

ASSEMBLY BILL AR-2019-03: A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE REQUEST OF INFORMATION IN REGARD TO WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY'S CARBON FOOTPRINT.

A STATEMENT FROM THE STUDENT ASSEMBLY REQUESTING INFORMATION FROM THE UNIVERSITY TO INFORM STUDENTS OF WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY'S EFFORTS OF SUSTAINABILITY, CONSERVATION, AND FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE UNIVERSITY'S CARBON FOOTPRINT.

WHEREAS, The Mission Statement of the West Virginia University Student Government Association stresses the importance of inquiry and self-governance.

WHEREAS, The Vision Statement of the West Virginia University Student Government Association establishes of the expectation of enhanced environmental stewardship.

WHEREAS, The West Virginia University Sustainability information posted online is data from 2015, which is four years ago now. The site only reports on the amount of electricity WVU used, which was 194 million kilowatt hours in 2015. The site does not include any up to date statistics, and does not have the information posted for the public relating to the university's overall carbon footprint.

WHEREAS, The West Virginia University Sustainability information also reports that in 2006, energy efficiency improvements in 70 buildings on campus helped reduce the amount of money the university was spending on energy. This data is now thirteen years old, which again is data that is not up to date.

WHEREAS, Brandon Rothrock who is a graduate student in the geography department here at WVU wrote a report for American University in Cairo in 2018 about their university's carbon footprint, and the impact the university has on the climate and what can be done to reduce the negative impacts. This report is an example of how providing public data to students and faculty can help reduce the negative contributions to the carbon footprint and the CO2 emissions the university is producing.

WHEREAS, In Rothrock's report, he also states how by publishing data, it can be compared to other institutions to gauge what kind of global climate action initiatives can be put into play.

WHEREAS, A number of universities including Ohio State, Michigan, and Brown, currently measure the CO2 emissions on their campuses and have carbon footprint data provided publicly to their university students and faculty.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT,

The West Virginia University Student Government Association Student Assembly wishes to offer their support of the event titled "Climate Action Rally" taking place in Woodburn Circle from 11am-2pm on September 20, 2019 in partnership with the Student Sierra Coalition. This event will promote awareness of the issues relating to climate and educate the students of West Virginia University about resources and opportunities to reduce their carbon footprint. In addition to the

Student Government Association and the Student Sierra Coalition, the WVU Society of Environmental Professionals and the Morgantown Citizens Climate Lobby will be in attendance to show their support.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT,

West Virginia University supplies the students and faculty of the university with the knowledge and information pertaining to the university's contribution to the university's carbon footprint, and that this information be public knowledge to all members of the university.

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