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Strongest Climate Policy Enacted in Florida in Over a Decade

MIAMI, Fla. - Today, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' (FDACS) renewable energy rule, [Chapter 50-5: Renewable Energy](#), became effective. This new rule is the most significant climate policy in Florida enacted in over a decade and sets the following renewable energy goals for Florida's electric utilities: at least 40% by 2030, 63% by 2035, 82% by 2040, and 100% by 2050.

These goals and the accompanying requirements were [officially proposed](#) in April 2022 by FDACS Commissioner Nikki Fried in response to a petition for rulemaking filed in January 2022 by the nonprofit public interest law firm Our Children's Trust and local co-counsel on behalf of four local youth climate leaders and over 200 fellow young Floridians. 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.

Andrea Rodgers, Senior Litigation Attorney at Our Children's Trust, stated, "This rule - the strongest climate policy enacted in Florida in over a decade - was only made possible because youth in Florida demanded climate action. Over 200 young Floridians signed the petition for rulemaking to set significant and achievable renewable energy goals, holding their government accountable for its contributions to the climate crisis and demanding meaningful action. Today, thanks to their determined efforts, present and future generations of Floridians are headed toward a safer, more sustainable energy future."

Our Children's Trust also represented and supported the four lead youth petitioners in *Reynolds v. State of Florida* and currently represents youth in several active state constitutional climate cases, including *Layla H. v. Commonwealth of Virginia*, *Natalie R. v. State of Utah*, *Navahine F. v. Hawai'i Department of Transportation*, and *Held v. State of Montana* which, when it proceeds to trial in 2023, will be the first ever children's climate trial in U.S. history. Our Children's Trust also represents the 21 youth plaintiffs in the landmark federal constitutional climate lawsuit,

Juliana v. United States, who are awaiting a decision in their case that could also set the stage for trial in 2023.

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Our Children's Trust is the world's only nonprofit public interest law firm that exclusively provides strategic, campaign based legal services to youth from diverse backgrounds to secure their legal rights to a safe climate. We work to protect the Earth's climate system for present and future generations by representing young people in global legal efforts to secure their binding and enforceable legal rights to a healthy atmosphere and safe climate, based on the best available science. www.ourchildrenstrust.org