



**Service Employees  
International Union  
Local 503,  
Oregon Public  
Employees Union**

Union Operations

*Resolution 1*

2022 Committee Recommendations:

Do Pass

Pass as Amended

Do Not Pass

### Reducing SEIU 503s Climate Impact

1 **Subject:** Reducing SEIU 503's Climate Impact

2 **Authored by:** Twila Jacobsen

3 **Submitted by:** SEIU Local 503 Board of Directors

4

5 **WHEREAS**, SEIU Local 503, OPEU has emerged as a leader in climate justice by becoming the first Labor  
6 Union in Oregon to endorse the Green New Deal and Oregon Green New Deal, established a standing  
7 Climate Justice Committee, and championed climate legislation; and

8 **WHEREAS**, as a Union representing more than 72,000 workers, SEIU Local 503, OPEU has a considerable  
9 carbon footprint, primarily driven by our policies and practices related to transportation, events, and  
10 buildings; and

11 **WHEREAS**, while our Union has a carpooling incentive in our mileage reimbursement plan, the policy has  
12 not been revisited in some time and we have yet to explore incentivizing public transit, cycling, and  
13 other alternatives to one driver, one vehicle; and

14 **WHEREAS**, SEIU Local 503, OPEU hosts hundreds of events each year, and our Union and our planet  
15 would benefit from a holistic, intentional approach to our consumption of single-use items, plastics, and  
16 other avoidable waste; and

17 **WHEREAS**, our Union owns and maintains several buildings across Oregon that could become models  
18 for sustainability and energy efficiency; and

19 **WHEREAS**, technical assistance and professional services are available to help gauge the environmental  
20 impact of our Union in these critical areas and develop an affordable, attainable, and equitable path  
21 towards sustainability. Now, therefore,

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23 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF SEIU Local 503, OPEU** that our Union shall task the  
24 Climate Justice Committee to lead a comprehensive environmental assessment of our policies and  
25 practices related to transportation, events, and buildings and share its findings and suggestions with the  
26 Board of Directors no later than July 2023. [Following the assessment, a climate action plan will be](#)  
27 [developed and reported on annually.](#)