

More Resources for your ACUPCC Campaign

I.	Student Petitions	2
A.	Student Petition from Cornell University	2
B.	Student Petition from the University of Oklahoma	3
II.	Media Coverage	4
A.	Press Release from Cornell	4
B.	Editorial from campus paper at Washington University in St. Louis	5
C.	Letter to the Editor from UW-Madison	6
III.	Alumni Outreach	7
IV.	Student Government Resolution	8
V.	Letter to the President	10
A.	From the University of Oklahoma	10
B.	From Cornell University	11
C.	Sample recruitment cards (use for tabling, class presentations, etc)	12
D.	Sample talking points for meeting with President	12
VI.	Student Assembly Resolution	14
A.	Resolution in Support of Increasing the University of Michigan's Renewable Energy Purchases	14

I. Student Petitions

A. Student Petition from Cornell University

301 Day Hall
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14850

Dear President David J. Skorton,

We are writing to voice our support for immediate action to fight global climate change. Rising greenhouse gas emissions around the world are causing the planet to warm considerably. As students of a prestigious and highly empowered university, we cannot wait until we feel the direct effects of this worsening problem to take action. We must use our resources to fight this problem for our own future and for the millions of people currently being disproportionately affected.

As Cornellians, we know that Cornell is well-positioned to lead society through innovation, world-class teaching, and effective problem-solving. We have seen what this great institution has been capable of doing in terms of research, training, and outreach. However, it is now widely understood that society must reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 80% below 1990 levels by or before 2050 in order to avoid unprecedented climate changes and prevent millions, if not billions, of people from suffering the worst effects of our changing climate.

Therefore, we are calling on the Cornell community and the administration to join us in embracing the goals of the Beyond Kyoto Initiative, a campaign by the student group Kyoto Now! that requests that Cornell makes a moral commitment to become climate neutral as soon as possible. This action would place Cornell as a leader in solving global problems and would encourage other institutions to follow Cornell's leadership.

President Skorton, we ask that you sign the Presidents Climate Commitment and put Cornell on a path to climate neutrality.

Sincerely Yours,

The Undersigned Students

B. Student Petition from the University of Oklahoma

Whereas: the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment is a nationwide effort to address global warming by garnering institutional commitments to neutralize greenhouse gas emissions, and to accelerate the research and educational efforts of higher education to equip society to re-stabilize the earth's climate; and,

Whereas: the Presidents Climate Commitment involves setting target dates and goals, taking short term, tangible actions, developing a comprehensive plan, and tracking progress for becoming climate neutral; and,

Whereas: the University of Oklahoma can reduce long-term energy costs, attract excellent students and faculty, attract new sources of funding, and increase the support of alumni and local communities; and,

Whereas: the University of Oklahoma has influence in society, critical mass and the diversity of skills needed to successfully address the issue of global warming.

We, the undersigned, are petitioning that President David L. Boren make the University of Oklahoma a leader in the fight to curb global warming by signing on to the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment. Taking this pledge will commit our school to developing a comprehensive plan to achieve climate neutrality as soon as possible.

We believe that leading society in this effort fits squarely into the educational, research, and public service missions of higher education. Together, institutions of higher learning can help America secure a safe climate for future generations.

<http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.com/>

Name	Phone #	Email	Student ID #	Signature
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

II. Media Coverage

A. Press Release from Cornell

**For Immediate Release
February 11, 2007**

**Contacts: Carlos Rymer 551-556-0189
Kimberley Schroder 925-766-8813**

Cornell Commits to Climate Neutrality

ITHACA, NY- President David Skorton has signed the Presidents Climate Commitment, an initiative recently launched by Second Nature and the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's (AASHE), committing Cornell to developing and implementing a plan to make the campus climate neutral. The decision was made after the Cornell Ad Hoc Committee for Presidents Climate Commitment presented its report to President Skorton on Wednesday, urging him "to commit Cornell University to taking steps in pursuit of becoming climate neutral."

The Committee was created on February 11th in response to a meeting between President Skorton and KyotoNOW!, at which President Skorton promised to investigate the issue further. Co-chaired by Vice President for planning and budget Carolyn Ainslie and Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration Steve Golding, and made up of several members of the Cornell faculty and staff, as well as two members of the student group KyotoNOW!, the committee's objective was to analyze what climate neutrality entails and establish a basic strategy regarding how Cornell can best go about reaching this goal. To date, 80 colleges and universities have signed on to the agreement, and Ithaca College has announced its intent to sign it in the near future. The University of Pennsylvania is the only other Ivy League university committed to the agreement at this time.

