



Coalition for the Student Green Energy Fund

www.StudentGreenEnergyFund.org

April 8, 2010

On behalf of the Coalition for the Student Green Energy Fund, we would like to request your support for the Student Green Energy Fund. Our coalition is comprised of students from every state university in Florida who have been working since 2007 to encourage the state of Florida to allow universities and students to implement the Student Green Energy Fund.

The Student Green Energy Fund is a proposal to the Board of Governors to grant students the right to vote every three years to establish a \$.25 minimum to a \$1 maximum per-credit-hour energy fee. The revenue generated would fund projects that reduce campus utility costs and increase academic funding.

Our generation of students is paying much more for its education now than it was a few years ago, and we recognize that costs will continue to increase in the near future. Yet despite increasing costs, we are arguably even more burdened by the academic budget cuts. Our classes sizes are growing, faculty are leaving us for jobs elsewhere, and many of us are being forced to change majors or change universities.

Utility costs are typically a university's second greatest expense and a drain on university resources. If the Student Green Energy Fund is approved by students on individual campuses through referendum elections, the new revenue will empower universities to mitigate the burden of the budget cuts and increase academic funding. To assess student interest in this idea, nonbinding referenda have been conducted at six universities over the past couple of years on the Student Green Energy Fund, and students have voted overwhelmingly in support of the concept every time.

The Student Green Energy Fund concept has been created by students, voted on by students, and even brought to the Florida Legislature by students. If passed by the Board of Governors, and then implemented on individual campuses, students will continue to have a direct say over whether or not they wish to continue to pay the energy fee by voting on it every three years in binding student referenda. Ultimately all we are asking for is the right to decide for ourselves if we would like to make an investment in our education.

Thank you for your consideration of the Student Green Energy Fund. Enclosed is further information on the wide array of student support for the bill. If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact us by phone or e-mail anytime.

Respectfully yours,

The Coalition for the Student Green Energy Fund

Enclosure



Coalition for the Student Green Energy Fund

www.StudentGreenEnergyFund.org

Student Support for the Student Green Energy Fund

University of Florida

- Non-binding student referendum passed by 78%. Student Government and Board of Trustees are in support.
- Primary Contact: Chris Cano, 305-586-4004, cano.chris@gmail.com

University of Central Florida

- Non-binding student referendum passed by 67%. Student Government is in full support.
- Primary Contact: Stephen Mortellaro, 772-285-5777, smortellaro@gmail.com

University of South Florida

- Non-binding student referendum passed by 58%.
- Primary Contact: Karissa Gherke, 321-543-4703, kgherke@mail.usf.edu

University of South Florida – St. Petersburg Campus

- Student Government is in full support.
- Primary Contact: Megan Demacher, 954-383-1267, mdemchar@mail.usf.edu

New College of Florida

- Non-binding referendum passed by 85%. Student Government and Board of Trustees are in support.
- Primary Contact: Rebecca Christforo, 978-269-4367, rebecca.christforo@ncf.edu

University of West Florida

- Campus paper published an article endorsing the idea.
- Primary Contact: Amanda Glaze, 904-753-0216, akg6@students.uwf.edu

Florida International University

- Student Government is in full support and has placed a non-binding referendum on the next student election ballot.
- Primary Contact: Cara Cooper, 305-968-4401, ccoop001@fiu.edu

Florida Gulf Coast University

- Student Government is in full support.
- Primary Contact: Tyler Offerman, 239-470-3615, sgenviro@fgcu.edu

Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University

- A top priority of the FAMU Green Coalition.
- Primary Contact: Jomar Floyd, 407-408-4178, jfloyd1987@yahoo.com

Florida State University

- Non-binding student referendum passed twice with an average of 70%.
- Primary Contact: Keziah Lewis, 850-284-9363, keziyahlewis@gmail.com

Florida Atlantic University

- Non-binding student referendum passed by 53%.
- Primary Contact: Alex VanMecl, 239-728-1480, avanmec@fau.edu

Currently, all students listed and thousands of others not listed are working to continue to demonstrate even further student and university support at all state universities through petitions, surveys, and faculty/staff endorsement letters. We are actively engaging our Student Governments and working with them to pass Student Green Energy Fund. We are working on building awareness by engaging the media and this semester alone there have been six media stories. We are also committed to traveling to Tallahassee to meet with the BOG and attend .

The Coalition for the Student Green Energy Fund is a body of thousands of Florida Students who have since 2007 been dedicated to seeing the implementation of the Student Green Energy Fund.

Student Green Energy Fund – Executive Summary

The Student Green Energy Fund is a proposal to grant students enrolled in the Florida State University System the right to vote to establish a campus energy fund at their university. The proposal will be presented to the Florida Board of Governors for consideration.

