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SB19-13/14: Sustainability

Peregrine Frissell

Eva Rocke

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Recommended Citation

Frissell, Peregrine and Rocke, Eva, "SB19-13/14: Sustainability" (2013). *Senate Resolutions, 2007-Present*. 24.

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1 **The Associated Students of The University of Montana**
2 **Resolution Regarding Sustainability**

3 **October 9, 2013**

4 **SB19-13/14**

5 **Authored by: Peregrine Frissell, ASUM Senator; Eva Rocke, ASUM Sustainability**
6 **Coordinator**

7 **Sponsored by: Erik Lillquist, ASUM Senator; Noela Kinda, ASUM Senator; Kara**
8 **Colovich, Student; Hope Radford, Student-at-Large; Caelan Simeone, Student**

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10 Whereas, The University of Montana (UM) has committed to addressing its own
11 sustainability and reducing its carbon emissions as a signatory of the American College
12 and University Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) by President George
13 Dennison in 2007;

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15 Whereas, UM's 2010 Climate Action Plan (CAP), signed by President Dennison and
16 informed by ongoing Greenhouse Gas Emissions inventories, sets forth the ambitious
17 goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2020;

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19 Whereas, meeting our 2020 carbon neutrality goal would propel UM to a place of
20 national leadership with regards to the sustainability movement and in turn make UM
21 look more appealing to potential students across the nation;

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23 Whereas, The Associated Students of The University of Montana (ASUM) officially
24 endorsed the CAP on March 21, 2010;

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26 Whereas, the students of UM have expressed ongoing support for sustainability work
27 through the passage of an optional student sustainability fee that has, over its four-year
28 history, provided more than \$350,000 for efficiency and sustainability-focused projects
29 on the UM campus;

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31 Whereas, the UM-CAP explains that the combination of on-campus emissions reduction
32 projects, annually purchased carbon offsets, biomass energy generation, and wind power
33 could reduce UM's carbon emissions by 56,000 metric tons CO² annually and could save
34 UM \$4,000,000 each year;

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36 Whereas, the UM Kless Revolving Energy Loan Fund (KRELF) committee has approved
37 \$100,000 of student funds to be spent on the Smart Buildings Initiative in FY 2012/2013
38 and, in particular, the purchase and installation of real-time energy monitoring equipment
39 to help UM meet its energy reduction goals;

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41 Whereas, UM is not currently on track to meet its stated goal of 10% reduction of carbon
42 emissions by 2015;

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44 Whereas, more significant funding and administrative support will be needed for UM to
45 pursue large-scale renewable energy projects that will address the bulk of the
46 University's carbon emissions;

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Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that ASUM requests that UM administration conduct a study into the feasibility of carbon offsets, biomass cogeneration, and wind investment projects;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, that ASUM asks for the findings of the study to be shared with the campus community in order for educational and productive dialogue to take place that leads to the selection of specific carbon emissions reduction strategies for UM;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to UM President Royce Engstrom, UM Vice President for Administration and Finance Mike Reid, and UM Sustainability Coordinator Cherie Peacock.

Passed by Committee: _____, 2013

Passed by ASUM Senate: _____, 2013

Jan Roddy,
Relations and Affairs Chair

Mariah Williams,
Chair of the Senate