

<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	November 19, 2025
<b>Ruling:</b>	Constitutional with reservations

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**PURDUE GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE**

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**RESOLUTION No. FA25-R002**

**To Assert an Unwavering Commitment for Purdue University to Pursue Renewable Energy**

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**Author(s):** Kye Benford, Anvi Bhatnagar, Aahan Bajpai, Amelia Vicory, Carley Jones, Nick Lentz

**Sponsor(s):** Heidi Cooke, Anthropology; Oluwabunmi T. Oladele, Veterinary Clinical Sciences

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**WHEREAS,** Purdue University has long been recognized as a global leader in innovation, research, and real-world problem solving, named as one of top 50 universities “powering global innovation”<sup>1</sup>;

**WHEREAS,** Purdue has won several awards recognizing its commitment to sustainability, including being ranked #74 nationally and #5 in the Big Ten by QS World University Rankings<sup>2</sup> and winning sixteen consecutive Tree Campus USA awards;<sup>3</sup>

**WHEREAS,** Purdue is home to world-class research in renewable energy and advanced technology including large contributions from the College of Engineering<sup>4</sup>, research carried out by affiliates of the Institute for a Sustainable Future<sup>5</sup>, and other student-led programs,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/2025/Q2/purdue-ranks-among-top-50-global-research-universities-powering-innovation/>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/purduetoday/2025/Q1/purdue-ranks-no-5-in-big-ten-for-sustainability/utm\\_source=sfmcPT&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=250206PurdueToday&utm\\_term=Purdue+ranks+No.+5+in+Big+Ten+for+sustainability&utm\\_id=1046959](https://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/purduetoday/2025/Q1/purdue-ranks-no-5-in-big-ten-for-sustainability/utm_source=sfmcPT&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=250206PurdueToday&utm_term=Purdue+ranks+No.+5+in+Big+Ten+for+sustainability&utm_id=1046959)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/purduetoday/2025/Q1/purdue-earns-16th-consecutive-tree-campus-usa-award/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://engineering.purdue.edu/ME/Research/SustainableEnergy>

<sup>5</sup> <https://research.purdue.edu/isf/>

such as the Sustainable Energy Club<sup>6</sup>, each of which could contribute expertise to directly inform campus energy strategy;

**WHEREAS**, despite reducing greenhouse-gas emissions by 37% from fiscal year 2011<sup>7</sup>, in the most recent report from AASHE STARS Purdue received a 0/4 on “clean and renewable energy,” signaling that Purdue still falls short when it comes to renewable energy installation and innovation<sup>8</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, the United Nations’ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (UNIPCC) (the gold standard in international climate science and policy) finds that “All global modelled pathways that limit warming to 2°C (>67%) or lower by 2100 involve rapid and deep and in most cases immediate GHG emissions reductions in all sectors,” further noting that reductions “can be achieved through a combination of energy efficiency and conservation and a transition to low-GHG technologies and energy carriers”<sup>9</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, the UNIPCC notes that in any effort to limit global warming to “2°C or below, almost all electricity [will be] supplied from zero or low-carbon sources...such as renewables or fossil fuels with CO2 capture and storage”<sup>10</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, Purdue’s 2010 Sustainability Master Plan called for the creation of on-campus and off-campus wind farms, while also calling for the university to “source renewable energy for 10 percent of the campus’s total energy demand,” signaling a commitment to updating our energy grid (although we made no discernible progress towards this goal)<sup>11</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, Purdue’s 2020-25 Sustainability Master Plan called for the university to pursue a start of 500 KW of renewable energy<sup>12</sup>, signaling their dedication to decarbonizing our campus’s energy grid, yet no progress has been reported to the Purdue community<sup>13</sup>;

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<sup>6</sup> <https://engineering.purdue.edu/Engr/Academics/Undergraduate/student-organizations/PEPC-Groups/sec>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.purdue.edu/physicalfacilities/units/cpas/sustainability/initiatives/greenhouse-gas-emissions.html>

<sup>8</sup> <https://reports.aashe.org/institutions/purdue-university-in/report/2023-03-23/>

<sup>9</sup> Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Core Writing Team, H. Lee and J. Romero (eds.)]. IPCC, Geneva, Switzerland, pp. 35-115, doi: 10.59327/IPCC/AR6-9789291691647, p. 86.

<sup>10</sup> Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Core Writing Team, H. Lee and J. Romero (eds.)]. IPCC, Geneva, Switzerland, pp. 35-115, doi: 10.59327/IPCC/AR6-9789291691647, pp. 86-87.

<sup>11</sup> [https://web.archive.org/web/20150320211026/http://www.purdue.edu/sustainability/documents/sustainability\\_strategicplan.pdf](https://web.archive.org/web/20150320211026/http://www.purdue.edu/sustainability/documents/sustainability_strategicplan.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.purdue.edu/physicalfacilities/units/cpas/sustainability/sustainability-master-plan/energy.html>

<sup>13</sup> Gurganus, Kayla and Dahmen, Lynne, "Purdue STARS Performance Analysis" (2025). Institute for a Sustainable Future Documents. Paper 1. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5703/1288284317850>, p. 22.

