



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
Faculty Senate

Climate Change Resolution

WHEREAS, universities have a special moral imperative to ensure a sustainable future for their students and to serve as examples to their communities in addressing climate change, which is increasingly recognized as the greatest threat to human civilization and life on earth; and

WHEREAS, universities have an increasing responsibility to educate students about the urgency of the climate crisis, the implications of rapid global heating for the natural world and for human societies and health, and the ethical and justice issues climate change raises; and

WHEREAS, universities have an obligation to educate students about the social, economic, and political strategies that must be undertaken to avoid global temperatures exceeding 2° C above the preindustrial average, and the ways students can take climate action now and, in the future, including in their chosen careers; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Executive Board of the Faculty Senate of Western Michigan University on this first day of February 2024, toward the enhancement and betterment of Western Michigan University should:

- *immediately implement the commitment in the 2022-32 WMU Strategic Plan to “integrate sustainability into all aspects of university functions and invest in this commitment at the highest level of institutional decision-making”*
- *support and encourage climate education in all colleges across WMU*
- *reduce institutional greenhouse gas emissions and achieve carbon neutrality as quickly as possible, following a timeline that is in accordance with all aspects of the State of Michigan Healthy Climate Plan*
- *recognize and respond to the repeated call from students to achieve carbon neutrality at WMU by 2030*
- *analyze and take relevant steps to adapt to present and potential climate change impacts, including protecting students, staff, and infrastructure, and supporting and collaborating with the local community and other organizations who have similar goals*