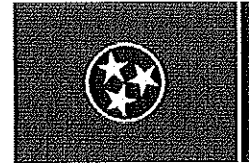


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THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**MEMPHIS.**

68<sup>th</sup> General Assembly  
of the  
University of Memphis  
Student Government Association



**Prime Sponsor(s):** Antonio Scott, Co-Chair  
**Cosponsor(s):** Kyla Harris

**Committee:** Environmental

**An Act/Resolution** to request the President of the University to sign the Second Nature Climate Commitment and renew and support campus sustainability efforts.

**Whereas** in 2015, carbon dioxide accounted for about 82.2% of greenhouse gas emissions from human activities<sup>1</sup>. An increase in greenhouse gases causes Earth's average temperature to rise, resulting in increased flooding, hotter heat waves, stronger hurricanes, droughts, and many more adverse effects<sup>2</sup> **AND,**

**Whereas** the University is already engaging in initiatives to reduce their carbon footprint through the implementation of various programs (i.e.: Tiger Blue Goes Green Sustainability Plan) sponsored by the Sustainable Campus Fee paid by students each year **AND,**

**Whereas** Second Nature is a non-profit organization that is committed to accelerating climate action in, and through, higher education. 679 signatory institutions across all 50 states and the District of Columbia have signed commitments with Second Nature<sup>3</sup> (The University of Memphis was not one of them). The Climate Commitment focuses on integrating carbon neutrality with climate resilience and provides a systems approach to mitigating and adapting to

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<sup>1</sup> Environmental Protection Agency. *Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks*. 2017. Print.

<sup>2</sup> Kerr, Richard A. "Three degrees consensus: climate researchers are finally homing in on just how bad greenhouse warming could get – and it seems increasingly unlikely that we will escape with a mild warming." *Science*, vol. 305, no. 5686, 2004, p. 932+

<sup>3</sup> "Annual Report." *Second Nature 2014 Annual Report*. Second Nature. 2014. Web.

a changing climate<sup>4</sup> AND,

**Whereas** the combination of all Universities that have signed the commitment have reported a decrease of 3, 759, 878 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e<sup>3</sup>. The combination of all Universities that have signed the commitment have reported a 21% on average gross GHG emission reduction<sup>3</sup>. 74% of the signatories who have reported progress on their Climate Action Plans state that these efforts have saved their institution money<sup>5</sup>.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE 68<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION:**

**Section 1:** The President of the University of Memphis, Dr. M. David Rudd, should, on behalf of the University, sign Second Nature's Climate Commitment (see attachments) to become a carbon neutral campus.

**Section 2:** Furthermore, the University will develop a comprehensive Climate Action Plan with Second Nature and implement its findings to achieve a net zero carbon footprint.

**Section 3:** Funding of this signatory action is free. The only associated costs that may occur is printing fees of agreement and postage.

**Section 4:** This act shall take effect immediately and upon approval of the Senate, be sent to the President of the University.



Charles Gibson II

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<sup>4</sup> "Joining the Climate Leadership Network." *Second Nature*. 2017. Web.

<sup>5</sup> *Second Nature. 2015 Climate Leadership Network Snapshots*. 2017. Print.