



Alaska Association of Student Governments

Resolution # 9

Funding Plan for Renewable Energy in the State of Alaska

Submitted by: Forrest Davis and Anna Frazier

Submitted: April 10, 2019

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

- 1. Whereas;** the United Nations has defined climate change as the defining issue of our time;¹
- 2. Whereas;** in 2013 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its Fifth Assessment Report which concluded climate change is real and human activities are the main cause;¹
- 3. Whereas;** the IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report states that:
 - (1) From 1880 to 2012, the average global temperature increased by 0.85 °C.¹
 - (2) Oceans have warmed, the amounts of snow and ice have diminished and the sea level has risen. From 1901 to 2010, the global average sea level rose by 19 cm as oceans expanded due to warming and ice melted. The extent of sea ice in the arctic has shrunk in every successive decade since 1979, with 1.07×10^6 km² of ice loss per decade.¹
 - (3) Given current concentrations and ongoing emissions of greenhouse gases, it is likely that by the end of this century global mean temperature will continue to rise above the pre-industrial level. The world's oceans will warm and ice melt will

continue. Average sea level rise is predicted to be 24–30 cm by 2065 and 40–63 cm by 2100 relative to the reference period of 1986–2005. Most aspects of climate change will persist for many centuries, even if emissions are stopped;¹

4. **Whereas;** in October 2018 the IPCC issued a special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C, finding that limiting global warming to 1.5°C would require rapid, far reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society. With clear benefits to people and natural ecosystems, the report found that limiting global warming to 1.5°C compared to 2°C could go hand in hand with ensuring a more sustainable and equitable society. While previous estimates focused on estimating the damage if average temperatures were to rise by 2°C, this report also shows that many of the adverse impacts of climate change will come at the 1.5°C mark;¹
5. **Whereas;** Alaska has a non-binding goal to generate 50% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2025, and hydropower already accounts for 25% of the state's electricity generation in 2017;²
6. **Whereas;** The major types of renewable energy sources are:⁶
 - (1) Biomass-includes:
 - (a) Wood and wood waste
 - (b) Municipal solid waste
 - (c) Landfill gas and biogas
 - (d) Ethanol
 - (e) Biodiesel
 - (2) Hydropower
 - (3) Geothermal
 - (4) Wind
 - (5) Solar;
7. **Whereas;** Alaska is one of the top five crude oil producers in the nation, and the state's oil output in 2017 was the highest in three years;²
8. **Whereas;** because of Alaska's harsh winters, energy-intensive industries, and small population, the state's per capita energy consumption is the third highest in the nation, after Louisiana and Wyoming;²
9. **Whereas;** many rural communities in Alaska rely primarily on diesel electric generators for power, and Alaska ranks second in the share of its electricity that is generated from petroleum fuels;²

10. Whereas; the 2014 National Climate Assessment states that the small number of jobs and high cost of living make rural, predominantly Native communities highly vulnerable to climate change through impacts on traditional hunting and fishing and cultural connections to the land and sea;⁴

11. Whereas; in Ketchikan, the 2016 rate from Ketchikan Public Utilities, which is 95% from hydropower, was \$95.80 Kilowatts per hour (kWh). In Juneau, 95% was from hydropower, and the winter rate from Alaska Electric Light & Power(AELP) in 2016 was \$128.16 for 1,000 kWh.³ In Fairbanks, the 2016 rate from Golden Valley Electric Association, which is 90% from nonrenewable sources,⁵ was \$208.15 for 1,000 kWh;³

Therefore, be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments supports that the State of Alaska:

- (1) invest in renewable energy infrastructure for all Alaska communities.
- (2) require 75% of all Alaska electrical generating capacity from renewable sources by 2035.
- (3) assess a \$0.50 surcharge for every barrel of crude oil produced in Alaska to be appropriated into the Alaska Renewable Energy Fund.

Action statement: This resolution, if approved by the General Assembly of AASG, will be sent to the following:

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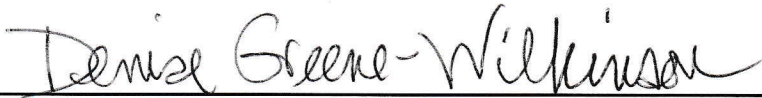
Sources:

1. "Climate Change | United Nations." <http://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/climate-change/index.html>. Accessed 25 Feb. 2019.
2. "Alaska - State Energy Profile Overview - U.S. Energy Information ... - EIA." 14 Nov. 2018, <https://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=AK>. Accessed 13 Feb. 2019.
3. "Rates and Overview - City and Borough of Sitka." <http://www.cityofsitka.com/government/departments/electric/RatesandOverview.html>. Accessed 25 Feb. 2019.
4. "Alaska - National Climate Assessment - GlobalChange.gov." <https://nca2014.globalchange.gov/report/regions/alaska>. Accessed 25 Feb. 2019.
5. http://www.gvea.com/images/AtAGlance/At_Glance_05-2018.pdf
6. "Renewable Energy Sources - Energy" https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/?page=renewable_home. Accessed 4 Apr. 2019.

Passed by the 2019 Spring Conference GA at Bethel Regional High School

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kyle Hasse", written over a horizontal line.

AASG Vice President, Kyle Hasse

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denise Greene-Wilkinson", written over a horizontal line.

AASG Executive Director, Denise Greene-Wilkinson