

Kayle Lauck, *McGlenn Hall Senator*
Lizzie Martin, *Pasquerilla East Hall Senator*
Annika Barron, *Farley Hall Senator*
Veronica Slevin, *Pasquerilla West Hall Senator*
Abigail Donahue, *Cavanaugh Hall Senator*
Avery Broughton, *Director of Sustainability*

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE *ENERGY STAR HIGHER EDUCATION BENCHMARKING INITIATIVE*

Whereas, [Care for God’s Creation](#) is one of the seven principles of Catholic Social Teaching and “the pursuit of sustainability is directly related to the Catholic Mission of [the University](#)” of Notre Dame;

Whereas, “In our endeavor to act as good stewards, [the University](#) has worked to manage the emissions and pollutants caused by our energy production”;

Whereas, the [University of Notre Dame](#) has committed itself to the goal of carbon neutrality by the year 2050;

Whereas, the [University](#) is working to achieve that goal through “energy conservation infrastructure (investing in more efficient technology), behavior change programs (educating and incentivizing the campus community to save energy), and energy decarbonization (using cleaner energy)”;

Whereas, [the University](#) has remained committed to these initiatives by upgrading buildings; using LED lights; installing solar panels, thermal storage tanks, and geothermal energy systems; and working with the city of South Bend to construct a hydroelectric facility on the St. Joseph River Dam;

Whereas, the University has called for student participation in creating a more sustainable campus environment through the creation of the [Sustainability Cup](#) competition;

Whereas, the [University of Notre Dame](#) recognizes water as an essential natural resource that plays vital roles in campus operations and acknowledges [Pope Francis’](#) statement of avoiding water waste;

Whereas, [the University](#) has tried to preserve water by installing autoclave water economizers, updating buildings with water-efficient retrofits, replacing its sprinkler system with a high-efficiency system, and implementing a “stormwater quality management plan”;

Whereas, [the University of Notre Dame](#) installed green roofs on top of the Joyce Center, Morris Inn, Corbett Family Hall, Duncan Student Center, and O’Neill Hall;

Whereas, the green roofs help the university achieve its energy and water conservation goals by mitigating stormwater run-off, improving air quality, and serving as natural insulation;

Whereas, the [EPA ENERGY STAR Higher Education Benchmarking Initiative](#) (HEBI) was created to provide institutions with a way to measure their sustainability commitments against other peer institutions;

Whereas, the HEBI program tracks the self-reported energy and water usage of participating institutions;

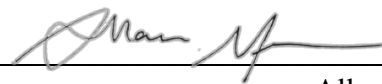
Whereas, this comparison helps universities to move beyond university sector challenges and deliver actionable insights at no cost to the participating university;

Whereas, 74% of prospective college students say a college’s environmental commitment would affect their college decision, according to a study from the [Princeton Review](#);

Whereas, participating in the HEBI program is a way for the university to ensure itself as an environmental leader among peer institutions as well as providing an accessible way for potential students to assess the environmental commitments of the university;

Whereas, the University has shown interest and commitment to participating in benchmarking programs in the past through its participation in the AASHE Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, & Rating System (STARS); therefore, be it,

Resolved, by the Student Senate of the University of Notre Dame du Lac, that the University of Notre Dame should enroll as a participant in the EPA ENERGY STAR Higher Education Benchmarking Initiative.



Allan Njomo
Student Body President