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| Date of Meeting: | November 19, 2025 |
| Ruling: | Constitutional with reservations |

PURDUE GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE



RESOLUTION No. FA25-R001

**In Support of a University-Wide Sustainability Task
Force for the Student Body**

Author(s): Shivam Dave, Nick Lentz, Carley Jones, Anvi Bhatnagar, Amelia Vicory, Cameron Birk
Sponsor(s): Heidi Cooke, Anthropology; Oluwabunmi T. Oladele, Veterinary Clinical Sciences

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”¹; and

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 Rankings² and winning sixteen consecutive Tree Campus USA awards;³

WHEREAS, developing a coordinated sustainability strategy would further reinforce this legacy by aligning operational excellence with long-term institutional resilience; and

WHEREAS, Purdue Office of Sustainability is currently housed within Administrative Operations, yet it has low public visibility on campus (2025 STARS Performance Analysis) and lacks jurisdiction over large parts of campus (e.g., Residential Life and Athletics); and

¹ Fiorini, P. (2025, May 14). Purdue ranks among top 50 Global Research Universities Powering Innovation. News. <https://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/2025/Q2/purdue-ranks-among-top-50-global-research-universities-powering-innovation/>

² Purdue Today. (2025, February 6). Purdue ranks no. 5 in big ten for Sustainability. News. <https://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/purduetoday/2025/Q1/purdue-ranks-no-5-in-big-ten-for-sustainability/>

³ Purdue University. (2025, March 10). Purdue earns 16th consecutive Tree Campus USA Award. News. <https://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/purduetoday/2025/Q1/purdue-earns-16th-consecutive-tree-campus-usa-award/>

WHEREAS, unlike thirteen of the seventeen other Big Ten Universities, Purdue University currently lacks a presidentially directed, university-wide sustainability task force⁴; and

WHEREAS, Penn State University, like Purdue today, used to have “a separate academic Center for Sustainability and an operational Campus Sustainability Office,” but in 2013 merged the units “into the Sustainability Institute to allow for alignment of operational and educational efforts,” going on to create “the position of chief sustainability officer for the University” in 2017⁵; and

WHEREAS, the University of Minnesota’s Office of Sustainability offers a model for Purdue to emulate, by soliciting input and involvement from the entire campus community. In their own words, they “take pride in our ability to listen to students, staff, community members, and other stakeholders. Our office and efforts are not isolated – everyone is welcome to join the conversation.”⁶; and

⁴ University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. (n.d.). Sustainability Council. Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment. <https://sustainability.illinois.edu/campus-sustainability/icap/sustainability-council/>
Indiana University Bloomington. (2022, April 7). IU renews its commitment to sustainability with New Climate Action Planning Committee. IU News. <https://news.iu.edu/live/news/27915-iu-renews-its-commitment-to-sustainability-with>

White, L. (2020, February 17). University of Iowa creates Sustainability Task Force to establish campus sustainability goals. The Daily Iowan. <https://dailyiowan.com/2020/02/17/university-of-iowa-creates-sustainability-task-force-to-establish-campus-sustainability-goals/>

University of Maryland. (n.d.). Sustainability Council. SustainableUMD. <https://sustainability.umd.edu/about/sustainability-council>

University of Michigan. (n.d.). Sustainability and Climate Executive Leadership Council. Planet Blue. <https://planetblue.umich.edu/sustainability-council/>

University of Minnesota Twin Cities. (n.d.). UMN Twin Cities Sustainability Committee. UMN Twin Cities Sustainability Committee | Office of Sustainability,

University of Minnesota Twin Cities. <https://sustainable.umn.edu/sustainability-committee>

University of Nebraska-Lincoln. (2023, April 17). Council formed to support university’s sustainability goals. Nebraska Today. <https://news.unl.edu/article/council-formed-to-support-universitys-sustainability-goals>

The Ohio State University. (2019, August 21). President and Provost’s Council on Sustainability Committee Charter. PPCS. <https://president.osu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/2019/11/PPCS%20Charter%20Updated%208.21.2019.pdf>

