

State of Florida



# Public Service Commission

CAPITAL CIRCLE OFFICE CENTER • 2540 SHUMARD OAK BOULEVARD  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0850

**-M-E-M-O-R-A-N-D-U-M-**

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**DATE:** December 16, 2022

**TO:** Docket File

**FROM:** Jon Rubottom, Attorney *JHR*

**RE:** Docket No. 20200181-EU, In re: Proposed amendment of Rule 25-17.0021, F.A.C., Goals for Electric Utilities.

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Please place the attached comments, received from Mary Dipboye on December 16, 2022, in the docket file for Docket No. 20200181-EU.

December 16, 2022

Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

**Re: Docket No. 20200181 ; Post Workshop Comments**

Dear Chairman Fay and Commissioners Graham, Clark, La Rosa, and Passidomo:

As faith leaders, we urge you to support revisions to the Florida Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act (FEECA) goal-setting rule that will provide access to meaningful energy efficiency programs for hard working families, especially lower income families, to help them reduce their energy use and save money on power bills.

Fuel bill increases are hitting many families hard – exacerbating already high energy burdens. For instance, higher fossil gas costs passed on by FPL this year have spiked the fuel portion of power bills by 24% - impacting customers from Miami to Pensacola. Likewise, Duke Energy Florida and Tampa Electric gained approval to raise the fuel portion of customer bills by 21% and 38% respectively. These bill increases do not account for fuel and base rate increases in 2021 and the massive bill increases expected in 2023. The state is heavily reliant on fossil fuels for generating electricity and there is no end in sight to high gas prices.

Energy efficiency is a low cost, low risk resource. Therefore, the state should scale up investment in lower cost energy efficiency as it helps move families off the high power bill treadmill. But roadblocks, like outdated restrictive cost-effectiveness tests and screens in setting energy efficiency goals, lead to very weak energy savings achievements in Florida. That hurts families and the state's economy. Isn't it time to modernize 30-year-old practices that have kept Florida at the bottom of state rankings for using energy smarter?

We are called to be good stewards of God's creation. Scaling up energy efficiency is the quickest, cheapest and cleanest way to meet customer electricity demand and reduce harmful emissions that are negatively impacting our natural environment and local communities. By using energy smarter we can ensure energy savings for all families while also protecting our air, water and land for future generations.

Therefore, we urge you to modernize the state's energy efficiency goal setting rule in a way that provides clear direction to the state's utilities to increase the scale and depth of energy efficiency programs for hard working families.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Russell Meyer  
Exec. Director, Florida Council of Churches, Tampa, FL

Rev. Emily A. Sterling-Strongman, Executive Pastor  
First United Methodist Church of Orlando, FL

Sister Mary Haskins  
Sisters of the Holy Names, Florida Group, Tampa, FL

Henry Millat, Pres. Board of Trustees  
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lake County, Eustis, FL

Rev. Rachel S. DeLaune, Assoc. Minister  
First United Methodist Church, Winter Park, FL

Deacon Steve Beumer  
St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Winter Park, FL

Rev Margalie Belizaire  
First Unitarian Church of Orlando, Orlando, FL

Rev. Alison P. Harrity  
St. Richard's Episcopal Church, Winter Park, FL

Minister Lee Anne Washington  
Unitarian Universalist Church of Jacksonville, Jacksonville, FL

Rev. Kaaren Anderson, Interim Minister  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Vero Beach, Vero Beach FL

Rev. Christe Lunsford  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville, Gainesville, FL

Rev. Holly Brown, Interim Minister  
Unitarian Universalist Church of Tallahassee, Tallahassee, FL

Imam Muhammad Musri, President  
Islamic Society of Central Florida, Orlando, FL

Rev. Mary Piccard Vance, Retired  
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Coral Gables Congregational United Church of Christ, Miami, FL

Rev Dr. Neddy Astudillo  
GreenFaith Network, Tampa, FL

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Southeastern Yearly Meeting for the Religious Society of Friends, St Petersburg, FL

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Rev. Dr. Bernice Powell Jackson  
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Rev. Dr. Gabriel Morgan  
St Paul Lutheran Church, Tampa, FL

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Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greater Naples, Naples, FL

Lynn K. Robbins, Ph.D  
Temple Beth El, Fort Myers, FL

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