"The fact that Cornell will be completely climate neutral within our lifetime is simply amazing," said Kimberley Schroder, '09 of KyotoNOW!. "We are very pleased with the administration's response and look forward to working with them to achieve these ambitious goals."

KyotoNOW! was founded in 2001 as a student organization working to help Cornell address climate change and is now affiliated with the Sierra Student Coalition (SSC). The SSC is part of the Energy Action Coalition, a network of 41 organizations from across the United States and Canada, which is organizing the Campus Climate Challenge, an initiative to unite college and high school students in their efforts to win 100% clean energy policies at their institutions. Currently, over 585 campuses are part of the Campus Climate Challenge.

The Committee's report called climate change "arguably the defining issue of this century," and outlined several steps Cornell can take to address it in the short term, including a commitment to Energy Star appliances and enacting further transportation initiatives. The report cautioned, however, that "[a]chieving climate neutrality is a formidable goal scientifically, academically, and financially, that will most likely demand decades of efforts and the production and use of innovations which we cannot currently imagine."

"We understand how tremendous a commitment this is," said Fil Eden, '10 of KyotoNOW!, "but we believe the Cornell community recognizes the importance of global climate change and is willing to work to address this crucial issue. Cornell started the campus climate movement when it became the first university to commit to the Kyoto Protocol in 2001, and this is the next step in that effort."

B. Editorial from campus paper at Washington University in St. Louis

available at:

<http://media.www.studlife.com/media/storage/paper337/news/2007/02/23/Forum/Cut-Campus.Carbon.Emissions-2739698.shtml>

Cut campus carbon emissions

By: Staff Editorial

Posted: 2/23/07

According to the Feb. 16, 2007 edition of the Chronicle of Higher Education, 70 college presidents signed an agreement to become "carbon neutral." Essentially this agreement recognizes the detrimental environmental affects from human-induced carbon emissions and binds colleges to create plans and take steps to limit their carbon output to the point where it can be offset by renewable energy resources and oxygen produced by the campus. The colleges and universities that signed this pact are diverse, ranging from state schools to Ivy Leagues, proving that this type of reform is possible for a variety of institutions. Wash. U., however, despite the lip-service it has given to environmental concern, remains absent from the list.

It is true that this aggressive reform would be expensive for the University - the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment requires actions such as building new buildings to the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED Silver standard as a minimum, only purchasing Energy Star products, accounting and offsetting all carbon burned including that consumed through transportation including flying, and leading the surrounding community in environmental reform. Deciding to become part of this agreement is no light commitment and the University would have to rethink not only its use of funds, but how the campus functions. The school would likely be forced to make sacrifices in its budget, and because of the massive effort involved in undertaking such drastic reform, in the priorities and attentions of the University administrators.

However, great strides can be taken toward environmental sustainability with less work than one might think. For example, The Chronicle of Higher Education mentions the large impacts of some fairly actions taken by the University of Pennsylvania, which raised its building temperatures by one degree in the summer and lowered them by one degree in the winter. This simple action saved the University \$1 million, which it used to purchase energy from wind farms.

Though small changes in how the school is run would make a large difference, becoming carbon neutral still requires sacrifice. But sometimes making sacrifices is necessary to ensure a better future. It is becoming increasingly clear that our current lifestyles and environmental practices will lead to future problems. The recent release of the latest Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change report confirms, yet again, beliefs by scientists that anthropocentric global warming is occurring. The report also says that it's likely we can remedy the problem by changing our emission patterns.

As an educational leader within this country, it is critical for the University to take a stance on the issue. The position and actions of Wash. U. not only affect the environment through the direct carbon emissions and pollution emitted by the University, but also in the way the community perceives the issue. The University is in a position to influence others' perceptions of acceptable environmental practices. By showing a serious dedication to the environment and tangible efforts to decrease the harm this University does to the environment, Wash. U. can cause others to approach the issue with the same seriousness and initiative.

Responding to environmental concerns is necessary to ensure that others do not suffer the affects of our actions. Because the Wash. U. community not only contributes directly to the problem, but also has the ability to exert an influence on the large number of people who respect the institution's decisions, there is a responsibility to begin aggressive environmental reforms.

