THE CASE FOR A RENEWABLE ENERGY FEE FOR THE STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

PRESENTED BY

Florida Green Fee Coalition

With Support From

Southern Energy Network

Schools included:

FAU
Florida Atlantic University

USF
University of South Florida

New College of Florida

University of Central Florida

University of West Florida

University of Florida
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This proposal is presented by the Florida Green Fee Coalition, an alliance of student organizations who realize the importance of renewable energy investment at our university.

The main participating organizations are

  • Gators for a Sustainable Campus (UF)
  • Eco-Advocates (UCF)
  • Noles for a Sustainable World (FSU)
  • Climate Justice Squad (NCF)
  • USF
  • FAU
  • UWF

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An energy transition is coming – around the globe, people are preparing for a rise in fossil fuel prices and the widespread emergence of new sources of energy. Our leaders recognize that our future energy security depends on the development of environmentally friendly, renewable, and cost-effective alternative energy. Adding renewable energy to our nation’s energy mix will provide America with decentralized sources of clean power, will improve our environment, and will boost our economy by promoting a U.S.-based renewable energy industry. In a 2006 interview, Noah Kaye, Director of Public Affairs for the Solar Energy Industries Association, said, "We are really in a global race to see who can develop and deploy these technologies the fastest. Renewable energy is going to drive a jobs boom and economic growth in the U.S., and states that set the policies designed to attract that growth are going to end up reaping the most benefits."

Realizing the importance of renewable energy to our economic and environmental well-being, the Florida Legislature and the University of Florida have made substantial investments in the research and development of energy efficiency and clean energy technologies. In 2006, the state legislature, with the support of Governor Charlie Crist, appropriated more than $75 million for renewable energy technology grants and incentives. In July 2007, Crist signed three executive orders aimed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Florida and to create an Action Team on Energy and Climate Change. At the university level, UF’s Florida Institute for Sustainable Energy is leading the way in clean energy research and commercialization. These investments are an important milestone in the effort to bring renewable energy into the mainstream in Florida.

A critical next step in this process is renewable energy generation on Florida campuses. On-site generation allows universities to play a leading role in demonstrating the financial and environmental benefits of renewable energy technology. Because of the high capital costs involved in on-site electricity generation, students across the country have agreed to invest in renewable energy through student fees. Fees have been successfully implemented at the University of Colorado-Boulder, the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, the University of Oregon, and at least twenty other institutions (see Appendix A for a complete list of universities).

Recently, universities across the state have voted to approve a similar fee. In February 2007, 78 percent of voting students in the UF Student Government elections supported the creation of a fifty cent per credit-hour renewable energy fee. The proposed fee would raise nearly $700,000 each year, which would be used to fund leading-edge renewable energy and energy efficiency projects on campus. Students at the University of Central Florida, Florida State University, New College of Florida have voted and passed support for a similar fee in the spring of 2008. Other schools such as USF, FAU, and UWF are scheduling votes for the spring of 2009.

The opportunities for the fee include energy efficiency improvements, solar power installations, and waste-to-energy technologies that would convert a University’s waste streams into electricity, saving hundreds of thousands of dollars in annual waste disposal costs. In addition to creating energy- and cost-saving opportunities for the State University System (SUS), the fee would provide living laboratory opportunities for students and faculty conducting research on renewable energy.

This summer, Governor Charlie Crist and the Florida legislature created the Florida Energy Systems Consortium, which will bring together the state’s universities to work on renewable energy technologies. Efforts have begun to bring together the diverse renewable energy expertise within the state universities, and participants are planning collaborations on research in renewable energy production, energy distribution, and alternative transportation technologies.

With all the research on renewable energy underway throughout the state of Florida, campuses fortified by a renewable energy fee will have a unique opportunity to demonstrate new, leading edge technology that is developing right here in our own classrooms and laboratories.

The students of the SUS have a vested interest in stimulating a renewable energy economy. By approving the renewable energy fee, we have agreed to invest in a clean energy transition on our own campuses. We ask you, the stewards of the health and viability of the State University System, to support this initiative. In doing so, you will demonstrate your commitment to the sustainability of the higher education system and the world.
The Renewable Energy Fee

Financial Estimate

A small per credit fee would raise significant funds at Florida Universities and go towards renewable energy and related energy efficiency projects. The fee is not expected to be covered by Bright Futures or Florida Pre-paid scholarships.

The University’s Division of Business Affairs would collect and monitor the fee.

