

Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

25 **Whereas**, in their November 16, 2021 visit to the Assembly, President Pollack and Vice President
26 Malina expressed their support for the sustainable development of campus, noted the important role
27 that sustainable infrastructure plays in the daily happenings of the Cornell community, and
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29 **Whereas**, the installation of such “smart” waste and recycling infrastructure has the potential to
30 “measure diversion rates,”⁴ by employing using self-harnessed solar power to continuously provide
31 waste accumulation metrics, resulting in informed decision making with respect to collection times,
32 cycles, and/or patterns, and
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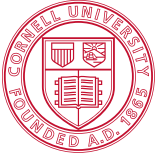
34 **Whereas**, “smart” waste management and recycling infrastructure are similarly outfitted with the
35 technology necessary to “periodically compact[s] the trash inside, creating space for more,”⁵ and
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37 **Whereas**, in the current absence of a similar method of remotely tracking metrics of waste
38 accumulation, our current waste disposal and recycling system inefficiently and unnecessarily burns
39 fossil fuels and wastes financial resources surveying and collecting waste from receptacles that are
40 not fully filled, and
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42 **Whereas**, in the current absence of a similar method of remotely tracking metrics of waste
43 accumulation, admirable attempts to conserve financial resources and reducing greenhouse gas
44 (GHG) emissions inadvertently neglect overfilled waste receptacles, resulting in a greater likelihood
45 of wildlife accessing waste, posing a potential danger physical danger, as well as perpetuates existing
46 issues of waste ending up in our local waterways and natural environment(s), resulting in devastating
47 environmental/ecological consequences, and
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⁴ <https://bigbelly.com/solutions/campus/>

⁵ <https://news.brown.edu/articles/2011/02/belly>



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49 **Whereas**, our peer institutions, including Massachusetts Institute of Technology,⁶ Brown
50 University,⁷ and Boston University⁸ have all implemented “smart waste & recycling” initiatives on
51 their campuses with phenomenal success, and

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53 **Be it therefore resolved**, Cornell University shall efficiently invest the funds and resources
54 necessary for the full, successful implementation of a campus-wide network of solar-powered waste
55 receptacles, outfitted with monitorization technology allowing for the efficient tracking of waste
56 receptacle capacity in order to strategically plan collection timing, ultimately reducing greenhouse gas
57 emissions necessarily involved in waste collection and processing, and

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59 **Be it further resolved**, such waste receptacles must be limited in quantity as a means of reducing
60 greenhouse gas emissions and the financial burden of sustaining this initiative, however, these
61 installed “smart” receptacles ought to be strategically placed with respect to foot-traffic and living
62 spaces, facilitating practical, equitable access to proper waste disposal, in totality ensuring adequate
63 waste and recycling disposal is rationally incentivized, limiting the propensity for littering and
64 dumping, and

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66 **Be it finally resolved**, the commencement of this initiative will continue to support the historic and
67 thriving environmentalist values of Cornell University, making good on promises of sustainable
68 development.

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70 Respectfully Submitted,
71 Josh Washington
72 Master’s Representative

⁶ <https://news.mit.edu/2011/bigbelly-solar-at-mit>

⁷ <https://news.brown.edu/articles/2011/02/belly>

⁸ <https://www.bu.edu/articles/2009/big-bellied-trash-eaters-arrive/>