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### SB08-15/16: Sustainability

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1                                   **The Associated Students of The University of Montana**  
2                                   **Resolution Regarding Sustainability**  
3                                   **September 9, 2015**  
4                                   **SB08-15/16**

5           **Authored by: Meredith Repke, ASUM Sustainability Coordinator, Samuel K. Forstag**  
6           **Sponsored by: ASUM Sustainability Committee, Jared Halvorson, Samuel K. Forstag**  
7

8   Whereas, President George M. Dennison signed the American College and University  
9   Presidents' Climate Commitment in 2007, committing the University of Montana to  
10   develop an institutional climate action plan to become climate neutral;

11  
12   Whereas, the University of Montana's 2010 Climate Action Plan sets forth the ambitious  
13   goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2020;

14  
15   Whereas, the Climate Commitment includes recommendations to explore a large-scale  
16   renewable energy project to offset purchased electricity on the University of Montana  
17   mountain campus;

18  
19   Whereas, the solar panel covered parking project is a large-scale renewable energy  
20   project, providing about 10% of the University of Montana's annual electrical needs for  
21   the next 40 years;

22  
23   Whereas, the solar panel covered parking project has received strong support from  
24   students and the Sustainable Campus Committee;

25  
26   Whereas, the University of Montana will be reimbursed the entirety of its initial  
27   investment by Western Renewable Energy if the project is brought to fruition;

28  
29   Whereas, in addition to this reimbursement, this project would provide the University  
30   with \$8 million worth of savings over the next 40 years;

31  
32   Whereas, the Solar Investment Tax Credit (Solar ITC) tax incentive that would allow the  
33   University to reap the financial and environmental rewards of this project will expire at  
34   the end of 2016;

35  
36   Therefore, Let It Be Resolved that the Associated Students of the University of Montana  
37   (ASUM) endorses the solar panel covered parking project and requests that said project  
38   be brought to the Board of Regents for September meeting as an information item;

39  
40   Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved that ASUM encourages the University of Montana  
41   administration to pursue a feasibility study to bring the solar panel covered parking  
42   project to the next phase;

43  
44   Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved that this resolution be sent to Royce Engstrom,  
45   President of UM; Clayton Christians, Commissioner of Higher Education; Bill Borrie,  
46   Chair of Faculty Senate; John Deboer, Chair-Elect of Faculty Senate; Jennifer Zellmer-

47 Cuaresma, President of Staff Senate; Maria Mangold, Vice President of Staff Senate; and,  
48 Eva Rocke, UM Sustainability Director.

49  
50 Passed by Committee: \_\_\_\_\_, 2015  
51

52  
53 Passed by ASUM Senate: \_\_\_\_\_, 2015  
54

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56 \_\_\_\_\_

57 Jared Halvorson  
58 Chair, ASUM Sustainability Board

56 \_\_\_\_\_  
57 Betsy Story  
58 Chair of the Senate

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