A RESOLUTION

TITLE:                          Climate Commitment Plan

WHEREAS: The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report¹ has given the public strong scientific evidence on climate change, its effects on the planet, and the short timeline to take action, and

WHEREAS: The Iowa State Faculty Senate passed the resolution “Resolution on Climate Change”² on March 20th, 2018 addressing climate change and requesting University action, and

WHEREAS: The Iowa State Student Government supports this Faculty Senate resolution in its call for more faculty research on environmental sustainability, the list of eight actions to reach carbon neutrality, and the focus on efficient campus energy generation, and reducing energy consumption, and

WHEREAS: The state of Iowa currently generates 37% of its electricity from renewable energy, and

WHEREAS: Iowa State currently purchases 10% of its electricity as renewable energy from a wind farm operated by NextEra Energy Resources, and

WHEREAS: Iowa State purchases another 34.7% of its electricity from fossil fuel burning entities and generates the other 55.3% from coal and natural gas burning power plants on campus, be it therefore

RESOLVED: Student Government along with Climate Reality Campus Corps urges Iowa State Administration to make a Sustainability Strategic Plan that cuts on carbon emissions, utilizes more renewable energy, and decreases energy consumption on campus, while providing more cost-effective approaches to energy needs, and

¹ IPCC Report: https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/
² Faculty Senate Resolution: http://www.facsen.iastate.edu/sites/default/files/uploads/17-18%20Docket%20Calendar/S17-14%20-%20Faculty%20Senate%20Climate%20Resolution%20Final.pdf
RESOLVED: That this Sustainability Strategic Plan includes transitioning Iowa State electricity to either come from 100% renewable energy sources or be offset by renewable energy credits to make our electricity sector carbon neutral by 2035, and

RESOLVED: Student Government encourages increased student use of CyRide and Zip Car, as well as increasing charging stations for electric vehicles to address sustainability in the transportation sector and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and

RESOLVED: Student Government requests President Wintersteen make a statement on Iowa State’s future concerning sustainability and renewable energy, create the University Sustainability Group outlined in the Faculty Senate Resolution, and work with campus departments to create a comprehensive plan on reducing Iowa State’s carbon footprint, and

RESOLVED: Student Government would like to recognize and applaud the efforts of FP&M for replacing three of their coal-fired burners with natural gas burners and the efforts of the Office of Sustainability for outstanding leadership in “green” efforts through programming, education, and policy, and

RESOLVED: That copies of this resolution be sent to President Wintersteen; Jeff Witt, Utilities at Facilities Planning and Management; Merry Rankin, Office of Sustainability; Paul Fuligni, Facilities Planning and Management; Jonathan Wickert, Senior Vice President and Provost; Peter Martin, Faculty Senate President; Sheri Kyras, CyRide Director of Transit; Martino Harmon, Senior Vice President for Student Affairs; and Pam Cain, Senior Vice President for University Services.