

To: The University Senate
From: University Resources Policy Committee
Sustainability Committee
Subject: Call for Purdue University to Join the Greater Lafayette Climate Action Plan
Reference: Purdue Student Government Resolution 21-42
Disposition: University Senate for Discussion and Adoption

Rationale: This legislation is based on Purdue Student Government Resolution 21-42, “A Resolution for Purdue University to join the Greater Lafayette Climate Action Plan.” [1]

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, reaching and sustaining net zero global CO₂ emissions produced by human activities would halt global warming on an immense scale [2].

In 2020, Purdue University Physical Facilities adopted a sustainability plan to reduce scope 1 (direct emissions) and scope 2 (indirect admissions) by the fiscal year 2025 with a baseline of fiscal year 2011 [3]. To achieve these goals by 2025, Purdue must reduce energy use, improve building efficiency, and lower gas emissions and waste production on campus [4].

Purdue is one of only two Big Ten universities with an expired [Sustainability, Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System](#) (STARS) score, as we have not provided a self-report since 2013 [4]. This is a priority of the Office of Sustainability, endorsed by Provost Akridge, with a goal to apply for resubmission by December 2022.

However, Purdue is also situated in a municipal community that is actively working to address climate change. The Greater Lafayette Climate Action Plan (GLCAP) was created by the city of Lafayette, city of West Lafayette, and Tippecanoe County to address climate change through mitigation and adaptation initiatives [5]. The GLCAP aims to provide the Greater Lafayette community with an improved quality of life, new development opportunities, better resource management, ecosystem preservation, economic resilience, and improved health outcomes [5].

The success of reducing the Greater Lafayette community's emissions is contingent upon all community members participating. Purdue is a large emitter of greenhouse gasses and producer of waste in West Lafayette.

GLCAP collaborators urged Purdue in July 2020 to join the climate action planning process, as Purdue is considered a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions in West Lafayette.

While much time has elapsed since GLCAP began and since PSG endorsed Purdue joining GLCAP [1], GLCAP leadership has said that it would still be valuable to their efforts if Purdue were to join.

Joining GLCAP would mean:

- Purdue would commit to sharing relevant data, including on energy use and greenhouse gas emissions (much of which is currently either publicly available or publicly requestable) with the other members of GLCAP to aid in climate projections and planning exercises.
- Purdue would commit a senior administrator to serving on the leadership team, and a staff member to serving on the implementation team.

Proposal:

The University Senate endorses Purdue University West Lafayette formally joining the Cities of West Lafayette and Lafayette, and Tippecanoe County, to participate in the Greater Lafayette Climate Action Plan process.

The University Senate urges the Office of Sustainability and other relevant offices who collect and store records of greenhouse gas emissions to share data with GLCAP leadership and other local climate professionals.

The University Senate urges the Office of the President to commit a senior representative to serve on the GLCAP Executive Committee, and the Office of Physical Facilities to commit a representative to serve on the GLCAP Joint Leadership Committee.

The University Senate urges the Purdue administration to demonstrate visible public cooperation in communicating with GLCAP representatives from the Cities of West Lafayette and Lafayette, and Tippecanoe County, in the implementation of GLCAP policies and initiatives on Purdue's campus.

Works cited:

1. Purdue Student Senate Resolution 21-42.
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oYCsO_y5ZrowhQNedYxqmotTk2pflQfa/view?usp=sharing
2. IPCC. <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/chapter/spm/>
3. Environmental Protection Agency, “Causes of Climate Change,” last updated 19 August 2022. <https://www.epa.gov/climatechange-science/causes-climate-change>
4. Purdue University Sustainability Master Plan.
<https://www.purdue.edu/physicalfacilities/units/cpas/sustainability/sustainability-master-plan/energy.html>
5. Purdue University’s AASHE STARS certification.
<https://reports.aashe.org/institutions/purdue-university-in/report/2013-03-27/>
6. Greater Lafayette Climate Action Plan.
<https://greaterlafayetteind.com/climate-action-plan/>

Committee Votes, URPC:**For:****Faculty**

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