



Associated Students of Northern Arizona University

Resolution Label: ASNAU-SR-3404

Date Introduced: October 14, 2021

Sponsors: Vice Chair Jacob Carter and Senator Sierra Tyson

Signatories: Senators Katie Cinader, Abigail Handlong, Quannah Arnold, Micah Davidson, Maria Emilia Machelor, Brenden Nielsen, Lian Muneno, Sarina Fox, Ruby Soto Valasquez, Stellar Kolasinski, Wendy Castro Encinas

Resolution to Declare a Climate Emergency at Northern Arizona University

Whereas, in 2008 NAU signed the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) and developed its 2010 Climate Action Plan with a target of carbon neutrality by 2020; however, NAU has not reduced absolute greenhouse gas emissions over the past 10 years and did not reach the 2020 carbon neutrality goal;¹

Whereas, a report from the ACUPCC found that NAU's net carbon emissions were reduced by only 10.62% from 2007 to 2020.² NAU's inability to reach the aforementioned goal reflects the lack of necessary investments needed to elevate climate action as a university priority;

Whereas, according to a report published by the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), global warming of approximately 1.8°F (1.0°C) is already causing detrimental effects on Earth's human, physical, biological, and hydrological systems, as evidenced by increased wildfires and floods, rising seas, more disease, prolonged droughts, loss

¹ [Former NAU President John Haeger signs ACUPCC with 2020 Goal](#)

² [Second Nature Report on NAU Emissions](#)

of biodiversity, climate refugees, and prevalence of social injustice;³

Whereas, the City of Flagstaff declared a climate emergency and set a goal of carbon neutrality by 2030, but to achieve this goal, Flagstaff requires the cooperation of NAU;⁴

Whereas, Universities are uniquely situated to be leaders in climate action as they produce important climate and sustainability research and are responsible for supporting large populations of young people who will disproportionately bear the impacts of climate deterioration;

Whereas, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving energy efficiency will necessarily update outdated energy systems, creating efficient and clean buildings that will improve students' quality of life and reduce the university's future energy costs.

Therefore, be it Resolved by the Senate of the Associated Students of Northern Arizona University:

the Senate of the Associated Students of Northern Arizona University calls for the University Administration to declare a climate emergency and acknowledge the need for a more ambitious approach to combating the Climate Crisis;

Be It Further Resolved, the Senate of the Associated Students of Northern Arizona University asks the University Administration to commit to a university-wide transition towards clean energy, sustainable habits, and climate justice, and to work collaboratively with the City of Flagstaff to reach carbon neutrality by 2030;

Be It Further Resolved, the Senate of the Associated Students of Northern Arizona University advises the University Administration to recognize the disproportionate impact of the Climate Crisis on vulnerable communities and work closely with these populations to ensure a just transition toward carbon neutrality;

³ [IPCC 2018 Report on Effects of Warming Climate](#)

⁴ [Flagstaff City Council Declares Climate Emergency in July 2020](#)

Be It Further Resolved, the Senate of the Associated Students of Northern Arizona University urges the University Administration to call on the University of Arizona, Arizona State University, the Arizona Board of Regents, and the State of Arizona to declare a climate emergency and invest in policies to mitigate the Climate Crisis.



Maylee Acosta

ASNAU Student Body President

Date of Approval: 10-27-2021



Michael Bolar

ASNAU Senate Chair

Date of Approval: 10/26/2021

