Resolution for Water Treatment Facilities in New Buildings
Adopted
February 2, 2015

Whereas: Ball State University has significantly reduced its carbon emissions with its geothermal heating and cooling system, and, in turn, shut down its coal burning facilities in March 2014; and

Whereas: Ball State needs to continue to adopt policies and processes that will reduce further the university’s carbon emissions in order to meet its 2050 carbon neutral goal as identified in Ball State’s Climate Action Plan; and

Whereas: Ball State has concentrated its sustainability efforts on clean energy, it’s now time to add water reuse to its list of achievements as another way to lower its carbon emissions; and

Whereas: all such actions taken to make Ball State more sustainable, need to be visible for the education of students, faculty, staff, administration and visitors;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Council on the Environment recommends that the appropriate representatives from the Ball State University Department of Facilities Planning and Management promote the installation of eco-friendly water treatment units, e.g., Blue Houses or living machines, for all new buildings that Ball State constructs in the future.

The treated water, which probably would not be potable, could be used to flush toilets, and any excess water from the system could be used to water the university’s landscape. In the entrance of each new building, plants and a pool of water featuring fish to demonstrate the cleanliness of the water could be used to showcase the water treatment system, or a garden supported by the water could be an outdoor feature of a new building with this technology.