Projected Annual Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Credit-Hours</th>
<th>Fee Amount</th>
<th>Funds Raised</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NCF</td>
<td>25,228</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>$25,228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSU</td>
<td>1,137,383</td>
<td>$0.50</td>
<td>$568,691</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UF</td>
<td>1,385,161</td>
<td>$0.50</td>
<td>$692,580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCF</td>
<td>1,189,298</td>
<td>$0.75</td>
<td>$891,973</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Renewable Energy Fee Advisory Committee

A joint student-faculty renewable energy advisory committee would recommend how to allocate the money raised for renewable energy investment. Following the precedent of current student fees, the committee would be composed of 4 faculty/staff representatives and 5 student representatives, with a student as the committee chair. Student Government would appoint student representatives through an application process, and all committee appointments and funding recommendations would be subject to final university administration approval. The representative committee would propose any fee increase or fee termination, decisions which could be aided by holding another student referendum.

Possible staff/faculty members of the renewable energy committee may include representatives from:

- Physical Plant Division
- Student Affairs
- University Administration
- Faculty renewable energy experts

Possible Projects

All projects funded by the renewable energy fee will include an informational plaque to explain how the project works, its costs and benefits, and how it was funded. Any person or entity bringing a proposal to the committee would be encouraged to seek grants and matching funds. The committee will make decisions about projects based on return on investment, energy savings, visibility, and degree of innovation. We suggest a phased approach to the projects supported by the fee, starting with energy efficiency projects that have a high return on investment, and later working up to large renewable energy projects.

Energy Efficiency

Many university buildings already have upgraded to high-efficiency lighting. Energy savings can be compounded with ultrasonic motion sensors for lighting, HVAC improvements, and replacement of windows with energy-efficient alternatives. Coupled with energy auditing and management, campuses can reduce electricity consumption and save money.

Waste-to-Energy

Anaerobic digestion takes organic waste and converts it into methane gas, which can then be used as a fuel for electricity generation. Many universities create large amounts of waste, and must pay for removal and disposal. A digester would eliminate this removal cost and convert the waste into electricity. See Appendix D for details.

Solar Energy

Possibilities for solar energy installations include:

- Photovoltaic solar panels
- Solar array on a parking garage (See Appendix D for details)
- Solar water heating panels
The Case For the Fee

A very small increase in student fees...

Student Fees at the University of Florida

- Activity and Service Fee
- Health Fee
- Transp. Fee
- Athletic Fee
- Renewable Energy Fee

Renewable Energy Fee
Only 50¢ per credit-hour

Average yearly cost for a typical undergraduate student: $14
Increase in overall student fees: 2%
Increase in total cost of attendance: Less than 1%

Graph Source: University of Florida Financial Services

Proposed and supported by the student body...

In spring 2007, the University of Florida student organization Gators for a Sustainable Campus placed a referendum question on the student government ballot to gauge student support for a 50 cent renewable energy fee.

78% of voting students supported the creation of the renewable energy fee. Turnout for the referendum question was the highest of any election or referendum item on the ballot.

After the successful vote at UF, other state schools began campaigns on their campuses. In the spring of 2008, UCF, FSU, and NCF passed similar referenda with support 64%, 74%, and 85% respectively. Students at USF, FAU, and UWF plan on posing a similar question to their student body in the spring of 2009.

Source: UF Student Government Supervisor of Elections

Do you support the creation of a renewable energy fee?

78% UF
64% UCF
85% NCF
74% FSU

Will make UF a national leader in renewable energy investment.

A 75 cent renewable energy fee at the University of Central Florida would raise close to $900,000 annually, 50% more than the largest current fund ($428,000). Each campus would generate a large pool of funds, and combined with a strong commitment to sustainability, will allow our system to become a clear leader in renewable energy investment on university campuses.

Source: Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
Further Information

Endorsements

The fee proposal has been endorsed by:

- UF President Dr. J. Bernard Machen
- Dr. Patricia Telles-Irvin, UF Vice President of Student Affairs
- Ed Poppell, UF Vice President of Business Affairs
- Kevin Reilly, UF Student Body President
- Ryan Moseley, 2007-2008 UF Student Body President
- Dedee DeLongpré-Johnston, Director of the UF Office of Sustainability
- John Lawson, Utility Manager, UF Physical Plant Division
- Florida Institute for Sustainable Energy Steering Committee
- Dr. Eric Wachsman, Professor, Director of Florida Institute for Sustainable Energy (FISE)
- Stephen Smith, Executive Director of Southern Alliance for Clean Energy

