



It's time to transform the way we produce and consume energy

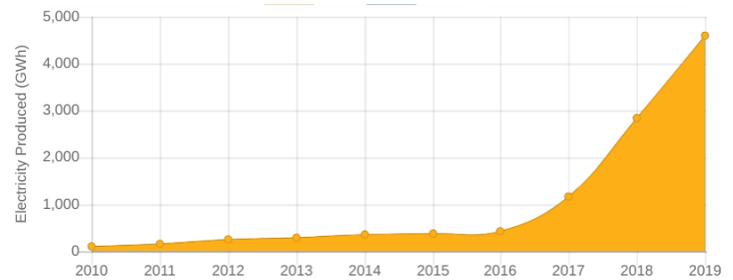
We have a choice. We can continue powering our lives by burning fossil fuels, destroying wild places, clean water, our health and the climate. Or, we can decide to take a different path.

Today, we can harness clean, abundant energy from the sun and wind more efficiently -- and cheaply -- than ever before, tapping into power that doesn't pollute or make us sick. Yet, Florida still primarily produces and consumes energy from fossil fuels. It doesn't make sense to frack for gas near schools instead of putting solar panels on their roofs; drill for oil near beaches instead of harnessing the winds that blow offshore; or burn coal, oil and gas instead of powering our homes, cars and lives with clean, renewable energy. It's time to break free.

We can have healthier communities right now, and a livable future for generations to come—but to get there, we need to transform the way we produce and consume energy.

Our vision: 100 percent renewable energy

In a future run on 100 percent renewable energy, everything we need power for in our lives-- our lights, our chargers, our refrigerators, our heating and cooling, our transportation -- would run on energy sources that don't pollute our air and water or harm the climate. That means a healthier, cleaner and safer future.



Solar energy progress in Florida, 2010 to 2019:

Florida saw a 44-fold increase in annual solar generation (shown in yellow above), or an increase of 4,490 GWh.

Renewable energy is ready for primetime

Renewable energy has reached a tipping point in the U.S. and here in Florida, enabling Floridians to envision a future powered by 100 percent renewable energy. America produces almost four times as much renewable electricity from the sun and wind as it did in 2010. Right here in the Sunshine State, our solar energy generation has increased by 44-fold since 2010.

Plummeting prices and advancements in clean energy technologies, in combination with strong state net metering policies that help more Floridians go solar, have helped drive remarkable clean, renewable energy progress already. But, with wind and solar making up less than two percent of electricity sold in the state in 2019, we've only just begun to tap our vast clean energy potential.

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Florida should commit to 100 percent renewable energy

While clean, renewable energy is growing rapidly, fully replacing fossil fuels will require additional commitment and action. A legislative commitment to 100 percent renewable energy, including timely targets and benchmarks, can act as an enforceable tool to help us make the transition. Seven states have already passed such commitments to 100 percent clean or renewable electricity, and Florida should join their ranks.

Environment Florida is advocating for a statewide commitment to 100 percent renewable electricity by 2040, as described in State Renewable Energy Goals (HB283, SB720). This legislation would also prohibit new fossil fuel drilling and exploration and establish an economy-wide target of net zero carbon emissions statewide by 2050.



Florida State University students helped pass a student government resolution calling for 100 percent renewable energy.



A growing movement

As a growing number of states are setting their sights on 100 percent renewable energy, so are cities and towns. With more than 170 cities and towns across the country -- including 11 in Florida -- already on board, one in three Americans now lives in a community committed to 100 percent clean or renewable power. And businesses, utilities and college campuses across the country are taking action too. Students at Florida State University, the University of West Florida and the University of Central Florida are joining the call for 100 percent renewable campuses.

100 percent renewable commitments are taking off because it's an idea everyone can get behind. Most Americans support a commitment to 100 percent renewable energy. Clean energy technologies like solar enjoy broad support across party lines. Floridians want a renewable energy future, too.

Now is the time to build on that momentum and public support, and pass legislation committing to 100 percent renewable electricity for a cleaner, healthier Florida.

To learn more about our campaign and for additional resources, visit:

<https://environmentflorida.org/feature/fle/100-renewable>