This University should align itself with those who have accepted the ethical responsibility for their contributions to environmental degradation, are confronting the difficult challenge of finding ways to neutralize their negative impact on the environment, and making a commitment to the future. Sometimes the right actions may not be the easiest, but they are the right actions nonetheless, and Wash. U. now needs to rise up to meet that level of action.

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C. Letter to the Editor from UW-Madison

go to: http://badgerherald.com/oped/2007/02/23/uw_hypocritically_ne.php

III. Alumni Outreach

Email from Dartmouth College

----- Original Message -----

From: Georges H. G. Dyer '01
To: James.E.Wright@Dartmouth.EDU
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2007 1:27 PM
Subject: Alumni Appeal to Sign Climate Commitment

Dear President Wright,

We are writing as a group of alumni to urge you to sign the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment. This is an excellent opportunity for Dartmouth to showcase the great work being done on campus around sustainability, and a simple way to inspire others to follow your good example.

We are particularly eager to see Dartmouth become a founding member of the Leadership Circle to ensure the Big Green is recognized for its continued leadership in sustainability. As concerns mount over the potential worldwide implications of global climate change, the necessity for action becomes imperative. In joining this group, Dartmouth will be one of the leading institutions that invite over four thousand other Presidents and Chancellors to sign the commitment to pursue climate neutrality on their own schedule. The cut-off date for being a founding member is February 23rd.

Dartmouth is already well on its way to completing the actions required by the Commitment - the institutional structures are in place, a carbon inventory has been conducted, and conservation, efficiency, and green power initiatives are underway. Given recent regulatory trends (emission caps in Europe and California, RGGI in the Northeast, five climate change bills currently in Congress, etc.) it is highly likely that the College will be required to reduce emissions soon.

By continuing to take a proactive approach, you can ensure that Dartmouth addresses this issue in a strategic way, which will result in cost savings and good- will. Also, by integrating climate disruption issues into conversations on campus policy and in the classroom, Dartmouth can educate and produce leaders with the skills and competence needed to meet this enormous challenge.

The February 2nd release of the 4th report of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change – representing 2,500 scientists from over 100 countries - reiterates the urgency of dealing with global warming (<http://www.ipcc.ch/>). To continue to attract top students and produce societal leaders, Dartmouth must be at the forefront of this critical issue.

We encourage you to join your colleagues at forty-two (at latest count) other institutions in leading this initiative. More information on the initiative can be found at www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org.

Our fellow alumnus, Georges Dyer '01, is working on this initiative. Please contact him (info below) with questions or for assistance.

Sincerely,

Jourdan Abel, '03

Richard M. Adams, Jr., '01

Windsor (Salet) Adams, '00

Erik Andreasen, '01

Michelle Apigian, '93

(+ about 70 more...)

IV. Student Government Resolution

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT ASSOCIATION

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS

SESSION LXXVII

CBN:

Title: **A CONCURRING RESOLUTION REGARDING THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA CLIMATE COMMITMENT OF 2007**

Whereas: Climate change is an important issue to our generation and future generations. The issue must be addressed by the student body, faculty & staff, and the administration; and,

Whereas: As a university we have influence in society, the capable minds and resources, and the diversity of skills needed to address the issue of climate change and accomplish the goal of carbon neutrality; and,

Whereas: There is a compelling interest among the student body to see the issue addressed by student body leaders, faculty/staff, and the administration; and,

Whereas: Student groups, faculty, and staff that are already in a position to help implement policies to reduce emissions, implement the use of clean, efficient energy, and seek other ways to accomplish the stated goal; and,

Whereas: Currently, there is a campus-wide greenhouse gas emissions inventory being conducted that will calculate how much our campus emits as a whole, where these emissions come from, and in what areas we can make changes; and,

Whereas: The University of Oklahoma should make it a goal to accomplish carbon neutrality by the year 2050; and,

Whereas: The President's Climate Commitment, a nation-wide, multi-university effort toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions, provides the administration an opportunity to join other universities from around the country in joining a pledge to reduce campus' impacts on climate change; and,

Whereas: UOSA recognizes and applauds the University of Oklahoma's successful involvement in the Chicago Climate Exchange and the Oklahoma Wind Power Initiative; and,

Let it therefore be resolved:

Section 1: UOSA requests the establishment and implementation of the following long-term goals and solutions:

