



Union Operations (UO #1)

1 **Subject:** Reaching Net Zero by 2030

2 **Authored by:** Lois Yoshishige, Patty Falkenstein, Twila Jacobsen

3 **Submitted by:** 2024 SEIU 503 General Council Climate Justice Workgroup

4

5 **WHEREAS,** climate disasters affect all of Oregon; and

6 **WHEREAS,** SEIU 503, OPEU has members across the State of Oregon in many
7 different environments affected by climate change; and

8 **WHEREAS,** climate justice is racial justice, and impacts people of color and low-income
9 people more than others; and

10 **WHEREAS,** SEIU 503, OPEU can show itself to be a climate justice leader by actively
11 and concretely working to install practices to reduce SEIU 503's carbon emissions to zero
12 by 2030; and

13 **WHEREAS,** net zero emission by 2030 is a worthwhile goal since it is widely known we
14 will soon reach the climate tipping point in six years; and

15 **WHEREAS,** the 2022 SEIU 503, OPEU General Council passed a resolution to reduce
16 our Union's climate impact relating to facilities, transportation, and events, starting the
17 work that will lead us to net zero; and

18 **WHEREAS,** technical assistance and professional services, such as a free energy audit,
19 are available to help gauge the environmental impact of our Union in the critical areas
20 outlined in the 2022 resolution; and

21 **WHEREAS,** the State of Oregon Office of Sustainability website provides valuable
22 guidance to setting a baseline for use in measuring improvements; and

23 **WHEREAS,** grants from the Portland Clean Energy Fund, Oregon Energy Trust, and
24 Oregon Department of Energy would help fund necessary improvements; and

25 **WHEREAS,** the SEIU 503 Climate Justice Committee Green Audit Implementation
26 Subcommittee determined in its July 2023 report that a comprehensive and meaningful
27 green audit will require additional capacity, including staff resources. Now Therefore,
28

29 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL COUNCIL** of SEIU Local 503, OPEU shall
30 provide the resources and staff capacity to implement the work of the Climate Justice
31 Committee with the urgency required by the climate crisis and demanded by members.
32

33 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL COUNCIL** of SEIU Local 503,
34 OPEU authorizes the Climate Justice Committee to collaborate with the Organizational
35 Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Department and other Departments in implementing
36 this resolution.
37

38 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Audit Subcommittee, with support from
39 the Climate Justice Committee, will refine and adopt a formal definition of sustainability
40 to guide our work. With appropriate technical assistance and resources, including staff,
41 we will begin an inventory of our Union's measurable consumption, emissions, and

42 waste. Once this baseline inventory has been established, a comprehensive strategy will
43 be developed to reduce our environmental impact, establish new operational norms,
44 educate members and staff, and more fully integrate our Union into Oregon’s growing
45 movement for sustainability and environmental justice.

IMPACT STATEMENTS

Financial: We have struggled to implement the green audit within current resources. We would need to hire a contractor or staff to be able to fully implement the resolution as written. The cost estimate would be a minimum of \$50,000 for a consultant, a full time organizer or strategist would cost a range of \$100,000-\$160,000 depending on the classification, step and health insurance costs.

Equity: Climate justice is an equity issue because the impacts of climate change disproportionately affect low-income communities and communities of color. However, the member's of the equity impact committee believe it is important to consider the workload capacity as our Organizational Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Department (OEIB) already carries a significant amount of programming related to our union’s equity and inclusion goals. While this resolution would have a positive equity impact, it raises questions on how we can best operationalize our climate justice work. Reducing carbon emissions to net zero in six years is a significant, worthwhile, and ambitious goal for our union. To achieve this, it will be crucial to engage and collaborate with other departments in our Unions, such as our union’s Operations Department as the OEIB Department does not manage the day-to-day operations of our union required to reach net zero by 2030.

Legal: No impact

Political: No impact