

Associated Students, Inc.  
California Polytechnic State University  
San Luis Obispo

Resolution #20-05

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR CAL POLY AND ASI TO TRANSITION TO 100%  
RECYCLED PAPER AND A PAPER REDUCTION CAMPAIGN

- WHEREAS: The ASI Board of Directors serves as the official voice of students at California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly), San Luis Obispo; and
- WHEREAS: Paper production and waste causes environmental harm including deforestation, energy use, pollution, and release of toxic materials<sup>1</sup>; and
- WHEREAS: CSU Sustainability Policy mandates that: “To move to zero waste, campus practices should: (1) encourage use of products that minimize the volume of trash sent to landfill or incinerators; (2) participate in the CalRecycle Buy-Recycled program or equivalent; and (3) increase recycled content purchases in all BuyRecycled program product categories”<sup>2</sup>; and
- WHEREAS: The California State Agency Buy Recycled Campaign (SABRC) is an effort to implement California State law requiring State agencies and the Legislature to purchase recycled-content products and track those purchases<sup>3</sup>; and
- WHEREAS: California State University (CSU) campuses are encouraged to comply with the SABRC requirements by developing procedures to ensure the purchase of goods containing recycled content<sup>4</sup>; and
- WHEREAS: System-wide, CSU use of recycled content falls short of the recommended SABRC threshold of 50% in several categories<sup>5</sup>; and
- WHEREAS: Though recycled content purchasing has increased in some material categories such as mulch/compost, it has decreased and is inconsistent in others such as paper products and printing/writing<sup>6</sup>; and
- WHEREAS: The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) is “a transparent, self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability

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1 The World Counts. Paper Waste Facts. <http://www.theworldcounts.com/stories/Paper-Waste-Facts>

2 California State University Sustainability Policy. Page 6. <http://www.calstate.edu/cpdc/sustainability/policies-reports/documents/JointMeeting-CPBG-ED.pdf>

3 CalRecycle. State Agency Buy Recycled Campaign. <https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/buyrecycled/stateagency>

4 California State University. Sustainability in the California State University 2014-17. <https://www2.calstate.edu/impact-of-the-csu/sustainability/Documents/2014-17-Sustainability.pdf>

5 California State University. Sustainability in the California State University 2014-17. Page 57. <https://www2.calstate.edu/impact-of-the-csu/sustainability/Documents/2014-17-Sustainability.pdf>

6 California State University. Sustainability in the California State University 2014-17. Page 57. <https://www2.calstate.edu/impact-of-the-csu/sustainability/Documents/2014-17-Sustainability.pdf>

performance”<sup>7</sup> for which Cal Poly holds a gold rating<sup>8</sup>, just one ranking below the highest standard of platinum; and

WHEREAS: AASHE STARS certification awards points based on the percentage of recycled paper purchased by the university, and Cal Poly is lacking in this category with 38% of possible points<sup>9</sup>, meaning a transition to 100% recycled paper would increase the university’s rating; and

WHEREAS: Due to the larger quantity of 30-49% recycled paper purchased, Cal Poly currently spends \$91,148 on 30-49% recycled paper and only \$2,934 on 90-100% recycled paper annually<sup>10</sup>; and

WHEREAS: The current annual cost to Cal Poly for paper is \$111,219.74 and the projected cost for 100% recycled paper is \$145,821.39, meaning a switch to recycled paper would cause a 31% increase in cost<sup>11</sup>; and

WHEREAS: If partnered with a 16-20% paper reduction campaign, this transition would save the university an estimated \$34,374.57-\$49,218.37 annually, leading to a 2-7% overall decrease in annual costs of paper and printing<sup>12</sup>; and

WHEREAS: In order to reduce their environmental impacts, other universities have switched to 100% recycled paper, including University of Wisconsin Oshkosh<sup>13</sup>, American University’s Bender Library<sup>14</sup>, and Humboldt University<sup>15</sup>; and

WHEREAS: The University of California, Berkeley serves as an exemplar of university action, with a 32.5% decrease in paper use in the Haas School of Business resulting from a paper reduction campaign, and other universities have experienced similar monetary and paper savings through reduction campaigns, including Portland Community College, Red River College, Fort Lewis College, and University of Iowa<sup>16</sup>; and

WHEREAS: A paper reduction campaign provides opportunities for student action and involvement across the six colleges through research, creation of marketing materials, measurement of the success of the campaign, and student commitment to saving paper; and

WHEREAS: A transition to 100% recycled paper could lead to additional cost savings through increased discounts using the CSU-wide purchasing goal, savings from decreased disposal and recycling

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7 AASHE STARS. [stars.aashe.org](https://stars.aashe.org)

8 AASHE STARS. California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

9 AASHE. California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. OP-14: Office Paper Purchasing, <https://reports.aashe.org/institutions/california-polytechnic-state-university-ca/report/2019-09-19/OP/purchasing/OP-14/>

10 AASHE. California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. OP-14: Office Paper Purchasing, <https://reports.aashe.org/institutions/california-polytechnic-state-university-ca/report/2019-09-19/OP/purchasing/OP-14/>

11 Based on 2017-18 Cal Poly Staples copy paper purchases

12 Based on 2017-18 Cal Poly Staples copy paper purchases

13 Williams, David. “UWO Moves to 100 Percent Recycled Paper.” University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Today. <https://uwosh.edu/today/8117/recycled-paper/>

14 American University. Case Study: Library- 100% Recycled Paper. <https://www.american.edu/finance/sustainability/upload/casestudy-library-100-recycled-paper.pdf>

15 Humboldt State University. 100% Recycled Paper Policy. <http://www2.humboldt.edu/paperpolicy/index.html>

16 AASHE. Turning the Page: A Behavior Change Toolkit for Reducing Paper Use. <https://www.aashe.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Turning-the-Page.pdf>

costs, labor and cost savings through the reduction of personal printers, and the price of the transition would be lowered through volume discounts; and

WHEREAS: By transitioning to 100% recycled paper, Cal Poly would demonstrate to students and other campuses that the university is committed to sustainability and to reducing our environmental impact.

THEREFORE  
BE IT

RESOLVED: The ASI Board of Directors urges Cal Poly and Associated Students, Inc. to transition to the purchase of 100% recycled paper; and

FURTHERMORE  
BE IT

RESOLVED: This transition should be paired with a paper reduction campaign to reduce the university's environmental impact and the cost of the transition; and

FURTHERMORE  
BE IT

RESOLVED: This resolution will be sent to University President Jeffrey D. Armstrong; Interim Provost Mary Pedersen; Senior Vice President for Administration & Finance, CFO Cynthia Villa; ASI Executive Director Marcy Maloney; Director of Energy, Utilities, and Sustainability Dennis Elliot; Program Analyst Eric Veium; Sustainability Coordinator Kylee Singh; and Zero Waste Program Coordinator Anastasia Nicole.

Certified as the true and correct copy, in witness thereof, I have set my hand and Seal of the San Luis Obispo Cal Poly Associated Students, Inc. this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

ADOPTED at the regular meeting of the Board of Directors at San Luis Obispo Cal Poly Associated Students, Inc. this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2020.

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
ASI Secretary

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Signed:

ASI Chair of the Board

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Signed:

ASI President

Authored By:

Kylie Clark, ASI Board of Directors, College of Liberal Arts

Alena Andrews, ASI Executive Cabinet, Secretary of Sustainability