

**Resolution SS1819-07****March 18, 2019**

Erin Hiestand, Senator - Ryan Hall  
Daniel Rottenborn, Senator - Alumni Hall, Chair of Senate Sustainability Committee  
Kevin Gallagher, Director of Social Concerns - Executive Cabinet

**A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME TO  
SUPPORT RESIDENCE HALLS' PARTICIPATION IN THE WIDER  
IMPLEMENTATION OF GRIND2ENERGY TECHNOLOGY**

*Whereas*, the University of Notre Dame organizes residential life into a system of residence halls central to student life at the University;

*Whereas*, food waste in these residence halls plays a major role in contaminating waste and recycling streams;

*Whereas*, as of Fall 2018 Notre Dame can only recycle materials with less than .5% contamination, which commonly comes from food residue;

*Whereas*, food that ends up in landfills decomposes slowly in the absence of sufficient oxygen, releasing methane, the most harmful greenhouse gas, into the atmosphere;

*Whereas*, food waste constitutes 10% of waste that Notre Dame sends to landfills;

*Whereas*, Procurement Services, Strategic Sourcing, and the Office of Sustainability have committed to “embody the traditional principles of sustainability as a Catholic university committed to remaining vital and strong for succeeding generations,” thereby, “equating a respectful stewardship of the environment with the faithful care of God’s creation”;

*Whereas*, a Grind2Energy anaerobic digestion system has been installed and is currently operational at the Notre Dame Center for Culinary Excellence;

*Whereas*, installation is currently underway on two additional Grind2Energy systems, one to service North Dining Hall and one to service South Dining Hall;

*Whereas*, anaerobic digestion of food waste helps keep waste streams clean, eliminates the need for garbage bags in food disposal, reduces trash pick-ups, and minimizes pest control costs for the university’s residence halls;

*Whereas*, Student Government and the Student Senate recognize the need to continue expanding sustainability-centered initiatives across campus;

*Resolved*, the Student Senate calls on the University of Notre Dame du Lac to support residence halls’ participation in the wider implementation of Grind2Energy technology