

Adopted: March 9, 2021

**ACADEMIC SENATE  
of  
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY  
San Luis Obispo, CA**

**AS-915-21**

**RESOLUTION TO SET CAL POLY'S CARBON NEUTRALITY TARGET DATE**

1 WHEREAS, President Armstrong made Cal Poly a Charter Signatory to the Climate  
2 Leadership Commitment in 2016, establishing a goal for Cal Poly to  
3 achieve net zero carbon emissions from all sources as soon as possible  
4 (currently set for 2050); and  
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6 WHEREAS, The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)  
7 has determined that we have less than ten years to make urgent and  
8 unprecedented changes to our carbon emissions to avoid the worst impacts  
9 of climate change; and  
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11 WHEREAS, The Cal Poly Statement on Diversity seeks to develop awareness and  
12 empathy for global communities, including people who are from  
13 historically and societally marginalized and underrepresented groups; and  
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15 WHEREAS, Failure to reduce carbon emissions will result in increased risk of  
16 devastating hurricanes, flooding, droughts, fire, and food scarcity for  
17 hundreds of millions of people, especially for marginalized and  
18 underrepresented global populations most vulnerable to the impacts of  
19 climate change; and  
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21 WHEREAS, A 2050 target date arrives too late to prevent needless adverse impacts;  
22 and  
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24 WHEREAS, The City of San Luis Obispo has set a Carbon Neutrality date of 2035; and  
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26 WHEREAS, Cal Poly's carbon emissions link inextricably with the carbon emissions of  
27 the City of San Luis Obispo; and  
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29 WHEREAS, The entire University of California system has set a target of 2025 for  
30 carbon neutrality, and at least six CSU campuses have all set goals for  
31 carbon neutrality by 2030 or sooner, all of which are consistent with the  
32 targets of the IPCC report on climate change; and  
33  
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35 WHEREAS, By utilizing the Cal Poly Climate Action Plan dated April 26,  
36 2017, accelerating the decrease of scope 1, 2, and 3 greenhouse gas  
37 emissions, and accounting for carbon offsets, Cal Poly can soon achieve  
38 Carbon Neutrality; therefore be it  
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40 RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate recommends that Cal Poly update the goal it set  
41 for Cal Poly to achieve net zero carbon emissions to 2030 or sooner.

Proposed by: Sustainability Committee  
Date: January 5, 2021



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Thomas Gutierrez

**Date:** May 13, 2021

**From:** Jeffery D. Armstrong

*Jeffery D. Armstrong*

**Copies:** Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore  
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Cindy Vizcaino Villa  
Dennis Elliot  
Dean Wendt  
Philip Williams

**Subject:** Response to AS-915-21 Resolution to Set Cal Poly's Carbon Neutrality Target Date

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By way of this memo, I acknowledge the above-entitled Academic Senate resolution and the underlying intention to continue to advance Cal Poly as a higher education leader in sustainability and climate change work. I recognize the reality of the climate crisis and commit to making progress in reducing Cal Poly's carbon footprint. All of which aligns with Goal 7D of our strategic plan: "Ensure the sustainability of the whole campus environment by making it smart, resilient and carbon neutral."

Please extend my thanks to the members of the Academic Senate and the Sustainability Committee for their attention to this important matter.