

Associated Students of Northern Arizona University

Resolution Label: ASNAU-SR-3404

Date Introduced: October 14, 2021

Sponsors: Senate Chair Jacob Carter, Senator Sierra Tyson, and the NAU GreenJacks

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

Resolution to Declare a Climate Emergency at Northern Arizona University

Whereas, Northern Arizona University is uniquely situated to be a leader in climate action as we produce important climate and sustainability research presently and historically, having launched one of the country's first Environmental Science Degree programs in 1973;

Whereas, NAU has demonstrated its commitment to carbon neutrality in a variety of ways, including signing the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment in 2008 (ACUPCC) and developing its 2010 Climate Action Plan with a target of carbon neutrality by 2020;

Whereas, NAU has been unable to make the necessary investments needed to prioritize climate action evidenced by an ACUPCC report that found NAU did not reach its 2020 carbon neutrality goal and only managed a 10.62% reduction from 2007 to 2020.¹

Whereas, according to a report published by the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on

¹ [Second Nature Report on NAU Emissions](#)

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 of biodiversity, climate refugees, and prevalence of social injustice;²

Whereas, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving energy efficiency will necessarily update outdated energy systems, creating efficient and clean buildings that will improve students' quality of life and reduce the university's future energy costs;

Whereas, the City of Flagstaff declared a climate emergency and set a goal of carbon neutrality by 2030;³

Whereas, NAU and the City of Flagstaff together are partners in stewardship of sustainable community development and environmental well being.

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 urgent 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 an immediate plan for a university-wide transition towards clean energy, sustainably minded policies and habits, environmental justice, and collaborative work with the City of Flagstaff to reach carbon neutrality by 2030;

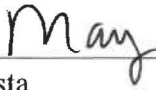
Be It Further Resolved, the Senate of the Associated Students of Northern Arizona University advises the University Administration to recognize the disproportionate impact of the Climate

² [IPCC 2018 Report on Effects of Warming Climate](#)

³ [Flagstaff City Council Declares Climate Emergency in July 2020](#)

Crisis on Indigenous tribal communities, who have lived here for millennia and will forever call this place home, and other underprivileged communities, and to work closely with these populations to ensure a just transition toward carbon neutrality;

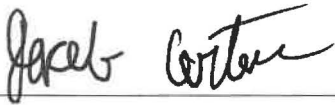
Be It Further Resolved, the Senate of the Associated Students of Northern Arizona University urges the University Administration to call on the University of Arizona, Arizona State University, the Arizona Board of Regents, and the State of Arizona to declare a climate emergency and invest in policies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



Maylee Acosta

ASNAU Student Body President

Date of Approval: 04-19-2022



Jacob Carter

ASNAU Senate Chair

Date of Approval: 4/19/2022