

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1183

TITLE: Resolution for Green New Deal at UF – Volume I (Adoption of the Climate Action Plan 2.0)

AUTHOR: Senator Meagan Lamey

SPONSOR(S): Senate President John Brinkman, Senate President Pro-Tempore Saketh Damera, Member-at-Large Laurel Wentworth, Member-at-Large Maya Idiculla, Rules and Ethics Chairwoman Samantha Kinggard, Majority Party Leader Julia Seifer, Minority Party Leader Nathaniel Pelton, Deputy Minority Party Leader Anamika Naidu, Senator Arturo Zárrate, Senator Allan Rivera Jaramillo, Senator Elizabeth Insuasti, Senator Isha Khan, Senator Daniel Permane, Senator Simone Liang, Senator Anghelo Gangano, Senator Michael Lim, Green Caucus Chair and Senator Zoe Richter, Senator Chalisa Budhai, Senator Antonio Hendricks, Senator Evan Rafanan, Senator Charlie Werner, Senator Hunter Monson, Senator Monorath Khinsim, Senator Max Banach, Senator Vivian Phung, Student Recreational Sports Chair and Senator Raj Mia, Senator Sarah Hoffer, Senator Caitlyn Mathews, Senator Ana Alvarez, Senator Zach Arzt, Senator Aditi Sarkar, Senator Laura Jane Bryan, Senator Abby Whitaker, Senator Shawn Kapersaud, Green Caucus Vice-Chair and Senator Conor Rufin, Senator Damian Rodriguez, Senator Watson Hewitt III, Senator Jordan Gebaide, Senator Coe Leavengood, Senator Christian Jubran, Senator Jonathan Bedine, Senator Aleah Henley, Senator Jason Von Holten, Senator Angelina Fentress, Senator Kishan Nayak, Senator Emma Gaul, Senator Freddi Rappoport, Senator Annabella Vigna, Senator Isabel Penin, Senator Gabriel Filomino Vargas, Senator Owen Lekebusch, Senator Catherine Isakson, Pride Student Union President Johnathon Chance Stevens, Sunrise Movement Gainesville President Sofia Aviles, Climate Action Gator President Campbell Al-Khafaji, University of Florida College Democrats President Sabrina Briceno, Young Democratic Socialists of America Co-Chair Syd Engstrom, Planned Parenthood Generation Action at the University of Florida President Amelia Packham, United Nations Association Gainesville President Ariana Ramos-Mercado, Students for Sensible Drug Policy President Madeline Comorat, Baking for Wellness Treasurer Oscar Santiago Perez, Society of Conservation Biology President Kaleigh Conroy, American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers President Lucas Avery, Minority Pre-Legal Society President Tara Kari, Eco-Gator Vice President Julia Dirvis

WHEREAS, the climate crisis is a defining challenge of the twenty-first century. The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued a report in 2018 urging the necessity to reduce global emissions by 45% by 2030 (from 2010 levels) to prevent the worst consequences of climate change [1]; and,

WHEREAS, the state of Florida is especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, “In the coming decades, rising temperatures are likely to increase storm damages, harm coral reefs, increase the frequency of unpleasantly hot days, and reduce the risk of freezing to Florida’s agriculture” [2]; and,

WHEREAS, as a leader in climate science, the University of Florida has a responsibility to model the types of climate policy that institutions around the world should be adopting; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida is a proud top public university [3]; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida lost their top five spot on the U.S News ranking in 2023 [4]; and,

WHEREAS, every university in the top ten ranking from U.S News has an updated climate action plan except the University of Florida [5-12]; and,

WHEREAS, In 2006, former UF president Bernie Machen acknowledged the urgency demanded by the impending climate crisis, and as such committed UF to become a leader in sustainability and mitigation efforts; and,

WHEREAS, Machen’s proposal, the UF Climate Action Plan (CAP), and its more recent successor, CAP 2.0, have stalled in the wake of Ben Sasses’ inauguration as UF President [13]; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the urgent need for the adoption of the Climate Action Plan 2.0; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the adoption of the Climate Action Plan 2.0 as a guiding pillar of a Green New Deal for the University of Florida which it endorses the implementation of; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate calls upon Florida legislators and higher education institutions to take action to address the climate crisis in an urgent manner.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, Chair of the Board of Governors Brian Lamb, Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Shawn Hamilton, University President Ben Sasse, Board of Trustees Chair Mori Hosseini, Vice President of Business Affairs Curtis Reynolds, Student Body President Olivia Elizabeth Green, Sustainability Committee Chair Andrew Zimmerman, Sustainability Committee

Vice Chair Jessica Sheffield, Office of Sustainability Director Matthew Williams, Office of Sustainability Senior Programs Director Liz Storn, and Gators Going Green Agency Head Samantha Simon, The Audubon Society UF President Natalia Fuentes, UNLITTER UF President Isabella Mati, Thrift Club President Emma Hanley, and Senator Asif Islam

Florida State Representative Anna Eskamani endorses this bill. Further, the author and sponsors of this bill recognize Cameron Driggers as a co-author to this resolution.

[1]<https://www.ipcc.ch/2018/10/08/summary-for-policymakers-of-ipcc-special-report-on-global-warming-of-1-5c-approved-by-governments/>

[2]<https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2016-08/documents/climate-change-fl.pdf>

[3]<https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges/rankings/national-universities/top-public>

[4]<https://www.alligator.org/article/2023/09/uf-loses-top-5-ranking#:~:text=A%20after%20a%20meteoric%20five%20year,Best%20College%20rankings%20released%20Sept.>

[5][https://ucgreennewdealcoalition.net/index.php/ucb/#:~:text=UC%20Berkeley%20is%20a%20very,which%20is%20usually%20a%20lot\).](https://ucgreennewdealcoalition.net/index.php/ucb/#:~:text=UC%20Berkeley%20is%20a%20very,which%20is%20usually%20a%20lot).)

[6]<https://ucgreennewdealcoalition.net/index.php/ucla/>

https://finance.umich.edu/sites/default/files/2023-04/treasury-green-bond-report-2023_3.pdf

[7]<https://facilities.unc.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/256/2021/08/a-21-sustainability.pdf>

[8]<https://sustainability.virginia.edu/climate-action>

[9]<https://ucgreennewdealcoalition.net/index.php/ucd/>

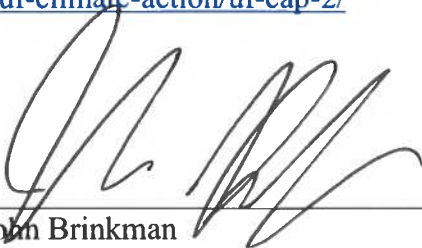
[10]<https://ucgreennewdealcoalition.net/index.php/ucsd/#:~:text=The%20Green%20New%20Deal%20at%20UC%20San%20Diego%20is%20a,retirees%20affiliated%20with%20our%20university.>

[11]<https://sustainability.utexas.edu/about/planning-policy>

[12]<https://iac.gatech.edu/news/item/617518/green-deal-proposal-overlooks-element-georgia-tech-professor-says>

<https://ucgreennewdealcoalition.net/index.php/uci/>

[13]<https://sustainable.ufl.edu/campus-initiatives/uf-climate-action/uf-cap-2/>



John Brinkman
Senate President

3/1/2024

Date