



University of Colorado

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TO: Board of Regents _____
Approved

FROM: Regent Michael Carrigan _____

DATE: November 12, 2009

SUBJECT: CU Sustainability and Practices

I. REQUEST FOR ACTION BY THE BOARD OF REGENTS

I recommend that the following resolution be submitted for approval by the Board of Regents on November 12, 2009.

WHEREAS the University of Colorado Board of Regents encourages sustainability efforts on a university-wide basis;

WHEREAS 650 major college and universities around the country have joined the American College Universities Presidents Climate Commitment; and

WHEREAS that the Board of Regents recognizes the leadership of all three chancellors in sustainability and encourage their commitment to the American College and University President’s Climate Commitment; and

WHEREAS the mission of the University of Colorado is to contribute to the progress of knowledge and innovation, as well as teaching and conducting research for the sake of creating a better tomorrow; and

WHEREAS the University of Colorado has a long history of partnering with major government research institutions such as NREL, NCAR, and CIRES to create real solutions to global climate problems.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Regents recognizes the significant potential financial and resource savings generated by campus investments in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards for buildings on campus and directs the president and chancellors to incorporate LEED standards in university buildings wherever possible;

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Regents directs the president to ensure that the campuses complete the development of their respective comprehensive Board of Regents plans to achieve climate neutrality as outlined in the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment by June 30, 2010.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board directs the president to work with the chancellors to incorporate into their comprehensive plans the Governor's Colorado Climate Action Plan and the Greening of State Government Executive Orders, to the extent possible in the light of declining state support for the University.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board recognizes that certain sustainability requirements may present an economic challenge in light of declining state support or other reasons; if the administration concludes that compliance with this resolution presents undue burden on a particular project or operation or the administration has an alternative plan to reach the same goals in a more efficient manner, it may exempt it from this resolution as long as it reports the decision and basis for the exemption to the Board;

FURTHER RESOLVED that the president and chancellors should report to the Board of Regents on the progress on a bi-annual basis.

II. STATEMENT OF INFORMATION

At the September 16, 2009, Board of Regents Budget and Finance Committee meeting, each campus gave a presentation on their efforts in developing sustainability plans. The campus sustainability plans have been directed by two documents:

- American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment – signed by each campus chancellor's in 2007.
- Colorado Climate Action Plan and the Greening of State Government Executive Order – This established 2012 goal for a reduction in energy by 20 percent based upon a FY 2006 baseline.

A presentation by the Intercampus Student Forum Chair called on the Board of Regents and President Benson to become the one of the first statewide systems to formerly support the American College and University President's Climate Commitment (ACUPCC). They presented this resolution for the board to take a rigorous step forward to co-create CU Sustainability Standards and Practices with students, campus sustainability officers, and members of the university administration.

III. PREVIOUS ACTIONS

None