Proposal Outline

- Students **vote** in a campus-wide referendum election called by the University's Student Government to establish or not establish a campus renewable energy fee.
- If established, funds generated from the fee must be spent on projects that reduce campus energy costs.
- The proposed fee could not surpass \$1 per-credit-hour initially and would generate **\$1,299,350** for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects at the University of Central Florida alone; **\$7,785,124** across the entire State University System.¹
- A committee comprised of 50% members appointed by the University President and 50% members appointed by the Student Body President would allocate the funds collected.
- Any subsequent fee increase would require another student referendum election.
- The fee would sunset every three years and a student referendum election would be called to determine if the fee should be maintained or abolished.

Proposal Benefits

- **Reduces University Energy Costs** [University of Central Florida used as an example]
 - Energy costs typically are a university's 2nd greatest expense behind personnel; **\$13,627,338** at UCF.²
 - During fiscal year 2008-09, UCF invested approx. **\$800,000** in energy efficiency projects for **\$564,654** **yearly savings**.³ The proposal will generate **\$1,299,350** more a year at UCF for such projects, possibly allowing the university to almost **double** these yearly savings.
 - The funds generated will allow students to help their universities save money on utility costs and thus make more funds available for academics—funds sorely needed given recent budget cuts.
 - Proposed fee would not be covered by Bright Futures, thus having no outside budgetary impact.
- **Creates Job Opportunities**

New employment opportunities for Energy Services Companies and university physical plants will be created in order to engineer and maintain the energy efficiency and renewable energy projects funded by the proposal.
- **Student Supported**
 - At **six** of Florida's eleven universities, including all major institutions, students have already voted overwhelmingly in favor of the proposal in student referendum elections.
 - Students will vote to establish the Student Green Energy Fund every three years, ensuring that all students have the opportunity to express further input during their college career.
 - The Student Green Energy Fund will be the lowest costing per-credit-hour student fee and will allow students to see long-term savings in their academics.
 - The proposal has been accepted by numerous universities outside of Florida with student support.
- **Invests in Environmental Sustainability**

By investing in energy efficiency and renewable energy projects that reduce energy costs, universities will simultaneously be investing in environmental sustainability and reducing their ecological footprints.

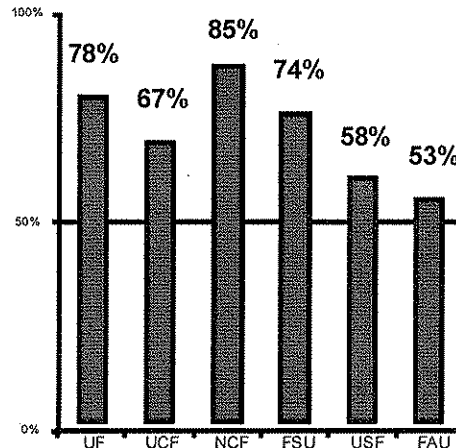
¹ Board of Governors State University System of Florida Facts and Figures 2008

² University of Central Florida Energy Bill, Fiscal Year 2008-09

³ UCF Energy Projects Annual Summary Report, Fiscal Year 2008-2009

Student Green Energy Fund – Additional Information

Student Support for Proposal in Campus Referendums



Projected Income for Florida Universities

University	Credit-Hours	Fee Amount	Funds Raised
New College of Florida	27,044	\$1.00	\$27,044
University of West Florida	252,619	\$1.00	\$252,619
Florida Gulf Coast University	253,470	\$1.00	\$253,470
Florida A&M University	338,042	\$1.00	\$338,042
University of North Florida	397,752	\$1.00	\$397,752
Florida Atlantic University	648,966	\$1.00	\$648,966
Florida International University	907,182	\$1.00	\$907,182
Florida State University	1,112,639	\$1.00	\$1,112,639
University of South Florida	1,148,066	\$1.00	\$1,148,066
University of Central Florida	1,299,350	\$1.00	\$1,299,350
University of Florida	1,399,994	\$1.00	\$1,399,994
Total	7,785,124		\$7,785,124

Source: Board of Governors State University System of Florida Facts and Figures 2008

Universities With Student Green Energy Funds

University	Fee Amount	Funds Raised
University of Tennessee - Knoxville	\$5 per semester	\$428,000
Western Washington University	\$1.05 per credit hour	\$355,000
Middle Tennessee State University	\$8 per semester	\$350,000
Evergreen State College	\$1 per credit hour	\$240,000
University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill	\$4 per semester	\$185,000
University of Denver	\$6 per quarter	\$177,000
Appalachian State University	\$5 per semester	\$150,000
Univ. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	\$2 per semester	\$140,000
University of California – Santa Cruz	\$3 per quarter	\$135,000
Tennessee Technological University	\$8 per semester	\$120,000
Auraria Higher Education Center	\$1 per semester	\$80,000
University of the South	\$45 per year	\$70,000
University of Utah	\$1 per semester	\$64,000
University of Colorado at Boulder	\$1 per semester	\$50,000
Connecticut College	\$25 per year	\$47,000
University of Oregon	\$.60 per semester	\$36,000
Northland College	\$20 per semester	\$25,000
University of Wisconsin – Green Bay	\$1.69 per semester	\$18,000
Warren Wilson University	\$11 per semester	\$17,000
Central Oregon Community College	\$.25 per credit hour	\$8,500

Source: Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education