



For Immediate Release: April 21, 2022

Contacts:

Andrea Rodgers, 206-696-2851, andrea@ourchildrenstrust.org

Mitchell Chester, 954-465-1223, MChester@Mitchellchester.com

For interviews with youth petitioners, contact Erin Barnhart, 541-653-7597, erin@ourchildrenstrust.org

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Proposes Renewable Energy Goals from Youth-Led Petition

MIAMI, Fla. - Today, Commissioner Nikki Fried and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) released a [proposed rule](#) that sets goals to increase the use of renewable energy in the state of Florida. This action responds to a [youth-led petition for rulemaking](#) filed on behalf of young Floridians on January 5, 2022 that called on FDACS to enact a rule setting goal of generating 100% of Florida's electricity from renewable energy by 2050.

The proposed rule uses the language proposed by the youth and sets the following renewable energy goals for Florida utilities: at least 40% by 2030, 63% by 2035, 82% by 2040, and 100% by 2050. The proposed rule also requires utilities to submit their 10-year energy plans to FDACS so the agency can evaluate whether the utilities' long term energy plans are capable of meeting the renewable energy goals, and requires FDACS to annually report the utilities' progress in meeting the goals to the Public Service Commission, Governor, and Legislature.

Members of the public now have 21 days to submit public comments to FDACS regarding this proposed rule. Public comments can be submitted [here](#) or by emailing Kelley Smith Burk, FDACS Energy Director, at Energy@FDACS.gov.

Andrea Rodgers, Senior Litigation Attorney at Our Children's Trust, stated, "Today Commissioner Fried decided to follow the law, listen to the youth, and set the most ambitious climate policy the state of Florida has seen in over a decade."

Delaney Reynolds, one of the four young Floridians who led the petition for rulemaking effort, responded, "Implementing rules that demand Florida utilities only use sustainable

energy sources is wonderful news for Florida's future and our environment. With the process in place, now it is time for utilities to publicly embrace the transition and its 2050 deadline. Thanks to the Florida Department of Agriculture for accepting our Petition and, especially, to the young people all over the State that stood with me in demanding that our elected officials begin to actually take real action to eliminate the core cause of our climate crisis: mankind's fossil fuel use."

A recording of today's press conference in Miami can be found on the FDACS Facebook page [here](#).

The youth-led petition for rulemaking filed on January 5th was submitted by the nonprofit public interest law firm Our Children's Trust on behalf of youth petitioners from across the state of Florida. Signed by over 200 young people ages 25 or younger, the petition for rulemaking called on 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.

Our Children's Trust also represented and supported young Floridians in *Reynolds v. State of Florida* and currently represents youth in several active constitutional climate cases, including *Layla H. v. Commonwealth of Virginia*, *Natalie R. v. State of Utah*, and the 16 youth plaintiffs whose constitutional climate lawsuit *Held v. State of Montana* will proceed to trial in February 2023. Our Children's Trust also represents the 21 youth plaintiffs in the landmark federal constitutional climate lawsuit, *Juliana v. United States*.

###