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SB68-19/20: Resolution Encouraging the Creation of a Campus-Wide Paper Towel Compost Program

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1 **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**
2 **Resolution Encouraging the Creation of a Campus-Wide Paper Towel Compost Program**
3 **March 1, 2020**
4 **SB68-19/20**

5 **Authored by: Adrianna Medina, ASUM Senator;**

6 **Sponsored by: Noah Durnell, ASUM Senator; Taylor Gregory, ASUM Senator; Melody**
7 **Hollar, President of Climate Response Club;**

8
9 Whereas, The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) oversees the ASUM
10 Sustainability Agency;

11
12 Whereas, ASUM currently advocates for sustainability efforts and actions on campus through
13 ASUM Sustainability, Zero Waste, KRELf, and through shared governance with ASUM
14 representation on Sustainable Campus committees;

15
16 Whereas, Student support for sustainability efforts has been repeatedly made evident through
17 student surveys and by several student body votes regarding the Sustainability Fee;

18
19 Whereas, The Paper Towel Compost Pilot Program would serve as a model for how the
20 University of Montana (UM) would drastically increase the quantity of waste diversion from
21 Missoula's landfill if UM composted washroom towels;

22
23 Whereas, The Paper Towel Compost Pilot Program is implemented in The Forestry Building and
24 the fourth floor of the Clapp Building;

25
26 Whereas, The two aforementioned buildings fill one and a half 64-gallon Missoula Compost bins
27 per week;

28
29 Whereas, The Paper Towel Compost Pilot Program cost the Forestry Building about \$48 per
30 month for two bins from Missoula Compost, paid for by a collective fee from the office spaces;

31
32 Whereas, Missoula Compost is committed to providing UM with composting bins campus wide,
33 creating a more uniform infrastructure;

34
35 Whereas, The Paper Towel Compost Pilot Program has been implemented for 8 months;

36
37 Whereas, Since the implementation of the Paper Towel Compost Pilot Program, the Forestry
38 Building and fourth floor Clapp Building, with its three bathrooms alone has diverted 940
39 gallons of compacted paper towels and 240 plastic garbage bags from the landfill;

40
41 Whereas, By initiating composting campus-wide, UM will advance its core value of
42 sustainability outlined in its 2020 Strategic Plan and empower students to pursue sustainability at
43 an individual level;

44

45 Whereas, If the Paper Towel Compost Pilot Program was implemented campus-wide, paper
46 towel waste diverted is estimated to be 1,400 gallons per month or 126,000 gallons per academic
47 year, which is equivalent to four semi-trailer truckloads of packed paper towel waste;
48

49 Whereas, The Paper Towel Compost Pilot Program is a highly successful initiative in diverting
50 paper towels from the landfill and subsequently, in generating materials that improve the texture
51 and fertility of soils;

52
53 Whereas, Implementing the Paper Towel Compost Pilot Program campus-wide, UM would
54 reduce the campus' and Missoula's carbon footprint, and emissions, while fostering zero waste
55 initiatives;

56
57 Whereas, The implementation of the Paper Towel Compost Pilot Program campus-wide has been
58 presented to the ASUM Sustainability Board, the Zero Waste Advisory Board, the Sustainable
59 Campus Committee, and UM custodial staff representatives;

60
61 Whereas, ASUM Sustainability Committee does not have the financial resources to support the
62 implementation of the Paper Towel Compost Pilot Program campus wide, nor should the
63 expectation of implementing such a change fall solely on this committee's finances;

64
65 Whereas, The UM custodial staff has not taken direct action or continued discussion on behalf of
66 the Paper Towel Compost Pilot Program due to logistical concerns;

67
68 Whereas, Implementation of the Paper Towel Compost Pilot Program campus-wide has not yet
69 been regarded by UM administration;

70
71 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, That ASUM calls on UM to fully implement the Paper Towel
72 Compost Pilot Program campuswide;

73
74 ~~Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That ASUM calls on Sustainable Campus Committee to~~
75 support and deliberate on the implementation of the Paper Towel Compost Pilot Program
76 campus-wide;

77
78 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That ASUM calls on UM custodial staff to support and
79 deliberate on the implementation of the Paper Towel Compost Pilot Program campus wide;

80
81 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That ASUM calls on UM to subsidize the costs associated
82 with the implementation of the Paper Towel Compost Pilot Program campus-wide, and its
83 staffing by UM custodial services;

84
85 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That this resolution be sent to Eva Rocke, UM
86 Sustainability Coordinator; Maddy Jones, ASUM Student Sustainability Coordinator; Steve
87 Thompson, Chair of Sustainable Campus Committee; Tim Elliot, Assistant Director of Custodial
88 Services; Kevin Krebsbach, Director of Facility Services; Seth Bodnar, President of the
89 University of Montana; Paul Lasiter, Vice President for Operations and Finance.
90

91
92 Passed by Committee: _____, 2020

93
94 Passed by ASUM Senate: April 1, 2020

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96

97

98 _____
99 Noah Durnell,
Chair of the Relations and Affairs Committee

Ethan Hanley,
Chair of the Senate

100

101

102 _____
103 Emma Kiefer,
Chair of the ASUM Sustainability Board

104

105

106 _____
107 Emma Kiefer,
Chair of the Zero-Waste Advisory Board

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109

110 Passed by ASUM Senate: 19Y, 0N, 1A