Proposal History

Fall 2006: UF begins renewable energy fee campaign
February 2007: UF passes referendum with 78% of student approval
Fall 2008: Other Florida universities began working on campaigns
Spring 2008: New College, UCF, and FSU pass student referendums
Summer 2008: New College Board of Trustees pass resolution of support
Fall 2008: UF Board of Trustees gives support for Fee

Possible Approval Timeline

Summer 2008: Board of Trustees and Board of Governors approve the fee
March 2009: Florida state legislature passes renewable energy fee legislation
March-April 2009: Governor Charlie Crist views the bill
August 2009: Fee added to University of Florida tuition and fees
September 2009: Renewable Energy Fee Committee first meets

Current Campaigns at Florida Campuses

- Student groups at USF, FAU, and UWF plan on holding a student referendum vote in the spring of 2009
- Coordinators are working with students at FIU, FGCU, FAMU, and UNF to develop campaigns and renewable energy fee programs
- Student representative are in talks with state legislators for sponsorship and support a renewable energy fee bill
During the spring semester of 2008, approximately 800 UF students completed the renewable energy fee survey. The survey was not advertised to any particular group of students; it was sent through UF webmail and offered in paper form in high-traffic areas on campus. More than 35% of the survey respondents had never heard of the renewable energy fee, and another 34% said they did not know much about the fee. The lack of knowledge, however, did not cause students to reject the fee. After a brief explanation of the fee, 82.4% said they would be willing to pay the renewable energy fee even if it was not covered by their Bright Futures scholarships.

The survey asked students how the money from the fee should be used, and had five choices with short examples of each choice. Some students chose all five options, others chose one or two. Solar technology received the most support, at 75.9%. The second most popular option was energy efficiency upgrades, at 70.1%. Waste-to-Energy garnered 63% of the responses, Biofuels received 49%, and Green Power Purchases from our energy provider received 48.8%.

543 students responded to the question regarding lobbying support for the fee. 76.4% of students answered yes, 14.4% said no, and 0.2% responded with no opinion.

If the renewable energy fee is not covered by the Bright Futures scholarship, would you be willing to pay it yourself?

If UF began charging the fee, how would you like the money to be used?

Do you think the lobbyists that represent the college students of Florida should promote the renewable energy fee?

YES

NO

NO OPINION
Appendix B

Universities With Renewable Energy Fees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL</th>
<th>FEE AMOUNT</th>
<th>$ PER YEAR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</td>
<td>$5 per semester</td>
<td>$428,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Washington University</td>
<td>$1.05 per credit hour</td>
<td>$355,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Tennessee State University</td>
<td>$8 per semester</td>
<td>$350,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evergreen State College</td>
<td>$1 per credit hour</td>
<td>$240,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill</td>
<td>$4 per semester</td>
<td>$185,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Denver</td>
<td>$6 per quarter</td>
<td>$177,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appalachian State University</td>
<td>$5 per semester</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Univ. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</td>
<td>$2 per semester</td>
<td>$140,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of California – Santa Cruz</td>
<td>$3 per quarter</td>
<td>$135,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee Technological University</td>
<td>$8 per semester</td>
<td>$120,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auraria Higher Education Center</td>
<td>$1 per semester</td>
<td>$80,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of the South</td>
<td>$45 per year</td>
<td>$70,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Utah</td>
<td>$1 per semester</td>
<td>$64,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Colorado at Boulder</td>
<td>$1 per semester</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut College</td>
<td>$25 per year</td>
<td>$47,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Oregon</td>
<td>$0.60 per semester</td>
<td>$36,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northland College</td>
<td>$20 per semester</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Wisconsin – Green Bay</td>
<td>$1.69 per semester</td>
<td>$18,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warren Wilson University</td>
<td>$11 per semester</td>
<td>$17,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Oregon Community College</td>
<td>$.25 per credit hour</td>
<td>$8,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education

