



IUPUI

OFFICE OF THE
FACULTY COUNCIL

INDIANA UNIVERSITY-PURDUE UNIVERSITY
Indianapolis

Sustainability Resolution at IUPUI

April 2020

Rationale for putting forward the resolution

1. Whereas the Paris Agreement on climate change (2015); the International Panel on Climate Change Report (2018); and the Fourth National Climate Assessment Report by the US Global Change Research Program (2018) have all warned of the catastrophic dangers to humans and the earth if climate change is not addressed;
2. Whereas Indiana and other Midwest legislators are leading and participating in the bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucuses in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House;
3. Whereas IU is internationally recognized as an Innovative University in *Reuters' Top 100: The World's Most Innovative Universities*;
4. Whereas Core Value 7 of the IU Bicentennial Strategic Plan commits to “Sustainability, stewardship, and accountability for the natural, human, and economic resources and relationships entrusted to IU”;
5. Whereas Action Items of the Strategic Plan include the goal “to solidify IU’s focus on efficient and environmentally conscious campus design and operation”;
6. Whereas the IUPUI Strategic Plan calls us to model sustainability by focusing holistically on the social, environment, and economic vitality of citizens and communities and increased participation by students, faculty, and staff in campus sustainability efforts;
7. Whereas the “IUPUI Office of Sustainability Strategic Plan 2018-2025” integrates sustainability into student learning and research; increases sustainability functions within the operational categories of air and climate, buildings, energy, food and dining, grounds, purchasing, transportation, waste, and water; and engages students, faculty and staff, and the campus community in programming, certification, and education;
8. Whereas IUPUI has earned a STARS (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System) Gold rating from the Association of the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education;
9. Whereas IUPUI’s master plan calls for a move towards a carbon-neutral campus, 25 percent greenhouse gas reduction by 2020, 80 percent greenhouse gas reduction by 2050, and an increase in tree canopy coverage to 28 percent to sequester 31 tons of carbon annually;

10. Whereas with the city of Indianapolis committed to carbon neutrality by 2050 and approved including the THRIVE Indianapolis plan in the Comprehensive Master Plan of Marion County, Indiana (Resolution No. 2019-CPS-R-001), the possibility of IUPUI expecting to comply with the citywide standards;
11. Whereas the IUPUI Dimensions of Global Learning is for IUPUI students to develop a global mindset; and
12. Whereas, recognizing how current and future university students have made climate concerns and sustainable practices a high priority, as evidenced, for example, by the international student-led Global Climate Strikes

Now, therefore be it resolved that IUPUI, through collaborations of its constituent groups in administration, faculty, staff, and students, will work cooperatively to:

1. Create a leadership council, initially organized by the IUPUI Faculty Council and the IUPUI Office of Sustainability, composed of members from the constituent groups mentioned above;
2. Develop a climate action plan by 2023 with interim carbon emission reduction goals; this plan shall be reviewed and updated every five years with transparent reporting on carbon emission reduction progress across scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions;
3. Prioritize sustainability and a climate action-plan as major, long-term goals of the IUPUI campus, in all planning;
4. Actively support the work of the IUPUI Office of Sustainability, Student Sustainability Council at IUPUI, and current and future academic programs and research in sustainability;
5. Anticipate the post-carbon, sustainable economic era and preserve fiscal responsibility while pursuing the goal of carbon neutrality;
6. Create effective synergy between administration, faculty, staff, and students as we implement and model sustainable best-practices and use of renewable resources to the IUPUI campus, student body, and wider community, for the *next* 50 years and beyond; and
7. As a campus, collaborate on achieving the goal of becoming carbon neutral (scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions) by the end of fiscal year 2030, ahead of what is advocated by the International Panel on Climate Change Report.