



Project Eco-Dawgs

Sustainable Campus Solutions:
An Integrated Approach to Environmental & Climate Impacts



February 2008

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Executive Summary

Project Eco-Dawgs is a comprehensive proposal to address global warming and sustainability through the formation of a Sustainability Council composed of students, faculty, and staff; the establishment of a student green fee at \$10 a semester prorated over 12 semester hours; the establishment of an employee green fee with a possible structure being a 10% increase on parking decals; and the creation of a Sustainability Coordinator position and staff. Primarily, the Council will be responsible for developing a **Climate Action Plan** – to reduce carbon emission 80% by 2050, achieve climate neutrality as soon as possible, and aspire to be as close to 100% renewable energy as possible – within the first year of its formation and general vision for campus sustainability including a roadmap for its achievement as well as directing the use of funds generated by fees, if they pass, to maximize the effect of on campus energy and sustainability initiatives. In consideration of affordability, the student fee will only be implemented if supported by the majority of students in a campus wide referendum and it will remain unchanged for five years. After five years it can only be changed by both student governments. The employee fee structure is an idea proposed by some staff members, not students. It will be up to the staff and faculty to devise a way to contribute as they see fit. Administration has potential to show commitment through hiring a Sustainability Coordinator.

This project is a product of rigorous work by students, staff, and faculty over several semesters. The proposed Council structure is modeled after other institutions: the Environmental Council & Blue Illinois at the University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign and the Green Team at Illinois State University. Many other institutions have similar structures. Since faculty, staff, students, administration, and the community are affected by the decisions that the University makes in regards to the environment, it is important that all be a part of the Council. Each group has different ideas and experiences to incorporate into the group and the Council will be most effective with everyone included. In addition to this large degree of inclusion, the Council is unique in its comprehensiveness and holistic approach.

In the past, SIUC has made many pledges to become more environmentally conscious and active. It is important that SIUC holds itself accountable to these commitments and also be in accordance with Illinois State Law recommendations. Although SIUC has initiated several energy and sustainability related projects to reduce our energy costs and our environmental impact there is currently no campus wide vision or roadmap to increase our institutional efficiency, reduce our operating costs, mitigate our contribution to global warming, or lighten our ecological footprint. Even the Southern @ 150 report references the need for energy efficiency projects to reduce deferred maintenance costs. Several of SIUC's peer and aspirational peer institutions have sustainability councils, committees, or an equivalent to address in a coordinated and organized manner the pathways to reducing their contribution to global warming and ecological impacts. With the stark warnings from scientists about global warming and the recent efforts to quantify human impacts on the global environment revealing the dire need for mitigation plans on all scales, it becomes increasingly evident that SIUC, as a member of the community, region, and world, is endowed with the responsibility to develop an integrated and comprehensive environmental management system as proposed in Project Eco-Dawgs.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to the members of the Student Environmental Center for their courage and leadership in taking on such ambitious projects, staff at Plant and Service Operations for their dedication to the development of this proposal, faculty for their help in reviewing and formulating the proposal, members of the Southern Illinois Center for a Sustainable Future for their ongoing support of Student Environmental Center initiatives, and the Interfaith Center for providing the Student Environmental Center with the tranquil and productive space for developing projects like this one.

Proposal for PROJECT ECO-DAWGS

2/25/08

Written by Student Environmental Center in conjunction with representatives from Plant and Service Operations and other members of the campus community

PROJECT ECO-DAWGS

Objectives:

- Form a Sustainability Council
- Establish a Student Green Fee
- Establish an Employee Green Fee
- Create a Sustainability Coordinator position and staff

I. Green Fee

a. Structure

i. Student Fee

1. \$0.83 per semester hour
2. \$10 per semester prorated over 12 semester hours
3. This fee will only be implemented if it is supported in a campus-wide student referendum by a majority of voters.
4. The fee will remain unchanged for 5 years.
5. After 5 years, the fee can be changed (increased or decreased) only by SIUC Undergraduate Student Government and Graduate and Professional Student Council.

