

Fall 2014

SB031-14/15: Resolution Regarding the Climate Action Plan

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1 **The Associated Students of The University of Montana**
2 **Resolution Regarding the Climate Action Plan**
3 **September 10, 2014**
4 **SB031-14/15**

5 **Authored by: Peregrine Frissell, ASUM Senator**
6 **Sponsored by: Megan Perry, ASUM Senator; Sam Forstag, ASUM Senator; ASUM**
7 **Sustainability Center**
8

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

12
13 Whereas, UM President George Dennison signed the UM Climate Action Plan (CAP) in 2010,
14 which strives for carbon neutrality for our university by the year 2020, after it received large
15 amounts of support from the student body;

16
17 Whereas, The Associated Students of The University of Montana (ASUM) officially
18 endorsed the CAP on March 21, 2010;

19
20 Whereas, meeting our 2020 carbon neutrality goal would propel UM to a place of
21 national leadership with regards to the sustainability movement;

22
23 Whereas, meeting our 2020 neutrality goal would make UM look more appealing to potential
24 students across the nation;

25
26 Whereas, the UM-CAP explains that the combination of on-campus emissions reduction
27 projects, annually purchased carbon offsets, biomass energy generation, and wind power
28 could reduce UM's carbon emissions by 56,000 metric tons CO2 annually and could save
29 UM around \$4,000,000 each year;

30
31 Whereas, the CAP outlines an interim goal of seeking carbon emissions that are 10% lower than
32 the 2007 levels by the year 2015;

33
34 Whereas, the CAP explicitly states: "Interim targets are as important, if not more so, than a
35 carbon neutrality goal. Interim targets are short term, provide the opportunity to measure
36 progress, and encourage starting the downward trend toward carbon neutrality sooner."

37
38 Whereas, UM has not yet met that goal despite ongoing student support and encouragement every
39 year since the plan's inception;

40
41 Whereas, student body at UM passed by voter referendum the Sustainability Fee of four dollars
42 five years ago, and chose to increase that fee two years ago to six dollars in order to better address
43 the question of carbon emissions from our campus;

44
45 Whereas, over the five year lifetime of the fee students have contributed about \$400,000 dollars
46 to help meet that goals outlines in the CAP;

47
48 Whereas, since 2011 the student sustainability fee has funded projects that have mitigated 480
49 tons of carbon;

50
51 Whereas, according to a report commissioned by the KRELF Committee in the spring of 2014,

52 those projects have saved about \$45,000 in energy costs to the university;

53

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

57

58 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved that the 2014-15 ASUM Senate fully supports the Climate Action
59 Plan and the 2015 goal of 10% reduction from 2007 emission levels;

60

61 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, that ASUM requests the UM Administration work with the
62 Office of Sustainability and other relevant entities to have an effective plan in place to achieve
63 this goal before the end of the 2014-15 academic year, and will have achieved the goal before the
64 end of the 2015 calendar year;

65

66 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to UM
67 President Royce Engstrom, UM Vice President for Administration and Finance Mike Reid,
68 ASUM Sustainability Coordinator Chris Olsen, and UM Sustainability Coordinator Eva Rocke.

69

70 Passed by Committee: _____, 2014

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72 Passed by ASUM Senate: _____, 2014

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78 _____
79 Sarah Smith,
Relations and Affairs Chair

Sean McQuillan,
Chair of the Senate