- a University pledge of carbon neutrality by the year 2050
- using 15% of electricity from purchased or produced renewable energy within the next two years
- a 50% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2025
- a policy within the next two years stating that new campus buildings be built with U.S. Green Building Council's LEED standards
- the ongoing implementation of policies that encourages students, faculty, and staff to use public transportation and encouraging bicycling and walking when commuting on

- and off campus
- the ongoing purchase of hybrid, hybrid/electric, ethanol, biofuel and compressed natural gas for University fleet vehicles
- increasing educational opportunities for students to learn about stewardship and the impact of consumption on the environment

Section 2: UOSA requests the establishment implementation of the following short-term goals and solutions:

- a Housing/Greek recycling/energy-use competition within the next year
- a policy stating that all IT computers hibernate when they are not being used and that IT printing settings/properties be set to automatic two-sided printing within the next year
- a policy that begins the installation of motion sensor/dimming lighting systems in campus buildings within the next year
- a policy that requires that a portion of the printing paper bought by faculty and staff be recycled paper and that a price discount be negotiated with the supplier within the next year

Section 3: Due to the longevity of this resolution, it is required that this bill be updated and reconsidered every two years by the legislative branch;

Section 4: Copies of this resolution shall be sent to:

David L. Boren, President
 Nicholas Hathaway, Vice President, Executive Affairs
 Burr Milsap, Associate Vice President, Administrative Affairs
 Don Carter, Assistant Director, Engineering and Systems Operations
 Sue-Anna Miller, Assistant Director, Administration and Operations
 Scott Davis, Assistant Director, Utilities
 Theta Dempsey, Parking and Transportation Services
 Kelly Watson, Architectural & Engineering
 Greg Brezinski, Refuse & Recycling
 Frank Reid, Electrical Engineer
 Steve Long, Director of Energy Management
 Deborah Dalton, Director of Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Environment

Author: Rod Jahromi, Vice-Chair of UOSA
 Jordan McGee, Secretary
 Matt Felty, Chairman of Problems & Projects Committee
 Tara Tannehill, Chairwoman of External Affairs Committee
 Eric Pollard, External Affairs Committee
 Felipe Armaza, Projects and Problems Committee

V. Letter to the President

A. From the University of Oklahoma

Dear President Boren,

It is clear that global climate change is one of the most important issues facing our country and is likely a major threat to the continued sustainability, security, and prosperity of human civilization. Worldwide, scientists agree that we need to immediately cut our emissions of greenhouse gases, leading to 70 to 90 percent reductions by 2050, if we are to avoid the most dangerous impacts of human interference with the climate system.

Our generation has the most to lose from inaction because we will be hit the hardest if those with institutional power do not make the proper changes right away. There are many impacts of global warming that we will face, including sea level rise, desertification, collapse of ecosystems, and more severe natural disasters. To overcome this threat, we must act with the collective power of our public institutions which, more so than individuals, have the resources to confront the challenge.

Fortunately, many of the solutions to global warming already exist and just need to be implemented. There are new technologies promoting clean air and efficiency, some of which are already transforming our cars, buildings, and power plants. With vast human, intellectual and capital resources to invest, the University of Oklahoma has a tremendous opportunity to implement these solutions now. Taking bold, comprehensive, and immediate action in the fight against a climate collapse is a deep-rooted ethical and intellectual responsibility as a leading institution of higher learning.

As you may already know, OU's environmental club, has teamed up with environmental organizations across the country to run a campaign called the Campus Climate Challenge here at OU. The challenge is an initiative taken by the student environmental movement to stop global warming by using campuses as models of sustainability through clean energy solutions.

You may have seen some coverage of our bike/pedestrian event in the Oklahoma Daily and we thank you for your quick action in response to our request to improve the bike lane in the South Oval and your continued support of sustainable transportation all around campus. We hope to continue working with whomever necessary to make the entire campus biker and pedestrian friendly. Our fundamental goals are to encourage the use of carbon free transportation and dissolve the safety and traffic issues between bikers and pedestrians.

The nationwide goal of the Campus Climate Challenge is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on campuses by 90% by the year 2050. To achieve this goal we must start by committing to work toward making OU a "green" university. The focus of OU's challenge is to achieve a commitment for a comprehensive plan for clean and efficient energy use that makes OU climate-neutral by 2030.