ii. Employee Fee

1. Because this is a campus wide initiative and students are taking responsibility in implementing a student fee, we ask that faculty and staff also implement a green fee.
2. Possible structure of the fee could be an additional 10% onto the cost of purchasing a parking decal.
3. The employee fee will only be established if supported by faculty and staff.

b. Uses

- i. 80% of revenue generated from the first year's fee implementation goes toward the construction of a photovoltaic array on SIUC's main campus
- ii. All types of on-site renewable energy should be investigated and funded if the option is feasible
 1. When the Plant and Service Operations' feasibility study on wind turbine capacity at SIUC's University Farms is released, the fee will match grants or provide entire funding to meet maximum wind turbine capacity on the farms.
- iii. The green fee is to be used for renewable energy projects, education, and research only. It is well established that other energy sources are already financially supported.
- iv. Funding of energy efficiency and conservation projects
- v. Funding of other on-campus sustainability initiatives, projects, and programs
- vi. Funding a minimum level of silver Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification of all new construction and renovation project budgets proposed the year after the first fiscal year of the fee's implementation
- vii. Matching grants to leverage outside funding for sustainability initiatives, projects, and programs
- viii. Funding environmental campus and community events (e.g. Heartland Bioneers, Earth Day, conferences, and forums, etc.)
- ix. Funding the "greening" of on-campus events (e.g. biodegradable products, organic food, solar powered events, recycling containers, etc.)
- x. Funding of environmental/sustainability curriculum development
- xi. Promotion of past accomplishments, current initiatives, and future plans through the creation of a SIUC website and other promotional materials
- xii. Partial funding of a sustainably oriented academic journal publication that would solicit entries from SIUC faculty and students
- xiii. Undergraduate and graduate research awards
 1. Research awards can only be given when the research proposal meets specific guidelines set by the Sustainability Council.
 2. To be approved, the research must further the sustainability in this University, community, or region.

II. Sustainability Council

a. Structure

- i. The Council will be chaired and facilitated by the Sustainability Coordinator.
- ii. In the absence of a Sustainability Coordinator, a volunteer from faculty or facilities and operations will serve as interim chair for the Council.
- iii. The Council is comprised of 22 representatives from interested campus and community constituencies as follows:
 1. 6 students that would be selected through an application and interview process by a selection committee composed of members of Graduate and Professional Student Council and Undergraduate Student Government
 2. 5 faculty that would be selected through an application and interview process; 3 of the faculty seats will be chosen by a selection committee composed of members of Graduate Council, Faculty Senate, and Faculty Association. The remaining two seats will be chosen by the Provost and Vice Chancellor.
 3. 8 representatives from the following areas of facilities and operations
 - a. Plant and Service Operations (PSO) utilities board
 - b. Energy and maintenance
 - c. Recycling and grounds
 - d. Design standards and architecture
 - e. Building services
 - f. Center for Environmental Health and Safety (CEHS)
 - g. Travel Services
 - h. Purchasing
 4. 1 representative of the administration chosen by the Chancellor
 5. 1 representative of the community selected by the Chair of the Energy and Environmental Advisory Commission of the city of Carbondale
 6. 1 open non-voting seat for anyone willing and interested, upon approval of the Sustainability Council
- iv. Procedures
 1. Two-thirds of the Council constitutes a quorum.
 2. In order to pass, a general (non-monetary) measure must be supported by over 50% of the members present.

3. No votes shall be taken outside of general meetings.
 4. The council will meet twice per spring and fall semesters, once within four weeks of the semester beginning and once within four weeks of the semester ending.
- v. Executive Committee
1. Comprised of four members, a single elected member from each group of student, faculty, and facilities representatives and the Sustainability Coordinator
 2. This committee will meet as needed to fulfill the Council's responsibilities.
- vi. Funding
1. All monetary measures will be voted on by the Executive Committee and the remaining 5 students
- b. Responsibilities
- i. Create a vision statement of a sustainable university and a roadmap for its achievement, using these current documents as a launching point:
 1. The association of the University Leaders for a Sustainable Future Talloires Declaration (signed by SIUC in 1999)
 2. Illinois Sustainable University Compact – Illinois Green Government Coordinating Council (signed by SIUC in 2007)
 3. State of the Campus Environment Report (2000)
 4. Southern @ 150 – Building Excellence through Commitment (2003)
 5. American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment
 6. Illinois General Assembly's Green Governments Act, SB0046 (2007)
 - ii. Give immediate attention to greenhouse gas emissions reduction
 1. Within the Council's first year, create a climate action plan/clean energy policy
 - a. Conduct a greenhouse gas emissions inventory
 - b. Develop a timeline to become carbon neutral as soon as possible achieving at least an 80% reduction of carbon emissions by 2050
 - c. The plan should aspire to come as close as possible to 100% renewable energy
 - iii. Aggregate and promote the current efforts underway to green the campus

