



JR-11.01

“Climate Emergency Resolution”

(ASOSU Statement on the Urgency of Climate Change, and Encouraging Action on the Part of OSU and the Oregon State Legislature)

- WHEREAS** 97% of “actively publishing climate scientists,” according to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, are in agreement that the global climate is changing in a significant way due to human activity¹;
- WHEREAS** “World Scientists’ Warning of a Climate Emergency,” signed by 11,000 global scientists, states that climate change will bring “untold suffering”² to global populations;
- WHEREAS** The effects of global climate change have shown to contribute to droughts, heatwaves, water shortages, and rising sea levels, with implications for the biodiversity of plant and animal species as well as human lives³;
- WHEREAS** The executive summary of a 2018 report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warns the consequences of global warming in excess of 1.5 °C are in many cases irreversible, also writing that limiting warming to this extent “implies reaching net zero CO₂ emissions globally around 2050 and concurrent deep reductions in emissions of non-CO₂ forcers, particularly methane”⁴, making it clear that addressing climate change is a time-sensitive issue;
- WHEREAS** The effects of warming will be felt disproportionately by marginalized communities who contribute the least to climate change, including lower-income communities and communities of color⁵ of whom OSU has expressed a commitment to supporting⁶;
- WHEREAS** Climate change poses a risk to the reliability of infrastructure, the status of public health, the condition of the natural resource economy, and the condition of frontline and vulnerable communities in Oregon⁷;
- WHEREAS** In 2007, OSU has become and remains a Carbon Commitment Charter Signatory, committing to carbon neutrality⁸;
- WHEREAS** The United States of America has formally begun leaving the Paris Climate Accord⁹;

¹ “Scientific Consensus: Earth’s Climate Is Warming.” NASA, NASA, 12 Nov. 2019, climate.nasa.gov/scientific-consensus/.

² William J Ripple, Christopher Wolf, Thomas M Newsome, Phoebe Barnard, William R Moomaw, “World Scientists’ Warning of a Climate Emergency,” *BioScience*, , biz088, <https://doi.org/10.1093/biosci/biz088>

³ “The Effects of Climate Change.” NASA, NASA, 30 Sept. 2019, <https://climate.nasa.gov/effects/>.

⁴ “Special Report: Global Warming of 1.5 °C.” *Global Warming of 1.5 °C*, www.ipcc.ch/sr15/.

⁵ “Fourth National Climate Assessment: Summary Findings.” NCA4, U.S. Global Change Research Program, 2018, nca2018.globalchange.gov/.

⁶ Alexander, Charlene. “State of Diversity at Oregon State Address.” *Institutional Diversity*, 14 June 2019, <https://diversity.oregonstate.edu/state-diversity-oregon-state-address>.

⁷ “Fourth National Climate Assessment: Chapter 24: Northwest.” NCA4, nca2018.globalchange.gov/chapter/24/.

⁸ “91 U.S. Universities Join New Climate Commitment.” *Second Nature*, Second Nature, https://secondnature.org/wp-content/uploads/Second-Nature_Press-Release_91-Climate-Commitment_04-2016-1.pdf.

⁹ Hersher, Rebecca. “U.S. Formally Begins To Leave The Paris Climate Agreement.” NPR, NPR, 4 Nov. 2019, www.npr.org/2019/11/04/773474657/u-s-formally-begins-to-leave-the-paris-climate-agreement.



BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE ASOSU THAT:

As a crisis presenting itself not only to Oregon, but to the United States and the world, the Associated Students of Oregon State University urges and expresses support for Governor Brown and the Legislature of the State of Oregon to:

1. Introduce and pass legislation to take action on the issue of climate change as an emergency necessitating concrete steps toward the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, as a matter of unfinished business during the 2020 short session;
2. As part of these legislative actions, hold industries and large-scale polluters directly accountable for the environmental cost of their emissions, and incentivize decreased total emissions statewide;
3. Explore and fund initiatives focused on environmental justice and community resilience;
4. Explore and fund nature-based solutions¹⁰ to climate change, which include soil health, reforestation, and conserving habitat for living things.

Furthermore, the Associated Students of Oregon State University urges and expresses support for the leadership of Oregon State University to:

- A. Establish and commit to a plan and a timeline for accomplishing carbon neutrality in a timely manner;
- B. Prioritize climate action in:
 - a. New construction projects;
 - b. Fundraising activities;
 - c. Lobbying efforts;
 - d. The mission of the OSU Extension Service;
 - e. Supporting student-led campus initiatives;
- C. Provide students with appropriate mental health resources due to detrimental mental health effects of a changing climate¹¹;

This resolution shall be sent to:

Kate Brown, Governor of Oregon
Peter Courtney, Senate President
Laurie Monnes Anderson, Senate President Pro-Tempore
Ginny Burdick, Senate Majority Leader
Herman Baertschiger Jr., Senate Minority Leader
Tina Kotek, Speaker of the House
Paul Holvey, Speaker Pro Tempore
Jennifer Williamson, House Majority Leader
Christine Drazan, House Minority Leader
State Senator Michael Dembrow[‡]
State Representative Karin Power[‡]
State Senator Cliff Bentz[†]
State Representative David Brock Smith[†]

Edward Ray, President of OSU
Brandon Trelstad, Sustainability Officer, OSU
Khawater Hussein, OSU Student Trustee
OSU Faculty Senate Carbon Commitment Committee
Anita Azarenko, Associate VP for UFIO
Molly Brown, Assist. VP of Advancement Communications, OSU
Foundation
Sharanda Norman, ASOSU Faculty Advisor and Student
Governance Coordinator
Drew Desilet, ASOSU Faculty Advisor

¹⁰ Griscom, Bronson W., et al. "Natural Climate Solutions." *PNAS*, National Academy of Sciences, 31 Oct. 2017, <https://www.pnas.org/content/114/44/11645>.

¹¹ Padhy, Susanta Kumar, et al. "Mental Health Effects of Climate Change." *Indian Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine*, Medknow Publications & Media Pvt Ltd, 2015, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4446935/>.

[‡] Co-Chair of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction, 2019 Oregon Legislative Session

[†] Co-Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction, 2019 Oregon Legislative Session



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Supported by:

Jim Guevera, CAPS Psychologist

Approved by:

Ian Walker, ASOSU Speaker of the House of Representatives

Signature:  Date: 10/12/19

Kylie Boenisch, ASOSU Vice-President

Signature:  Date: 12/12/19

Rachel Josephson, ASOSU President

Signature:  Date: 12/17/19