A new, comprehensive plan for a commitment to reduce emissions at educational institutions has recently been released and is called the President's Climate Commitment. It is a highly-visible effort to address global warming by using presidents of colleges and universities as strategic vehicles for implementing plans to eventually become climate-neutral. Over 70 college and university presidents from colleges across the nation have already signed on to this commitment, including Presidents at the University of Florida and Arizona State University. These schools are getting favorable media coverage around the country and are improving their grades in important campus rankings like the Green Report Card, on which we received a C-, given by the Sustainable Endowments Institute. We have an opportunity to lead the way here in Oklahoma

and honor our tradition as a leading institution of higher education and save money, improve our image, and meet our moral obligation to this and future generations along the way.

Parts of the plan are already in the works at OU, giving us a head start at achieving some of the goals of the commitment. One of the first goals of the President's Climate Commitment is to complete a full emissions inventory, and this is being done at OU this semester by students in the senior practicum course, IPE 4003. Another part of the commitment is to begin taking smaller actions that can be more immediate in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. We have already begun one of these steps by advocating for the construction of bike/pedestrian lanes to encourage carbon-free transportation to and from campus.

There are, of course, many small actions that can be taken and we would like to inform you on some of the plans that we have for OU. I have attached more information on the President's Climate Commitment that will fill in the details. Representatives from the Campus Climate Challenge would be grateful if we could have some of your time, in the next couple of weeks if possible, to discuss this further. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Whitney Pearson
Campus Organizer
Campus Climate Challenge

Eric Pollard
Event Coordinator
Campus Climate Challenge

Danny Terlip
President of OUR Earth

B. From Cornell University



February 8, 2009

Dear President Skorton,

Thank you for agreeing to meet with us. We are looking forward to talking with you tomorrow. Global warming is an important issue and its exciting that you are interested in this conversation.

I have included some items that we will be addressing in the meeting, which you may wish to look over if you have time. Enclosed are a copy of the President's Climate Commitment, the Resolution for Climate Neutrality at All Ivy League Institutions, as well as some supplementary information about carbon offsets.

We have talked to many students and faculty across the campus and have found that they are really excited about the possibility of Cornell leading on climate issues. Thank you so much for agreeing to discuss this important issue with us.

Sincerely,
The students of KyotoNOW!

C. Sample recruitment cards (use for tabling, class presentations, etc)

I think Cornell should be Carbon Neutral!
And I want to help!

Name: _____
Email: _____
Cell: _____

I'm interested in:

- student outreach**
- policy work**
- learning more about Beyond Kyoto!**
- other** _____



D. Sample talking points for meeting with President

Intros- 5 minutes:

Be prepared to introduce yourself- name, year, major, other notable things about you (important roles on campus, etc.)

History of Cornell's environmental policy/current practices of universities- 8 min:
(Thank you for meeting with us.)

KyotoNOW was one of the first environmental groups to focus directly on climate change.

Cornell in the past was the nationwide leader in sustainability, such as when the University was the first to make a commitment to following the Kyoto Protocol, prompting many other colleges to follow.

Now over 50 other schools have signed onto the President's Climate Commitment.

In the recent College Sustainability Report Card, Cornell is tied for last place among the Ivies. We received a B-, a full letter grade behind Harvard and Dartmouth. Cornell should lead the Ivies and all of America in a pledge to become carbon neutral.

If Cornell was to sign onto the President's Climate Commitment, it would be a signal of the value we place on our larger responsibility to our community and the world. It would attract students and faculty to Cornell and give us an opportunity to build alumni relations.

Show of support- 9 min:

This issue is one of the most discussed on campus. The campus is coming together in support of ending our contribution to global warming. We think that it is time that Cornell is a leader again and the campus agrees with us.

We are speaking on behalf of over XXXX students who have signed this petition. We are also representing XX student groups, with all different missions- from the Brazilian Dance Group to Hillel.

We also have seen a great deal of faculty support- over XX faculty members have signed an online petition asking that Cornell becomes part of the President's Climate Commitment. Faculty members who have signed include XX, XX and XX.

There is an amazing ability to build local sustainable solutions- whether its purchasing local foods or helping the town of Caroline develop wind power that can provide us with energy for years to come.

GOALS:

The University should sign AASHE's President's Climate Commitment, becoming the first Ivy League University to do so.

Additionally, the University should engage all stakeholders in immediate conversations to create a comprehensive plan to make Cornell carbon-neutral. This plan should be finalized by the end of the summer after work from faculty, students, staff, alumni, and community members.

