

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39

89-UWSR-07

A University-Wide Support Resolution in support of the inclusion of goals dedicated to sustainability in the next University Strategic Plan

Introduced by: Jessica Siemer

Sponsor(s): Senators Iyer & Nicholson

Date Introduced: 04/16/2019

Date Voted On: 4/18/19

Whereas, "[t]he Board of Regents is committed to providing sustainability leadership through responsible stewardship of the state's natural and physical resources... to advance economic vitality, ecological integrity and social well-being through continuous improvement in campus operations thereby enhancing each institution's education, research and service missions;"¹ and,

Whereas, Georgia State University adopted a strategic plan in 2011 with five major goals, one of which is to "[b]ecome a leading public research university addressing the most challenging issues of the 21st century"² and another of which is to "[b]e a leader in understanding the complex challenges of cities and developing effective solutions;"³ and,

Whereas, environmental sustainability, biodiversity, and the health and resiliency of cities in light of environmental challenges such as climate change are major issues of the 21st century and present major challenges for cities; and,

Whereas, Georgia State University is a large energy user in the City of Atlanta using roughly 150,000 MWh/yr⁴, making it one of the top 20 energy users in the city. The University has huge potential to lead by example and to incubate policies and technologies on campus; and,

Whereas, metro Atlanta has the 4th highest electricity burden in the United States. Residents in the three most burdened neighborhoods which are geographically close to GSU's campus, have an average household income of \$36,600 per year with electricity bills averaging \$230 per month⁵; and

Whereas, given its location, resources and record of innovation, Georgia State University is positioned to be a leader in sustainability issues; and

Whereas, increasing GSU's use of energy efficiency, renewables like solar power and energy storage systems can help make the campus and student body more resilient in the face of extreme weather and climate change; and,

¹ University System of Georgia, Board of Regents Policy Manual, Section 9.11.1 Sustainability, Efficiency, and Effectiveness

(https://www.usg.edu/policymanual/section9/C553/#p9.11.1_sustainability_efficiency_and_effectiveness)

² Georgia State University, 2011 Strategic Plan, Goal 3, (<https://strategic.gsu.edu/preamble-2/goal-3/>)

³ Georgia State University, 2011 Strategic Plan, Goal 4, (<https://strategic.gsu.edu/preamble-2/goal-4/>)

⁴ AASHE, STARS report, 2015 Georgia State University, OP-9 Clean and Renewable Energy (<https://reports.aashe.org/institutions/georgia-state-university-ga/report/2015-03-23/OP/energy/OP-9/>)

⁵ Dr. Marilyn Brown, Southeast Climate and Energy Policy Lab, "Low-Income Energy Burdens in the Southeast: Solutions through Community, Business and Policy Engagement" May 30, 2018.

(https://cepl.gatech.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/EE%20Phase%201_4-13-18.pdf)

40 **Whereas**, other Atlanta area institutions such as Agnes Scott College, Clark Atlanta University,
41 Georgia Institute of Technology, Morehouse College, and Spelman College have made bold
42 commitments to reduce their carbon footprint⁶; and
43

44 **Whereas**, since the years these other institutions have implemented clean energy goals, they
45 have seen a reduction of carbon emissions by up to 24.53 percent⁶; and
46

47 **Whereas**, Georgia State University has incorporated sustainability initiatives into its Master
48 Plan; and
49

50 **Whereas**, Georgia State University has successfully implemented a number of initiatives to reduce
51 its negative environmental impact and to foster student engagement, and a coordinated approach
52 toward regenerative sustainability at an institution-wide level would further these efforts;
53

54 **THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE UNIVERSITY-WIDE SENATE OF THE STUDENT**
55 **GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY THAT**
56

57 **Section 1:** This resolution shall be known as the "Sustainability Inclusion Support Resolution of
58 2019".
59

60 **Section 2:** The Student Government Association encourages Georgia State University to
61 incorporate Sustainability Goals into the next iteration of the strategic plan.
62

63 **Section 3:** The Student Government Association encourages to Georgia State University
64 develop policies and procedures to audit energy and water consumption and creates solutions
65 to reduce waste.
66

67 **Section 4:** The Student Government Association encourages Georgia State University to
68 explore initiatives to enhance sustainable transportation to and around its campuses.
69

70 **Section 5:** The Student Government Association encourages Georgia State University to
71 continue to integrate sustainability in its academic programs through continued expansion and
72 support of curriculum related to sustainability issues and the integration of technology and the
73 development of innovative teaching methods to reduce paper waste in the classroom.
74

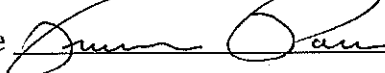
75 **Section 6:** Sustainability is a priority that is valued highly by the student body.
76

77 **Section 7:** This resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage by the Student
78 Government Association, the welfare, and desire of the students requiring it.
79

80 **Section 8:** Upon passage, this resolution and supporting documents shall be distributed to the
81 Office of the President and the following University Senate Committees: Sustainability,
82 Planning and Development, and Academic Programs.
83

84 ACTION TAKEN BY THE STUDENT SENATE: VOTE for 25 against 0 abstentions 1
85

86 ACTION TAKEN BY THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT
87

88 Signature  Date 4/22/19

⁶ Second Nature Reporting Platform (<http://reporting.secondnature.org/>)