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Florida Youth Petition for Rulemaking Asking for Goal of 100% Renewable Energy by 2050 Granted by Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - Commissioner Nikki Fried and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) have granted a youth-led petition for rulemaking that called on the FDACS to enact a rule setting a goal of generating 100% of Florida's electricity from renewable energy by 2050.

Submitted on January 5th and signed by over 200 young Floridians from across the state, the proposed rule [called](#) on the FDACS to require "each electric utility that produces or purchases electricity for consumption in the State of Florida" to set and achieve goals to generate 100% of Florida's electricity from renewable energy by 2050.

On Friday, FDACS [issued](#) a Notice of Development of Rulemaking, the first step in the process towards promulgating a rule under Florida law. As requested, the rulemaking will address "the gradual phaseout of energy production from non-renewable sources." The FDACS will likely hold a public workshop before issuing a proposed rule that will be subject to public notice and comment before being finalized. Addressing the youth earlier in the week, Commissioner Fried said, "What you all do inspires those of us in elected office. You hold us accountable, making sure that we are doing good by our constituents."

"This rulemaking to increase the use of renewable energy and phase out the use of fossil fuels is the strongest climate policy the state of Florida has proposed in over a decade," said Andrea Rodgers, one of the Our Children's Trust attorneys representing the youth petitioners. "Youth in Florida have acted and we are pleased their elected leaders have responded. Now the real work begins to ensure that FDACS issues a final rule that follows the science and is as strong as it needs to be to address the climate emergency that prompted these youth to stand up for their fundamental rights in the first place."

"This is an incredible victory for the State of Florida and our planet," said Delaney Reynolds, one of the Florida youth leading the rulemaking effort. "It's the biggest step in the history of Florida's climate battle to increase the use of renewable energy and I want to thank the youth of Florida

for their support of our petition. There is an enormous amount of work to be done and I expect those that want to continue to pollute will fight our every step. But, I say on behalf of youth in Florida that we are up to the task and are committed to ensuring that the state of Florida shifts to sustainable energy use so as to lead the world into the future before our fragile state and planet are destroyed forever by our climate change crisis.”

Filed by Our Children’s Trust on behalf of the youth petitioners, the goals proposed in the petition for rulemaking were drawn from energy experts who [have concluded](#) that it is economically and technically feasible to achieve 100% renewable energy by 2050. Other experts have found that transitioning to renewable energy would create 222,082 construction jobs and 90,727 operation jobs, reduce energy costs, and save lives.

Florida is the third largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the United States and, as of 2020, only 4.3% of Florida’s energy came from renewable sources, while natural gas made up 75% of Florida’s electricity system. Meanwhile, people and communities in Florida experience numerous devastating impacts of the climate crisis: rising sea levels and resultant flooding, beach erosion and damage to coastal property, extreme damage to marine ecosystems, spread of infectious diseases, increased severity of storms and extreme weather events, and suffering tourism, agriculture, and recreation industries. In 2011, the Florida legislature mandated FDACS to set goals to increase the use of renewable energy and reduce the state’s dependence on fossil fuels. By adopting the proposed rule submitted by Floridian youth, Commissioner Fried would be bringing the FDACS into compliance with this law, over a decade after it was enacted.

The petition for rulemaking, signed by over 200 young people ages 25 and younger from across the state of Florida, is part of an international, youth-led legal campaign that is supported by the nonprofit public interest law firm, [Our Children’s Trust](#), which also represented and supported the Florida youth plaintiffs in *Reynolds v. State of Florida* and currently represents the 21 youth plaintiffs in the federal constitutional climate case, [Juliana v. United States](#).

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