- iv. Provide critical assessment of current practices (SWOT – strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats - analysis or similar)
- v. Recommend changes for improving campus sustainability
- vi. Define achievable goals for each fiscal year for members’ respective areas
- vii. Direct the use of funds generated by the green fee to maximize the effect of on-campus sustainability initiatives
- viii. Work rigorously to incorporate sustainability across the curriculum
- ix. Work towards developing Renewable Energy, Sustainability, and Environmental Studies majors; and a Sustainable Agriculture minor
- x. Educate the campus and community about sustainability
- xi. Seek out involvement in movements to fight global warming. For example:
 - 1. Participate in Campus Climate Challenge and other similar groups
 - 2. Publicize environmental conferences and encourage attendance among students and faculty/staff
 - 3. Join state and nation-wide coalitions that have environmentally friendly missions
- xii. Build a coalition between other universities and state government officials to create and advocate for environmental policy and to fund campus and state-wide environmental initiatives and programs
- xiii. Work with the City of Carbondale to strengthen each other’s commitment and to collaborate on sustainability plans and projects
- xiv. Work with campus/community organizations with sustainable goals or projects, e.g. University Christian Ministries and the Interfaith Center on advocating for the Gaia House sustainable living project and developing future research potential within the project
- xv. Compile an annual report to be approved by the Council at the first fall semester meeting and subsequently published online in time for the September Board of Trustees meeting. The annual report will summarize all Council activity of the prior fiscal year (July 1- June 30) which will include an itemized budget and may include, but is not limited to, current project(s) status, research awards given, city and state outreach progress, benchmarks of past and current energy use, water use, transportation use, materials use, building and waste disposal, etc. and goals for the upcoming fiscal year.

III. Sustainability Coordinator and staff

- a. Funded by SIUC's general revenue, not student tuition and fees.
- b. Sustainability Coordinator
 - i. New A/P position hired by July 1st 2008
 - ii. To be selected by Council
 - iii. Reports directly to the Chancellor
 - iv. Chairs Sustainability Council meetings and coordinates activities
 - v. Manages Council staff
 - vi. Shares in the majority of the Council's responsibilities especially those which involve building relationships within the campus/city community, connecting SIUC with larger movements, initiatives, programs, and editing the annual report
- c. Undergraduate assistantship
 - i. 1 half-time (20 hours/week)
 - 1. General research, campus data compilation and analysis
- d. Graduate research assistantship
 - i. 1 half-time (20 hours/week)
 - 1. Faculty-student joint proposals for position to be submitted to Council for competitive funding each year
 - 2. Student will write research paper in conjunction with faculty member for submission to peer-reviewed journal.

Peer Institutions

Auburn University

- Sustainability Initiative

Iowa State University

- Council on Sustainability

Kansas State University

- Consortium for Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability

Oklahoma State University

- Campus sustainability plan, environmental awards, sustainability fellowships.

Washington State University

- Campus & Community Ecology Project

Aspirational Peer Institutions

Louisiana State University

- Renewable energy research and promotion of renewable energy through conferences and presentations.

University of Kentucky

- Sustainability Task Force

University of Colorado at Boulder

- Environmental Center

Association of University Leaders for a Sustainable Future

The Talloires Declaration 10 Point Action Plan

We, the presidents, rectors, and vice chancellors of universities from all regions of the world are deeply concerned about the unprecedented scale and speed of environmental pollution and degradation, and the depletion of natural resources.

