Petition for the Renewable Energy and Sustainability Fund

We, the Associated students of Linfield College, wish to actively support the college in its goals of sustainability in accordance with the President’s climate Commitment (signed by Linfield College on April 22, 2008) by contributing $10 per semester towards renewable energy options and grants for projects related to sustainability. This renewable energy and sustainability fund will be managed by the Campus Sustainability Committee (currently the Advisory Committee for the Environment and Sustainability; ACES) at Linfield College and would fund our goal of attaining 15% of the college’s energy from renewable sources as well as providing grant opportunities for projects related to sustainability. These grants will be open to Linfield students, faculty, and staff. Our hope is to confront these issues of climate change and actively support a sustainable energy future for the college and the community.

From the Students

The Renewable Energy and Sustainability Fund will provide current and future Linfield students with opportunities for increasing Linfield’s sustainability effort. By committing student dollars towards renewable energy and sustainability we are sending a clear message to the administration in support of these initiatives. The President’s Climate Commitment, signed April 2008, is a positive step forward and we hope that partnerships will be made between the students, faculty, staff and administration to work towards the goals outlined by this document. The fund will increase the amount of renewable energy currently used by the college. Renewable energy, as defined by the President’s Climate Commitment, is energy generated from natural sources such as wind, sun, wave, low-impact hydro or geothermal activity. This money will support the expansion of the renewable energy industry, providing jobs and incentives for investment and development making these clean energies more affordable in the long run. The fund will also give students the chance to apply for grants for projects related to sustainability on campus, presenting opportunities for educational experiences, service and experiential learning. Many of the projects related to sustainability that will be supported by this fund will lower energy costs for current and future students, driving down the cost of tuition. Similar projects have already been taken on by the college Facilities and Auxiliary Services Department and have directly benefited students. With increased activity around issues of sustainability and decreased tuition costs, Linfield will increase its competitiveness between other institutions of higher education. With this fund we hope to actively support the college in its goals of sustainability by providing a sustainable future for the college and the community.

Funding

The Renewable Energy and Sustainability fund will be supported by the 1,700 students on the McMinnville campus of the Linfield College in the dorm of an addition to the student body fee of $10 per semester. This includes both Fall and Spring semesters and excludes the Jan Term student body fee. This will increase the student body fee as it stands from #103 per semester to $113 per semester for both Fall and Spring semesters respectively. This increase will take place starting the Fall of 2009, and will be budgeted into the ASLC budget for the 2009-10 school year.
Fund Allocation and Management

The funds raised from this initiative will equal approximately $34,000 annually, based on current enrollment and will be allocated as follows:

A portion of the funds will go towards purchasing renewable energy credits from McMinnville Water & Light in order to increase the percentage of energy used by the college coming from renewable sources from the current 6% to our goal of 15% (currently priced at $15,000 based on current market conditions). The specifics of the purchase will be coordinated by McMinnville Water & Light and the Department of Capital Planning and Development at Linfield College to make any adjustments to our energy portfolio necessary to achieve this goal of 15%.

The remaining money (approximately $19,000) will be available to students, faculty and staff in the Linfield community in the form of grants for projects related to sustainability. Sustainability is to be defined as meeting the economic, social, and environmental needs of the present without compromising the similar needs of the future generations. The fund will be managed by ACES in the form of a grant application and review process. Projects requiring $500 or less will be submitted directly to ACES for consideration. Projects requiring more than $500 will be submitted by a deadline decided by ACES once per semester. Applications will be processed in the following manner:

- The applicant will submit their project to ACES for consideration
- The applicant will then prepare a brief presentation of their project for ACES
- A 2/3-majority vote in ACES will be necessary in order to grant funding
- ACES will prepare an annual report for the students and the community that provides a summary detailing savings made from projects sponsored by this fund

In order to provide for the sustainability of this document, amendments may be adopted through a unanimous vote by ACES. In the event that there is a positive balance in the Renewable Energy and Sustainability Fund at the end of the school year, the remaining monies will roll over into the next year’s budget.