- In our mission, it says the Cornell is a learning community. Creating this plan serves as a real life learning opportunity for students and their educators to learn together how to live sustainably.

This plan should ensure that Cornell becomes carbon-neutral by 2008 to show Cornell is truly committed to the principles of a clean energy future and plans to take a strong leadership role in creating one.

- We must take a strong position on this if we want to be seen as putting our values into practice and because of the scientific timelines that are dictated to us.

VI. Student Assembly Resolution

A. Resolution in Support of Increasing the University of Michigan's Renewable Energy Purchases

Sponsors: Shari Pomerantz, Environmental Issues Commission Co-Chair
Chris Detjen, Environmental Issues Commission Co-Chair
Dennis Panars, MSA Representative
Ari Siegel, MSA Representative

Whereas, the United Nations, the World Meteorological Association, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,¹ the National Academy of Sciences, and NASA agree that the earth's climate is changing as a result of human activities, and that these activities will raise the globally averaged mean temperature by between 2.5 and 10.4 degrees Fahrenheit, relative to 1990 levels, by 2100;²

Whereas, this temperature increase will likely raise sea levels³ and increase the incidence of heat waves,⁴ hurricanes,⁵ and other natural disasters in the United States and throughout the world;

Whereas, renowned NASA climate scientist James Hansen argues that human carbon emissions will have to peak and begin to decline by 2015 if the world is to avoid a dangerous "climate tipping point," beyond which sea levels could rise by eighty feet and 60 percent of species could become extinct;⁶

¹ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, "Climate Change 2001: The Scientific Basis," from the website of the IPCC, 2001, www.grida.no/climate/ipcc_tar/wg1/.

² Naomi Oreskes, "Beyond the Ivory Tower: The Scientific Consensus on Climate Change," *Science*, 306:5702 (2004), p. 1686.

³ Bruce Douglas *et al.*, *Sea Level Rise: History and Consequences*, San Diego: Academic Press, 2001, p. xvii.

⁴ Laurence Kalkstein, "Impacts of Global Warming on Human Health: Heat Stress-Related Mortality," in *Global Climate Change: Implications, Challenges and Mitigation Measures*, Easton, PA: Pennsylvania Academy of Science, 1992, p. 371.

⁵ Peter Webster *et al.*, "Frequency, Duration, and Intensity of Tropical Cyclonic Storms in a Warming Environment," presented January 31, 2006 at the American Meteorological Society's 18th Conference on Climate Variability and Change, 86th Annual AMS Meeting, Atlanta, GA, January 28 – February 4, 2006.

⁶ James Hansen, "The Threat to the Planet," from the website of *The New York Review of Books*, 53:12 (2006), <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/19131>.

Whereas, the United States – the world’s largest emitter of greenhouse gases and the source of about one fourth of the world’s carbon dioxide pollution⁷ – must reduce its greenhouse gas emissions dramatically if this goal is to be achieved;

Whereas, federal policies have failed to generate climate solutions adequate for ensuring American greenhouse gas emissions reductions;⁸

Whereas, state governments, corporations, universities, and other influential institutions are beginning to tackle the problem of climate change by committing to significant greenhouse gas emissions reductions through the purchase of clean renewable energy from wind and other sources;⁹

Whereas, these commitments have expanded markets and industries in states like Pennsylvania, California, New York, and Wisconsin through their efforts to combat climate change;¹⁰

Whereas, colleges and universities are playing particularly important roles in the push for clean energy and the development of state and regional economies;¹¹

Whereas, the United States Department of Energy considers 29 American colleges and universities (16 of them public) to be members of its Green Power Network, in recognition of their large renewable energy commitments;¹²

Whereas, the 56 colleges and universities of the Pennsylvania Consortium for Interdisciplinary Environmental Policy have, in collaboration with other state institutions, helped grow their state’s wind power industry;¹³

Whereas, the University of Pennsylvania has demonstrated the enormous potential of a single large, respected university to improve environmental and economic outcomes; whereas the University of Pennsylvania purchases 112,000

⁷ Robert Card, “Statement of the Honorable Robert Card, Under Secretary for Energy, Science, and Environment, U.S. Department of Energy,” presented July 10, 2002 at a Hearing before the Committee on Science, United States House of Representatives.

