Williams College Council 2014-2015

Resolution:
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A Resolution in Support of a New Institutional Greenhouse Gas Emissions Goal

WHEREAS College Council recognizes the significance of Global Climate Change, and believes that Williams College should do everything in its power to both behave in an environmentally responsible manner and to educate an environmentally conscious student body;

WHEREAS Commitment to an aggressive decrease in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions must be an essential component of the agenda at any environmentally responsible institution;

WHEREAS Williams currently has a GHG emissions goal of 10% reduction of 1990 levels by 2020, is on-track to meet that goal early, and so needs to set a new goal;

WHEREAS The State of Massachusetts and 680+ Colleges and Universities across the country, including all but two of our NESCAC peers, have committed to 80% reduction of 1990 GHG emissions by 2050;

WHEREAS Williams should be a leader, not a follower, and has the resources and technology to achieve 80% reduction of 1990 GHG emissions by 2050 via increased renewable energy use, upgrades to campus energy infrastructure, a conservative building and renovation plan, and changes in individual energy-use practices;

LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Williams College Council respectfully:

1. Supports the student, staff, faculty, and alumni-initiated movement asking for a stronger GHG emissions goal.
2. Recommends that the Williams College Trustees and Administration adopt an institutional GHG emissions goal of 80% reduction of 1990 emissions by 2050.