



Student Senate

3000 J. Wayne Reitz Union
PO Box 118505
Gainesville, FL 32611
352-392-1665

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2022-1030

TITLE: Resolution Recognizing the Need for Alternative Energy Sources in the Reitz Union

AUTHORS: Deputy Minority Leader Mohammed Faisal

SPONSORS: Senator Oscar Santiago, Senator Raj Mia, Senator Jonathan C. Stephens, Minority Leader Faith Corbett, Senator Connor Panish, Senator Anjali Natarajan, Senator Hana Ali, Senator Savannah Partridge, Senator Ryan Athay, Judiciary Chairman John Brinkman, Judiciary Vice-Chair Mason Solomon, Member-at-Large Jacey Cable, Majority Party Leader Emily Pecora, Member-at-Large Nyla Pierre, Senator Julia Haley, Senator Mary Hanania, Senator Jagger Leach, Senator Sidney Ruedas, Senator Taylor Soukup, Senator Mara Vaknin, Senator Blake Cox, Senator Shelby Schultz, Senator Abhay Tak, Senator Bradley Thomas, Senator Zachary Bon, Senator Jack Knupfer, Senator Bronson Allemand, Senator Faith Allen, Senator Johnny Liu, Senator Aidan Sakata, Senator Elijah Bloyer, Senator Charlize Ramos, Senator Timothy Shin, Senator Ryan Marcus, Senator Kelby Berollet, Senator Paola Torro, Senator Saketh Damera, Senator Ethan Ghozali, Senator Jacob Kanfer

WHEREAS, the University of Florida recognizes energy use is the primary contributor to the University of Florida’s overall greenhouse gas emissions and is currently working to address energy use all across campus [1]; and,

WHEREAS, starting in 2010, the University of Florida has been involved with a variety of solar energy projects, with Progress Energy Florida’s SunSense Solar Schools Program [1] [2]; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida has set a goal of carbon neutrality by 2025 and has been implementing major changes to achieve said goal [3]; and,

WHEREAS, the Reitz Student Union was renovated in 2016 with the intent for solar energy and is currently LEED Gold Certified [4]; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida’s solar panels are contributing 0.65% of UF’s annual electricity consumption [5]; and,

WHEREAS, other universities, such as UNC Chapel Hill in 2015, added solar panel systems at their Student Union and it was used with an energy monitor showing real-time energy generation information [6]; and,

WHEREAS, the Student Body has historically advocated for the University of Florida to invest in solar energy [7]; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the need for the Reitz Student Union to look into implementing alternative energy sources; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate will support the Reitz Student Union in any efforts to obtain Grants, Federal or State Programs, or other ways of funding for alternative energy sources; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED the University of Florida Student Senate commits itself to support any big 5 entities that wish to explore alternative energy sources to move towards carbon neutrality by 2025.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to Senior Director of the Reitz Union Dwayne Isaacs, Director of the Office of Sustainability Matthew Williams, and Sustainable Building Coordinator Dustin Stephany.

- [1] <https://sustainable.ufl.edu/campus-initiatives/energy/>
- [2] <https://news.ufl.edu/archive/2012/09/progress-energy-florida-gives-solar-array-to-uf.html>
- [3] <https://sustainable.ufl.edu/campus-initiatives/uf-climate-action/>
- [4] <https://facilities.ufl.edu/sustainability/certified-sustainable-buildings/>
- [5] <https://sustainable.ufl.edu/campus-initiatives/energy/renewable-energy/>
- [6] <https://respc.web.unc.edu/projects-2/solar-panel-system-on-the-student-union/>
- [7] <https://www.wcjb.com/content/news/Activists-in-Gainesville-protest-with-Youth-Climate-Strike-565907081.htm>

Elizabeth Hartzog

8/12/2022 | 10:48 AM EDT

Elizabeth Hartzog
Senate President

Date