⁸ Barry Rabe, *Statehouse and Greenhouse: the Emerging Politics of American Climate Change Policy*, Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press, 2004, p. xi.

⁹ United States of America. Green Power Partnership. Environmental Protection Agency. Top Partners. 8 Jan. 2007. 29 Jan. 2007 <<http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/partners/top25.htm>>.

¹⁰ Barry Rabe *op cit.*, “Table 2-1. Renewables Portfolio Standards for Electricity, by State, 2003,” p. 53.

¹¹ The Harvard Green Campus Initiative, “The Role of Higher Education,” website of the Harvard Green Campus Initiative, 2006, <http://www.greencampus.harvard.edu/greenteams/academia.php>.

¹² United States Department of Energy (U.S. DOE) Staff, “Green Power Network: Large Purchasers of Green Power,” from the website of the U.S. DOE, 2006, <http://www.eere.energy.gov/greenpower/buying/customers.shtml>.

¹³ “The Pennsylvania Consortium for Interdisciplinary Environmental Policy.” 28 Jan. 2007 <<http://www.paconsortium.state.pa.us/default.htm>>.

megawatt-hours of energy (29% of its total needs) from wind power, an amount equivalent to the annual energy consumption of 10,500 average American homes;¹⁴ and whereas the EPA has attributed the construction of a new 12-turbine industrial wind farm to the University of Pennsylvania's efforts alone;¹⁵

Whereas, the University of Michigan is one of the largest and most respected universities in the world,¹⁶ and

Whereas, the University of Michigan purchases approximately 400 megawatt-hours of electricity per year, giving it the potential to grow its state's renewable energy economy substantially;¹⁷

Whereas, Penn State University has demonstrated the ability of a large public university to make equally meaningful commitments without exceeding its budget by increasing its renewable energy purchases from 5 percent of total energy consumption in 2001 to 20.5 percent in 2007 and paying an average price of only 0.5 cents per kilowatt-hour (compared with 1.4 cents per kilowatt-hour, the average price under its previous contract);¹⁸

Whereas, the University of Michigan is Michigan's flagship public university and one of the largest public universities in the United States,¹⁹ and

Whereas, the University of Michigan currently purchases less than one percent of its energy from renewable sources and has so far failed to address the climate challenge;²⁰

Whereas, New York University (NYU) currently purchases 118,000 megawatt-hours of renewable energy, 100% of its needs, making it the thirteenth largest

¹⁴ McWilliams, Julie. "University of Pennsylvania, Largest University Buyer of Wind Energy in the Nation, Triples Its Purchase." University of Pennsylvania 4 Apr. 2006. 27 Jan. 2007 <<http://www.upenn.edu/pennnews/article.php?id=935>>.

¹⁵ United States of America. Green Power Partnership. Environmental Protection Agency. University of Pennsylvania. 29 Jan. 2007. 29 Jan. 2007 <<http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/partners/partners/universityofpennsylvania.htm>>.

¹⁶ Fiske, Edward. Fiske Guide to Colleges 2007. 23rd ed. Sourcebooks, Inc., 2006.

¹⁷ Plant Operations, University of Michigan, fiscal year 2006.

¹⁸ "University Awards Environmentally Friendly Energy Contracts to Enhance Existing Green Initiatives." Penn State Live 22 Dec. 2006. <<http://energy.opp.psu.edu/energy-programs/procurement/green-power/folder.2005-11-01.4470900045/pa-wind-power-procurement>>

¹⁹ Fiske, Edward. Fiske Guide to Colleges 2007. 23rd ed. Sourcebooks, Inc., 2006.

²⁰ Meeting with the Associate Director of Utilities and Plant Engineering, Ann Arbor, MI, January 30, 2006.

renewable energy purchaser and the largest university renewable energy purchaser in the United States;²¹

Whereas, in obtaining one third of its purchased energy from renewable sources immediately, the University of Michigan would surpass NYU as the United State's largest university renewable energy purchaser and would achieve recognition as the number ten green power purchaser in the country;²²

Whereas, being a green university has never been more marketable and attractive, given mounting concerns among students and faculty about the risks of climate change and the growing list of colleges and universities that have improved their images and the economies around them by stepping up to the climate challenge;²³

Whereas, renewable energy purchases improve state economies by creating as many as ten times more jobs than comparable investments in the traditional fossil fuel energy sector;²⁴

Whereas, the price of wind energy has declined in recent years to a level well within the university's financial capabilities and is expected to continue to fall;²⁵

Whereas, in Colorado, Oklahoma, and areas of Texas, the price of wind energy has fallen below the prices of traditional energies like coal power;^{26 27 28}

²¹ United States of America. Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. Department of Energy. The Green Power Network. Oct. 2006.