**WHEREAS,** Renewable energy options are rapidly becoming the most financially responsible method of energy sourcing in both up-front installation/purchasing cost and in lifecycle investment returns<sup>14</sup>;

**WHEREAS,** Numerous top research universities have developed robust renewable energy portfolios, including Big Ten universities (with, e.g., the University of Iowa drawing 84% of its power from renewable sources) and peer institutions (with, e.g., Carnegie Mellon extracting all of its power from renewables)<sup>15</sup>;

**WHEREAS,** there are several pathways with potential applications for developing renewable energy for our campus, including but not limited to building Purdue-owned renewables on campus (e.g., solar panels on rooftops), building Purdue-owned renewables off campus (e.g., developing a wind/solar farm on nearby land), or purchasing electricity from non-Purdue-owned renewable power plants<sup>16</sup>;

**WHEREAS,** transitioning to renewable energy will reduce our total campus-wide greenhouse gas emissions, aligning ourselves with the progress achieved by other universities and establishing ourselves as a leader in sustainability and in financial and technological innovation;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** That we call upon the administration of Purdue University to make a public and time-bound commitment to adopting renewable energy sources for campus.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That we call upon Purdue University to make a public and time-bound commitment to transition away from fossil fuels for campus operations.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That we call upon Purdue University to include renewable energy alongside any potential future sustainable energy developments (ex. small modular reactors).

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That we call upon Purdue University to demonstrate leadership and reinforce its standing as an innovator by adopting renewable energy and reporting to the Purdue community, on an annual basis, progress towards these goals.


**PASSED, APPROVED, AND RESOLVED** 5<sup>th</sup> day of *December* 2025.

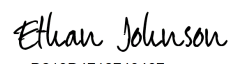
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<sup>14</sup> <https://atb.nrel.gov/electricity/2024/about>


<sup>15</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/greenpower/green-power-partnership-top-30-college-university>


<sup>16</sup> For a list of potential campus renewable energy projects, see <https://home.treasury.gov/news/featured-stories/a-clean-energy-future-for-americas-colleges-and-universities>

Signed by:  
  
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Shalom Kpetsu  
President, PGSG

Signed by:  
  
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Ethan Johnson  
Senate Chair, PGSS

Signed by:  
  
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Oluwabunmi T. Oladele  
Floor Sponsor, Senator for  
Veterinary Clinical Sciences

Signed by:  
  
DF2A2F431EF84B9...  
Ayooluwa Ojo  
Parliamentarian, PGSG

Signed by:  
  
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Heidi Cooke  
Floor Sponsor, Senator for  
Anthropology

## Certification

I, Abigayl Novak, Senate Clerk of the Purdue Graduate Student Senate, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was regularly passed and adopted by the Purdue Graduate Student Senate of Purdue University, at a regular meeting thereof held on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of *December* 2025 by the following vote:

**AYES (42):** Aeronautics and Astronautics - Don-Terry Veal  
Agricultural & Biological Engineering - Autumn Denny  
Agricultural Economics - Kavitha Srikanth  
Agronomy - Jude Addo-Chidie  
Anthropology - Heidi Cooke  
Applied and Creative Computing (West Lafayette) - Khalil El Breidi  
Biochemistry - Jacob Czaicki  
Biological Sciences - Ayomide Olohigbe Unuigbokhai  
Biomedical Engineering (West Lafayette) - Sushma Gude  
Botany & Plant Pathology - Jean Paul Iyakaremeye  
Chemical Engineering - Katherine Leigh Young  
Civil Engineering - Chandra Vikas Thipirishetty  
Communication - Gladys Mana Momade  
Curriculum & Instruction - Maria Regina Jaga  
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine - Maya Fulton  
Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences - Sam Harris  
Ecological Sciences and Engineering - Jayvaughn Peter  
Economics - Zachary Knepper  
Educational Studies - Fangfang Mo  
Engineering Education - Udeme Idem  
Engineering Technology - Varshitha Yalamanchili  
English - Sidney Ducleroir  
Food Science - Lauren Yepes  
Health and Kinesiology - Ivan Bobadilla  
History - Srishti Dutta Chowdhury  
Horticultural & Landscape Architecture - Grace Lentz  
Hospitality and Tourism Management - Kasey Paige Riha  
Human Development and Family Studies - Sybil Cutler  
Industrial and Molecular Pharmaceutics - Neha Panchabhai  
Industrial Engineering - Pragathi Jha  
Languages and Cultures - Nafiu Olayiwola Oloore  
Linguistics - Zeyu Feng  
Management - Chiran Kodippili  
Materials Engineering - Jasmyne Emerson  
Mechanical Engineering (West Lafayette) - Chathusha Punchi  
Wedikkara  
Nursing - Christelle Altidor

Physics and Astronomy - Lindsay Michelle Dawson  
Purdue University Interdisciplinary Life Sciences (PULSe) -

Emmanuel Oluwarotimi

Statistics - Nikola Draganic

Theatre & Dance - Tatyanna Rodriguez

Veterinary Clinical Sciences - Oluwabunmi T. Oladele

**ABSENT (10):** Agricultural Science Education and Communication - Kwabena Bayity

Black Cultural Center - Victoria Parker

Electrical and Computer Engineering (Indianapolis) - Haylie Rayl

Entomology - Hira Poudel

Health Sciences - Esraa Gabal

Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences - Danielle Ahwireng

Mathematics - Geoffrey Baring

Nuclear Engineering - Jonah Lau

Nutrition Science - Pius Sarfo Buobu

Sociology - Sean Boylan

**ABSTAINED (2):** Computer Science - Harry Tian

Forestry & Natural Resources - Jean Fritz Saint Preux

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand this 25<sup>th</sup> day of *January*  
2026.

DocuSigned by:

*Abigayl Novak*

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Abigayl Novak  
Senate Clerk, PGSS