

Cornell University  
University Assembly

**U.A. Resolution # 7**

**Requesting Information on the Cost of Carbon  
Neutrality**

February 23, 2016

1 **Sponsored by: Gabriel D. Kaufman, Undergraduate; Acting CJC Chair, University**  
2 **Assembly; Martin Hatch, Faculty; Vice Chair of Operations, University Assembly**

3  
4 **Whereas**, the University administration has decided that it will not honor the commitment  
5 President Skorton made to make Cornell carbon neutral by 2035; and

6  
7 **Whereas**, the reason cited for this decision is that the cost of carbon neutrality is high or at least  
8 presently unknown; and

9  
10 **Whereas**, the University administration, despite endorsing the possibility of carbon neutrality  
11 several times, has not determined the actual costs associated with carbon neutrality; and

12  
13 **Whereas**, understanding the cost and benefits associated with carbon neutrality would greatly  
14 inform the current debate by allowing each constituency to weigh the costs and benefits  
15 thereof and would empower each constituent assembly to make specific suggestions to  
16 the administration regarding changes in practices and policies towards that end; and

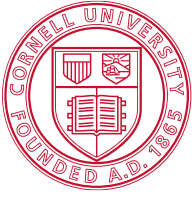
17  
18 **Whereas**, Article III, Sub-Section 3.1.1, Sub-point A, of the University Assembly Charter states  
19 that “to the extent practical and appropriate, University officials will provide pertinent  
20 information as the Assembly requests;” therefore

21  
22 **Be it resolved**, that the University Assembly formally requests that the University administration  
23 determine and provide an informed analysis regarding the costs and benefits of becoming  
24 carbon neutral at Cornell's Ithaca campus and nearby Cornell facilities; and

25  
26 **Resolved**, that the results of the cost determination be formally presented to the University  
27 Assembly by January of 2017 or as soon as reliable information has been obtained; and

28  
29 **Resolved**, that the administrative unit responsible for overseeing the cost calculation make a  
30 preliminary report to the University Assembly in the fall of 2016; and

31  
32 **Be it Finally Resolved**, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the President, Acting President,



# Cornell University University Assembly

33 and the Senior Leadership Climate Action Group.