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### **SB66-19/20: Resolution Endorsing the University of Montana's Commitment to Conserve 35% More Energy by 2025**

Melody Hollar

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1                                   **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**  
2       **Resolution Endorsing the University of Montana's Commitment to Conserve 35% More**  
3                                   **Energy by 2025**  
4                                   **March 21, 2020**  
5                                   **SB66-19/20**

6                   **Authored by: Melody Hollar, Climate Response Club President;**  
7       **Sponsored by: Noah Durnell, ASUM Senator; Adrianna Medina, ASUM Senator;**  
8

9       Whereas, The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) represents all ASUM  
10       fee-paying students of the University of Montana (UM);

11  
12       Whereas, ASUM currently advocates for sustainability efforts through ASUM Sustainability and  
13       Zero-Waste Committees, and through shared governance with ASUM representation on  
14       Sustainable Campus and KRELF Committees;  
15

16       Whereas, Climate change threatens the way of life found in Montana, the United States, and the  
17       world at large through increasingly frequent and severe wildfires, other natural disasters, food  
18       production disruptions, and exacerbated water issues<sup>12</sup>;

19  
20       Whereas, Mitigating climate change is of particular importance to youth because they will be  
21       most affected by the extreme climate impacts projected for the mid- to late-21<sup>st</sup> century<sup>3</sup>;

22  
23       Whereas, Climate change is driven by greenhouse gas emissions<sup>4</sup>;

24  
25       Whereas, Electricity generation in Montana contributes to approximately 27% of the state's  
26       gross anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, even when excluding electricity exports<sup>5</sup>;

27  
28       Whereas, Montana emitted 117.7 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> through energy-related activities in  
29       2016<sup>6</sup>;

30  
31       Whereas, UM spent \$4.004 million on Missoula campus building energy in Fiscal Year 2019 that  
32       contributed to approximately 23,520 metric tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions<sup>7</sup>;

33  
34       Whereas, UM's energy use accounts for about 2/3 of its total carbon emissions<sup>8</sup>;

35  
36       Whereas, UM's energy is supplied almost entirely by NorthWestern Energy<sup>9</sup>;

37  

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<sup>1</sup> Climate Smart Missoula: Local Signs of Change

<sup>2</sup> 2017 Montana Climate Assessment

<sup>3</sup> Fall 2019 Bond Spending Priorities Student Survey

<sup>4</sup> IPCC 2014 Report

<sup>5</sup> 2007 Montana DEQ GHG Inventory

<sup>6</sup> 2016 Federal Energy Information Administration Emissions Report

<sup>7</sup> The University of Montana - Missoula Overall Energy Ranking of Building FY19 7/2018-6/2019

<sup>8</sup> 2001-2007 UM GHG Assessment

<sup>9</sup> 2010 Climate Action Plan UM

38 Whereas, NorthWestern Energy's monopoly over UM's energy gives the University very little  
39 opportunity to reflect the University's values in energy procurement;

40  
41 Whereas, Regional energy capacity during peak load periods are forecasted to experience  
42 shortages as early as 2021, which has prompted NorthWestern Energy to express concern about  
43 its ability to continue to supply affordable energy<sup>10</sup>;

44  
45 Whereas, NorthWestern Energy plans to address the aforementioned energy shortage by  
46 increasing the amount of energy it generates from coal and natural gas combustion and buying  
47 expensive electricity on the general market<sup>11</sup>;

48  
49 Whereas, The likely regional energy shortage will expose consumers to rising and possibly  
50 volatile energy prices<sup>12</sup>;

51  
52 Whereas, The University of Montana spent \$5.5 million on utilities in 2016<sup>13</sup>;

53  
54 Whereas, In its 2020 Strategic Plan, the University identified four core values that drive every  
55 aspect of its mission and vision, including Leadership, Engagement, Diversity, and  
56 Sustainability<sup>14</sup>;

57  
58 Whereas, When describing its commitment to sustainability in its 2020 Strategic Plan, the  
59 University stated that "The University of Montana models a pathway to economic, financial,  
60 environmental, and cultural sustainability in every aspect of mission fulfillment"<sup>15</sup>;

61  
62 Whereas, A survey sent to students in the fall of 2019 regarding spending priorities for the \$63  
63 million in bond funds found sustainability to be the second highest-ranked priority of 2019<sup>16</sup>;

64  
65 Whereas, Confronting climate change and the greenhouse gases that contribute to it is a major  
66 component of sustainability;

