

10th SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH SENATE

October 16th, 2024

RESOLUTION #5403
Energy Efficiency at CSU

NOTICE: *A signature to sponsor means that you only wish for the legislation to be heard, a signature to endorse means that you support the contents and/or actions of this legislation.*

WRITTEN BY: Sofia Hiller, Deputy Director of Sustainability

SPONSORED BY: Ellie Lutz, Chair, Internal Affairs Committee, Senator, Warner College of Natural Resources; Fiona Miller, Chair, University Affairs Committee, Senator, Asian Pacific American Cultural Center; Madeleine Cummings, Co-Deputy Director of Traditions & Programs;

ENDORSED BY: Haleigh Yankoski, Senator, Warner College of Natural Resources, President, Warner College Council; Cate Collins, Director of Environmental Affairs; Jorja Whyte, Director of Basic Needs; Internal Affairs Committee; Jared McGlothlin, Senator, College of Engineering; Max Leggett, Senator, College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences;

ABSTRACT: *This resolution aims to support a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions at Colorado State University through energy reduction efforts. This resolution will show support for the development of LEED Gold or higher certified buildings, regardless of building funding mechanism, and a new energy conversion plan.*

WHEREAS,

According to Colorado State University's 2022 Climate Action Plan, CSU is committed to carbon neutrality by 2040. Additionally, in 2017 CSU agreed to the Climate Reality Pledge, committing to 100% renewable electricity by 2030; and,

WHEREAS,

During FY23 CSU had 218,100 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions. University GHG emissions have been on the rise since 2021 after steady decline from 2010-2019; and,

WHEREAS,

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When accounting for the gross square footage of campus, the uptick of emissions does not appear as drastic, however, an upward trajectory is still being observed; and,

WHEREAS,

In the FY23 greenhouse gas inventory, 67% of CSU emissions came from energy use, primarily in buildings on campus. Purchased electricity made up 40% and natural gas 27%; and,

WHEREAS,

CSU spent \$21 million on utilities in FY23; and,

WHEREAS,

ASCSU has previously supported the pursuit of LEED certification for new construction and renovations as shown in Resolution #3514 Encouraging Environmentally Responsible Construction on Campus by Pursuing LEED Certification and Resolution #4502 Reducing Colorado State University Building Impacts; and,

WHEREAS,

The state of Colorado's High Performance Certification Program requires all buildings and renovations using at least 25% state funding, is more than 5,000 square feet, and includes a HVAC system are certified by a third party for environmental sustainability such as LEED or Green Globes; and,

WHEREAS,

CSU currently has 45 high performance buildings certified through LEED, ENERGY STAR, or Green Globes. These buildings have proved to decrease utility costs and increase user enjoyment; and,

WHEREAS,

CSU has been recognized by numerous organizations such as STARS and Princeton Review for our sustainability performance; and,

WHEREAS,

The 2024 Sustainability Campus Index has identified CSU as a top performer in water, curriculum, campus engagement, investment & finance, public engagement, purchasing, and research. However, we did not make the top 10 list for energy performance, making this a key area for improvement; and,

WHEREAS,

Energy use is not only impacted by building performance, but also by energy sourcing. Currently CSU uses a heating plant built in 1917 and two cooling plants; and,

WHEREAS,

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The two cooling plants are reaching their end-of-life with cooling plant #1 reaching end-of-life in 2030 and cooling plant #2 in 2040. This provides an opportunity to convert our natural gas usage to electric heating; and,

WHEREAS,

One of the co-chairs of CSU's President's Sustainability Commission and energy engineer for CSU facilities, Carol Dollard is part of a team that has a district energy conversion plan that proposes a combined heat recovery and chiller plant along with thermal energy tanks; and,

WHEREAS,

This system would not only dramatically cut natural gas usage, but it would also save CSU an estimated \$200 million over a 60-year lifecycle analysis; and,

WHEREAS,

Upholding LEED gold and other high-performance standards coupled with the district energy conversion can get CSU back on track to meet our goals of 100% renewable electricity by 2030 and net zero carbon by 2040; *so,*

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED

The Associated Students of Colorado State University calls for all future new build and renovation projects including donor funded, public private partnership, and grant-funded construction at Colorado State University to pursue a minimum of LEED Gold certification or an equivalent high performance building certification; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED

The Associated Students of Colorado State University strongly encourage Colorado State University to take actions toward implementing the District Energy Conversion Plan to keep Colorado State University on track to meet our goals of 100% renewable electricity by 2030 and net zero carbon emissions by 2040; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED

The Associated Students of Colorado State University want to hold Colorado State University to their Climate Action Plan commitments. While also improving the wellbeing and health of students; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED

That the President's Sustainability Commission should report back to ASCSU about the response of administration to the passing of this legislation and the actions being taken as a result and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED/ENACTED

That a copy of this legislation be forwarded to Amy Parsons, President, Colorado State University; Tony Frank, Chancellor, CSU System; Blanche Hughes, Vice President, Student

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Affairs; Ben Schrader, ASCSU Advisor; Evan Welch, ASCSU Advisor; Tonie Miyamoto, Co-Chair President's Sustainability Commission, Executive Director of Communications and Sustainability; Brendan Hanlon, Vice President for University Operations; Carol Dollard, Co-Chair President's Sustainability Commission, Energy Engineer, Facilities Management;

PASSAGE AND ENACTMENT OF RESOLUTION 5403
10th SESSION OF THE 54TH SENATE

Yays – Nays – Abstentions

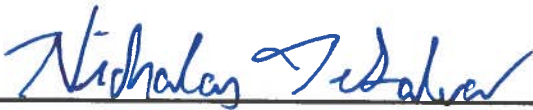
Passed with Unanimous Consent



1/21/2025

ASCSU SPEAKER OF THE SENATE HAYDEN TAYLOR

DATE



1-14-25

ASCSU PRESIDENT NICK DESALVO

DATE

RESOURCES:

1/21/2025

THIS LEGISLATION SHALL BE FORWARDED TO:

Amy Parsons, President of Colorado State University
Tony Frank, Chancellor of the Colorado State University System
Blanche Hughes, Vice President for Student Affairs of Colorado State University
Evan Welch, Talent Development Specialist, Interim ASCSU Advisor
Ben Schrader, Director of the Adult Learner and Veteran Services, Interim ASCSU Advisor

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Brendan Hanlon, Vice President for University Operations of Colorado State University

Tonie Miyamoto, Co-Chair of the President’s Sustainability Commission, Executive Director of Communications and Sustainability

Carol Dollard, Co-Chair of the President’s Sustainability Commission, Energy Engineer, Facilities Management

ARCHIVE INFO [Parliamentarian Use Only]

INTRODUCTION DATE/SESSION:

9th Session of 54th Senate, October 9th, 2024

ARCHIVE DATE:

COMMITTEE’S REVIEWED:

Internal Affairs Committee and University Affairs Committee

MONETARY? Y/N

N