



Bill Number:	W-20-05	Sponsored By:	Senator McKenzie Gamage Senator Alex Hicks
Introduced On:	27 February 2020		
Voted On:	29 July 2020		
Result:	Passed		
Vote Count:	19-4-2		

A BILL TO: Urge Grand Valley State University to Declare a Climate Emergency and Take Measurable Steps Towards Preventing the Advancement of Climate Change

Recognizing, Grand Valley State University is committed to “sustainability in helping to meet the current needs of our faculty members, staff members, and students without compromising the needs and resources of future generations”¹; and

Recognizing, Student Senate has made sustainability a priority, as demonstrated by the establishment of the Sustainability Subcommittee; and

Recognizing, the Association of Big Ten Students unanimously passed a declaration of climate emergency in 2019²; and

Recognizing, the climate crisis poses significant risks to Michiganders including increased shoreline erosion, flooding, heatwaves, and increased severe weather incidents, posing significant effects to our Great Lakes ecosystem and public health costs³; and

Recognizing, the Grand Valley State University Allendale and Pew campuses are located along the Grand River, which poses significant threats to infrastructure due to yearly flooding⁴; and

Whereas, higher education must confront these threats, take action to address social and ecological disruption and its contribution to the catastrophic loss of the planet’s biodiversity and worsening effects of climate change by leaving a generation unprepared for the ecological and social crises ahead; and

¹ <https://www.gvsu.edu/policies/policy.htm?policyId=4A6B4946-964C-4E87-1E31AC7FCA7936BD>

² <https://sustainability.uiowa.edu/news/ui-students-lead-b1g-student-governments-declaring-climate-emergency-big-ten-institution>

³ <https://www.climate.gov/taxonomy/term/3453>

⁴ https://go-gale-com.ezproxy.gvsu.edu/ps/i.do?p=LitRC&u=lom_gvalleysu&id=GALE%7CA192363493&v=2.1&it=r&sid=summon

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that the Grand Valley State University Student Senate, acting on behalf of the student body, requests that Grand Valley State University immediately declare a climate emergency due to threats to the natural world; and

Furthermore, Let It Be Resolved, that Grand Valley State University take active, measurable steps towards preventing the advancement of climate change such as, but not limited to, freezing all future investments into and divesting from the fossil fuel industry, financially supporting research into ethical and economically sufficient alternatives, reducing single use plastic on campus, and more; and

Furthermore, Let It Be Resolved, that a copy of this bill be sent to the University Academic Senate, the Office of Sustainability Practices, the Office of the Provost, and the Office of the President to be taken up by Grand Valley State University to declare a university-wide Climate Emergency.