



# UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

235 CARTWRIGHT CENTER 1725 STATE STREET LA CROSSE, WI 54601 (608) 785-8717

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## **SA 0910-005 Resolution Urging the DOA and Governor Jim Doyle to Explore Converting the UW-L Heating Plant to Biomass**

DATE: September, 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009

AUTHOR: Melissa Ruplinger

SPONSORS: Jeremy Gragert, Cate Urbas, Allie Boldt, Elena Bantle, Liana Skibbie, Elizabeth Ward, Gretchen Gerrard, Environmental Council, JennieLynn Hastings, Eric Schmidt, Ryan Nell

WHEREAS; students have demonstrated significant support for environmental issues on campus as evidenced by the overwhelming results of the Green Fund Referendum; and,

WHEREAS; the UW-L Heating Plant currently runs on natural gas and coal-fired boilers; and,

WHEREAS; the Heating Plant at UW-L burned 6,665 tons of coal in 2007, emitting 13,330 tons of carbon dioxide; and,

WHEREAS; 162,880 pounds of sulfur dioxide and 11,840 pounds of particulate pollutants were also emitted in 2007 due to the burning of coal; and,

WHEREAS; soot, or particulate pollution, from coal plants causes more frequent, more severe, and more deadly asthma attacks, heart attacks and strokes; and,

WHEREAS; Sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) forms soot and also creates acid rain that damages forests, lakes, and buildings; and,

WHEREAS; the Heating Plant annually emits 45,862 pounds of the poisonous gas Carbon Monoxide from burning coal; and,

WHEREAS; mountaintop removal is one of the primary methods of coal mining used by Massey Energy, the company contracted to provide coal for state-owned plants; and,

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Karly Wallace  
President-Student Senate  
Vice-President-Student Association

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Date

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Erik Kahl  
President-Student Association

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Date

WHEREAS; the UW-L Heating Plant is currently operating without modern pollution controls and is in violation of the Clean Air Act, according to the Sierra Club; and,

WHEREAS; Governor Jim Doyle has endorsed the conversion of the power plant on the UW-Madison campus to biomass following a 2007 lawsuit by the Sierra Club; and,

WHEREAS; Governor Jim Doyle directed the Wisconsin Department of Administration and the University of Wisconsin-Madison that coal should not be an option when they considered alternatives for fueling state-owned heating plants on Madison's isthmus as part of an agreement reached in November, 2007; and,

WHEREAS; as part of the Governor's "Declaration of Energy Independence" he has set a goal that 25 percent of the state's total energy usage be from renewable energy and fuels; and,

WHEREAS; the Governor has further set goals of capturing 10 percent of the emerging renewable energy and bio-industry market; and,

WHEREAS; there would be no cost incurred to UW-L; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; that the UW-L Student Association urges the DOA and the Office of the Governor to explore the feasibility of converting the Heating Plant on the UW-L campus to a mixture of biomass and natural gas, similar to the study Comprehensive Heating Plant Feasibility Study; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Department of Administration, the Board of Regents and to Governor Jim Doyle.

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Karly Wallace  
President-Student Senate  
Vice-President-Student Association

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Erik Kahl  
President-Student Association

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