

A Resolution of the

Associated Students of Western Washington University

“ASWWU’s Support to Update the 2017 Sustainability Action Plan and Maintain its Relevance Long Term”

WHEREAS, due to the necessity for green policies in response to the climate crisis, Western Washington University passed the 2017 Sustainability Action Plan as a guiding document for WWU’s long-term sustainability goals and

WHEREAS, the 2017 Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) has not been revisited or revised since 2017 and

WHEREAS, in the 4 years since the establishment of the Action Plan, a pandemic has interfered with the budgetary abilities of the University and the timeline of many goals and objectives within the Plan and

WHEREAS, page 95, Appendix C, of the Sustainability Action Plan titled “Monitoring and Reporting” explicitly states a plan for the annual review, revision, and advancement of the SAP [1] and

WHEREAS, Appendix C continues, stating that the Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) would present an annual Sustainability Report in which “Every two years, the SAC will issue an update to the Action Plan which will be sent to the university president for approval. The SAC will make efforts to involve the Western public in the creation of these updates” [1] and

WHEREAS, Western Washington University neglected to continue support for the Sustainability Advisory Committee, neglected to charge the committee with the implementation of the plan, and neglected to provide the progress report over the years, so the progress for all the objectives and goals within the Sustainability Action Plan is ill-defined to the Western community, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, and

WHEREAS, the 2017 Sustainability Action Plan reassessment, revision, and the resulting charge for implementing and monitoring the progress of the goals and objectives is crucial to maintain the quality of human life during a climate crisis and

WHEREAS, former members of the Sustainability Advisory Committee, including the former co-chair, have stated that it is their wish that the Sustainability Action Plan be reassessed, updated, and continue to maintain relevance long term and

WHEREAS, certain sections of the Sustainability Action Plan have grown outdated due to a lack of progress or a need for timeline adjustments and

WHEREAS, many of the offices or positions that might be empowered to implement the goals and objectives of the plan have voiced that there is not enough support at Western Washington University to implement such sustainability goals and objectives successfully.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY:

THAT, the 2020-21 ASWWU petitions the Office of the President of Western Washington University to re-establish the university's sustainability goals and maintain the Sustainability Advisory Committee long term, with positions similar to those listed in Appendix H and I of the 2017 Sustainability Action Plan [1] as well as other interested members of the Western community that will sit on the revived committee and

THAT, the 2020-21 ASWWU stipulates that Western Washington University update the Sustainability Action Plan to include progress, adjusted timelines, taking into consideration the setbacks of the pandemic, and new goals after the 4-year absence of any review and

THAT, the 2020-21 ASWWU stipulates that Western Washington University will update or add to any sections of the Sustainability Action Plan that the Western community recognizes is now outdated and

THAT, the 2020-21 ASWWU stipulates Western Washington University to commit to an annual review of the Sustainable Action Plan and that this review will include ASWWU student workers such as the VP of Sustainability and College of the Environment Student Senators, in addition to non-ASWWU students and

THAT, the 2020-21 ASWWU stipulates Western Washington University will move forward with officially charging a representative body with the implementation of the 2017 Sustainability Action Plan's goals and objectives as opposed to waiting for the SAP to be reassessed and updated to do so and

THAT, the 2020-21 ASWWU stipulates that the updated Sustainability Action Plan will consistently incorporate the social equity pillar of sustainability in its goals and objectives and

THAT, the 2020-21 ASWWU stipulates that relevant VPs at Western Washington University such as the incoming VP for Business and Financial Affairs and VP for Academic Affairs Brent Carbajal will be charged with the implementation of the Sustainability Action Plan’s goals and objectives and that a portion of their performance evaluations will be dependent on successful implementation of those goals and objectives and

THAT, the 2020-21 ASWWU stipulates that Western Washington University maintain the level of transparency through accessible Sustainability Action Plan progress updates that universities such as the University of Washington [2], Seattle University [3], and University of British Columbia [4] provide and

THAT, copies of this resolution be distributed via email to President Sabah Randhawa, Dean of the College of the Environment Steve Hollenhorst, Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services Melynda Huskey, the current Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs Richard Van De Hul, and incoming VP for Business and Financial Affairs, Vice President for Academic Affairs Brent Carbajal, Director of the Office of Sustainability Lindsey MacDonald, Wilder Distinguished Professor of Business and Sustainability Craig Dunn, Leadership Development Specialist Joanne DeMark, the WWU Board of Trustees, WWU Faculty Senate, and the general WWU student body.

Appendix

[1]: 2017 WWU Sustainability Action Plan in full: <https://sustain.wwu.edu/sustainability-action-plan/>

[2]: <https://green.uw.edu/sustainability-plan>

[3] <https://www.seattleu.edu/cejs/campus-sustainability/presidents-committee-for-sustainability/>

[4] <https://planning.ubc.ca/sustainability/sustainability-action-plans/climate-action-plan>