

**A RESOLUTION TO ENCOURAGE U-M PRESIDENT SCHLISSEL TO LOOK INTO
TRANSITIONING THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN FROM FOSSIL FUELS TO
CLEANER ENERGY SOURCES**

- WHEREAS,** The University of Michigan (hereafter U-M) gets its energy from U-M’s Central Power Plant and DTE Energy.¹ **AND**
- WHEREAS,** The Central Power Plant produces its energy using natural gas,² and DTE produces its energy using 91.9% natural gas and coal, with 8.1% of their energy production coming from renewable sources;³ **AND**
- WHEREAS,** Both coal and natural gas contribute significantly to U-M’s greenhouse gas (hereafter GHG) emissions; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** In September 2011, U-M sustainability department, Planet Blue, created multiple sustainability goals for Climate Action, Waste Prevention, Healthy Environments, and Community Awareness; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** Planet Blue’s goal for Climate Action consisted of decreasing the University’s GHG emissions by 25% below 2006 levels by 2025; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** In Fiscal Year 2006, U-M’s total greenhouse gas emissions were 680,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO₂e)⁴; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** In Fiscal Year 2016, U-M’s total greenhouse gas emissions were 642,000 MTCO₂e,⁵ a decrease of only 38,000 MTCO₂e in 10 years, or a mere 5.6% percent below 2006 levels; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** The President’s Greenhouse Gas Reduction Commission, comprised of students, faculty, and staff, represented an effort on behalf of U-M President Mark Schlissel’s office in 2015 to characterize the University’s efforts up to that point in matching the Planet Blue goal; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** This Commission found that current GHG reduction efforts by U-M, under reasonable projections, will lead not only to the failure to meet the Planet Blue goal, but to a net *increase* in GHG emissions by between 6% and 10% above 2006 levels by 2025⁶; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** Clean Wolverines, an energy group consisting of faculty, graduates, and undergraduates, is working to assess the feasibility of U-M transitioning from fossil fuel reliance to renewable energy; **AND**

¹ [http://sustainability.umich.edu/media/files/goal%201%20reporting%20guideline%202015\(1\).pdf](http://sustainability.umich.edu/media/files/goal%201%20reporting%20guideline%202015(1).pdf)

² *ibid*

³ <https://www.newlook.dteenergy.com/wps/wcm/connect/dte-web/home/community-and-news/common/environment/fuel-mix>

⁴ <http://sustainability.umich.edu/ocs/goals/ghg>

⁵ *ibid*

⁶ <http://sustainability.umich.edu/media/files/Greenhouse-Gas-Reduction-Committee-Report-2015.pdf>

- WHEREAS,** Clean Wolverines is putting on a workshop on April 5th, bringing together information from multiple U-M departments, as well as other universities, such as Ohio State University and Michigan State University, to create a white paper to give to President Schlissel and the Regents on the best way to transition U-M from fossil fuels to cleaner, alternative energy sources; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** The adoption of alternative, cleaner energy sources will act to directly reduce GHG emissions, allowing U-M to reach its sustainability goals by 2025; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** Clean Wolverines has written a pledge to gauge wide-scale support for alternative energy by allowing students, faculty, and Ann Arbor citizens to co-sign; **THEREFORE BE IT**
- RESOLVED,** Central Student Government (hereafter known CSG) supports the need for U-M to consider a transition from fossil fuels to clean, alternative energy sources; **AND BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED,** CSG will distribute the Clean Wolverines pledge to the student body, allowing them to show their support for this cause by co-signing; **AND BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED,** CSG calls on President Schlissel to seriously take into consideration the findings of the Clean Wolverines group, to reaffirm the 2011 commitment to reducing U-M's GHG emissions by 25% below 2006 levels by 2025, and to consider fully transitioning U-M from fossil fuels to cleaner, more reliable, and renewable energy sources; **AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**
- RESOLVED,** That a copy of the pledge will be distributed to the entire student body with a statement of CSG support, and that a copy of this resolution and the pledge will be sent to President Schlissel.

Authors

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Sponsors

Attest

Alexandra Contis, LSA
Speaker of the Assembly

Isabel Baer, LSA
Vice Speaker of the Assembly

President's Approval

Anushka Sarkar

Presented to the Assembly for *First Reads* on _____
Presented to the Assembly for *Second Reads* on _____

Yes: _____ No: _____ Abs: _____ Date: _____

Signature Necessary: _____ Signature Received By _____: _____