

Resolution on Green Energy at the University of Puget Sound

WHEREAS the population of Washington State is expected to grow by 20% over the next 20 years, which will significantly increase demand for energy, and the United States' energy needs are expected to grow by 33% over the next 20 years; and

WHEREAS nearly 90% of United States greenhouse gas emissions are generated by the energy sector, contributing significantly to global warming; and

WHEREAS three-quarters of Washington State's electricity is derived from large-scale hydroelectric operations, having long been known as a leading contributor to the depletion of salmon runs, which are a keystone species of the Pacific Northwest ecology and whose survival is critical to local ecosystems; and

WHEREAS the dependence of the United States on foreign oil for energy is an acknowledged national security issue; and

WHEREAS all of the United States' energy needs could be met using green energy sources, if provided with sufficient investment particularly in the form of RECs (Renewable Energy Certificates); and

WHEREAS green tag purchases directly support the development of new certified renewable electricity generation in the Pacific Northwest; and

WHEREAS nearby institutions such as Western Washington University, Harvard Univeristy, University of California Santa Cruz, University of Central Oklahoma, Bowdoin College, Warren Wilson College, The Evergreen College, and others, have committed to purchasing 100% of their electrical energy from green sources; and

WHEREAS President Ronald Thomas signed the Talloires Declaration in 2005, committing the University of Puget Sound to environmental stewardship; and

RECOGNIZING that the University of Puget Sound currently purchases less than 1% of its electrical energy from green sources through Tacoma Power's *EverGreen Options* program; and

RECOGNIZING that to effect substantial change in the University of Puget Sound's energy policies may require a demonstration of student support;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that [student club or organization], calls upon the University of Puget Sound to commit to meeting 100% of its electrical energy needs from green sources by 2010, by purchasing RECs (Renewable Energy Certificates), or installing local clean energy production capabilities (e.g., solar, wind, geothermal); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that [student club or organization] supports the increase of student fees or tuition to help pay for the purchase of green energy.

Adopted by [student club or organization] on [date];

Signed,

President

Vice President

Members Present