INDIANA UNIVERSITY
Graduate and Professional Student Organization

Renewable Energy & Energy Accountability Resolution

WHEREAS, Indiana University – Bloomington (IUB) is proud of its history as a beacon of environmental awareness, sustainability, advocacy, contributions to vital scientific endeavors, and cutting-edge research;

WHEREAS, the realities of climate change are undeniable, and institutions like IUB must take the lead in addressing them;

WHEREAS, to take substantive action toward addressing climate change as a university will require changing practices and behavior at multiple levels including capital investment and energy consumption;

WHEREAS, the students and faculty of the Indiana University system are increasingly aware of and concerned with the effects of greenhouse gas emissions on the environment;

WHEREAS, Indiana University is already pursuing, according to the Campus Master Plan (CMP), a majority of the goals set forth by the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) with respect to greenhouse gas emissions and renewable forms of energy, establishing its goals of reducing campus-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 30% by 2020, and 80% by 2050 based on recommendations made by that Commitment;

WHEREAS, the IUB Integrated Energy Master Plan (IEMP) shows that in FY 2010/2011, coal as an energy source made up 16.7% of IUB annual energy investment, but 33.7% of annual carbon emissions;

WHEREAS, the IUB IEMP declares a goal of reducing energy costs across campus by $3M annually, and claims that an annual $3M reduction in energy consumption costs is "certainly possible" while continuing to advance the University's mission;

WHEREAS, the IEMP declares the university's intention to invest $82.6M in the implementation of new forms of energy across campus, tailored to demand and estimated future price conditions;

WHEREAS, renewable energy sources like photovoltaic solar energy have average simple payback rates that are realized far faster than the ten-year threshold highlighted in the IEMP because of strong "peak" use levels and rates of return (Energybible.com);

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WHEREAS, the University's residence halls are particularly well-suited to run on traditional solar hot water energy sources, as they have the sorts of spacious rooftops conducive to such an energy source;

WHEREAS, the IEMP and CMP both promise levels of accountability and transparency with regard to monitoring and reporting progress with regard to sustainable energy use, and energy costs; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Graduate and Professional Student Organization Assembly that Indiana University-Bloomington should –

1. Invest a specified and significant level of funds per fiscal year in renewable energy sources, and/or toward the integration of energy sources like increased solar and wind power into existing facilities across campus;
2. Annually publish and make publicly available a report detailing its annual renewable energy portfolio, progress regarding energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions, and annual energy costs and fuel sources;
3. Commit to diverting funds previously used for coal investment to renewable sources of energy, in order to promote our energy security and the reduction of our carbon footprint now and in the future;
4. Establish visible and annually reported greenhouse gas emission strategic performance indicators for all schools and the College, residence halls, and campus facilities in order to promote competition between those facilities, with incentives (financial, administrative, or otherwise) for those who cut emissions the most each year – and require each department to pay a small percentage of its own energy costs; and
5. Commit to discussing joining Duke Energy's GoGreen renewable energy program, as well as ways that it can collaborate with and advise Duke Energy to help them offset their own, global CO2 emissions.

Respectfully submitted to and passed by the Graduate and Professional Student Organization Assembly on this 5th day of December, 2014.

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GPSO President Date