Projected income for Florida Institutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Credit-Hours</th>
<th>Fee Amount</th>
<th>Funds Raised</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New College of Florida</td>
<td>25,228</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>$25,228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida Gulf Coast University</td>
<td>199,795</td>
<td>$0.50</td>
<td>$99,897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of West Florida</td>
<td>238,312</td>
<td>$0.50</td>
<td>$119,156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida A&amp;M University</td>
<td>338,042</td>
<td>$0.50</td>
<td>$169,021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of North Florida</td>
<td>404,590</td>
<td>$0.50</td>
<td>$202,295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida Atlantic University</td>
<td>583,607</td>
<td>$0.50</td>
<td>$291,803</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida International University</td>
<td>974,367</td>
<td>$0.50</td>
<td>$487,183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of South Florida</td>
<td>1,098,687</td>
<td>$0.50</td>
<td>$549,343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida State University</td>
<td>1,137,383</td>
<td>$0.50</td>
<td>$568,691</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Florida</td>
<td>1,385,161</td>
<td>$0.50</td>
<td>$692,580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Central Florida</td>
<td>1,189,298</td>
<td>$0.75</td>
<td>$891,973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>7,574,470</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$4,097,174</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Board of Governors State University System of Florida Facts and Figures
# Sample Budget: University of Tennessee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
<th>Years to Complete</th>
<th>Annual Cost</th>
<th>Estimated Payback</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Green Power Purchase</td>
<td>Green power can be purchased in any amount we wish. The amount is currently set at about 2.4%. A minimum of 2% is required to maintain our status as an EPA Green Power Partner. As our electrical use increases, this amount will have to increase if we are to maintain partnership.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Continuing Cost</td>
<td>$144,000</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stokely Management Center Lighting Controls Upgrade - Phase 1</td>
<td>Replace all fluorescent and mercury lighting fixtures with more efficient fluorescent lighting. Since SMC has odd sized ceiling tiles and grid, this will also necessitate replacing all lay-in ceilings. This project would also install microprocessor based controls that would allow lighting to be turned off in unoccupied areas, and allow for daylight harvesting.</td>
<td>$625,000</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>$125,000</td>
<td>6 years or less</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Efficiency Lighting Fixtures</td>
<td>Purchase high efficiency lighting fixtures to replace existing fixtures on campus.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Continuing Cost</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>6 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lighting Motion Sensors</td>
<td>Purchase and install wall sensor switches for use in multiple buildings where their use is suitable.</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>2 years or less</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steam Valve Controls</td>
<td>Install building steam controls controlled by campus energy management system.</td>
<td>$65,000</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>$13,000</td>
<td>3 years or less</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Flow Plumbing Fixtures</td>
<td>Purchase and install low flow water fixtures including urinals, toilets, sinks, and faucets.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Continuing Cost</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>6 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boiler Firing Controls</td>
<td>Install retard firing timers on natural gas fired heating water boilers.</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>$8,000</td>
<td>2 years or less</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hybrid Vehicle Purchase</td>
<td>Purchase vehicles for fleets. Each vehicle has a price difference of $8,000</td>
<td>$12,000</td>
<td>Continuing Cost</td>
<td>$12,000</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy Efficient Electric Motors</td>
<td>Replace older less efficient electric motors around campus with newer more efficient motors and install variable frequency control on motors where variable speed would result in energy savings.</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>10 years or less</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hand Dryer Pilot Project</td>
<td>Pilot project to help determine acceptance and sanitation issues with electric hand dryers versus paper towels.</td>
<td>$8,000</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$8,000</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix D

Project Examples

Waste-to-Energy Technology

A team of researchers at UC Davis have built this anaerobic digester which uses bacteria to digest food scraps, producing hydrogen and methane gases that can be used to generate energy. It initially processed eight tons of food waste each week, providing enough energy to power ten large homes. In addition to food scraps, this technology can process other organic matter such as yard trimmings and animal manure. Researchers at UF developed a small-scale digester for the Broward Fresh Food Co. that provided 20% of the natural gas needs of the dining hall.

Solar Technology

One potential avenue for the fee could be to provide solar power and energy efficient lighting to the parking garages. By placing solar panels on one parking garage there could be 154MWh per year produced. By implementing energy efficient lighting technologies within the parking garage there could be a further 372MWh per year energy savings. The combined energy savings for such technological advancements to a parking garage would be 526 Mwh per year in non-grid power production. This energy savings is equivalent to approximately $530,000 per year and could reduce CO2 emissions could by as much as 490 metric tons/yr.

Below is a rendering of solar panels on the parking garage on Gale Lemerand Drive behind Hume Hall, adjacent to the commuter parking lot.
Cents and Sustainability

By Elia Powers, Inside Higher Ed

As the green campus movement continues to sprout, it’s not just administrators who are pledging to spend bucks on energy-efficient buildings and renewable resources.

Students at a growing number of colleges are voting to increase their own fees to start environmental sustainability funds. It’s a notable change from the usual student fee hikes that pay for the likes of gym memberships and social clubs.

At least 14 campuses in the United States and four in Canada have passed “green fee” votes during their spring terms, according to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. The list includes some of the usual suspects — Cornell University and the University of California at Berkeley — as well as some smaller colleges.

Most plans call for students to put an extra $10 to $25 a year apiece into a fund — managed by a committee of students, faculty and staff — that supports purchasing renewable energy or decreasing carbon emissions.

