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MANDATE

Climate Emergency Motion

Submitted by: Aoife Hynes (Green Campus Senator)

Seconded by: Gavin Fanning (DARE Senator)

Student Senate notes:

That the impacts of climate breakdown are already causing serious damage around the world, and particularly affect countries which have contributed least to global emissions. It is only right that we take radical action to cut our own emissions, in the name of Climate Justice.

That the 'Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C', published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in October 2018, (a) describes the enormous harm that a 2°C average rise in global temperatures is likely to cause compared with a 1.5°C rise, and (b) confirms that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society and the private sector.

However this is wholly dependent on humanity as a whole reducing emissions worldwide by 45% by 2030.

That students across the world have played a leading role in pushing climate breakdown to the forefront of government agendas, and that it's important that this work continues and that Universities are also held accountable for their climate policies as well as local and national governments

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That whilst the Students' Union can carry out an action plan to reduce its own carbon footprint, there needs to be change in the university campus as a whole.

That strong, radical policies to cut emissions are essential to our future, and also have associated health, wellbeing and economic benefits

In recognising this, a growing number of local authorities, unions and institutions have already passed 'Climate Emergency' motions, including the Dail and the European Union.

Student Senate therefore mandates:

The Students Union declare a 'Climate Emergency' that requires urgent action and create a plan of action including but not limited to:

The MSU President lobbies the University to make their activities net-zero carbon by 2030

The MSU President works to ensure that all future decisions by the University and the Students' Union, budgets and approaches to planning decisions are in line with this shift to zero carbon by 2030

The MSU President engages with the Green Campus group in the university and lending support to their initiatives

Student Senate further mandates:

The Vice President Student Life to head up lobbying the Irish Government for action on the climate emergency.