Local, regional, and global air and water pollution; accumulation and distribution of toxic wastes; destruction and depletion of forests, soil, and water; depletion of the ozone layer and emission of "green house" gases threaten the survival of humans and thousands of other living species, the integrity of the earth and its biodiversity, the security of nations, and the heritage of future generations. These environmental changes are caused by inequitable and unsustainable production and consumption patterns that aggravate poverty in many regions of the world.

We believe that urgent actions are needed to address these fundamental problems and reverse the trends. Stabilization of human population, adoption of environmentally sound industrial and agricultural technologies, reforestation, and ecological restoration are crucial elements in creating an equitable and sustainable future for all humankind in harmony with nature.

Universities have a major role in the education, research, policy formation, and information exchange necessary to make these goals possible. Thus, university leaders must initiate and support mobilization of internal and external resources so that their institutions respond to this urgent challenge.

We, therefore, agree to take the following actions:

1) Increase Awareness of Environmentally Sustainable Development

Use every opportunity to raise public, government, industry, foundation, and university awareness by openly addressing the urgent need to move toward an environmentally sustainable future.

2) Create an Institutional Culture of Sustainability

Encourage all universities to engage in education, research, policy formation, and information exchange on population, environment, and development to move toward global sustainability.

3) Educate for Environmentally Responsible Citizenship

Establish programs to produce expertise in environmental management, sustainable economic development, population, and related fields to ensure that all university graduates are environmentally literate and have the awareness and understanding to be ecologically responsible citizens.

4) Foster Environmental Literacy For All

Create programs to develop the capability of university faculty to teach environmental literacy to all undergraduate, graduate, and professional students.

5) Practice Institutional Ecology

Set an example of environmental responsibility by establishing institutional ecology policies and practices of resource conservation, recycling, waste reduction, and environmentally sound operations.

6) Involve All Stakeholders

Encourage involvement of government, foundations, and industry in supporting interdisciplinary research, education, policy formation, and information exchange in environmentally sustainable development. Expand work with community and nongovernmental organizations to assist in finding solutions to environmental problems.

7) Collaborate for Interdisciplinary Approaches

Convene university faculty and administrators with environmental practitioners to develop interdisciplinary approaches to curricula, research initiatives, operations, and outreach activities that support an environmentally sustainable future.

8) Enhance Capacity of Primary and Secondary Schools

Establish partnerships with primary and secondary schools to help develop the capacity for interdisciplinary teaching about population, environment, and sustainable development.

9) Broaden Service and Outreach Nationally and Internationally

Work with national and international organizations to promote a worldwide university effort toward a sustainable future.

10) Maintain the Movement

Establish a Secretariat and a steering committee to continue this momentum, and to inform and support each other's efforts in carrying out this declaration.

1994 Updated Version

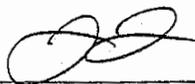


In cooperation with the Illinois Green Government Coordinating Council
and universities and community colleges across Illinois,

Southern Illinois University Carbondale

joins the *Illinois Sustainable University Compact*,
pledging to accomplish nine (9) of the following goals by December 31, 2010

- Acquire at least 3 percent of the energy for our campus from renewable sources
- Join the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ENERGY STAR Challenge to increase energy efficiency on campus
- Pledge that all new buildings constructed on campus will earn the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification
- Promote more sustainable transportation options, such as
 - a. Purchasing hybrid and flex-fuel vehicles whenever practical
 - b. Using renewable fuels for our campus fleet
 - c. Establishing successful car-sharing and carpooling programs on campus
- Reduce carbon emissions on campus and look into joining a greenhouse gas emission reduction and trading system
- Reduce water usage on campus by at least 15 percent
- Complete at least one stormwater management project, such as
 - a. Installing permeable pavement in a parking lot on campus
 - b. Creating a rain garden to reduce damage from campus flooding
 - c. Incorporating swales into landscaping to improve drainage and reduce erosion
- Increase the amount of overall waste recycled on campus by at least 15 percent
- Purchase non-toxic cleaning products whenever practical
- Purchase at least 25 percent of the food served in our dining facilities from local farms and vendors
- Compost at least 5,000 cubic yards of the organic waste produced on campus
- Reduce pesticide use by establishing integrated pest management practices at all facilities on campus



