



“Western Winds”

Proposed Motion:

Sponsor: Wayne Rocque

Persons of Contact: Trisha Patterson, Galen Herz

Guest Speaker: Seth Vidana, Anna Kemper

Date: 11/15/16

Attached Document

Attached is the proposal and resolution for the wind energy campaign conducted by the Office of Sustainability, the Environmental and Sustainability Programs, and Students for Renewable Energy. This proposal includes an email from John Furman to all utility payers on campus, a graph of student support based on preliminary results, and three different projections for cost of transitioning.

Background & Context

The Wind Farm for WWU campaign and subsequent organizing came to fruition after SRE was notified of an immediate opportunity from Puget Sound Energy to receive all of Western’s energy from a yet undeveloped wind farm.

The wind farm will be developed in Lewis and Thurston Counties. The general concept is that we would sign onto a recently approved rate schedule – roughly five percent higher than the conventional rate – to leverage the construction of a 75 mW wind farm. These costs would be imposed in 2019, after the subsequent completion of the wind farm.

There are several other universities investing in their own wind turbines including Whitman University, Lutheran College, American University and Georgetown University. The Sustainability Action Committee has endorsed this strategy as a way to improve upon our current process of purchasing Renewable Energy Credits.

Seth Vidana is working with the State with the expectation this purchase will be accepted as an action to meet carbon emission reductions as required by state law. The University has submitted an application to be considered for this program, and we expect to hear within the month if PSE has sufficient wind capacity power Western and meet our demands for energy. At that time, Western will sign a Service Agreement committing to participate.

It has been proposed to transfer the Sustainable Action Fund current REC purchase to the Green Power Program as a way to offset the five percent premium in 2019. This action would simply mean redirecting the funds allocated to the purchasing of RECs to the Green Power Purchase Program.

Summary of Proposal

We are proposing the Associated Students pass the below resolution in support of the Wind Power for WWU campaign and Western's participation in the Green Power Purchase Program.

Fiscal Impacts

This Program will have a fiscal impact on all utility payers, amounting in an additional five percent premium on current utility bills. Attached is a visual with three different scenarios of cost. The actual costs are not imposed until 2019, when the wind farm is scheduled to be completed. If the SAF purchase of RECs is redirected to the Green Power Purchase Program purchase of RECs, the fiscal impacts will be lowered.

If financial impacts occur:

What do you need to happen?

Alternative Solutions

Options (Please provide multiple options for the same proposal if alternatives are available).

Option	Financial Impact of Option	Services or Outcome of Option
A		
B		
C		

Rationale

Briefly describe why this proposal should happen.

Climate change will not wait for the opportune government, policy, or social movement to bolster the efforts of environmentalists and climate advocates to stop and reduce the effects of climate change. We have the opportunity act as a leader in sustainability by participating in this shift to a campus powered by renewable energy, both as students and administrators of this university. Participating in this program would allow Western to cut one-third of its carbon emissions and act as a leader in the transition away from fossil fuels.