

Proposed Resolution Concerning the New UF Central Energy Plant Project

WHEREAS, the University of Florida Central Energy Plant Project, the new co-generation power plant proposed over Summer of 2021, will operate on natural gas, which primarily consists of the powerful greenhouse gas methane;

WHEREAS, this plan was decided with limited input from most of the UF community, including students, staff, and faculty;

WHEREAS, the enactment of this power plant plan will commit the University of Florida to a path that necessarily prevents the university from reaching a net zero CO₂ emission status until its decommissioning (claimed to be decades from now);

WHEREAS, the University of Florida community (faculty, staff, students) is currently producing an updated Climate Action Plan (UF CAP), and the results of this effort should be considered when finalizing the design of the Central Energy Plant;

WHEREAS, providing the University of Florida's electrical and heating/cooling and humidity control needs with natural gas will expose the University to unnecessary financial risk associated with the high volatility of natural gas availability and prices, and become increasingly uneconomical given the rapidly dropping price of renewable energy;

WHEREAS, prospective students, staff, and faculty increasingly consider the sustainability of an institution when making education and employment decisions, leading to the possibility that the University of Florida will limit its local and national reputation and potential talent pool moving forward;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of the University of Florida calls for a delay in the enactment of this plan so that further study can be made that will incorporate the goals of the updated UF CAP and other community input. We advocate for a broader plan that includes a transition to alternative energy sources and major increases in energy-use efficiency.