



### **Student Government Resolution 119.014**

## **A Resolution Supporting the Direction and Current Recommendations of the President's Sustainability Action Committee on Carbon Neutrality Planning**

**Sponsored by Emma Rollings, Environmental Affairs Committee Chair; Ethan Kershaw, Michael Lakey, Nick Dolson, Trey Maddeleno Committee Members**

#### WHEREAS,

- The Student Government is the official governing body of the Student Association and exists to represent the present and long-term best interests of the Student Association in the formulation of University policy and in the fulfillment of the University's mission; and
- Scientific consensus suggests the existence of climate change due to anthropogenic activities<sup>1</sup>; and
- Climate change poses a threat to the ongoing stability of the biosphere and the health and wellbeing of human societies<sup>2</sup>; and
- The Student Government of Truman State University passed Resolution 081.002 "Endorsing the President's Climate Commitment"<sup>3</sup> to reduce the carbon emissions from university activities; and
- The Student Government passed Resolution 118.016<sup>4</sup> endorsing the Climate Resolution signed by 819 students and faculty in support of carbon neutrality goals for the university; and
- The President's Sustainability Action Committee<sup>5</sup> (PSAC) exists to:
  - "Identify and evaluate ways to modify university practices to help them align with the principles of the Sustainability Initiative.
  - Track the current state of sustainability related practices and develop a practical benchmark for assessing total progress.
  - Provide regular advice to the University President regarding suggested best practices.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://climate.nasa.gov/scientific-consensus/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://climate.nasa.gov/effects/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://senate.truman.edu/previousessions/2007-2008-session-records/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://senate.truman.edu/files/2019/07/Resolution-118.016-A-Resolution-Endorsing-the-Proposed-Climate-Resolution.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://sustainability.truman.edu/coordination-planning-governance/>

- Present an annual report of its activities to the University President that records progress on practices of interest and indicates future plans;” and
- PSAC recognizes the advantages of learning from and coordinating with other universities and colleges to achieve carbon neutrality goals; and
- There exists a number of universities engaged in coordinated carbon policy planning through the Climate Leadership Network<sup>6</sup>; and
- Truman State University, through PSAC, has engaged in years past in the Strategic Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS) to develop a comprehensive view of the university’s environmental and carbon footprint<sup>7</sup> to inform goal-setting; and
- PSAC meetings during the 2019-2020 have suggested a need for institutional collaboration between Truman State University and other institutions of higher learning to develop concrete, achievable plans for our university community; and
- PSAC has identified a need for a diverse set of informational resources and plans in order to respond to changing federal and state regulatory frameworks and departmental resources; and
- PSAC has proposed a Sustainability 2.0 plan<sup>8</sup> for achieving carbon neutrality and includes:
  - (1) Using Truman State University’s membership in the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) to access benchmarking tools such as STARS and partnerships with other institutions in AASHE’s network; and
  - (2) Informally completing the STARS rating by March 1st of 2020 and to start the process of annually completing the STARS OP-1 assessment of greenhouse gas emissions. PSAC will also adopt use of the SIMAP tool platform<sup>9</sup> recommended by STARS and the Climate Leadership Network; and
  - (3) Initiating the process of joining the Climate Leadership Network, through which Truman State University will have access to peer-advising and tools designed and tested by other colleges and universities. Through the Climate Leadership Network Truman State University has the opportunity to submit a formal Carbon Commitment, the progress of which will be reported yearly between January and May starting in 2021;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT:

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<sup>6</sup> <https://secondnature.org/signatory-handbook/climate-leadership-network-map/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://reports.aashe.org/institutions/truman-state-university-mo/report/2012-03-14/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://sustainability.truman.edu/coordination-planning-and-governance-toward-carbon-neutrality/>

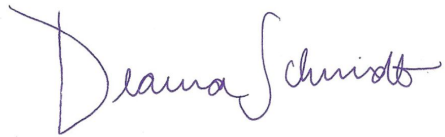
<sup>9</sup> <https://unhsimap.org/home>

- Supports PSAC's recommendation to utilize STARS, the SIMAP platform, and other tools to develop a comprehensive picture of Truman State University activities; and
- Supports PSAC's efforts to identify modes of collaboration with other universities and colleges through AASHE and the Climate Leadership Network; and
- Supports Truman State University's efforts to identify long term, flexible, and feasible plans for university-wide carbon neutrality.

THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT DIRECTS THAT:

Additional copies of this resolution be disseminated to President Sue Thomas; Truman State University Board of Governors; Donna Liss, Chair of the President's Sustainability Action Committee; Sam Guth, Physical Plant Director; Lori Shook, Project Planner and Coordinator; Christine Harker, Professor of English; Environmental Sustainability Fee Accountability Committee; Truman Media Network; and the University Archives.

Passed, 12-2-1, February 09, 2020.



Deanna Schmidt, President of the Student Association.