

Cornell University University Assembly

U.A. Resolution # X

Integrating Sustainable Investments into Endowment Reports

September 12th, 2017

Sponsored by: University Assembly Member

On Behalf Of: University Assembly Member, C. Hanna, Undergraduate; J. Kapuvari, Undergraduate; H. Shanahan, Undergraduate; M. Indimine, Undergraduate; M. Valadez, Undergraduate; C. Faringer-Perez, Undergraduate.

Whereas, Cornell President Martha Pollack has taken a positive step towards a fossil fuel-free world by reaffirming Cornell's 2015 commitment to the American Campuses Act on Climate Pledge, which echoes the terms of the Paris Agreement;

Whereas, Cornell University promises to achieve carbon neutrality by 2035;

Whereas, in 2016 the Cornell University Board of Trustees directed the university's chief investment officer to actively seek investments in alternative energy;

Whereas, Martha Pollack divulged to the authors of AY 2016-17 Resolution 36 that as of December 31, 2016, Cornell held approximately \$40 million of private investments in alternative energy-related businesses;

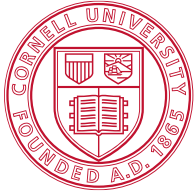
Whereas, Cornell has reduced carbon emissions by over 30 percent since 2008, and by almost 50 percent since 1990 despite a 20 percent growth in square footage;

Whereas, Martha Pollack reiterated this information in a July 5, 2017 letter to Climate Justice Cornell;

Whereas, these disclosed investments give climate justice advocates hope that Cornell University is moving its investment portfolio away from fossil fuels and towards renewable-based businesses;

Whereas, sustainable investments also figure into public rating systems that weigh Cornell University's commitment to sustainability;

Whereas, the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) gives Cornell a gold rating and exceptional score of 70.05;



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Whereas, Cornell lags behind its peer institutions only in the said rating system’s “Investment” metric, scoring a paltry 0.13 out of 7.0 points;

Whereas, the disclosed endowment investments in renewable energies give climate justice advocates hope that the Board of Trustees intends to remedy this inadequacy;

Whereas, the regular publication of the aforementioned renewable investment figures would increase the university’s financial transparency and embolden its reputation as a leader on climate action;

Be it therefore resolved, that the Board of Trustees include renewable investments figures in its quarterly endowment reports or on some other publicly accessible platform deemed appropriate;

Resolved, that the Senior Leaders Climate Action Group coordinate with the Board of Trustees to integrate all relevant energy investments considerations into Climate Action Plan updates;

Be it finally resolved, that President Martha Pollack forward this resolution to the Board of Trustees and Senior Leaders Climate Action Group.