A Resolution to Endorse UCLA Commitment to 100% Clean Energy by 2035

WHEREAS, committing UCLA to 100% clean energy by 2035 requires the complete elimination of dirty energy usage on campus; and

WHEREAS, the enactment of UCLA's commitment to 100% clean energy would expand the phasing out of dirty energy across California since UCLA houses over 14,000 people[1]; and

WHEREAS, there is currently a state-funded decarbonization study occurring within UCLA to set a new strategy for a 90% a greater decrease of scope 1 emissions[2]that is set to end next year; and

WHEREAS, there is growing concern about the prevalence of greenhouse gas emissions in our atmosphere, and its lasting impacting on the environment and human health; and

WHEREAS, we are in the midst of a global climate crisis unequivocally linked to anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions that are actively and irreversibly degrading our environment[3]; and

WHEREAS, global average temperature has increased 2° F since 1880[4] which is driving the melting of glaciers, rise of our sea levels, ocean acidification, and loss of biodiversity; and

WHEREAS, UCLA has produced over 200,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents from its natural gas usage[5]; and

[1]
https://portal.housing.ucla.edu/student-housing/freshman-students/living-on-campus#:~:text=As%20part%20of%20a%20diverse,academic%20success%20and%20personal%20growth.[2]

https://www.sustain.ucla.edu/climate-and-energy/ucla-decarbonization-planning
/ [3]

https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2023/03/20/climate-change-ipcc-report-15
/ [4]

https://www.climate.gov/news-features/understanding-climate/climate-change-global-temperature
[5]

https://dailybruin.com/2019/10/03/uclas-carbon-neutral-goals-would-be-nice-if-it-could-actually-commit -to-them

WHEREAS, increased exposure to greenhouse gases, like carbon dioxide, negatively contributes to existing human health issues[6]; and

WHEREAS, average sea levels have increased 8 inches since 1880 due to rising temperatures which has caused an increase in coastal flooding[7]; and

WHEREAS, UCLA students have historically been in support of environmental issues with over 20,000 students in support of SB100, committing California to 100% clean energy by 2045;[8] and

WHEREAS, UCLA has been a leader on environmental issues, such as the carbon neutrality initiative[9] and 100% clean purchased electricity,[10] and can set a standard for the rest of the UC's to follow; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of UCLA's commitment to 100% clean energy by 2035 would phase out dirty energy usage and influence other UCs to do the same; and

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that we the UCLA Undergraduate Students Association Council (USAC) stand in strong support of the adoption of a commitment to 100% clean energy usage in UCLA by 2035, and further reduce its impacts on the environment and public health.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that we the UCLA Undergraduate Students Association Council (USAC) will further support 100% clean energy usage in UCLA by working with CALPIRG to make joint social media posts to educate students on UCLA's current efforts towards renewable energy, and opportunities for them to be engaged in the process.

[6]

https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-981-16-4482-5_5#:~:text=Many%20greenhouse%20gases%20directly%20target,5.1).

[7]

https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/sea-level-rise-1#:~:text=Rising%20seas%20i s%20one%20of,13%20inches%20(3.2%20mm.)

[8]

https://calpirgstudents.org/history/

[9]

https://www.sustain.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/UCLA-Carbon-Neutrality-Plan-Draft-December-Draft-to-UCOP.pdf

[10]

https://www.sustain.ucla.edu/climate-and-energy/#:~:text=Plan%20Target%3A%202%25%20annual%20energy,100%25%20clean%20electricity%20by%202025&text=In%202013%2C%20UC%20President%20Napolitano,a%20target%20date%20of%202025.