

Proposed Bylaw Change

1. The following will be added to the bylaws:

Carbon Neutrality

- Kingman Hall values carbon neutrality and aims to be a carbon-neutral house.
- At least once per semester, we will take measures to ensure zero net carbon emissions from electricity and natural gas usage.
- For this purpose, the House Manager is authorized to spend house funds, charged to members on house bills, to buy renewable energy credits that offset our carbon emissions.

2. The following will be added to the Waste Reduction Manager's job description:

- At least once per month, obtain records of our electricity and natural gas usage and post them for members to see.
- At least once per semester, estimate our carbon emissions.
- Advise the House Manager on how many renewable energy credits to buy to keep Kingman carbon-neutral.

What does carbon-neutral mean?

It means having zero net contribution to adding carbon dioxide to the atmosphere. Most of our carbon emissions are due to the natural gas and electricity we use, since most of the electricity comes from coal or natural gas. If we decrease emissions elsewhere by the amount we cause, the net emission is zero.

Why be carbon-neutral?

Emissions of greenhouse gases contribute to global warming, which is melting glaciers, disrupting ecosystems, causing the sea level to rise, and increasing the intensity of hurricanes, droughts, and wildfires. In the United States, 82% of the greenhouse gas emissions are carbon dioxide.

What are renewable energy credits?

They represent a promise to reduce carbon emissions by a certain amount. We can't force PG&E to change how they generate power, but we can buy credits elsewhere to support renewable energy. The net effect is the same as if we had actually bought our power from, say, a wind farm: more electricity on the grid comes from renewable sources, and money goes to build and run renewable energy facilities.

How much carbon dioxide is emitted for the energy we use?

In the last 12 months, Kingman has used 6058 therms of natural gas and 74240 kilowatt-hours of electricity, causing a total of about 64 tons of carbon dioxide emissions.

How much would it cost to become carbon-neutral?

Native Energy (<http://nativeenergy.com/>) is one possible choice for our supplier of carbon credits. They are a Native American company. Their WindBuilders program sells carbon credits at \$12 per ton per year. That's \$1 per ton per month, so we could go carbon-neutral by spending about \$64 per month. With 50 members in the house, this would cost each member about **\$1.28 per month**.

How do we know that spending this money *really* reduces carbon emissions?

In the WindBuilders program, the money goes toward building new wind turbines to put more emission-free power into the grid. The WindBuilders program is certified by the Climate Neutral Network. Obtaining certification requires review by the Network's Environmental Advisory board, which includes members from the World Wildlife Fund, the Nature Conservancy, and the Rocky Mountain Institute.