



The State University of New York
Student Assembly

Sustainability Committee

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RESOLUTION

TO: General Assembly
FROM: Zachary Beaudoin, Chair of Sustainability
DATE: November 13, 2015
SUBJECT: Renewable Portfolio Standard

Action Requested

We call on the entire SUNY System including its related entities and both State Operated and Community Colleges to commit to increasing their renewable energy consumption by no less 25% by the year 2020 through commodity contracts in the electricity market.

Resolution

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

Whereas by committing to a renewable portfolio standard of 25% by 2020, we will be recognizing the economic, environmental, and security benefits of renewable energy resources;

Whereas by adopting a 25% standard, we are increasing the stability and security of SUNY's energy resources;

Whereas renewable energy yields lower emissions, is sustainable, and helps decrease SUNY's carbon footprint;

Whereas the price of fossil fuels fluctuates based on the market;

Whereas the price of renewable energy is consistent and often reliable;

Whereas the price of clean energy is increasingly becoming the most affordable choice;

Whereas U.S. wind power costs have fallen by 58% in the last five years;

Whereas Average solar prices have fallen 63% since 2010 as U.S. installations have increased by 600%;

Whereas Wind and solar are already out-competing fossil fuels in price in many parts of the country, and these trends are moving in such a direction that clean energy goals will become even more affordable as we move closer to 2020;

Whereas by furthering SUNY's living smart initiative, an effort to reduce energy usage by 30%, we will continue to be socially responsible in our consumption;

Resolved that the entire SUNY System including its related entities and both State Operated and Community Colleges increase their renewable energy consumption by no less 25% by the year 2020 through commodity contracts in the electricity market;

Resolved that the entire SUNY System including its related entities and both State Operated and Community Colleges works to continuously reduce its carbon footprint;

Resolved that the Student Assembly of the State University of New York shall forward copies of this Resolution to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, Lt. Governor Kathleen C. Hochul, the members of the New York State Legislature, the SUNY Board of Trustees, SUNY Chancellor Zimpher, University Faculty Senate, Faculty Council of Community Colleges, SUNY Campus Presidents, SUNY student governing bodies, and all other parties deemed necessary and proper.