

Florida Youth Seek 100% Renewable Energy Goal for State

Youth in Florida are filing a petition for rulemaking with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) asking it to establish a goal to generate 100% of Florida's electricity from renewable energy by 2050. This is part of an international, youth-led legal campaign that is supported by the nonprofit public interest law firm, <u>Our Children's Trust</u>, which also represented and supported the Florida youth plaintiffs in *Reynolds v. State of Florida* and currently represent the 21 youth plaintiffs in the federal constitutional climate case <u>Juliana v. United States</u>.

All young Floridians under the age of 25 are invited to <u>sign onto the petition</u>, which will be filed with FDACS in January 2022.

Why Join This Petition for Rulemaking?

- Florida is ground zero for climate change. The climate crisis is already having devastating impacts on Florida: rising sea levels and resultant flooding, beach erosion and damage to coastal property, extreme damage to marine ecosystems, spread of infectious diseases, and increased severity of storms and extreme weather events. Florida's tourism, agriculture, and recreation industries are all suffering.
- Florida is the third largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the U.S. Florida's state government has known for decades of the dangers of climate change but has done little to protect its youngest citizens by taking aggressive action to avert the crisis.
- Only 4.3% of Florida's electricity comes from renewable sources, while natural gas makes up 75% of Florida's electricity system. Even though the Florida legislature has mandated an increase in the use of renewable energy and a reduction in the state's dependence on fossil fuels, Florida's electricity system is still dominated by fossil fuels.
- Experts have concluded that it is economically and technically feasible to achieve 100% renewable energy by 2050. Transitioning to renewable energy would create 222,082 construction jobs and 90,727 operation jobs, reduce energy costs and save lives. State government should not be standing in the way of a new energy future for Florida!

Please share this campaign with your communities across Florida so that young people from the Panhandle to the Keys can be heard! In November, we will share links to the petition and an online toolkit with suggested social media and email campaign content that you can share with your networks to describe what the petition is all about, the impact it will have, and how they can sign on.

If you have questions about this campaign or Our Children's Trust, contact Iris Porter at <u>iris@ourchildrenstrust.org</u>.