

**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY  
FORTY-FIFTH SENATE  
FOURTH SESSION  
SEPTEMBER 13, 2015**

**RESOLUTION #4502  
REDUCING COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY BUILDING IMPACTS**

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**SPONSORED BY:** Mike Lensky, Senator, College of Business; Griselda Landa-Posas, Assistant, Department of Environmental Affairs; Chris Branaccio, Senator, College of Health and Human Sciences; Madison Tolan, Senator, College of Biomedical Science and Veterinarian Medicine; Courtney Naumann, President, Warner College Council; Juan Caro, Officer, Membership; Jonathan Kuhlman, Deputy Director, Community Affairs; Edward Kendall, Director, Community Affairs; Andy Schafer, Director, University Issues

**WRITTEN BY:** Dakota Truitt, Director, Environmental Affairs; Sam Block, Former Director, Environmental Affairs; Chanin Tilakamonkul, Administrative and Sustainability Intern, Facilities & Management;

**ENDORSED BY:** Clayton King, Director, Governmental Affairs; Kelsey Silver, Deputy Director, Environmental Affairs; Spencer Nolan, Senator, Liberal Arts; Jacob Kimiecik, Director, Student Sustainability Center; Steve Hultin, Director, Facilities Management

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**ABSTRACT:** This resolution aims to encourage the pursuit of creating the most sustainable infrastructure through the construction of new buildings and major renovations of existing buildings on the Colorado State University Fort Collins Campuses.

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**WHEREAS**

Colorado State University is a 2008 signatory of the American College and University President's Climate Commitment, wherein we have completed annual greenhouse gas emissions inventories since 2006, completed a Climate Action Plan in 2010 with updates in FY13 and FY15, that outlines 15 strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and, wherein Colorado State University has set a goal to be a net-zero campus by 2050; and,

**WHEREAS**

The Colorado State University 2015 Climate Action Plan includes five strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions through building and equipment energy efficiency related to our campus built environment, including a specific strategy for High-Performance New Construction; and,

WHEREAS

In FY15 80% of Colorado State University’s greenhouse gas emissions were directly attributable to energy use which occurs primarily in our campus buildings (55% of emissions come from purchased electricity and 25% of emissions come from the use and combustion of natural gas); and,

WHEREAS

In FY15 Colorado State University spent over \$17.5 million to purchase and consume electricity and natural gas on campus; and,

WHEREAS

ASCSU has previously embraced the pursuit of LEED certification for new construction projects, which is reflected in the passage of Resolution #3514 Encouraging Environmentally Responsible Construction on Campus by Pursuing LEED Certification; and,

WHEREAS

Colorado State University has previously completed 22 LEED buildings, including 16 LEED Gold, and two LEED Platinum; and,

WHEREAS

The State of Colorado passed legislation to require all buildings with at least 25% of its funding coming from the State to participate in the High Performance Certification Program outlined by the Office of the State Architect. Since the adoption of the policy, the State Architect has required LEED Gold certification on all new state-financed projects; and,

WHEREAS

There are several high-performance building rating systems available to guide and track the building and performance of new construction and major remodels besides LEED, such as Architecture 2030, the Living Building Challenge, and Green Globes; and,

WHEREAS

The construction of new buildings and major remodels present at Colorado State University have the opportunity to contribute toward the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through the setting of expectations and goals for high-performance, low-carbon, and/or net-zero building targets; and,

WHEREAS

Any additional first costs that may burden a proposed new building or major remodel can be recovered through lower operational costs over the expected life of the building; and,

WHEREAS

Colorado State University is currently recognized as the only Platinum rated university in the world and holds the highest score in the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education – Sustainability Tracking Assessment & Rating System (STARS), and has been ranked #12 by the 2015 Princeton Review Green Honor Roll, and ranked #4 on the 2015 Sierra Club Cool Schools ranking, and BestColleges.com recognized CSU as “America’s Greenest University” in July 2015; and,

WHEREAS

Federal, State, and Municipal leaders recognize the importance of reducing greenhouse gas emission contributions from the built environment and have thus established similar emissions reduction goals – such as:

- On March 19, 2015 President Obama signed an executive order that will ensure that the federal government leads by example as the United States moves to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while boosting clean energy. This new sustainability plan directs federal agencies to cut their greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2025; and
- Former Colorado Governor Bill Ritter, through Executive Order, adopted a State of Colorado Climate Action Plan in 2007 which included a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 20% by 2020 relative to 2005 levels and to achieve 80% reductions by 2050; and
- The City of Fort Collins has adopted aggressive and inspirational goals to reduce its total greenhouse gas emissions by 20% by 2020, 80% by 2030 across all sectors relative to 2005 levels, and aspires to reach carbon neutrality by 2050; and

WHEREAS

Colorado State University prides itself in being a leading example in sustainability for universities across the nation and should continue to lead in sustainability standards when it comes to new building construction and renovations; so,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED

The Associated Students of Colorado State University encourages that Colorado State University ensures all future construction projects show due diligence in efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and make progress towards reaching the 2015 Climate Action Plan goals; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED

The Associated Students of Colorado State University strongly encourages Colorado State University to pursue LEED certification of Gold or higher, or other high-performance building rating programs that provide a larger reduction of greenhouse gasses; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED

The Associated Students of Colorado State University believe that a top priority for the institution should be a sustainable infrastructure with buildings that exemplify best practices with regard to sustainable development: sustainable materials, energy and water efficiency and conservation, occupant health, safety, and well-being. Energy and water efficiency must meet or exceed the current State of Colorado High Performance Certification Program and City of Fort Collins Green Building Standards, whichever provides the largest reduction in greenhouse gasses and operational costs; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED

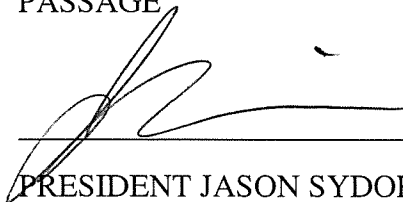
That a copy of this legislation be forwarded to Dr. Anthony Frank, Colorado State University President; Dr. Rick Miranda, Provost/Executive Vice President; Lynn Johnson, Vice President of University Operations; Steve Hultin, Director of Facilities Management; Jason Sydoriak, ASCSU President; and Samuel Laffey, University Facility Fee Advisory Board Chair.

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9/23/15 \_\_\_\_\_

PASSAGE

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PRESIDENT JASON SYDORIAK

9/23/15  
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DATE

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VICE PRESIDENT PHOENIX DUGGER

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DATE

TAGS: CSU's Climate Action Plan, Construction, Gold LEED Certification, Sustainable infrastructure, Reducing Green house gas emissions.