67  
68 Whereas, The University has made prior commitments to reduce its carbon footprint, including:

- 69 1. 2002 Talloires Declaration to commit to sustainable development<sup>17</sup>
- 70 2. 2007 American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment  
71 (ACUPCC)<sup>18</sup>
- 72 3. 2008 GHG Assessment<sup>19</sup>
- 73 4. 2010 Climate Action Plan<sup>20</sup>;

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<sup>10</sup> 2019 NWE Procurement Plan

<sup>11</sup> 2019 NWE Procurement Plan

<sup>12</sup> 2019 Montana Free Press Article

<sup>13</sup> UM FY16 Utility Costs

<sup>14</sup> 2020 UM Strategic Plan

<sup>15</sup> 2020 UM Strategic Plan

<sup>16</sup> Fall 2019 Bond Spending Priorities Student Survey

<sup>17</sup> 2002 Talloires Declaration to Commit to Sustainable Development

<sup>18</sup> 2010 Climate Action Plan UM

<sup>19</sup> 2001-2007 UM GHG Assessment

<sup>20</sup> 2010 Climate Action Plan UM

74  
75 Whereas, By reducing its energy consumption, the University of Montana will reduce its  
76 contribution to continued greenhouse gas emissions while also reducing its exposure to volatile  
77 energy prices<sup>21</sup>;

78  
79 Whereas, The University of Montana is undergoing a strategic energy Master Planning Process  
80 for energy usage in the coming years;

81  
82 Whereas, The University of Montana is considering hiring the engineering firm, McKinstry, for  
83 an energy savings performance contract that will assess energy use and evaluate a range of  
84 suggested energy-saving measures at UM;

85  
86 Whereas, Upon completion of their analysis of energy-saving measures across campus,  
87 McKinstry will provide a cost-savings guarantee for energy-saving measures that they will back  
88 up with their own funding if savings are less than projected;

89  
90 Whereas, The University of Montana acquired \$63 million in bond sales in the fall of 2019 to use  
91 for physical improvements that must be spent within the next three years<sup>22</sup>;

92  
93 Whereas, The University of Montana is currently deciding how to apportion the \$63 million in  
94 bond funds to infrastructure improvements to campus this semester;

95  
96 Whereas, The students of the UM Climate Response Club are committed to pursuing energy  
97 conservation through infrastructure improvements;

98  
99 Whereas, A petition gathering support for a 35% reduction in energy use by 2025 has received  
100 more than 300 petition signatures in two weeks;

101  
102 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, That ASUM urges the administration of the University of  
103 Montana to act on its Strategic Plan and use some of the \$63 million in bond money to  
104 implement the measures McKinstry suggests as energy-saving improvements to its physical  
105 structures to achieve a 35% reduction in energy use compared to fiscal year 2019 by 2025;

106  
107 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That ASUM calls on the Staff and Faculty Senate to pass  
108 similar resolutions urging the administration to adopt this energy conservation goal;

109  
110 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That ASUM urges the administration of the University of  
111 Montana to include at least one student liaison in the deliberations regarding apportionment of  
112 funds to infrastructure improvements;

113  
114 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That this resolution be sent to Seth Bodnar, President of  
115 the University of Montana; Kelly Webster, Chief of Staff; Paul Lasiter, Vice President of  
116 Finance and Operations; Eva Rocke, UM Sustainability Coordinator; John Harbor, Provost and  
117 Executive Vice President; Mark Pershouse, Chair of Faculty Senate; Chris Palmer, Chair-elect of

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<sup>21</sup> UM FY16 Utility Costs

<sup>22</sup> \$63 Million Bond Sale

118 Faculty Senate; Rozlyn Haley, Chair of Staff Senate; Charity Atteberry, Chair-Elect of Staff  
119 Senate; Brian Kerns, Facilities Engineer; Maddy Jones, ASUM Sustainability Coordinator.

120  
121

122 Passed by Committee: \_\_\_\_\_, 2020

123  
124

125 Passed by ASUM Senate: April 1, 2020

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127  
128

129 \_\_\_\_\_  
130 Noah Durnell,  
131 Chair of the Relations and Affairs Committee

\_\_\_\_\_

Ethan Hanley,  
Chair of the Senate

132  
133

134 \_\_\_\_\_  
135 Emma Keifer,  
136 Chair of the ASUM Sustainability Committee

137  
138

Resolution unanimously approved