

November 15, 2012

Dear President Loh,

Several years ago, the University of Maryland became a charter signatory of the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment and pledged to reach carbon neutrality by 2050. Since then, the culture of sustainability on campus has grown and significant progress has been made. It appears that we are on track to meet the 2012 Climate Action Plan benchmark, having reduced our emissions thus far by 15% - an accomplishment of which we should be proud.

Students have been at the forefront of many sustainability initiatives in recent years. More than a quarter million dollars of student fees have been allocated to campus green projects through the University Sustainability Fund. Student initiatives have included "Saving the Wooded Hillock," winning the America's Greenest Campus contest, building on-campus gardens, forming a Dining Services Sustainability Food Working Group, and educating students about the environmental impact of bottled water. As partners in this effort to create a sustainable campus, we want to know - what's next?

We are excited about the progress that has been made, but we are concerned at the lack of solid plans for the future. The Climate Action Plan does not show a clear path to achieving the university's goal of a 50% cut in emissions by 2020, which makes us wonder - how will we get there? President Loh, we know that the necessary future steps to reduce our campus emissions and meet our 2015 and 2020 targets will be difficult ones. It will certainly be a challenge. But we believe that we can rise to meet that challenge. As students, we have already demonstrated our ability and commitment to meeting this challenge in smaller ways. Our efforts show the continued student support and passion for sustainability at the University of Maryland. However, this work alone will not be enough. The large institutional and structural changes that will help the University reduce emissions 25% by 2015, 50% by 2020, and down to carbon neutrality by 2050, need to come from you and the rest of the administration.

This letter demonstrates how deeply we care and wish to see this happen. Meeting these goals would be a point of pride for the University. We want to remain a model of sustainability and innovation for college campuses across the nation. As a coalition of student organizations from the entire student body, from environmental groups to performance groups to cultural groups and more, we are all in support of this sentiment.

Of course, we are not simply writing to express a feeling. We want to see results and actions taken. Therefore, we are requesting an official document or statement from the University and your office by the end of this academic year that outlines the specific steps and plans to be taken to reach our next Climate Action Plan benchmarks in 2015 and 2020. Specifically, we are interested in the larger scale campus-specific initiatives and plans that will help us reach our targets. We will keep doing our work as students, but we cannot go at this alone. Large strides must be made, and many of them are beyond our reach as students. So we are asking for your continued commitment to this goal, and we are eager to hear about your plans for 2015 and beyond.

Sincerely,

Student Sustainability Committee of the Student Government Association  
African Student Association  
Am Ha'Aretz - UMD's Jewish Green Initiative  
American Marketing Association  
Campus Recreation Service Group Fitness Instructors  
Club Field Hockey  
Community Roots  
Cooperative Housing at Maryland  
Engineers Without Borders  
Fair Trade UMD  
FRIEND: Jewish and Muslim Women's Alliance  
Habitat for Humanity  
Interfaith Council  
Iranian Student Foundation  
J Street U  
Maryland Food Collective  
Maryland Sneaker Cartel  
Maryland Sustainability Engineering  
MaryPIRG  
oSTEM  
Pakistani Student Association  
Phi Alpha Epsilon Public Health Honor Society  
Phi Upsilon Omicron Family and Consumer Science Honor Society  
Public Health Garden  
Rak Shalom  
Residence Hall Association  
Rooftop Community Garden  
Sign Language Club

Sketchup  
Society of Biological Engineers  
St. Mary's Language House Garden Club  
Student Government Association  
Students for Sensible Drug Policy  
Sustainability Committee of Maryland (RHA)  
Terrapin Theatre Troupe  
The Weekday Players  
UMD for Clean Energy  
VegTerps

**A Resolution Strongly Encouraging the Administration to Detail their Goals for  
the Climate Action Plan**

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1. WHEREAS, the Student Government Association (SGA) represents the student body; and,
2. WHEREAS, the SGA has an established Student Sustainability Committee (SSC) to advocate for students on sustainability issues; and,
3. WHEREAS, the SSC and SGA have taken a proactive role in sustainability both on and off this campus; and,
4. WHEREAS, the University of Maryland has become a model of university sustainability efforts for other colleges across the country; and,
7. WHEREAS, former University President Dan Mote signed the President's Climate Commitment pledging to make the campus carbon neutral by 2050; and,
8. WHEREAS, the campus is expected to meet its 2012 goal of a fifteen percent reduction from 2005 levels of carbon emissions and,
9. WHEREAS, the University has not detailed how they will reach the 2015 goal of twenty-five percent reduction of carbon emissions from 2005 levels and is not projected to reach this goal; and,
10. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the SGA strongly encourages President Loh and the University of Maryland Administration to detail their plans to meet the 2015 goal of twenty-five percent carbon reduction; and,
11. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SGA strongly encourages the University of Maryland Administration to ensure that the University's goal of carbon neutrality by 2050 is met; and,
12. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the University Administration make their specific plans to meet the yearly benchmarks in the Climate Action Plan public to the university community and keep the process of plan creation transparent.

Sponsor:                    Ryan Belcher                    BSOS Representative

Cosponsor: David Peeler Neighboring Commuter Representative

Committee: Student Sustainability

Vote: In Favor: 24 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 1

Therefore, the bill: **PASSES** FAILS

Speaker: Matthew Popkin

President: Samantha Zwerling