 Name
 Chancellor

 Title
 Southern Illinois University Carbondale

 Date

 Lt. Governor Pat Quinn

 Chairman, Illinois Green Government
 Coordinating Council

American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment

We, the undersigned presidents and chancellors of colleges and universities, are deeply concerned about the unprecedented scale and speed of global warming and its potential for large-scale, adverse health, social, economic and ecological effects. We recognize the scientific consensus that global warming is real and is largely being caused by humans. We further recognize the need to reduce the global emission of greenhouse gases by 80% by mid-century at the latest, in order to avert the worst impacts of global warming and to reestablish the more stable climatic conditions that have made human progress over the last 10,000 years possible.

While we understand that there might be short-term challenges associated with this effort, we believe that there will be great short-, medium-, and long-term economic, health, social and environmental benefits, including achieving energy independence for the U.S. as quickly as possible.

We believe colleges and universities must exercise leadership in their communities and throughout society by modeling ways to minimize global warming emissions, and by providing the knowledge and the educated graduates to achieve climate neutrality. Campuses that address the climate challenge by reducing global warming emissions and by integrating sustainability into their curriculum will better serve their students and meet their social mandate to help create a thriving, ethical and civil society. These colleges and universities will be providing students with the knowledge and skills needed to address the critical, systemic challenges faced by the world in this new century and enable them to benefit from the economic opportunities that will arise as a result of solutions they develop.

We further believe that colleges and universities that exert leadership in addressing climate change will stabilize and reduce their long-term energy costs, attract excellent students and faculty, attract new sources of funding, and increase the support of alumni and local communities.

Accordingly, we commit our institutions to taking the following steps in pursuit of climate neutrality:

1. **Initiate the development of a comprehensive plan to achieve climate neutrality** as soon as possible.
 - a. Within two months of signing this document, **create institutional structures to guide the development and implementation of the plan**
 - b. Within one year of signing this document, complete a comprehensive inventory of all greenhouse gas emissions (including emissions from electricity, heating, commuting, and air travel) and update the inventory every other year thereafter.
 - c. Within two years of signing this document, develop an institutional action plan for becoming climate neutral, which will include:
 - i. A target date for achieving climate neutrality as soon as possible.
 - ii. Interim targets for goals and actions that will lead to climate neutrality.
 - iii. Actions to make climate neutrality and sustainability a part of the curriculum and other educational experience for all students.
 - iv. Actions to expand research or other efforts necessary to achieve climate neutrality.
 - v. Mechanisms for tracking progress on goals and actions.

(continued...)

2. Initiate two or more of the following tangible actions to reduce greenhouse gases while the more comprehensive plan is being developed.
 - a. Establish a policy that all new campus construction will be built to at least the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED Silver standard or equivalent.
 - b. Adopt an energy-efficient appliance purchasing policy requiring purchase of ENERGY STAR certified products in all areas for which such ratings exist.
 - c. Establish a policy of offsetting all greenhouse gas emissions generated by air travel paid for by our institution.
 - d. Encourage use of and provide access to public transportation for all faculty, staff, students and visitors at our institution.
 - e. Within one year of signing this document, begin purchasing or producing at least 15% of our institution's electricity consumption from renewable sources.
 - f. Establish a policy or a committee that supports climate and sustainability shareholder proposals at companies where our institution's endowment is invested.
 - g. Participate in the Waste Minimization component of the national RecycleMania competition, and adopt 3 or more associated measures to reduce waste.
3. Make the action plan, inventory, and periodic progress reports publicly available by providing them to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) for posting and dissemination.

In recognition of the need to build support for this effort among college and university administrations across America, we will encourage other presidents to join this effort and become signatories to this commitment.

