

## 100% Clean Energy Resolution

**Whereas,** The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) calls for a 50% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions globally by 2030, and net zero carbon by 2050, to mitigate the most catastrophic consequences of global warming<sup>[2]</sup>. Technologies are available today that could enable us to meet the IPCC's reduction targets and timelines; and <sup>[1][2][3]</sup>

**Whereas,** Schools play an important role in reducing greenhouse gas pollution from buildings, transportation, and food waste. Florida Department of Environmental Protection awards schools with a "Green School" designation as an incentive to reduce their environmental impacts and costs by targeting six key areas: energy reduction, water reduction, waste reduction, alternative transportation, improved air quality, and communications. According to the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Smart Schools Program, one quarter of the energy costs in schools can be saved by implementing energy efficient designs and measures. This equates to approximately \$2 billion that can be redirected to meet underfunded educational needs; and <sup>[4][5][6]</sup>

**Whereas,** Reducing toxic emissions from fossil fuel energy sources and transitioning to 100% clean energy can help advance equity, justice, and inclusion. These changes can save money that can be invested into under-resourced schools, help address climate change which disproportionately impacts low-income communities and communities of color, reduce the impacts of diseases, and create and support various career pathways for students; therefore be it; <sup>[7][8][9][10]</sup>

**Resolved,** Florida PTA and its constituent associations advocate that school districts in Florida commit to becoming 100% Clean Energy School Districts following guideline from the UN IPCC and commit to a goal of increasing the number of Florida Department of Environmental Protection Green Schools designations within the district by 10% per year, starting in 2023. This includes reducing food and plastic waste by 75%, phasing out all fossil fuels, and purchasing new electric fleet vehicles; and be it further

**Resolved,** Florida PTA and its constituent associations urge each Florida school district to commit to developing and implementing a clean energy plan which enhances equity and decreases disproportionate environmental impacts on underrepresented communities as well as an inclusive stakeholder taskforce to oversee this clean energy plan; and be it further

**Resolved,** Florida PTA and its constituent associations urge school districts, stakeholders, and legislative and policy makers to offer academic and vocational programs which prepare students for environmental sustainability focused careers; and be it further

**Resolved,** Florida PTA and its constituent associations advocate for school districts, stakeholders, corporate entities, and legislative and policy makers to support and enact 100% Clean Energy goals, provide dedicated funding to support implementation of 100% Clean

Energy goals, and waive statutory requirements capping student station expenditures pursuant to those goals.

**Rationale:**

Our children's future is in peril because of an increasingly destabilized climate. The worldwide scientific consensus is that our planet, people, and prosperity are at risk if we do not reduce overall worldwide greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030. We are running out of time.

Schools, which are at the heart of our communities and serve our most vulnerable citizens, can be part of a climate solution and model innovation, efficiency, and optimism for our community. A 100% Clean Energy School District is one in which the amount of clean energy brought into or generated by schools equals or exceeds 100% of the annual energy consumed within that school or district.

100% Clean Energy schools will not only reduce carbon emissions, but also create a healthier school environment, improve learning outcomes, enhance community resilience, and model sustainable career pathways that are increasingly in demand. They will also help to contain school district costs, since utility bills are projected to rise by 20% in the next four years if schools do not take advantage of federal energy efficiency and clean transportation incentives.

When schools and school districts take action and become climate leaders, the positive effects ripple out across the broader community. This demonstrates that a clean energy future for all is not only possible, but that students, teachers, and school administrators are already making it happen.

## BACKGROUND MATERIAL:

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