

## Indiana University - Bloomington Graduate & Professional Student Government

### Resolution for Climate Action

Whereas the Paris Agreement (2015); the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report (2018); and the Fourth National Climate Assessment Report by the US Global Change Research Program (2018) have all warned of the catastrophic dangers to global society if climate change is not addressed;

Whereas, the IPCC and Paris Agreement recommend that global society achieve net zero anthropogenic carbon emissions (i.e. carbon neutrality) by mid-21st century to avoid the most dire consequences of climate change<sup>1</sup>;

Whereas, carbon neutrality refers to maintaining a balance between carbon emitted and removed from the atmosphere, with the overarching goal of achieving net-zero annual carbon emissions;<sup>2</sup>

WHEREAS, the world's leading scientists and environmental scholars agree that nations, states, cities, businesses, and *universities* have an obligation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to mitigate climate change;

Whereas, the impacts of climate change are disproportionately borne by low-income, minority, and other underserved communities;<sup>3</sup>

Whereas, climate change-driven rising average temperatures across Indiana are expected to induce stress on its public health, infrastructure, and agricultural systems, affecting the entire Hoosier community;<sup>4</sup>

Whereas, IU is internationally recognized as an Innovative University in Reuters' Top 100: The World's Most Innovative Universities;<sup>5</sup> and is home to the Environmental Resilience Institute, which helps communities across Indiana reduce their carbon footprints and enhance climate resilience;

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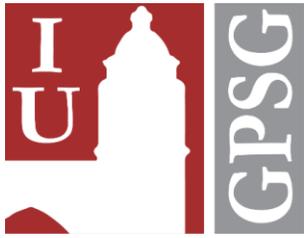
<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/chapter/spm/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/society/20190926STO62270/what-is-carbon-neutrality-and-how-can-it-be-achieved-by-2050>

<sup>3</sup> <https://un.org/en/desa/climate-change-and-social-inequality>

<sup>4</sup> Widhalm, M., Hamlet, A. Byun, K., Robeson, S., Baldwin, M., Staten, P., Chiu, C., Coleman, J., Hall, B., Hoogewind, K., Huber, M., Kieu, C., Yoo, J., Dukes, J.S. 2018. Indiana's Past & Future Climate: A Report from the Indiana Climate Change Impacts Assessment. Purdue Climate Change Research Center, Purdue University. West Lafayette, Indiana. DOI:10.5703/1288284316634

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/innovative-universities-2019>



## **Indiana University - Bloomington**

### **Graduate & Professional Student Government**

Whereas, Core Value 7 of the IU Bicentennial Strategic Plan commits to “Sustainability, stewardship, and accountability for the natural, human, and economic resources and relationships entrusted to IU;”<sup>6</sup>

Whereas, Action Items of the Strategic Plan include the goal “to solidify IU’s focus on efficient and environmentally conscious campus design and operation;”

Whereas the IUB Bicentennial Priority One includes “Responsible Stewardship” and

- a. “developing sustainability understanding through comprehensive programming and engagement with the campus as a laboratory for sustainable practices” (Bicentennial Priority 1, Objective 1, Number 2e);
- b. “pursuing and supporting sustainability on our campus” (Bicentennial Priority 1, Objective 3, Number 1c);
- c. “support[ing] innovative campus ‘living laboratory’ initiatives that provide opportunities to integrate campus operations, faculty and student research, education, student life, and community engagement to applied, solutions-oriented sustainability research” (IU Bicentennial Strategic Plan, Principles of Excellence Three: IU Continuing Priorities Number 3)

Whereas, the IU community has demonstrated its desire for the University to address climate change through student marches and the Carbon Neutral IU petition;<sup>7</sup>

Whereas, carbon neutrality can be achieved through a mix of strategies including switching to low-carbon, renewable energy sources for consumptive use, increasing energy efficiency of buildings and operations, waste reduction, planting trees, and purchasing carbon offsets;

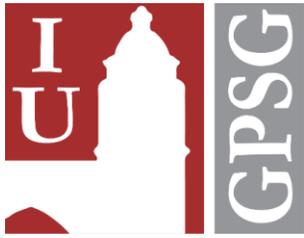
Whereas, several other Big Ten Universities have already committed to carbon neutrality and are in the process of implementing their climate action plans;

Whereas, Indiana University has been a proven leader and model for global crisis management, with the successful implementation of a highly effective COVID-19 mitigation plan;

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<sup>6</sup> <https://strategicplan.iu.edu/mission-values-vision/index.html>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.carbonneutralindiana.org/indiana-university-carbon-neutral-petition>



## Indiana University - Bloomington

### Graduate & Professional Student Government

Whereas, proactively addressing the climate crisis is essential to IU maintaining its reputation as an innovative and prestigious university, and attracting the bright students and renowned faculty that reputation brings.

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Therefore, be it resolved by the Graduate and Professional Student Government Assembly that the GPSG advocates:

- For IU to demonstrate its innovative reputation and fulfill its strategic plan by pledging to achieve carbon neutrality<sup>8</sup> in its operations by 2040;
- That Indiana University-Bloomington develop a Climate Action Plan as a roadmap toward achieving carbon neutrality and enhancing climate resilience at IUB, by 2023;
- For IUB to publish comprehensive reports on its carbon emissions and progress in implementing the climate action plan, and for those reports to be accessible on the SustainIU website;
- For annual public forums to be hosted to communicate progress on carbon neutrality and the climate action plan with students, faculty, and the rest of the IU community;
- For graduate and professional students to be involved in the process of transitioning IU to a carbon neutral future through research and student development opportunities;
- For IU to join 650+ other colleges and universities in signing onto Second Nature's [President's Climate Leadership Commitments](#) as a means of ensuring third-party accountability toward fulfilling its climate commitments;
- For Indiana University-Bloomington to research and invest in on-campus, distributed renewable energy generation (i.e. rooftop solar, biofuels) as way to reduce its carbon footprint

Respectfully submitted to and passed by the Graduate and Professional Student Government Assembly on February 5, 2021.

*Dakota Coates*

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GPSG President

2/5/2021

Date

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<sup>8</sup> Carbon Neutrality only referring to IU's SCOPE 1 and SCOPE 2 carbon emissions