

THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

of

LOYOLA CHICAGO

MEASURE OF THE SENATE

The REpower Loyola University Chicago Resolution

To advise the Administration of Loyola University Chicago on providing all of the university's Illinois campuses with 100% renewable electricity.

Version 2

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to be filed by the Secretary of the Senate

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to be filed by the Chief Justice

Signed by the President of the Student Government of Loyola Chicago

Signed by the Chief Justice of the Student Government of Loyola Chicago

Chiefly Sponsored By:

Senator Max Mifsud

Co-Sponsored By:

Senator Aleena Ahmed

Senator Madelynne Drescher

Senator Christopher Gideon

Senator Mario Guerrero

Senator Jordan Henderson

The REpower Loyola University Chicago Resolution
To advise the Administration of Loyola University Chicago on providing all of the university's Illinois campuses with 100% renewable electricity.

- Whereas,¹** Pope Francis, a member of the Society of Jesus, states in his encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, “The use of highly polluting fossil fuels – especially coal, but also oil and, to a lesser degree, gas – needs to be progressively replaced without delay,” and
- Whereas,²** As exemplified by the moral, ethical, and scientific issues that still surround the operation of the Dakota Access Pipeline, indigenous land and people are being exploited for fossil fuel extraction, and
- Whereas,³** Indifference towards the use of fossil fuels goes against the promotion of social justice values that many entities preach, and
- Whereas,⁴** The fight for social justice is a fight for climate action and a fight for climate action is a fight for social justice, and
- Whereas,⁵** The mission of the Student Government of Loyola Chicago, hereafter referred to as the SGLC, reads as follows:

“We commit wholeheartedly to voice the concerns of the student body, to act as an instrument for the cooperation of students, faculty and administration, to provide an open forum for dialogue, and to be a voice for student opinions concerning the traditions, idea, and affairs of the University. We shall do so in order to afford all undergraduate students the opportunity to participate in the management of their own affairs.”
, and
- Whereas,⁶** The SGLC received 531 signatures on a petition¹ distributed this semester regarding the implementation of 100% renewable electricity on Loyola University Chicago, hereafter referred to as LUC, campuses in Illinois: Lake Shore Campus, Water Tower Campus, Loyola University Retreat and Ecology Campus, Maywood Campus, and Cuneo Mansion and Gardens, and
- Whereas,⁷** Last spring, the SGLC passed The Jesuit Climate Mitigation & Energy Transition Resolution to advise the Administration of Loyola University Chicago on creating and implementing a comprehensive five year plan to fully divest from current investment holdings in the fossil fuel industry to spur national energy transition, and

Whereas,⁸ The SGLC and LUC can emphatically demonstrate their dedication to taking action against climate change and expediting the global transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy by passing and acting on both pieces of legislation, and

Whereas,⁹ The medical journal, *The Lancet*⁵, reported that annually, each terawatt-hour of electricity produced from lignite, the most polluting coal, results in 32.6 deaths, 298 serious illnesses, and 17,676 minor illnesses affecting nearly every major organ system in the human body, making it the most fatal pollutant, and

Whereas,¹⁰ LUC has committed to carbon neutrality by 2025 in the Climate Action Plan, which calls for sourcing 100% of purchased electricity (Scope 2 emissions) from renewable sources by increasing efficiency; piloting on-site renewable energy, such as solar panels; and purchasing Renewable Energy Credits, hereafter referred to as RECs, and carbon offsets², and

Whereas,¹¹ Numerous other peer institutions including Georgetown University, Catholic University of America, Drexel University, and American University purchase 100% renewable electricity using a portfolio approach³, and

Whereas,¹² LUC's Climate Action Plan demonstrates 50% of our carbon footprint comes from electricity⁶, and

Whereas,¹³ Providing LUC with 100% renewable electricity would cut Loyola's carbon footprint in half, mitigating roughly 42,000 metric tons of CO₂ emissions each year, which is about the same as taking 9,000 cars off the road or planting 1.1 million trees⁷, and

Whereas,¹⁴ One step towards renewable electricity that would account for roughly 1-2% of all the electricity is to install solar panels on campus roofs, which would provide a public and physical example of LUC's dedication to creating a more sustainable world, and

Whereas,¹⁵ LUC is currently conducting a competitive Request For Proposals process to vet an on-site solar installation, having received past offers that would save the University over \$10,000 annually, and

Whereas,¹⁶ Purchasing a Power Purchase Agreement, hereafter referred to as PPA, for 12-15 years at an offsite wind or solar project mitigates risks associated with electricity price volatility by keeping LUC's price stable as conventional electricity prices increase⁸ and could

account for around 90% of LUC's electricity usage, and

Whereas,¹⁷ According to an article from January 2018 in *Forbes*, prices for solar and wind electricity per megawatt-hour are \$50 and \$45, respectively, meanwhile prices for nuclear, coal, and gas per megawatt-hour are \$148, \$102, \$60⁹, respectively, and

Whereas,¹⁸ The energy mix of Loyola's current electricity usage is 35% coal, 35% nuclear, 26% gas, and 4% other¹⁰, and

Whereas,¹⁹ In December 2017, Intersect Power and Austin Energy announced a 15 year PPA that allowed them to pay around \$25 per megawatt-hour via an offsite solar project¹¹, and

Whereas,²⁰ LUC would then be able to annually purchase RECs which, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, certify property rights over the generated electricity from solar and wind grids¹² for electricity usage not covered by the onsite and offsite projects in order to reach 100% renewables, and

Whereas,²¹ If one year LUC uses less electricity than previous years, the RECs can be reevaluated so that LUC does not pay for more than what is used and still reach 100% renewable electricity¹³,

Be It Resolved,¹ The SGLC urges LUC to purchase 100% of its electricity from renewable sources by utilizing a portfolio approach by:

- 1) investing in on-site renewable energy project,
- 2) purchasing a PPA for a large-scale offsite solar or wind project, and
- 3) purchasing RECs to fill in the remaining percent-use of electricity

by the end of the 2019 Fiscal Year.

Works Cited

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- [2] Climate Action Plan
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- [3] <https://www.epa.gov/greenpower/green-power-partnership-top-30-college-university>
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http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_encyclica-laudato-si.html
- [5] Markandya A, Wilkinson P. Energy and Health 2: Electricity generation and health. The Lancet 2007 9/15-21; 370(9591):979-990.
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