Pennsylvania State University. (2025, August 13). College and Division Sustainability Councils. Penn State Sustainability. <https://sustainability.psu.edu/about-us/sustainability-councils/college-councils/>

University of California Los Angeles. (n.d.). Sustainability Committee. UCLA Sustainability. <https://sustain.ucla.edu/sustainability-committee/>

University of Southern California. (2025, August 7). Presidential Working Group on Sustainability in Education, research and Operations. Sustainability. <https://sustainability.usc.edu/assignment-earth/presidential-working-group/>

University of Washington. (n.d.). Environmental Stewardship Committee. UW Sustainability. <https://sustainability.uw.edu/environmental-stewardship-committee>

University of Wisconsin-Madison. (n.d.). Sustainability Advisory Council. Office of Sustainability. <https://sustainability.wisc.edu/sustainability-advisory-council/#living-report>

⁵ Pennsylvania State University. (2025a, June 9). About Sustainability at Penn State. Penn State Sustainability. <https://sustainability.psu.edu/about-us/about-penn-state-sustainability/>

⁶ University of Minnesota. (n.d.). About the Office of Sustainability. Sustainability at UMN. <https://sustainable.umn.edu/about>

WHEREAS, there is a clear desire among the Purdue community for the university to develop a more robust approach to sustainability, with specific decarbonization targets, as evidenced by two separate petitions with over 10,000 signatures between them⁷; and

WHEREAS, there is a clear desire among the Purdue faculty, staff, and students to have input into decisions involving the sustainability of our beloved campus⁸; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, the University Senate endorsed a Climate Action Plan, which was previously endorsed by Purdue Student Government and Purdue Graduate Student Government, that has yet to be implemented by the administration⁹; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated, university-wide sustainability task force, endorsed by President Mung Chiang and the Board of Trustees, would provide the administrative structure to identify cost-saving opportunities, and coordinate efforts in energy efficiency, waste reduction, sustainable transportation, and operational optimization; and

WHEREAS, a sustainability task force would provide the administrative structure to coordinate and manage transparent data collection and publication across campuses, ensuring reliability, accessibility, and continued institutional accountability; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of such a task force would significantly enhance the well-being of our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we call upon President Chiang, the Board of Trustees, and Administrative Operations of Purdue University to collaborate on the formation and public establishment of a university-wide sustainability task force commissioned by the president by the end of calendar year 2026; and

⁷ Smith, J. (2020, July 30). Thousands of students petition Purdue for carbon neutrality by 2030. Purdue Exponent. https://www.purdueexponent.org/campus/thousands-of-students-petition-purdue-for-carbon-neutrality-by-2030/article_3cbb5394-d27a-11ea-8d95-efad3d7293d1.html

Denham, E. (2024, October 24). Where is Purdue's climate action plan? Purdue Exponent. https://www.purdueexponent.org/campus/purdue-university-climate-action-plan-environment-petition-carbon-emissions-west-lafayette/article_53b202ee-8b37-11ef-9694-77e3b5665dcc.html

⁸ Kircher, K., & Johnston, M. (2025, October 20). On Climate Action, a View From Behind the Pack (opinion). Opinion | Views. https://www.insidehighered.com/opinion/views/2025/10/20/climate-action-view-behind-pack-opinion?utm_source=Inside%2BHigher%2BEd&utm_campaign=9c6148f256-DNU_2021_COPY_02&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1fcbc04421-9c6148f256-198152633&mc_cid=9c6148f256&mc_eid=e8fc0c9aba

Holguin, Q. (2025, April 4). PCAC student protest attempts to fight Purdue's lack of climate plan. Purdue Exponent. https://www.purdueexponent.org/campus/general_news/purdue-climate-plan-protests-pcac/article_f11cb8ae-b359-497e-bb0f-9df69f2114b9.html

