

Measure 38

Amend the Renewable Energy Fee passed in Spring 2006

Question

Shall the undergraduates and graduate students of UCSC amend the Renewable Energy fee passed in Spring 2006? The Measure is being amended to provide funding for on-site renewables and energy efficient projects that will directly reduce our campus' carbon footprint, in combination with supporting a local offset program and purchasing renewable energy certificates to offset campus emissions. This is not a new fee, but a continuation of the existing \$3 per quarter fee established by Measure 28. The amended terms will be effective Fall Quarter 2009.

Summary Points

- Maintain undergraduate and graduate compulsory fee of \$ 3.00 per quarter, per student with no ending date.

Amend usage of fee to include: purchase of renewable energy credits, invest in energy efficiency projects on campus, and participate in a local offset program, effective Fall Quarter 2009.

- Fee will be assessed to all undergraduates and graduates enrolled in the fall, winter, and spring quarters, as well as State-funded summer quarter.
- Fee will generate approximately \$ 137,214* in AY 2009-10.
- This fee includes a 25% Return-to-Aid component, in which 25% of all fees collected will go to financial aid to help those students who are on financial aid, cover the expense of the fee. This will be approximately \$ 34,304 per year.
- Fee is sponsored for undergraduates on the ballot by Petition.
- Fee is sponsored for graduates on the ballot by Petition.
- Student consultation method: Student meetings with students involved in sustainability on campus, SEC meetings with Campaign Coordinators, student surveys given to general members and Campaign Coordinators of the SEC.
- This measure will also allow the reserve money to be spent on energy efficiency projects or on-site renewables.
- Every energy efficiency project on campus must present the cost, CO2 reduction, payback period and expected savings of the project. The project must payback 50% of the expected savings back to the Measure 38 funds within an allowed period to determine by the payback period.
- On-site renewable projects must enter in a Power Purchase Agreement with the committee.
- A Power Purchase Agreement provides secures funding for the project, maintains and monitors the energy production, and sells the electricity to the host at a contractual price for the term of the contract. The term commonly ranges between 5 to 25 years. In some renewable energy contracts, the host has the option to purchase the generating equipment from the PPA provider at the end of the term, may renew the contract with different terms, or can request that the equipment be removed.

* Based on 2007-08 three-quarter average enrollment of 15,246 FTE students.

Background

In Spring Quarter 2006 students voted to create a \$3 per student per quarter Renewable Energy Fee, effective in Fall Quarter 2006. The measure was approved by 69% of the students who voted. The measure included an allowance that 25% of the income generated would be used for financial aid. The purpose of the fee was to allocate funding to Physical Plant to purchase renewable energy certificates in order to offset campus use of electricity. If the price of electricity did not increase, the measure allowed up to \$1 of the fee to be saved in a reserve to pay for possible future price inflation. In 2007-08, \$136,279 in revenue was generated by the fee. \$94,620 was used to purchase the certificates and \$34,070 was dedicated to financial aid. Currently, there are adequate funds to purchase the certificates and a modest reserve of approximately 50 cents existed as of June 30, 2008.

Ballot Statement

This measure seeks to amend Measure 28 to reduce our energy usage and offset our GHG's related to energy purchased. The amended measure would expand use of the funds to include installing renewable energy sources and energy efficient projects on campus to directly reduce our campus' carbon footprint and participate in local offset programs. The local offset program will allow local community programs to apply for funds for projects that will reduce GHG's emission. We would provide them with the funds, and in return we will be able to claim all GHG's reduction from the project. In order for local community programs to apply for funds, the project must demonstrate a clear social justice component in their project and provided with the total number of GHG's reduction mainly CO2. In fighting climate change it is crucial to have support from both UCSC as well as the county of Santa Cruz. This is shown through our campuses' decision to sign the Climate Action Compact with the city of Santa Cruz. By supporting this local offset program we are taking the climate action compact seriously, and are pushing forth new fronts of sustainability together.

The allocation of funds will be decided by a committee of both students and staff, with at least one student member from each organization. The committee includes but is not limited to:

- Members of the Student Environmental Center
- Member of the Green Campus
- Student member of the Chancellor's Council on Climate Change
- Member of CalPIRG
- The campus Energy Manager, Sustainability Office and Purchaser

Recommendations will be made to the Chancellor's Council on Climate Change and the Energy Manager.

Physical Plant will continue to be responsible for purchasing the renewable energy credits.

If this measure does not pass, the existing \$3 fee will continue for the purposes specified in the original ballot language.

Endorsements

Student Environmental Center