



**University of Dayton Student Government Association**

*SR-0506-02*

*Environmental Resolution*

*Sponsor: Sen. Schweitzer*

*Co-sponsor: Vice President McIlwee*

*Drafted by: Mr. Janosik and Ms. Pettit, Co-Directors of Sustainable Living*

**D**eeply conscious of the environmental impact of an institution with the University of Dayton's magnitude,

Recognizing the lack of a university-wide environmental initiative coinciding with commonly held civic values and with the University of Dayton's motto of "Learn, Lead, Serve,"

Understanding that if the University of Dayton is to become one of the top five Catholic Universities in the nation, excellence must be pursued in all areas and environmentalism can no longer be ignored,

Fully aware of the University of Dayton's alarming current energy costs of over 7 million dollars, with a projected increase of 1.5 to 2 million dollars for the next year,

Noting that normalized consumption rates are 40% higher than similar universities in the region,

Calculating that such gross neglect in management of energy resources is wasting millions of dollars per year, an amount only to increase with escalating utility rates,

Further noting that current University offices and departments have not arisen to the challenge of protecting the environment and promoting sustainable practices on campus, nor have they been able to sufficiently raise awareness within the university community about these issues,

Sincerely disturbed by the fact that many leading universities have far surpassed the University of Dayton in dealing with such matters, already having developed and implemented significant programs, offices, and initiatives dedicated entirely to environmentalism and/or sustainability,

Profoundly considering Catholic social teaching on the matter of the environment, which unequivocally proclaims:

- "At its core, the environmental crisis is a moral challenge.
- It is to the Creator of the universe ... that we are accountable for what we do or fail to do to preserve and care for the earth.
- A just and sustainable society [is] not an optional ideal, but a moral and practical necessity.
- We in the developed world are obligated ... to address our own wasteful and destructive use of resources as a matter of top priority."

*Renewing the Earth* (1991)

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

“Moreover, a new ecological awareness is beginning to emerge which, rather than being downplayed, ought to be encouraged to develop into concrete programs and initiatives.”

*Peace With God the Creator, Peace With All of Creation* (1990)  
John Paul II

Emphasizing that a strong environmental initiative is indispensable from social, civic, financial, and educational perspectives, and firmly convinced that it is our very obligation as a Catholic institution,

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The Student Government Association of the University of Dayton calls upon the administration of the University of Dayton to undertake significant action to improve sustainability on campus.

The Student Government Association of the University of Dayton requests creation of a new Office for Sustainability, which would report jointly to the Vice President of Financial and Administrative Affairs and the Provost. This office would work collaboratively with the various campus departments and offices to promote sustainability in campus operations and planning, by the sponsorship of scholarly research, and through education of the entire university community on such matters.

The Student Government Association of the University of Dayton requests the formation of a committee, with staff, faculty, and student representation, along with vowed Marianist representation, to oversee the development and implementation of the above proposed office at the University of Dayton.

The Student Government Association of the University of Dayton hopes that the seriousness and significance of this matter is fully understood, and requests that the University Administration actively keep SGA in continued conversations on this matter.

**THIS RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE STUDENT SENATE 06 NOVEMBER 2005 BY A VOTE OF 30 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED;**

**SIGNED: MATT MAROON, SPEAKER OF THE SENATE**