville area will bolster the prevention of severe climate change and environmental instability over the next decades; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida and its Office of Sustainability extension have recognized the importance of climate action through implementations of numerous initiatives such as Neutral UF Coalition, which is leading the efforts to reaching carbon neutrality by 2025; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the importance of climate action by striving to uphold the mission to reduce “all to most discharges to land, water, or air that are a threat to planetary, human, animal, or plant health” by the year 2030.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the need to develop engagement events and programs between themselves and the University of Florida’s Office of Sustainability in order to address and bolster the importance of climate action within the University of Florida.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the significance of implementing financial allocations to resources serving to fight food insecurity, high-level waste conglomeration, and significant carbon emissions across campus.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to University of Florida President W. Kent Fuchs, Provost Joseph Glover, Director of UF's Office of Sustainability Matthew I. Williams, Student Body President Cooper Brown, the Alachua County Commission, Mayor Lauren Poe, the Gainesville City Commission and the Zero Waste Subcommittee

[1] <https://www.alligator.org/article/2021/09/solid-waste-ordinance>

[2] <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/food-recovery-hierarchy>

[3] <https://gainesville.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=3478003&GUID=7D3CD0CF-FF6F-4F7F-8B6F-40CA29350223&Options=ID%7CText%7C&Search=zero+waste>