

UNIVERSITY of
HOUSTON

Student Government Association

To: Dr. Richard Walker
Vice Chancellor / Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Services
CC: Keith Kowalka
Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs - Student Life

From: Shaun Smith
Speaker of the Senate

Date: 16 February, 2015

Subject: Greenhouse Gas Accountability Act

The Student Government Association Senate proposed this legislation from the work of a group of students enrolled in the Energy and Sustainability Initiative took on a project to make a map of the campus greenhouse gas footprint for 2013. While working with stakeholders across the campus, they found that the process could be continually facilitated if these university offices were petitioned for this information on an annual basis. Most of the information collected in this footprint is already measured and stored by the offices responsible for those resources due to billing or inventory reasons.

The report generates data that is required for the University to report when it submits its Sustainability and Tracking Rating System (STARS) report every three years. This report is created by the Association of Advancement for Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). This bill was brought forward as a collaboration between SGA, the Sustainability Task Force/Committee, the Office of Sustainability, and the Energy and Sustainability Initiative program.

This measure was called to question on 23 April, 2014 and passed unanimously from all present and voting members. Any further questions or inquiries regarding the nature or process of this legislation can be directed to myself. Thank you for your time in reviewing this measure.

All my best,



Shaun Smith
Speaker of the Senate

HOUSTON'S CARNEGIE-DESIGNATED TIER ONE PUBLIC RESEARCH UNIVERSITY

Label: UB-51002

Date introduced: April 16, 2014

Date Passed: April 23, 2014

Author(s): Speaker Shaun Smith, Michael Nguyen, Shannon Terry

Sponsor(s): Senator Clint Kirchhoff, Senator Max Ballands

Committee: Administration & Finance

Draft: Final Draft

Greenhouse Gas Accountability Act

Whereas, the United Nations defines sustainability as the ability to meet the needs of the present without compromising the needs of the future; and

Whereas, campuses, communities, and corporations are working to develop innovations that scale-down greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for climate change; and

Whereas, the University of Houston established its Campus Sustainability policy in 2009 where it committed the campus to follow the sustainability guidelines provided by the Board of Regents and the Campus Sustainability Task Force; and

Whereas, this policy tasked the University of Houston with measuring our sustainability efforts and translating those measurements into a comprehensive strategy for sustainability in higher education; and

Whereas, the campus sustainability perspective is tied to that of the Association of Advancement for Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) in the implementation of their Sustainability in Tracking and Rating System (STARS), a transparent self-reporting framework for universities to measure sustainability performance; and

Whereas, this report measures sustainable practice credits in different categories, of which greenhouse gas emissions and the reporting thereof is awarded for the measuring of those sources.

THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED by the 51st Administration of the Student Government Association of the University of Houston:

That the University of Houston be accountable for the quantifying and mitigating of its campus greenhouse gas emissions on an annual basis as it is outlined in the STARS reporting scheme developed by AASHE.

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Further be it enacted, that the development of this report represent a collaboration of effort between the Campus Sustainability Task Force, the Office of Sustainability, Energy and Sustainability Initiative students, and the Plant Operations Sustainability Officer.



Shaun Smith
Speaker of the Senate
University of Houston – Main Campus

Date of Senate Approval:

23 APRIL 2014



Charles Haston
Student Body President
University of Houston – Main Campus

Date of President's Approval:

4/24/14

APPROVED

Pursuant to Student Government Association Constitution Article IV, § 11, Clause 2, this legislation will be presented to the President of the University. Approval or disapproval by the President of the University, and their response, will be recorded in the Senate Journal on additional signature attachments to be included with this legislation.

HOUSTON'S CARNEGIE-DESIGNATED TIER ONE PUBLIC RESEARCH UNIVERSITY

DISAPPROVE

[illegible]