



April 3, 2019

Dear President Eighmy,

We, the undersigned student groups and organizations, urge the University of Texas at San Antonio to make a rapid and steady transition away from fossil fuels to clean, renewable energy.

Every day, UTSA students and faculty work hard, hoping to build our futures, our livelihoods, and our families -- and climate change threatens all of that.¹ As an academic in Civil and Environmental Engineering, as well as Environmental Science and Ecology I am sure you are aware of the increasing threat climate change poses to our global environment.

The science is clear that absent major reductions in carbon emissions our planet will experience more frequent and intense extreme weather events, sea level rise, mass extinctions, melting glaciers, and warming oceans. Our generation will suffer the catastrophic effects of climate change, and it's up to us to look forward and start building a more sustainable world.

Universities are places of innovation. Many of our nation's brightest students and faculty dedicate their lives to global warming solutions, making groundbreaking developments in renewable energy technology. Now, as we confront the devastating effects of climate change, we need our university to step up to the plate.

In the face of federal and state inaction regarding climate change, it is up to our universities -- the places where leadership and innovation begin -- to lead the transition away from fossil fuels. UTSA should take the lead and start building the clean, green, sustainable world that we need by shifting to 100 percent renewable energy.

For decades, The University of Texas college system has been at the forefront of education, athletics, and technology and we applaud UTSA's current energy initiatives which employ more sustainable and comprehensive implementations designed to help mitigate the growing consequences that will define our generation.

Thanks to UTSA's energy saving initiatives, our campus' power consumption has remained relatively stable over the last ten years despite significant increases in student enrollment and campus square footage.² Yet, fossil fuels remain UTSA's primary electricity source. We have made great strides in sustainability over the past two years, but in the face of the climate change, we can do better.

Texas already leads the nation in wind power, and we have incredible potential for geothermal and solar energy.³ Shifting to 100 percent renewable energy can encourage nationwide institutions of higher education to follow-suit, protecting our country for generations to come.

¹ U.S. Global Change Research Program, National Climate Assessment, 2018, <https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/>

² <https://facilities.utsa.edu/energy-consumption-at-utsa-steady-ten-years-later/>

³ US Energy Information Administration, Texas State Profile and Energy Estimates, <https://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=TX>

In order to build on the progress that has been made and ensure that we transition to a clean and renewable future, we call on The University of Texas at San Antonio to:

- Make a clear commitment to achieve 100 percent renewable energy for all operations -- including heating, cooling, and transportation -- no later than 2050.

- Set a benchmark of achieving 100 percent renewable electricity no later than 2035.

We thank The University of Texas at San Antonio for its leadership to date and stand ready to help achieve 100 percent renewable energy and put America on a path to a truly clean energy future.

Sincerely,

Science Fiction and Fantasy Club
Ash Reddy, Secretary

Honors Leadership Council
Joshua Guerra, President

Urban Planning Student Association
Sheereen Ibtesam, Secretary

Association for Computing Machinery
Carla Cardenas, Vice President

Eta Sigma Phi
Chelsea McManus, President

Young Democratic Socialists of America
Julian Salazar, Co-chair

Animal Rights Club
Katherine Schreiber, President & Founder

Public Relations Student Society of America
Daniela Ruiz

Beta Alpha Psi
Vice President

Green Society