

Environment & Energy

Newly Enacted Florida Rule Sets Goal of 100% Renewable Energy

By Zach Bright

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A Florida rule enacted Tuesday sets in motion a timeline for electric utilities to achieve a 100% renewable energy goal by 2050, with interim goals of at least 40% by 2030, 63% by 2035, and 82% by 2040.

The Sunshine State's timeline requires electric utilities to submit 10-year energy plans to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, which will be reported annually to the state's public service commission, legislature, and governor.

"This rule—the strongest climate policy enacted in Florida in over a decade—was only made possible because youth in Florida demanded climate action," said Andrea Rodgers, senior litigation attorney at Our Children's Trust—the environmental legal nonprofit that advocated for the timeline.

It's a response to a petition from Our Children's Trust, which represents youth plaintiffs alleging that government actions causing climate change have violated their constitutional rights.

The rule was first proposed in April 2022 by Florida Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried (D), who called it a "crucial step" in mitigating climate change. Fried is currently running in the Democratic primary for governor with the hope of challenging incumbent Republican Ron DeSantis.

Fried said the rule uses the department's existing authority to lower emissions, after what she termed inaction on climate change from DeSantis and the Republican-controlled state legislature.

To contact the reporter on this story: Zach Bright at zbright@bloombergindustry.com

To contact the editor responsible for this story: Renee Schoof at rschoof@bloombergindustry.com

Documents

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