



**Omnibus Sustainability Resolution Calling for Sustainability Inclusion in Bicentennial ‘Grand Challenges,’ President McRobbie to sign the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment, and IU Bloomington to Expand Solar Energy Production**

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, Indiana University will fund five “grand challenges” over the next five years related to the values, vision, and principles outlined in the Bicentennial Strategic Plan (BSP);

WHEREAS, climate change is one of the most important grand challenges of our time;

WHEREAS, a “Core Value” of Indiana University, affirmed by the Board of Trustees, is “sustainability, stewardship and accountability for the natural, human, and economic resources and relationships entrusted to IU”;

WHEREAS, 695 college or university leaders have already signed the American College and University President’s Climate Commitment (ACUPCC);

WHEREAS, leaders of seven colleges or universities in the state of Indiana,<sup>1</sup> and four Big Ten universities<sup>2</sup> have signed the ACUPCC;

WHEREAS, the Campus Master Plan (CMP) outlines goals to reduce campus-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 30% by 2020, and 80% by 2050, yet no accountability or action plan specifically focused on those goals has been identified;

WHEREAS, signing the ACUPCC will represent a flexible commitment for Indiana University to work towards climate neutrality and sustainability, will signal to prospective students and

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<sup>1</sup> Ball State University, Butler University, DePauw University, Franklin College of Indiana, Goshen College, Indiana State University, and Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology.

<sup>2</sup> University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of Maryland – College Park, University of Minnesota – Twin Cities, The Ohio State University – Columbus Campus.



alumni that IU is committed to meaningful action focused on environmental sustainability, and will formalize IU's movement towards carbon neutrality;

WHEREAS, the IU Residence Hall Association unanimously voted to support a resolution calling for President McRobbie to sign the ACUPCC before the end of the next academic year;

WHEREAS, the GPSO, IUSA, Bloomington Faculty Council, and several other IU organizations have clearly declared that environmental sustainability is a primary concern to IU students and faculty through the support of resolutions calling for renewable energy infrastructural investments, energy use and greenhouse gas emissions reporting, fossil fuel divestment, and a bicycle master plan;

WHEREAS, data from the IUB Physical Plant's analysis estimates solar PV up to 5 megawatts would obtain a simple payback of just over seven to ten years, with internal rate of return between 11-17%;

WHEREAS, the solar PV analysis cited just above would amount to present value savings of between \$18.1 and \$26.3 million over the respective payback periods for a five megawatt solar array; and

WHEREAS, a large-scale solar array of up to one megawatt would provide a significant cost savings to our university while also greatly reducing greenhouse gas emissions, in line with the goals of the CMP and BSP;

THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Graduate and Professional Student Organization Assembly that –

1. Indiana University include environmental sustainability as a primary focus of the upcoming "Grand Challenges" to be addressed over the next five years in the lead up to our university's bicentennial;
2. Indiana University President McRobbie sign the American College and University President's Climate Commitment no later than the end of the 2015-2016 academic year; and
3. Indiana University – Bloomington expand solar energy production for the IUB campus to one megawatt within two years.



Respectfully submitted to and passed by the Graduate and Professional Student Organization Assembly on this 3rd day of April, 2015.

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GPSO President

04/03/2015  
Date