



Originally Presented on:	10/5/2017
Type of Action:	Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

1 S.A. Resolution #10

2 Integrating Sustainable Investments into Endowment Reports

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4 ABSTRACT: This resolution urges the Board of Trustees to regularly disclose endowment
5 investments in alternative energy-related businesses.

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7 **Sponsored by: Mayra Valadez '18 and Matthew Indimine '18**

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

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

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

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18 **Whereas**, Martha Pollack divulged to the authors of AY 2016-17 Resolution 36 that as of December
19 31, 2016, Cornell held approximately \$40 million of private investments in alternative
20 energy-related businesses;

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

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

27
28 **Whereas**, these disclosed investments give climate justice advocates hope that Cornell University is
29 moving its investment portfolio away from fossil fuels and towards renewable-based
30 businesses;

31
32 **Whereas**, sustainable investments also figure into public rating systems that weigh Cornell
33 University's commitment to sustainability;

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35 **Whereas**, the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) gives Cornell a gold
36 rating and exceptional score of 68.49;

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38 **Whereas**, Cornell lags behind its peer institutions only in the said rating system's "Investment"
39 metric, scoring a paltry 0.13 out of 7.0 points;

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

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

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

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52 **Be it further resolved**, that the Senior Leaders Climate Action Group coordinate with the Board of
53 Trustees to integrate all relevant energy investments considerations into Climate Action Plan
54 updates;

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

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59 **Respectfully Submitted,**

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61 Christopher Hanna '18
62 *Co-Founder and former Co-Facilitator, Amnesty International at Cornell University*

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64 Julie Kapuvari '19
65 *Co-Campaign Coordinator, Climate Justice Cornell*

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67 Helen Shanahan '18

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69 Matthew Indimine '18
70 *Former Executive Vice President, Student Assembly*
71 *Founder & Co-Chair, Mental Health Awareness Week*

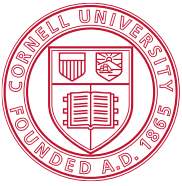
72
73 Mayra Valadez '19
74 *Undesignated at-Large Representative, Student Assembly*

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76 Nathanael Cheng '20
77 *Environmental Committee Chair, Student Assembly*

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79 Cecilia Faringer-Perez '18
80 *Member, Amnesty International at Cornell University*

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82 Gabriela Vega '19
83 *Former G-body Organizer of Climate Justice Cornell*
84 *Community and Retention Co-Chair of Climate Justice Cornell*

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86 Grace Bogdanove '18
87 *Facilitator, Amnesty International at Cornell University*



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89 Janet Back '19
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92 Julian Goldberg, '19
93 *Former Campaign Coordinator, Climate Justice Cornell*
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95 *Reviewed by: Environmental Committee, 8-0-1, 9/28/2017*