

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2023-1199**TITLE:** Senate Resolution Recognizing October as Sustainability Month**AUTHOR(S):** Green Caucus Chairman Nathaniel Pelton**SPONSOR(S):** Senate President Oscar Santiago Perez, Judiciary Chair Jonathan C. Stephens, Judiciary Vice-Chair Joaquin R. C. Marcelino, Senator Hana Ali, Senator Chalisa Budhai, Senator Saketh Damara

WHEREAS, the University of Florida Student Senate is committed to fostering a culture of sustainability, environmental stewardship, and responsible citizenship within the university community; and,

WHEREAS, eminent universities across the nation, including Cornell University [1], the University of California, Davis [2], and the University of Kentucky [3], have effectively established a dedicated 'Month of Sustainability' serving as an occasion to heighten awareness, educate, and engage with their students, faculty, and staff on matters encompassing sustainability, environmental preservation, and ecological responsibility; and,

WHEREAS, campuses such as Vanderbilt University have utilized the month of October to orchestrate sustainability fairs, community cleanup initiatives, and educational seminars aimed at advocating environmentally conscious behaviors [4]; and,

WHEREAS, the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education recognizes the month of October as "an international celebration of sustainability in higher education [...] to engage and inspire incoming students and other campus stakeholders to become sustainability change agents," [5]; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida Student Government has demonstrated its dedication to such sustainability endeavors through the Gators Going Green Executive Agency, which promotes "sustainable initiatives, address[es] the needs of the student body for future generations, and establishing a permanent culture of environmental awareness," [6]; and,

WHEREAS, designating October as Sustainability Month aligns with the University of Florida Office of Sustainability's pledge to "encourag[e] and facilitat[e] the collaborative efforts of faculty, students, and staff to generate knowledge, acquire skills, develop values, and initiate practices that contribute to a sustainable, high quality of life on campus, in the state of Florida, and across the globe," [7]; and,

WHEREAS, setting aside a month for sustainability activities promotes a feeling of shared responsibility, inspires positive change, and encourages collaboration among students, faculty, staff, and the broader community; now,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate officially designates the month of October as "Sustainability Month" at the University of Florida.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate encourages the University of Florida Administration, the Student Government Executive Branch, student organizations, academic departments, and pertinent entities to collaboratively organize a diverse array of events and activities throughout "Sustainability Month." These initiatives should advance sustainable practices, enlighten the community on environmental concerns, and spotlight the ongoing sustainability projects taking place on campus.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to Student Body President Olivia Green, Gators Going Green Agency Head, UF Office of Sustainability Program Coordinator Kaylee August, UF Office of Sustainability Coordinator Corey Farmer, and University of Florida President Benjamin Sasse.

[1]<https://events.cornell.edu/event/SustainabilityMonth2022>

[2]<https://health.ucdavis.edu/insideout/news/headlines/leadership-message-celebrate-campus-sustainability-month-throughout-october/2022/10>

[3]<https://www.uky.edu/sustainability/october-national-campus-sustainability-month>

[4]<https://news.vanderbilt.edu/2017/10/06/celebrate-campus-sustainability-month-with-semosustainvu-in-october/>

[5]<https://www.aashe.org/get-involved/campus-sustainability-month/>

[6]<https://sg.ufl.edu/branches/executive/agencies/>

[7]<https://sustainable.ufl.edu/about/looking-forward/>


Oscar Santiago Perez
Senate President

9/11/23
Date