Signed,

President/ Chancellor Signature

President/ Chancellor Name

College or University

Date

Please send the signed commitment document to:

Megan Begley
Second Nature
18 Tremont St., Suite 1120
Boston, MA 02108

or fax to: 320-451-1612
or scan & email to: mbegley@secondnature.org

From Green Governments Illinois Act

SB0046 Enrolled

- 7 -

LRB095 06824 CMK 26940 b

1 sustainability plan to the chairman of the Council for review
2 and approval on or before November 1, 2007.

3 On or before August 1, 2007, the Council shall prepare a
4 downloadable plan template designed to provide a simple
5 framework for the development of an environmental
6 sustainability plan as required by this Act. The Council shall
7 adopt procedures for reviewing and approving the plans, and
8 make staff available during preparation of the plans to assist
9 State agencies with their plan-writing efforts. The Council
10 shall complete its plan review process on or before January 1,
11 2008. The sustainability plans shall be reviewed and updated
12 periodically, but at least once every 3 years. To the extent
13 feasible and cost-effective, units of local government,
14 educational institutions, and State agencies are encouraged to
15 adopt and implement similar sustainability plans.
16 Environmental sustainability plans may be submitted to the
17 chairman of the Council, by request, for review and approval.

18 (b) On or before August 1, 2007, each State agency, using
19 existing resources, shall form an internal environmental
20 sustainability committee.

The environmental sustainability
21 committee shall (i) assess the environmental and resource use
22 impacts of its major operational activities making
23 environmental improvements, conserving resources, and reducing
24 health risks; (ii) develop an environmental sustainability
25 plan as required under this Act; and (iii) establish an ongoing
26 process through which their sustainability efforts can be

1 reviewed and improved upon. The committee shall focus on the
2 most significant environmental and resource use impacts,
3 examine the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of addressing
4 these impacts, and prioritize their actions accordingly.

5 Where feasible, the committee shall quantify the specific
6 impacts of major operational activities such as gallons of
7 water used, pounds of solid waste generated, gallons of
8 gasoline consumed, and dollars spent per year on electricity.
9 The committee shall consist of representatives from different
10 departments and program areas, including purchasing,
11 maintenance, and facility management. A senior member of
12 management shall be designated to coordinate environmental
13 sustainability efforts of each committee. The coordinator
14 shall provide information to agency facilities and staff,
15 coordinate planning and reporting activities, and act as
16 liaison to the Council. Where appropriate, State agencies may
17 appoint facility coordinators in addition to the agency
18 coordinator. Coordinators shall be given full management
19 support and provided with the necessary resources to meet the
20 goals of this Act.

21 (c) On or before April 1, 2008 and on or before April 1 of
22 each subsequent year, each State agency shall submit to the
23 chairman of the Council a report summarizing the progress made
24 in implementing its environmental sustainability plan,
25 including sustainability measures adopted and goals achieved.
26 The information in this report shall encompass the previous

Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Undergraduate Student Government
2007-2008
Student Senate
February 20, 2008
SR 08-19

Resolution in support of the formation of a SIUC Council to develop plans for energy efficiency, conservation, and sustainability to reduce SIUC's contribution to global warming and ecological decline

- Whereas: The Undergraduate Student Government represents the undergraduate student body at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in all matters pertaining to student welfare, student activities, and student participation in University planning and administration;
- Whereas: The United Nations, the World Meteorological Association, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the National Academy of Sciences, and NASA agree that the earth's climate is changing as a result of human activities, and that these activities will raise the global average temperature by between 2.5 and 10.4 degrees Fahrenheit, relative to 1990 levels, by 2100;
- Whereas: This increase in temperature is expected to have catastrophic social and environmental impacts if not dealt with immediately;
- Whereas: The United States is the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases and the source of about one fourth of the world's carbon dioxide pollution;
- Whereas: Federal policies have failed to generate climate solutions adequate for necessary United States greenhouse gas emissions reductions;
- Whereas: State governments, corporations, universities, and other influential institutions are beginning to tackle the problem of climate change by committing to significant greenhouse gas emissions reductions through the purchase of clean renewable energy from wind and other sources;
- Whereas: Colleges and universities around the country are playing particularly important roles in the push for clean energy and the development of state and regional economies;
- Whereas: Over 100 schools across the nation have adopted renewable energy policies to reduce their carbon emissions;
- Whereas: More generally, institutions of higher education should lead the way in developing a sustainable world view for the future of their graduating students;
- Whereas: Southern @ 150: Building Excellence through Commitment calls for energy efficiency projects to reduce deferred maintenance cost through the pursuit of energy efficiency projects;
- Whereas: Climate change is one of many issues to address;
- Whereas: In 2005, the United Nations released the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment involving the work of more than 1,360 experts worldwide over four years to "assess the consequences of ecosystem change for human well-being and the scientific basis for actions needed to enhance the conservation and sustainable use