Julian Dautremont-Smith, associate director of the sustainability association, said the votes are a popular way for students to demonstrate widespread support for green investments without having to beg and plead for support. Often times, he said, administrators have already told student leaders that the university funds aren’t there.

“People have seen that it’s a pretty effective way for students to make a huge difference in the reduction of a college’s environmental impact,” Dautremont-Smith said. “It’s easy in some ways, but not an insignificant pledge. Every school we’ve seen hold the vote, it passes, usually by a significant amount.”

At Oregon State University, for instance, 7 in 10 students voted earlier this month to up to an $8.50 fee hike that would probably generate enough revenue to offset all electricity consumed by the university through the purchase renewable energy credits. The university is powered primarily by coal, and the fee would allow Oregon State to begin soliciting bids from renewable energy providers — most likely leading to wind power purchases.

In Tennessee, students at a majority of public universities have voted in favor of the green fees. Austin Peay State University and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga passed $10 per student per semester hikes, and the University of Memphis passed a plan that would likely lead to the same fee increase.

The blueprint in the recently passed votes is for half of the money to go toward purchasing renewable energy and half to support energy sustainability projects, said Brandon Armstrong, a former Tennessee student who helped organize the campaigns through a group that advocates clean energy choices. Armstrong said that because the funds are managed in part by students, there’s a greater feeling of control by those who helped set up the votes.

The same applies in Florida, said Jason Misner, a professional campus organizer. Students at the University of Florida, who passed a 50- to 75-cent per credit hour fee hike (which means about $14 per year), would be able to give spending suggestions to student representatives on the fund management committee. The proposal says the money would go strictly toward projects that would reduce campus energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. If approved by Florida’s Board of Trustees, the fee is expected to raise roughly $645,000 a year.

Misner said several other universities in the system are interested in adopting their own fee increases.

[...]
Appendix F

Florida Statute 1009.24 is the existing legislation regarding state university student fees. There are three student fees that together are restricted to a five percent or less increase each year—the athletic fee, the health fee, and the activity and service fee. The renewable energy fee would work a lot like the transportation access fee, which can be found in section (p) of this statute, and which is not included in the five percent per year increase restriction.

1009.24 State university student fees.--
(1) This section applies to students enrolled in college credit programs at state universities.
(2) All students shall be charged fees except students who are exempt from fees or students whose fees are waived.
(3) All moneys from tuition and fees shall be deposited pursuant to s. 1011.42.
(4) Except as otherwise provided by law, undergraduate tuition shall be established annually in the General Appropriations Act. The Board of Governors, or the board's designee, may establish tuition for graduate and professional programs, and out-of-state fees for all programs. The sum of tuition and out-of-state fees assessed to nonresident students must be sufficient to offset the full instructional cost of serving such students. However, adjustments to out-of-state fees or tuition for graduate and professional programs pursuant to this section may not exceed 10 percent in any year. The sum of the activity and service, health, and athletic fees a student is required to pay to register for a course shall not exceed 40 percent of the tuition established in law or in the General Appropriations Act. No university shall be required to lower any fee in effect on the effective date of this act in order to comply with this subsection.
Within the 40 percent cap, universities may not increase the aggregate sum of activity and service, health, and athletic fees more than 5 percent per year unless specifically authorized in law or in the General Appropriations Act. A university may increase its athletic fee to defray the costs associated with changing National Collegiate Athletic Association divisions. Any such increase in the athletic fee may exceed both the 40 percent cap and the 5 percent cap imposed by this subsection. Any such increase must be provided by the athletic fee committee in the process outlined in subsection (1) and cannot exceed $2 per credit hour. Notwithstanding the provisions of ss. 1009.534, 1009.535, and 1009.536, that portion of any increase in an athletic fee pursuant to this subsection that causes the sum of the activity and service, health, and athletic fees to exceed the 40 percent cap or the annual increase in such fees to exceed the 5 percent cap shall not be included in calculating the amount a student receives for a Florida Academic Scholars award, a Florida Medallion Scholars award, or a Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award. This subsection does not prohibit a university from increasing or assessing optional fees related to specific activities if payment of such fees is not required as a part of registration for courses.

