

Resolution History

The University of Colorado at Boulder serves as a leader in environmental issues. Currently, Facilities Management is considering a lighting upgrade for several campus buildings. Last spring students voted by a 5:1 margin in support of raising their student fees to purchase clean and renewable energy produced by wind power for part of the University's energy needs. Additionally, last spring the UCSU Environmental Center created a Blueprint for a Green Campus, which included the goal of creating a climate friendly campus. The Blueprint suggests the University commit to meeting the emissions reduction targets of the Kyoto Protocol which would reduce CU's greenhouse gas emissions by seven percent below 1990 levels by 2010.

Resolution Summary

- Whereas** the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recently came out with a report saying human-caused emissions contribute substantially to global warming.
- Whereas** the IPCC report also suggests that if greenhouse emissions are not decreased, average surface temperatures could be expected to increase between 2.5 and 10.4 degrees Fahrenheit (1.4 to 5.8 degrees Celsius) by the end of this century.
- Whereas** the cost of natural gas has been steadily increasing which will, in turn, raise energy costs for campus.
- Whereas** energy use on campus has been increasing by 5% a year for the past ten years.
- Whereas** the University of Colorado-Boulder has been and continues to be an environmental leader.
- Whereas** students have demonstrated their commitment to clean energy by voting to purchase wind power by a 5:1 margin.
- Whereas** the survey conducted by Aspen Research Associates in 1999 shows that over 88% of students support CU investing in energy efficiency throughout campus to delay the possible need for a new power plant.
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BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislative Council of the University of Colorado Student Union THAT:

- 1) UCSU calls on the Boulder campus to minimize energy use consistent with the health and safety needs of campus
- 2) UCSU strongly supports the reduction of campus emissions through a campus-wide lighting upgrade and other efficiency measures.
- 3) UCSU urges the University to follow the students' leadership and expand campus use of clean renewable energy such as wind-generated electricity.
- 4) UCSU urges the University to begin replacing fleet vehicles with hybrid electric ultra-low emission vehicles.
- 5) UCSU urges the campus to maintain the existing strong energy conservation standards for new construction and strengthen them where possible.