- of those systems and their contribution to human well-being.” Of the 24 ecosystem services assessed 15 were in decline;
- Whereas: SIUC is one campus among many around the globe that contribute to the decline of ecosystem services;
- Whereas: In 1999 SIUC signed the Talloires Declaration, and upon signing, the University agreed to take 10 actions, the last of which stated: Maintain the Movement – Establish a Secretariat and a steering committee to continue this momentum, and to inform and support each other’s efforts in carrying out this declaration;
- Whereas: SIUC has been making slow, but steady progress in reducing energy use and carbon emissions through efficiency and conservation projects;
- Whereas: SIUC has also coordinated a number of sustainability initiatives including water conservation, green purchasing, food composting, recycling, etc;
- Whereas: In 2007 SIUC signed the Illinois Sustainable University Compact pledging to accomplish 9 sustainability goals by December 31, 2010;
- Whereas: SIUC has not established a long term plan to meet these goals, nor is there a group of people dedicated to making sure commitments are being met as was committed to in 1999 and 2007;
- Whereas: The Green Governments Illinois Act (SB0046) asks that educational institutions in Illinois adopt an environmental sustainability plan by April 1st 2008;
- Whereas: In order to be effective, institutional mechanisms must be established to continue the energy and sustainability work that the university has started and to develop a plan with goals for the future;
- Whereas: University of Colorado at Boulder, one of SIUC’s peer institutions, has an Environmental Center – a student run office with 7 permanent staff and a very comprehensive operation overseeing campus energy and sustainability;
- Whereas: University of Kentucky, one of SIUC’s peer institutions, has a Sustainability Task Force;
- Whereas: Washington State University, one of SIUC’s peer institutions, has the Campus & Community Ecology Project;
- Whereas: Auburn University, one of SIUC’s aspirational peer institutions, has the Sustainability Initiative;
- Whereas: Iowa State, one of SIUC’s aspirational peer institutions, has a Council on Sustainability;
- Whereas: Kansas State, one of SIUC’s aspirational peer institutions, has the Consortium for Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability (CESAS);
- Whereas: Two examples of responsible action to reduce emissions and coordinate a sustainable campus vision come from within our own state: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has an Environmental Council, and Illinois State University has a program called the Green Team;
- Whereas: Many other universities across the nation are involved in sustainable campus initiatives and campus greening in an organized way;
- Whereas: It is apparent that many of SIUC’s peer institutions are taking organized and deliberate approaches in addressing climate change and sustainability;
- Whereas: It is imperative we keep pace with other universities around the nation and become more like our aspirational peers;

- Whereas: Climate change is the challenge and opportunity that defines the current generation;
- Whereas: Campus Climate Challenge is a youth and student led coalition that unites 42 organizations and over 595 local groups in 56 states and provinces. They worked to pass hundreds of local and regional climate policies and SIUC is a member through the Student Environmental Center;
- Whereas: Students at SIUC are in the position to continue building this leadership and to continue affecting positive change;

Therefore let it be resolved: The Undergraduate Student Government encourage the formation of a SIUC Council to develop plans for energy efficiency, conservation, and sustainability to reduce SIUC's contribution to global warming and ecological decline.

Written by: Joe Lane, Senator
Jon Dyer, College of Liberal Arts
Katie Thomas, College of Liberal Arts

Submitted by: Joe Lane, Senator

***This resolution passed unanimously on 2/20/08**



Student Environmental Center
www.secsiuc.org