



## **This Weekend, Hundreds of Local Students Demand Climate Action at Florida's Regional Power Shift Summit**

Orlando, FL (October 23)—Florida's Power Shift summit is here at the University of Central Florida! Energy Action Coalition and coalition partners, including National Wildlife Federation, have announced a ground-breaking schedule of state-wide youth summits that will bring together thousands of young people to demand a climate and energy plan by December to rebuild our economy and support national security.

The Power Shift Regional Summits are locally run by student leaders and their organizations and will take place in 11 states this Fall, including this weekend's event, right here at the University of Central Florida (UCF). The UCF event is organized by National Wildlife Federation, Southern Energy Network, Energy Action Coalition, and student environmental leaders from the region. Visit <http://florida.powershift09.org/> to get more information about this weekend's summit.

"As Congress prepares to take action on clean energy legislation, our region's Power Shift summit hosted by the University of Central Florida will help bolster the youth voice that calls for climate action now," said Carly Queen, Campus Field Coordinator at National Wildlife Federation. "The speakers, performances, and student energy at these events will help our country's leaders to recognize the time to act is now."

This weekend's climate action event is being held in the midst of a very important debate in the Senate that involves Florida Senators Bill Nelson and George Lemieux. Participants will join with the Operation Free Veterans Tour and members of the community for a call to action on climate and clean energy Saturday, Oct. 24 from 2-4 p.m. at the UCF Arena.

"Florida youth have been actively campaigning on their campuses for efficiency and renewable energy projects for years," said Mandy Hancock of Southern Energy Network. "They've taken great leadership on these issues, even lobbying their state legislators to increase their student fees to create a budget for these important programs. Hundreds came to Power Shift in March, and they are ready to bring it home in a big way and demand similar leadership from their legislators."

These summits are part of the Power Shift '09 Campaign, an effort organized by young voters to push national leaders to take action on climate and energy by organizing rallies,

events, letter campaigns, phone calls, and meetings with elected officials. The national campaign brought a record 12,000 young people from every state and territory in the U.S. and Canada to Washington, D.C. in March of this year.

Summit participants are also a part of Saturday's International Day of Climate Action, a clarion call to put our world on course to a healthy environment. The day of action—of more than 4,000 events in more than 140 nations—is coordinated by [350.org](http://350.org) to urge world leaders to take fast and effective action on global warming. This is the first global campaign ever organized around a scientific data point: 350 parts per million CO<sub>2</sub> is the safe upper limit for the atmosphere according to the latest scientific data.

By attending one of this season's Power Shift Regional Summits, youth can have a big impact on the direction of our energy future. The Summits this October and November include speakers, performances, training sessions, rallies, and more. Learn more at <http://www.powershift09.org/Regional>.

**About:**

- National Wildlife Federation is America's largest conservation organization inspiring Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future.

- Energy Action Coalition was founded in 2004 and unites a diversity of organizations in an alliance that supports and strengthens the student and youth clean and just energy movement in North America. The 36 active and 14 supporting partners of Energy Action Coalition work together to leverage our collective power and create change for a clean, efficient, just and renewable energy future.

- Southern Energy Network builds and facilitates an inclusive student- and youth-led movement in the Southeast that empowers communities, develops leaders, and promotes a clean, just, safe, and sustainable energy future.

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