



Boulder Faculty Assembly

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

BFA Climate Science & Education Committee (CSEC) Notice of Motion
Resolution in Support of Urgent Climate Change Action
BFA-R-1-100923

WHEREAS climate change is an urgent, global issue that requires immediate and accelerated action, not only to limit global average temperature increase to below 1.5°C by the end of the century, but also to limit irreversible and catastrophic impacts;¹ and

WHEREAS new research indicates that environmental stresses are already occurring and may bring about ecosystem collapses much sooner than expected;² and

WHEREAS eight states, the District of Columbia, and dozens of municipalities, including the City of Boulder, have initiated lawsuits in both state and federal courts based on credible evidence that fossil fuel companies have knowingly misinformed the public about the dangers of continuing to produce and to consume their products;³ and

WHEREAS many publishers of popular media, who rely on and succumb to advertiser pressure, demonstrate a reluctance to prioritize informing the public of the climate change emergency; and

WHEREAS many policy makers are beholden to fossil fuel donors and consequently delay implementation of systemic changes that reduce greenhouse gasses (GHG) in agriculture, power generation, and transportation; and

WHEREAS the CU Boulder campus, although a recognized leader in student environmental action and faculty climate research, still lags behind many other universities in reducing its greenhouse gas emissions and in decreasing its investments and overall support for fossil fuel companies; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that University of Colorado Boulder faculty endorse prioritizing climate change and sustainability actions to be the central focus of our campus-wide initiatives, to be implemented as follows:

¹ <https://www.unep.org/climate-emergency>

² <https://theconversation.com/ecological-doom-loops-why-ecosystem-collapses-may-occur-much-sooner-than-expected-new-research-207955#:~:text=This%20means%20an%20ecosystem%20predicted,spike%20in%20natural%20resource%20use>

³ <https://www.npr.org/2022/01/25/1075560742/oil-lawsuit-climate-change-baltimore>; <https://www.bbc.com/news/blogs-trending-59070451>; <https://stateimpactcenter.org/issues/climate-action/suits-against-oil-companies>; <https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-bonta-announces-lawsuit-against-oil-and-gas-companies>



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- **education:** by creating new climate-related classes, courses of study and projects in *all* CU departments and units, that will prepare our CU graduates for employment as climate solution leaders in their respective fields,
- **research:** by aggressively implementing more efficient and sustainable research operations practices across campus, and, in partnership with local and state-wide communities, by seeking ways to translate CU faculty research outcomes into equitable climate solutions,
- **outreach:** by uniting faculty, students, staff, and administrators into a powerful cohort that advocates for and takes significant action toward reducing GHG emissions – across the campus, community, state, and nation,
- **communication:** by urging policy makers, including the regents, system administrators, and campus leadership, to implement swift and systemic changes in order to avoid the worst impacts of extreme weather events, the devastation of human habitats, the collapse of ecosystems, and the loss of biodiversity.

Submitted by the Climate Science & Education Committee: October 9, 2023

Approved for submission to Assembly by the BFA Executive Committee:

Submitted to the BFA General Assembly: November 2, 2023

Approved by Assembly Representatives on December 7, 2023 with: 43 in favor; 2 opposed; 2 abstentions