⁹ University Senate. (2023, February 20). Calling for Purdue to Commit to Carbon Neutrality. Purdue University.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon the administration of Purdue University to include students, faculty, staff, and at minimum one Purdue Student Government representative and one Purdue Graduate Student Government representative on this task force; and

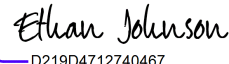
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon all administrative offices of Purdue University to authorize this task force to study all aspects of campus sustainability that the committee deems relevant, setting measurable goals and coordinating the implementation of initiatives arising from their work; and

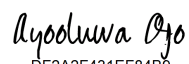
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that to establish a transparent foundation for decision making, this task force shall release a comprehensive annual progress report regarding emissions, energy efficiency, waste reduction, the vehicle fleet, and any other relevant items to the Purdue community; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon the administration of Purdue University to support and facilitate the public dissemination of the work of this presidentially directed, university-wide task force.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND RESOLVED 5th day of *December* 2025.

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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Ayooluwa Ojo
Parliamentarian, PGSG

Signed by:

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Shivam Dave
Author

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Heidi Cooke
Floor Sponsor, Senator for Anthropology

Signed by:

Nicholas Lentz

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Nick Lentz
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Carley Jones

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Carley Jones
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Signed by:

Anvi Bhatnagar

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Anvi Bhatnagar
Author

Signed by:

Amelia Vicory

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Amelia Vicory
Author

Cameron Birk
Author

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 5th day of *December* 2025 by the following vote:

AYES (36): Aeronautics and Astronautics - Don-Terry Veal
Agricultural Economics - Kavitha Srikanth
Agronomy - Jude Addo-Chidie
Anthropology - Heidi Cooke
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
Chemistry - Anusha Anusha
Civil Engineering - Chandra Vikas Thipirishetty
Communication - Gladys Mana Momade
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine - Maya Fulton
Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences - Sam Harris
Ecological Sciences and Engineering - Jayvaughn Peter
Educational Studies - Fangfang Mo
Electrical and Computer Engineering (Indianapolis) - Abhishek Chappidi
Engineering Education - Udeme Idem
Engineering Technology - Varshitha Yalamanchili
English - Sidney Ducleroir
Entomology - Hira Poudel
Food Science - Lauren Yepes
Health and Kinesiology - Ivan Bobadilla
Horticultural & Landscape Architecture - Grace Lentz
Human Development and Family Studies - Sybil Cutler
Industrial and Molecular Pharmaceutics - Neha Panchabhai
Industrial Engineering - Pragathi Jha
Languages and Cultures - Nafiu Olayiwola Oloore
Management - Chiran Kodippili
Materials Engineering - Jasmyne Emerson
Nursing - Christelle Altidor
Physics and Astronomy - Lindsay Michelle Dawson
Purdue University Interdisciplinary Life Sciences (PULSe) - Emmanuel Oluwarotimi
Statistics - Dylan Clarke
Theatre & Dance - Tatyanna Rodriguez

ABSENT (13): Veterinary Clinical Sciences - Oluwabunmi T. Oladele
Agricultural Science Education and Communication - Kwabena Bayity
Black Cultural Center - Victoria Parker
Computer Science - Harry Tian
Entomology - Hira Poudel
Environmental & Ecological Engineering - Christian Chimezie
Obijanya
Health Sciences - Esraa Gabal
Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences - Danielle Ahwireng
Linguistics - Zeyu Feng
Mathematics - Geoffrey Baring
Mechanical Engineering (West Lafayette) - Ramakrishnan Jayasekaran
Nuclear Engineering - Jonah Lau
Nutrition Science - Pius Sarfo Buobu
Sociology - Sean Boylan
ABSTAINED (2): Applied and Creative Computing (West Lafayette) - Khalil El Breidi
Economics - Zachary Knepper
Forestry & Natural Resources - Jean Fritz Saint Preux

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 3rd day of *April* 2026.

DocuSigned by:

Abigayl Novak

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Abigayl Novak
Senate Clerk, PGSS