



**TO: Members of the Executive Committee**

**FROM: Alivia Sheffield, Chair of Sustainability Committee.**  
**Alex Cicero, Student Senator, SUNY Cortland**  
**Jordan Harclerod, Cayuga Hall Senator, SUNY Oswego**

**DATE: Saturday, February 4th, 2017**

**SUBJECT: Current and future Presidential Administration Sustainability policies**

**ACTION REQUESTED**

We call on the State University of New York and the State of New York to stand against the negative environmental policies of the current Presidential Administration, and stand in solidarity with efforts to further environmentally sustainable practices within SUNY and the State of New York.

**RESOLUTION**

We strongly recommend that the Student Assembly of the State University of New York (SUNYSA) adopt the following resolution:

**Whereas** average global temperature have risen significantly in the last 100 years<sup>1</sup>; and,

**Whereas** 2011-2015 was the hottest five-year period on record globally ;<sup>2</sup> and,

**Whereas** climate change threatens to disrupt ecosystems, harm human health and wellbeing;<sup>3 4</sup> and,

**Whereas** global warming has raised the global sea level approximately 8 inches since 1901;<sup>5</sup> and,

**Whereas** models based on thermal expansion and ice melt estimate that sea

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<sup>1</sup> "How Much Has the Global Temperature Risen Since 1880?," "How Much Has the Global Temperature Risen Since 1880?," UCAR - University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, accessed January 28, 2017, <https://www2.ucar.edu/climate/faq/how-much-has-global-temperature-risen-last-100-years>.

<sup>2</sup> "The Global Climate 2011-2015: Heat Records and High Impact Weather," World Meteorological Organization, December 21, 2016, accessed January 28, 2017, <https://public.wmo.int/en/media/press-release/global-climate-2011-2015-hot-and-wild>.

<sup>3</sup> "Our Planet, Our Health, Our Future Human health and the Rio Conventions: biological diversity, climate change and desertification." World Health Organization. Accessed January 28, 2017. <http://www.who.int/en/>.

<sup>4</sup> USGCRP. "The Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States: A Scientific Assessment." U.S. Global Change Research Program, Washington, DC, April 4, 2016. [/executive-summary](#).

<sup>5</sup> US EPA, OA. "Climate Impacts on Coastal Areas." Overviews and Factsheets. Accessed January 28, 2017. <https://www.epa.gov/climate-impacts/climate-impacts-coastal-areas>.



level rise is likely to reach 1 to 3 feet by the end of the century;<sup>6</sup> and

**Whereas**, great amounts of people would be adversely/negatively affected by the aforementioned rising sea levels, including the majority of New York's coastal marine counties, which house more than half of New Yorkers, one million people in California, and 31 counties in the US of populations greater than 100,000;<sup>7</sup> and

**Whereas**, “Sea-level rise is locked in for centuries, or even millennia, by heat-trapping greenhouse gases already in the atmosphere, [and] Continuing or increasing emissions will speed up the rise to higher levels”;<sup>8</sup> and

**Whereas** climate change greatly affects not only the day to day proceedings of humans but also those of all living creatures, climate change has a negative impact on biodiversity, damages healthy ecosystems and food chains, which are essential to life on our planet;<sup>9</sup> and,

**Whereas** President Trump had promised to ‘cancel’ plans set previously that would progress our society towards a more sustainable future, and has declared intentions to disenfranchise the Environmental Protection Agency;<sup>10</sup> and,

**Whereas** President Trump eliminated information about global climate change from the White House website;<sup>11 12</sup> and,

**Whereas** President Trump banned federal environmental and park agencies from using social media to spread information about climate change and other environmental issues;<sup>13 14</sup> and,

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<sup>6</sup> US EPA, OA. “Climate Impacts on Coastal Areas.” <https://www.epa.gov/climate-impacts/climate-impacts-coastal-areas>.

<sup>7</sup> “Department of Environmental Conservation.” Sea Level Rise . Accessed February 01, 2017. <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/45202.html>.

<sup>8</sup> “Department of Environmental Conservation.” Sea Level Rise . Accessed February 01, 2017. <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/45202.html>.

<sup>9</sup> Bellard, Céline, Cleo Bertelsmeier, Paul Leadley, Wilfried Thuiller, and Franck Courchamp. “Impacts of Climate Change on the Future of Biodiversity.” *Ecology Letters* 15, no. 4 (April 2012): 365–77. doi:10.1111/j.1461-0248.2011.01736.x

<sup>10</sup> “Trump to ‘Slash the EPA’s Workforce and Budget.’” *Time*. Accessed January 28, 2017. <http://time.com/4651407/trump-wants-to-slash-the-epas-workforce-and-budget-transition-official-says/>.

<sup>11</sup> “Trump Removes ‘Climate Change’ from the White House Website. History Tells Us Regulatory Change Will Take Longer.” *Public Radio International*. Accessed January 28, 2017. <https://www.pri.org/stories/2017-01-20/trump-removes-climate-change-white-house-website-history-tells-us-regulatory>.

<sup>12</sup> Davenport, Coral. “With Trump in Charge, Climate Change References Purged From Website.” *The New York Times*, January 20, 2017. <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/20/us/politics/trump-white-house-website.html>.

<sup>13</sup> Shelbourne, Mallory. “Trump bans EPA employees from giving social media updates.” Text. *TheHill*, January 24–24, 2017. <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/315876-trump-bans-epa-employees-from-giving-social-media-updates>.

<sup>14</sup> Biesecker, Michael, John Flesher Associated press January 24, and 2017. “Trump Bans EPA Employees from Updating Public via Press or Social Media - The Boston Globe.” *BostonGlobe.com*. Accessed January 28, 2017. <https://www.bostonglobe.com/news/politics/2017/01/24/trump-bans-epa-employees-from-updating-public-via-press-social-media/Anr90pkwhavC2kzK8pwsyK/story.html>.



**Whereas** President Trump signed two presidential memoranda expediting the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline and the Dakota Access pipeline,<sup>15 16</sup> and,

**Whereas** the State University of New York “*wants to play a role in creating a generation of environmental stewards and leaders who will work towards solving these global complexities*”,<sup>17</sup> and therefore, be it

**Resolved** that we encourage SUNY to maintain and expand its leadership and progress in environmental sustainability; and be it further,

**Resolved** that the students of the State University of New York demand the State of New York stand united against any attempts made by the current administration to limit progress towards a more sustainable future; and, finally, be it

**Resolved** that copies of this resolution be distributed to Governor Andrew Cuomo, the SUNY Board of Trustees, Chancellor Zimpher, Provost Cartwright, the Executive Committees of the University Faculty Senate and Faculty Council of Community Colleges, Presidents and Chief Academic Officers of State-Operated and Community Colleges, the Deans of the Statutory Colleges at Cornell and Alfred, and SUNY Student Government Presidents

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<sup>15</sup> “Trump Seeks to Revive Dakota Access, Keystone XL Oil Pipelines.” *Washington Post*. Accessed January 28, 2017. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2017/01/24/trump-gives-green-light-to-dakota-access-keystone-xl-oil-pipelines/>.

<sup>16</sup> “Trump Clears Way for Controversial Oil Pipelines.” *Reuters*, January 25, 2017. <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trump-pipeline-idUSKBN15820N>.

<sup>17</sup> SUNY. “Sustainability.” SUNY.edu. Accessed January 28, 2017. <http://system.suny.edu/capital-facilities/energy-management/sustainability/>.

wants to play a role in creating a generation of environmental stewards and leaders who will work towards solving these global complexities.