



Resolution Number:	W-20-05	Sponsored By:	Senator Gavin Marlowe
Introduced On:	27 February 2020		
Voted On:	12 March 2020		
Result:	to be filled out by EVP, office assistant		
Vote Count:	to be filled out by EVP, office assistant		

A RESOLUTION TO: Urge Grand Valley State University to Declare a Climate Emergency and Implement a University Task Force Devoted to Increased Sustainable Practices.

Recognizing, Grand Valley State University and Student Senate are committed to improving and enriching the student experience through sustainable practices. Grand Valley is committed to “sustainability in helping to meet the current needs of our faculty members, staff members, and students without compromising the needs and resources of future generations”¹; and

Whereas, the Grand Valley State University Student Senate has made sustainability a top priority, as demonstrated by the establishment of the Sustainability Subcommittee; and

Recognizing, precedence set by the unanimous passing of a declaration of climate emergency by The Association of Big Ten Students, representing around 500,000 students, in 2019 and their recent resolution, also unanimously passed, calling on schools to freeze investments into the fossil fuel industry and begin research and action into divestment²³; and

Whereas, a growing list of cities, districts and counties across the world representing over 15 million people collectively have recently declared or officially acknowledged the existence of a global climate emergency, including, but not limited to, Kalamazoo County, Berkeley, Hoboken, Los Angeles, Montgomery County, Oakland, Richmond, and Santa Cruz in the United States⁴; and

¹ GVSU Values Statement - <https://www.gvsu.edu/policies/policy.htm?policyId=4A6B4946-964C-4E87-1E31AC7FCA7936BD>

² ABTS 2019 Climate Emergency Declaration - <https://sustainability.uiowa.edu/news/ui-students-lead-b1g-student-governments-declaring-climate-emergency-big-ten-institution>

³ ABTS 2020 Request for Fossil Fuel Divestment - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VhbzlfBYZWdQUtW4c-xEvVFrcbJqzqG/view>

⁴ Climate Emergency Team. “Climate Emergency Campaign.” The Climate Mobilization, www.theclimatemobilization.org/climate-emergency-campaign

Whereas, higher education must confront these threats and take action to address social and ecological disruption and address its contribution to the catastrophic loss of the planet's biodiversity and worsening effects of climate change by leaving a generation unprepared for the ecological and social crises ahead;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that the Grand Valley State University Student Senate requests that Grand Valley State University declare a climate emergency due to threats to our cities, regions, states, nation, civilization, humanity, and the natural world; and,

Furthermore, Let It Be Resolved, Grand Valley State University creates a structured and detailed plan through the creation of a Climate Emergency Task Force comprised of sustainability experts on campus and students to improve sustainable practices and goals to meet carbon neutrality by 2030; and

Furthermore, Let It Be Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the University Academic Senate, the Office of Sustainability Practices, the Office of the Provost, and the Office of the President to be taken up by Grand Valley State University to declare a university wide Climate Emergency.