(5) A university that has a service area that borders another state may implement a plan for a differential out-of-state fee.
(6) Students who are enrolled in Programs in Medical Sciences are considered graduate students for the purpose of enrollment and student fees.
(7) A university board of trustees is authorized to collect for financial aid purposes an amount not to exceed 5 percent of the tuition and out-of-state fee. The revenues from fees are to remain at each campus and replace existing financial aid fees. Such funds shall be disbursed to students as quickly as possible. A minimum of 75 percent of funds from the student financial aid fee for new financial aid awards shall be used to provide financial aid based on absolute need. A student who has received an award prior to July 1, 1984, shall have his or her eligibility assessed on the same criteria that were used at the time of his or her original award. The Board of Governors shall develop criteria for making financial aid awards. Each university shall report annually to the Board of Governors and the Department of Education on the revenue collected pursuant to this subsection, the amount carried forward, the criteria used to make awards, the amount and number of awards for each criterion, and a delineation of the distribution of such awards. The report shall include an assessment by category of the financial need of every student who receives an award, regardless of the purpose for which the award is received. Awards which are based on financial need shall be distributed in accordance with a nationally recognized system of need analysis approved by the Board of Governors.
An award for academic merit shall require a minimum overall grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale or the equivalent for both initial receipt of the award and renewal of the award.
(8) The Capital Improvement Trust Fund Fee is established as $2.44 per credit hour per semester. The building fee is established as $2.32 per credit hour per semester.
(9) Each university board of trustees is authorized to establish separate activity and service, health, and athletic fees. When duly established, the fees shall be collected as component parts of tuition and fees and shall be retained by the university and paid into the separate activity and service, health, and athletic funds. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, a university may transfer revenues derived from the fees authorized pursuant to this subsection to a university direct-support organization of the university to be used only for the purpose of paying and securing debt on projects approved pursuant to s. 1010.62 and pursuant to a written agreement approved by the Board of Governors. The amount transferred may not exceed the amount authorized for annual debt service pursuant to s. 1010.62.
(10)(a) Each university board of trustees shall establish a student activity and service fee on the main campus of the university. The university board may also establish a student activity and service fee on any branch campus or center. Any subsequent increase in the activity and service fee must be recommended by an activity and service fee committee, at least one-half of whom are students appointed by the student body president. The remainder of the committee shall be appointed by the university president. A chairperson, appointed jointly by the university president and the student body president, shall vote only in the case of a tie. The recommendations of the committee shall take effect only after approval by the university president, after consultation with the student body president, with final approval by the university board of trustees. An increase in the activity and service fee may occur only once each fiscal year and must be implemented beginning with the fall term. The Board of Governors is responsible for adopting the rules and timetables necessary to implement this fee.
(b) The student activity and service fees shall be expended for lawful purposes to benefit the student body in general. This shall include, but shall not be limited to, student publications and grants to duly recognized student organizations, the membership of which is open to all students at the university without regard to race, sex, or religion. The fund may not benefit activities for which an admission fee is charged to students, except for student-government-association-sponsored concerts. The allocation and expenditure of the fund shall be determined by the student government association of the university, except that the president of the university may veto any line item or portion thereof within the fund. If an increase is necessary, the university president shall have 15 school days from the date of presentation of the budget to act on the allocation and expenditure recommendations, which shall be deemed approved if no action is taken within the 15 school days. If any line item or portion thereof within the budget is vetoed, the student government association legislative body shall have 15 school days make new budget recommendations for expenditure of the fund. If the university president vetoes any line item or portion thereof within the new budget revisions, the university president may reallocate by line item that vetoed portion to bond obligations guaranteed by activity and service fees. Unexpended funds and undischarged funds remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall be carried over and remain in the student activity and service fund and be available for allocation and expenditure during the next fiscal year.
(11) Each university board of trustees shall establish a student health fee on the main campus of the university. The university board of trustees may also
establish a student health fee on any branch campus or center. Any subsequent increase in the health fee must be recommended by a health commit-
tee, at least one-half of whom are students appointed by the student body president. The remainder of the committee shall be appointed by the uni-
versity president. A chairperson, appointed jointly by the university president and the student body president, shall vote only in the case of a tie. The recom-
mandations of the committee shall take effect only after approval by the university president, after consultation with the student body presi-
dent, with final approval by the university board of trustees. An increase in the health fee may occur only once each fiscal year and must be imple-
mented beginning with the fall term. The Board of Governors is responsible for adopting the rules and timetables necessary to implement this fee.
(12) Each university board of trustees shall establish a separate athletic fee on the main campus of the university. The university board may also