²² United States of America. Green Power Partnership. Environmental Protection Agency. Top Partners. 8 Jan. 2007. 29 Jan. 2007 <<http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/partners/top25.htm>>.

²³ The Harvard Green Campus Initiative, "The Benefits of Taking Action," website of the Harvard Green Campus Initiative, 2006, http://www.greencampus.harvard.edu/greenteams/taking_action.php.

²⁴ Rob Sanders, "Investment in Renewable Energy Better for Jobs as Well as Economy," University of California-Berkeley News Center, April 13, 2004, http://www.berkeley.edu/news/media/releases/2004/04/13_kamm.shtml.

²⁵ Colorado State University recently purchased a large quantity of wind power at a premium of only 0.5 cents per kilowatt-hour beyond the price of traditional fossil fuel-based energy. United States of America. Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. Department of Energy. The Green Power Network: Green Power Prices. Aug. 2006.

²⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁷ United States of America. Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. Department of Energy. The Green Power Network: Green Power Prices. Nov. 2005. <<http://www.eere.energy.gov/greenpower/markets/pricing.shtml?page=2&companyid=186>>.

²⁸ United States of America. Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. Department of Energy. The Green Power Network: Green Power Prices. Mar. 2006. <<http://www.eere.energy.gov/greenpower/markets/pricing.shtml?page=2&companyid=277>>.

Whereas, fossil fuels have recently increased in price and this is expected to continue;²⁹

Whereas, the University of Michigan's annual energy costs rose by tens of millions of dollars between 2004 and 2005, due in large part to rising natural gas prices;³⁰

Whereas, the University has a long history of progressive social, political, and environmental leadership;^{31 32}

Whereas, in 2004, University President Mary Sue Coleman declared:
“Environmental stewardship is a key responsibility of the University, the city of Ann Arbor, and, indeed, the nation. The importance of stewardship is reflected not only in its relevance to our students, faculty, staff, and alumni, but also in response to growing environmental challenges such as global warming, urban sprawl, limited natural resources and the loss of biodiversity. In its role as a world-class educational institution, the University of Michigan has historically led by example. With respect to environmental stewardship, the University should pursue leadership in its approach to environmental policies, practice, and education by setting a standard for other universities, for the state, and for the local community.”³³

Whereas, the University of Michigan has the financial and organizational ability to significantly reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and become an environmental leader;

Therefore, be it resolved that it is imperative that the University of Michigan act now to significantly reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and become an environmental leader for the state of Michigan and the wider United States;

Be it further resolved, that the Michigan Student Assembly support the efforts of the Environmental Issues Commission in advocating for an increase in the University of Michigan's renewable energy commitment;

²⁹ Associated Press, “Rising Oil Prices Boost Renewable Energy,” *msnbc.com*, October 21, 2004, <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/6271966/>.

³⁰ Meeting with the University of Michigan Energy Management Liaison, Ann Arbor, MI, December 19, 2006.

³¹ Zac Peskowitz, “Radical chic and the state of student activism,” *Michigan Daily*, September 4, 2002.

³² University of Michigan staff, “EnergyStar Award Affirms Campus-wide Commitment to Utilities Reduction,” website on Environmental Stewardship at the University of Michigan, 2002, <http://www.umich.edu/~urel/stewardship/doing/campaign.html>.

³³ President Mary Sue Coleman. University of Michigan Environmental Task Force Public Forum. February 19, 2004.

Be it further resolved, that the President of the Michigan Student Assembly will sign a letter written by the Environmental Issues Commission to the President of the University of Michigan, Mary Sue Coleman, encouraging the University of Michigan to purchase some combination of Michigan-based renewable energy and renewable energy certificates amounting to one third (33%) of the University's total energy consumption immediately (i.e. by the beginning of the Fall 2007 semester), to purchase 50% of its energy from renewable energy sources by the year 2011, and 100% of its energy from renewable sources by the year 2015; and

Be it finally resolved, that the Environmental Issues Commission will, on behalf of the Michigan Student Assembly, write a statement for publication in the *Michigan Daily* to support the three renewable energy purchase targets mentioned above.