

MEMORANDUM

September 14, 2021

TO: CUSG Finance Board

CC: Anila Narayana, Ben Hosansky, Co-chairs, CUSG Environmental Board

FROM: Dave Newport, LEED AP, Director, CU Environmental Center

RE: Requesting approval of funds from Energy & Climate Fund for 2020 Carbon Offsets purchase

Summary

Per the requirements of CUSG Bill# 84 LCB 03 – Energy & Climate Fund, this is to refer the final approval decision to Finance Board of the CUSG Environmental Center (EC) Director’s approval of the CUSG Environmental Board’s funding request for **\$49,684** from the CUSG Energy & Climate Fund (ECF).

The ECF requires the Environmental Center Director to review and approve qualified funding requests and transmit to Finance Board for review. Funding shall be allocated from the ECF account, speedtype 12001205. The EC Director has approved this request.

84 LCB 03 establishing the ECF is attached. Also attached is the offsets prospectus that contains backgrounders on all the projects of interest.

Funding Request Background

The CUSG Environmental Board is requesting funds to maintain CUSG’s legislatively mandated program to maintain CUSG commitment to no net emissions of Greenhouse Gases (GHG), aka “carbon neutrality,” from CUSG-related operations.

In the years since CUSG mandated this program (2007), funding for energy efficiency and carbon offsets has been itemized part of the CU Environmental Center’s budget. With the Covid-induced budget cuts in 2020, the Environmental Board agreed to cut that budget item to zero in light of the fact that the ECF is available and appropriate for this expenditure. Indeed, it is more equitable to use funds from a SOR-related budget source as the energy use and resulting carbon emissions we seek to mitigate are produced by all CUSG cost-centers, not just the EC.

In the past few years, the CUSG Tri-executives and the CUSG Environmental Board also agreed to increase the impact of campus climate action by expanding offset coverage to include CUSG-funded travel resulting in emissions from cost center personnel trips. This expanded climate action is foreseen to continue and grow as additional Scope 3 offset sources are included in annual emissions measurements. In addition, this action will continue to boost campus climate action goals by supporting and highlighting the leadership of CUSG and CU Athletics who has demonstrated unmatched investment and commitment to reducing CU carbon emissions. CUSG and the E-Board several years agreed to include Athletics emissions in the offset buy when funds were available.

As seen in the following table, a combined total of **10,671 metric tons of CO₂e** (MTCO₂e) would be offset by an array of certified carbon offset projects in Colorado, Haiti and India. The multiple benefits of these

offset projects focus on demonstrable carbon emissions reduction, support for local efforts and significant social justice impacts. The offsets will be supplied by Native Energy, a B-Corp rated Best for the World as a result of its mission to serve First Nations people and the provision of the highest quality offset projects. This portfolio of projects was discussed and identified as preferable by the Environmental Board based on price/ton balanced against need and cost containment.

Accordingly, the **total request from the Energy Revolving fund is \$49,684 (offsets) + \$4,738 (GAIR) = \$54,422.**

Proposed 2020 Carbon Emissions and Offset Projects to be Funded by ECF				
Beginning ECF balance				\$287,156
Carbon sources to be offset				<i>MTCO2e GHGs</i>
UMC				2,281
Rec Center				1,810
Athletics				6,578
CUSG travel				1
Total Metric Tons				10,670
Offset portfolio costs		Metric Tons	Cost Per MT	Total
Medford Spring (CO)		600	\$9.00	\$5,400
Sky Wind		9,071	\$4.00	\$36,284
Haiti Clean Water		1,000	\$8.00	\$8,000
Sub total				\$49,684
GAIR				\$4,738
Total \$ requested				\$54,422

Thank you.