



Alaska Association of Student Governments

Resolution #1

Global Eco Corps Under the United Nations

Submitted by: Linnea Lentfer and Katie McKenna

Submitted: October 28, 2019

Be it Resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments that:

- 1. Whereas,** the climate crisis is perhaps the most pressing issue of our time⁶, costing the global economy \$1.2 trillion annually, and has the potential to lead to a mass mortality event of oxygen dependent life by 2100;¹
- 2. Whereas,** this is especially pertinent to Alaskans as we face the “front lines” of the climate crisis including melting permafrost, coastal erosion, ocean acidification, and threats to fisheries;²
- 3. Whereas,** there is a movement stemming from nine countries to create a Global Eco Corps under the United Nations to focus on carbon sequestration to reverse harmful effects of greenhouse gas emissions in a holistic, sustainable manner;³
- 4. Whereas,** carbon sequestration has multiple benefits including the revitalization of both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems and employment opportunities, in addition to the potential long term benefit of reversal of the climate crisis;³
- 5. Whereas,** recent studies by the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology concluded the earth could naturally support 0.9 billion hectares of additional forestation without infringing on urban or agricultural areas;⁴
- 6. Whereas,** this has the potential for sequestering approximately 200 of the 300 gigatons of carbon that have been emitted by humans, and is consistent with recommendations from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC);⁴

7. **Whereas**, 0.9 hectares of reforestation would cost an estimated \$300 billion, significantly less than the \$1.2 trillion removed annually from the planet's gross domestic product due to the climate crisis;¹
8. **Whereas**, hemp is one of the fastest CO₂ to biomass conversion tools available as it absorbs more CO₂ per acre than any forest or commercial crop, can be grown on nutrient poor soils with small amounts of water (thus could be grown in desert regions) and can replace petroleum based plastics with plastic that is nontoxic;⁵
9. **Whereas**, one acre of hemp produces as much as 4.1 acres of trees and can be harvested two or three times a year;⁵
10. **Whereas**, in light of western society's tendency to focus intensely on specific individual issues rather than solving problems holistically, the Eco Corp's would maximize the use of indigenous people's perspectives;⁷
11. **Whereas**, indigenous people's world view has fostered a sustainable relationship to their environment long before the introduction of western culture and thus is valuable when working with an issue as complex and multifaceted as the climate crisis;⁸
12. **Whereas**, the climate crisis effects are felt worldwide,⁹ thus collaboration cross cultures and generations is important in working towards solutions. A Global Eco Corps has the potential to provide this structure;³

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alaska Association of Student Governments supports the initiative to create a Global Eco Corps under the United Nations.

Action statement: This resolution, if approved by the General Assembly of Alaska Association of Student Governments, will be sent to:

Mr. Bill Lehmborg - Permanent United States Representative of the United Nations Environment Programme at lehmborgwg@state.gov

Mr. Daniel J. - Carl Deputy Permanent United States Representative of the United Nations Environment Programme at CarlDJ@state.gov

Ms. Josefina Rinke-Bernon - United States Administrative Assistant for the United Nations Environment Programme at RinkeBernonJ@state.gov

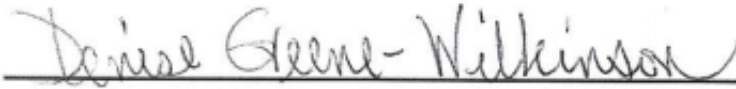
Sources:

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2. Youth Petitioners and Alaska Youth for Environmental Action “Petition to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, 28 August, 2017
3. Department of Environmental Conservation, 28 August, 2017 3. Belcher, Dixie. “Home Page.” *Turning The Tides*, 2019. <http://www.turningthetides.org/>.
4. Fox, Alex. “Adding 1 Billion Hectares of Forest Could Help Check Global Warming.”
4. Fox, Alex. “Adding 1 Billion Hectares of Forest Could Help Check Global Warming.” *Science*, American Association for the Advancement of Science, 10 July 2019. www.sciencemag.org/news/2019/07/adding-1-billion-hectares-forest-could-help-check-global-warming
5. Brown, Ellen. “The Cheapest Way to Save the Planet Grows Like a Weed.” *Truthdig*, 24 July 2019. www.truthdig.com/articles/the-cheapest-way-to-save-the-planet-grows-like-a-weed/
6. “Climate Change.” *United Nations*, United Nations, <https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/climate-change/index.html>.
7. Bear, Leroy Little. “Jagged worldviews colliding.” *Reclaiming Indigenous voice and vision* (2000): 77-85. <http://blogs.sd62.bc.ca/danddtech/wp-content/blogs.dir/24/files/2014/02/LittleBear1.pdf>
8. Nelson, Richard K. *Make Prayers to the Raven: a Koyukon View of the Northern Forest*. Univ. of Chicago Press, 2005.
9. “Climate Change 2014 Synthesis Report Summary for Policymakers.” Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. 2014. https://archive.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar5/syr/AR5_SYR_FINAL_SPM.pdf

Passed unanimously by the 2019 Fall Conference GA at Palmer High School



AASG Vice President, Forrest Davis



AASG Executive Director, Denise Greene-Wilkinson