establish a separate athletic fee on any branch campus or center. Any subsequent increase in the athletic fee must be recommended by an athletic fee
committee, at least one-half of whom are students appointed by the student body president. The remainder of the committee shall be appointed by the uni-
versity president. A chairperson, appointed jointly by the university president and the student body president, shall vote only in the case of a tie. The recom-
mandations of the committee shall take effect only after approval by the university president, after consultation with the student body presi-
dent, with final approval by the university board of trustees. An increase in the athletic fee may occur only once each fiscal year and must be imple-
mented beginning with the fall term. The Board of Governors is responsible for adopting the rules and timetables necessary to implement this fee.
(13) Each university board of trustees is authorized to establish the following fees:
(a) A nonrefundable application fee in an amount not to exceed $30.
(b) An orientation fee in an amount not to exceed $35.
(c) A fee for security, access, or identification cards. The annual fee for such a card may not exceed $10 per card. The maximum amount charged for
a replacement card may not exceed $15.
(d) Registration fees for audit and zero-hours registration; a service charge, which may not exceed $15, for the payment of tuition in installments;
and a late-registration fee in an amount not less than $50 nor more than $100 to be imposed on students who fail to initiate registration during the
regular registration period.
(e) A late-payment fee in an amount not less than $50 nor more than $100 to be imposed on students who fail to pay or fail to make appropriate
arrangements to pay (by means of installment payment, deferment, or third-party billing) tuition by the deadline set by each university. Each univer-
sity may adopt specific procedures or policies for waiving the late-payment fee for minor underpayments.
(f) A fee for miscellaneous health-related charges for services provided at cost by the university health center which are not covered by the health fee
set under subsection (10).
(g) Materials and supplies fees to offset the cost of materials or resources that are consumed in the course of the student’s instructional activities,
excluding the cost of equipment replacement, repairs, and maintenance.
(h) Housing rental rates and miscellaneous housing charges for services provided by the university at the request of the student.
(i) A fee representing the reasonable cost of efforts to collect payment of overdue accounts.
(j) A service charge on university loans in lieu of interest and administrative handling charges.
(k) A fee for off-campus course offerings when the location results in specific, identifiable increased costs to the university.
(l) Library fees and fines, including charges for damaged and lost library materials, overdue reserve library books, interlibrary loans, and literature
searches.
(m) Fees relating to duplicating, photocopying, binding, and microfilming; copyright services; and standardized testing. These fees may be charged
only to those who receive the services.
(n) Fees and fines relating to the use, late return, and loss and damage of facilities and equipment.
(o) A returned-check fee as authorized by s. 832.07(1) for unpaid checks returned to the university.
(p) Traffic and parking fines, charges for parking decals, and transportation access fees.
(q) An Educational Research Center for Child Development fee for child care and services offered by the center.
(r) Fees for transcripts and diploma replacement, not to exceed $10 per item.
(14) Each university board of trustees is authorized to establish a nonrefundable admissions deposit for undergraduate, graduate, and professional
degree programs in an amount not to exceed $200. The admissions deposit shall be imposed at the time of an applicant’s acceptance to the univer-
sity and shall be applied toward tuition upon enrollment. In the event the applicant does not enroll in the university, the admissions deposit shall be
deposited in an auxiliary account of the university and used to expand financial assistance, scholarships, and student academic and career counseling
services at the university. A university board of trustees that establishes an admissions deposit pursuant to this subsection must also adopt policies
that provide for the waiver of such deposit on the basis of financial hardship.
(15) Each university may assess a service charge for the payment of tuition and fees in installments. Such service charge must be approved by the
university board of trustees.
(16) The Board of Governors may establish a uniform maximum undergraduate tuition differential that does not exceed 40 percent of tuition for all uni-
versities that meet the criteria for Funding Level 1 under s. 1004.635(3), and may establish a uniform maximum undergraduate tuition differen-
tial that does not exceed 30 percent of tuition for all universities that meet the criteria for Funding Level 2 under s. 1004.635(3). However, the board
shall ensure that the maximum tuition differential it establishes for universities meeting the Funding Level 1 criteria is at least 30 percent greater
than the maximum tuition differential the board establishes for universities that meet Funding Level 2 criteria. The tuition differential is subject to the
following conditions:
(a) The sum of tuition and the tuition differential may not be increased by more than 15 percent of the total charged for these fees in the preceding
fiscal year.
(b) The tuition differential may not be calculated as a part of the scholarship programs established in ss. 1009.53-1009.537.
(c) Beneficial ownership of tuition differential pursuant to s. 1000.38(2)(b) which were in effect on July 1, 2017, and which remain in effect, are
exempt from the payment of the tuition differential.
(d) The tuition differential may not be charged to any student who was in attendance at the university before July 1, 2007, and who maintains con-
tinuous enrollment.
(e) The tuition differential may be waived by the university when the student is a member of the military who is attending the university while en-
rolled in the military.
(f) A university board of trustees that has been authorized by the Board of Governors to establish a tuition differential pursuant to this subsection
may establish the tuition differential at a rate lower than the maximum tuition differential established by the board, but may not exceed the maxi-
Indian Association of Law Schools. 409 N. State St., Suite 707, Chicago, IL 60610. 312-357-4093. flare@ialaw.org. 103.
Appendix F

