

University of Delaware Graduate Student Government
SR-1718-04

Sponsor and cosponsor: Senator Devan George (Entomology) and Alex Harding (Chair, Sustainability Committee)

Proposal in Support of Renewable Energy Projects at the University of Delaware

WHEREAS the University of Delaware use large quantities of electricity each year that are generated primarily through the combustion of fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS this aforementioned practice adversely impacts the climate, health, and environment of the Delaware community and the world; and

WHEREAS renewable energy technologies, such as solar and wind energy, serve as carbon-free sources of electricity that will reduce carbon dioxide emissions - lessening the impact of future environmental and societal damages due to climate change; and

WHEREAS according to the EPA's Green Power Partnership, many of the University of Delaware's institutional peers, such as the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Maryland, Drexel University, the University of Vermont, Georgetown, Carnegie Mellon, and many others are already operating with a significant portion of their electricity coming from renewable energy sources; and

WHEREAS the University of Delaware is committed to building a sustainable future and innovating energy and environmental solutions as described in the "Path to Prominence" and "Delaware will Shine" strategic plans; and

WHEREAS the University of Delaware Faculty Senate has approved the resolution "100 Percent Renewable and Carbon-free Electricity to Power UD", which supports 100% renewable energy generation on campus, or the equivalent purchasing of renewable energy credits (RECs); and

WHEREAS a net-zero emission pilot project would increase the understanding of how these systems behave and how to manage them, elevating confidence in the potential for renewable energy systems in the future; and

WHEREAS the University of Delaware's Institute of Energy Conversion constructed the Solar One House in 1973, which was a net-zero emission building, but it has fallen into a state of disrepair in which the net-zero emission aspects have been removed and the building itself is in serious need of renovation; and

WHEREAS restoration of the Solar One House can improve the image of the University as a sustainable campus, act as a case-study to learn about the integration of renewable energy sources on campus, facilitate innovation in renewable energy systems and sustainability in university buildings, and display and promote the current groundbreaking research on campus in fields related to renewable energy and sustainability;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Graduate Student Government joins the Faculty Senate in stating that the University of Delaware must commit to the fulfillment of its own sustainability goals and examine the fiscal implications and determine whether it is economically practicable, and if so, work with the City of Newark, the Delaware Municipal Electric Corporation (DEMEC), and other entities as appropriate to forthwith, and in any event, no later than January 1, 2020, power its campuses and installations with 100% renewable energy, with such powering to be accomplished through a mixture of (a) wind and solar on-campus self-generation and holding of associated renewable energy credits (RECs); (b)

power purchase agreements for the purchase of wind or solar power and associated RECs; and (c) purchase of wind and/or solar RECs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Graduate Student Government supports the revitalization of the Solar One house, in particular the engineering assessment of the building which will determine whether a renovation is possible, and regardless of the outcome of this assessment, is committed to advocating for a net-zero emission building on campus, by engaging with both the university administration as well as the relevant faculty, departments, and research centers on campus.