

1 **RESOLUTION 2021-008**

2 **A RESOLUTION AGAINST FUTURE USE OF FOSSIL FUELS**

3 Authors: Sarah Haines.241, Delegate, Environmental Science; Wanderson NovaisPereira.1, Chair, Sustainability and
4 Environmental Responsibility
5 Sponsor: Executive Committee
6

7 WHEREAS the Council of Graduate Students (CGS) is the representative body of all graduate students enrolled at The
8 Ohio State University as established by Article 2, Section 1 of the CGS Constitution; and
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10 WHEREAS the Council of Graduate Students or its appointed representative(s) have the power to act as an advisory agent
11 on behalf of graduate students on all matters brought before personnel, committees, or agencies of The Ohio State
12 University involving the interest of graduate students as established in Article 3 Section 3 of the CGS constitution; and
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14 WHEREAS the Sustainability and Environmental Responsibility Committee (SERC) advocates for sustainability and
15 environmentally friendly policies and procedures within CGS and across The Ohio State University; and
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17 WHEREAS The Ohio State University students are asking the university to divest from fossil fuel projects and invest in
18 clean renewable energy alternatives^{1,2}; and
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20 WHEREAS the Undergraduate Student Government has already recommended The Ohio State to reconsider the use of
21 fossil fuels, reduce carbon emissions, and stay accountable to its sustainability goals³; and
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23 WHEREAS The Ohio State’s sustainability goals⁴ to “increase Ohio State’s national/international reputation as a
24 sustainability research leader” and “support the long-term economic, social and environmental welfare of the campus,
25 surrounding neighborhoods and the global community” should set an example for innovation through the use of clean
26 renewable energy, sustainable community development, and ecosystem protection and preservation; and
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28 WHEREAS The Ohio State University’s Climate Action Plan per the Presidents’ Climate Leadership Commitment is
29 committed to carbon neutrality by 2050⁵; and
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31 WHEREAS graduate students have been against the implementation of the Combined Heat and Power Plant (CHP) due to
32 its reliance on hydraulic fracturing, also known as fracking, to obtain natural gas⁶; and
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34 WHEREAS other universities in the United States, including in Ohio, have partially or completely divested from fossil
35 fuels^{7,8,9}; and
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37 WHEREAS we are facing a global climate emergency¹⁰ in which fossil fuels contribute to a loss of biodiversity¹¹ through
38 degradation and disturbance of habitats¹²; and
39

at The Ohio State University

¹ <https://www.thelantern.com/2020/10/students-protest-construction-of-natural-gas-plant-on-campus/>

² <https://bit.ly/opsbgradrootsletter>

³ https://usg.osu.edu/posts/documents/doc_1092020_164953936.pdf

⁴ https://president.osu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/2019/10/sustainability_goals_8_14_19.pdf

⁵ https://si.osu.edu/sites/default/files/CAP_Final_04082020.pdf

⁶ <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://docs.google.com/document/d/11ZG3WPI4YIGjJOBcjodmF1bkVxqiBXYLpqvWSs1QNn0/edit?ts%3D5f284b57&sa=D&ust=1603243368094000&usg=AOvVaw3P4vTt24OALboiny9XadEH>

⁷ <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/press-room/uc-s-investment-portfolios-fossil-free-clean-energy-investments-top-1-billion>

⁸ <https://www.georgetown.edu/news/fossil-fuels-divestment-continues-georgetown-commitment-to-sustainability/>

⁹ <https://www.ncronline.org/news/earthbeat/how-university-dayton-divested-fossil-fuels-and-what-happened-its-bottom-line>

¹⁰ <https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/climate-change/facts-about-climate-emergency>

¹¹ <https://artsandsciences.osu.edu/news/climate-change-ohio>

¹² <https://conbio.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/conl.12448>

40 WHEREAS the extraction and use of fossil fuels has caused harm to communities and ecosystems in the United
41 States^{13,14}; and
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43 WHEREAS there is an immediate need to decarbonize our economy and activities, including industries, transportation,
44 and energy¹⁵; and
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46 WHEREAS 93% of United States anthropogenic carbon dioxide (CO₂) emission are due to fossil fuel combustion¹⁶; and
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48 WHEREAS the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change states that to limit planet warming by 1.5°C (2.7°F), CO₂
49 emissions must reach 'net zero' by 2050.

50
51 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that CGS is in opposition to the prolonged reliance on power plants utilizing fossil
52 fuels, due to some of the environmental and social implications of the Combined Heat and Power Plants; and
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54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that for future projects, SERC urges The Ohio State University to consider investing in
55 the use of clean renewable energy and completely divest from the use of fossil fuels; and
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57 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED as The Ohio State is forming leaders and citizens that will contribute to the future of the
58 world, SERC urges the university to allow for student input and consideration for future projects, particularly in projects
59 that have the potential to harm communities, the environment, and compromise the future of the planet; and
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61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as The Ohio State University is committed to addressing sustainability challenges in
62 our community and beyond, future projects should consider environmental impacts that may negatively affect not only
63 Ohio residents but all other communities; and
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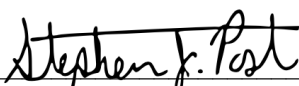
65 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Ohio State University must commit to protecting the lives of black, indigenous,
66 and all people of color POC students as well as low income and rural communities locally and globally that are
67 disproportionately impacted by fossil fuels and hydraulic fracking; and
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69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as a non-profit organization and as an institution that should invest in research and
70 innovation to further improve public health, The Ohio State University should stay true to its mission and sustainability
71 goals and consider all potential impacts of future projects, not only profits; and
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73 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Council of Graduate Students directs its President and Vice President to distribute
74 this resolution to The Ohio State University President Kristina M. Johnson, Executive Vice President and Provost Bruce
75 McPherson, Vice President of Administration and Planning Jay Kasey, Vice President for Student Life Melissa Shivers,
76 Vice President for Government Affairs Stacy Rastaukas, and the Chair of the Council on Student Affairs Jordan Vадja,
77 and all other relevant leadership and authorities of The Ohio State University and its partners.
78

79 Approved: **Yes**/No

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81 Date: __11/6/20__

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84 _____
85 Stephen J. Post, President
86

13 www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0025326X16304313?via%253Dihub&sa=D&ust=1603290562011000&usg=AOvVaw0wYVj-ZHyf94qNtiOaf9gh

14 https://serc.carleton.edu/NAGTWorkshops/health/case_studies/hydrofracking_w.html

15 <https://www.ipcc.ch/2018/10/08/summary-for-policymakers-of-ipcc-special-report-on-global-warming-of-1-5c-approved-by-governments/>

16 <https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/energy-and-the-environment/where-greenhouse-gases-come-from.php>