The Green Fee Coalition has drafted a bill that will be presented to state legislators. Language includes provisions for a student and faculty committee. The bill also designates a range for the amount to be collected by each university. After approval from the state legislature it would be up to each Universities’ Board of Trustees to give final approval of the fee.

Proposed Amendment Language:

A bill to be entitled
An act relating to postsecondary student fees;
amending s. 1009.24, F.S.; authorizing state universities to charge a renewable energy fee under certain circumstances; providing certain procedures for establishing and implementing such fee; requiring a referendum and a vote before university boards of trustees may consider establishing such a fee; providing requirements concerning the referendum; specifying fee limits; providing for alteration of an established fee by university boards of trustees after approval of a renewable energy fee committee, the university president, the student government president, and the student government senate of the university; providing for membership of and appointment to the committee; specifying limits concerning fee changes; providing that the fee may not be included in certain awards; providing requirements for the expenditure of funds received from the fee; providing that any funds unexpended at the end of a fiscal year remain available for expenditure during the next fiscal year; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsections (14), (15), (16), (17), and (18) of section 1009.24, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (15), (16), (17), (18), and (19), respectively, and a new subsection (14) is added to that section, to read:

1009.24 State university student fees---

(14) (a) Each university board of trustees may establish a renewable fee to be paid by all students if the fee is supported by the student body of each university wishing to establish the fee. Student support for establishing the fee shall be determined by a referendum of the student body conducted by the student government association upon a request for such a referendum from the university president, the student body president, or the student government senate by a two-thirds vote. A university’s board of trustees may not consider establishment of the fee before a majority of the students participating in the referendum election for establishing a renewable energy fee. The referendum must include the proposed amount of the fee and an explanation of its purpose.
b) A fee established under this section may not fall below fifty cents per credit hour or exceed five dollars per credit hour in the first year of implementation. The initial amount charged for the fee must be in accordance with the referendum described in section (a). In subsequent years, any increase in the fee established under this section may not exceed eight percent per year. A change in the renewable energy fee may occur once each fiscal year and must be implemented beginning with the following fall semester. Not withstanding ss.1009.53 and 1009.531, the renewable energy fee may not be included in any award under such sections.

c) The renewable energy fee shall be expended for establishing or improving the use of renewable energy technology that directly lowers the affected university's greenhouse gas emissions, waste, or energy costs, and may not be expended on resources that are not intended for these uses. Expenditures of fee revenue shall be determined by a majority vote of the renewable energy fee committee, at least one quarter of whom must be students elected by the university's student government senate and at least one quarter appointed by the student body president. The remainder of the committee shall be appointed by the university president or designee, and may not exceed twelve members in total. Quorum for conducting committee business shall be greater than fifty percent of committee membership. A chairperson, elected by the committee, shall vote only in the case of a tie. Funds received from the fee which are unexpended at the end of a fiscal year shall be carried over and remain available for renewable energy expenditures consistent with this paragraph during the next fiscal year.

d) After five years of implementation, the university president shall call for a referendum election of the student body to assess student interest in continuing the existence of the renewable energy fee. The referendum election will coincide with the student body presidential election. If a majority of student voters elect to dissolve the fee, then the fee will no longer be collected, and remaining funds will be dispensed by the renewable energy fee committee within two fiscal years. The university's board of trustees may attempt to reestablish the fee as prescribed in section (a) one year following this referendum.

Definitions:

**Renewable energy** means energy exchange processes which consume no finite resources nor produce greenhouse gas emissions when used to produce electrical power, or efficiency and conservation methods that can be used to minimize the need for energy sources used to produce electrical power, that uses one of more of the following fuels, energy sources, or energy saving mechanisms: solar water heat, solar space heat, solar thermal electric, solar process heat, solar chimneys, solar power air-conditioning, concentrated solar power, solar updraft towers, passive solar building design, solar ovens, solar power satellites, photovoltaics, wind, ocean, dam-less hydroelectric, tidal stream power, deep water lake cooling, blue energy, geothermal, groundwater heat exchange, carbon dioxide-free hydrogen, solid waste, anaerobic digestion, distributed generation technologies (local installations), light emitting diode and natural lighting, high efficiency fluorescent bulbs, motion activated/deactivated switches, and other energy-efficient resources.