THE CONSTITUTION OF THE HARVARD COLLEGE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION COMMITTEE

ARTICLE FIRST, ON THE NAME AND CREATION. That this Constitution establishes and ordains an undergraduate student advocacy group at Harvard College, and that it shall be named the Environmental Action Committee. The elements of this Constitution, all bylaws passed in concordance with its provisions, and the membership’s decisions concurrent to it, shall be the governor of the Committee.

ARTICLE SECOND, ON THE PURPOSE OF THE GROUP. The Committee is endowed with a concern and interest with the political, social, scientific, economic, and cultural issues affecting and affected by the natural environment and the action of humans in their environment. It is charged with promoting awareness and understanding of those issues to the Harvard community, and with advocating for responsible stewardship of a world in which humans practice sustainable lifeways.

ARTICLE THIRD, ON MEMBERSHIP. Membership in this organization shall be open to all students in good standing enrolled in Harvard College, regardless of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, or physical ability. Membership shall not be forcibly abridged on any student excepting a case in which a student severs relations with the College, whether by graduation or otherwise. Membership will be retained during vacations and recesses of the College. Members of the greater Harvard community are able and encouraged to participate in the Committee’s work. A member may indicate his or her resignation from the group at any time by written petition to the Secretary.

ARTICLE FOURTH, ON THE BOARD. The official authority over the Committee shall reside in the Board, whose power is derived from a vote of the membership. The Board shall consist of a Chair, an Ottoman, a Secretary, a Treasurer, an Events Director, a Communications Director, a Communications Vice-Director, a Social Director, a Policy Director, and an Outreach Director. The Board shall be supplemented in a nonvoting capacity by the Chairs of all of the Committee’s filial Project Groups, as well as by any number of Historians who have previously served on the Board. All officers must be registered undergraduates of the College.

ARTICLE FIFTH, ON THE ROLES OF THE OFFICERS. The Chair and Ottoman shall be the executive officers of the group and shall have final supervision and control of its activities and programs. Their elections, excepting cases of vacancies or impeachments, shall always be opposite terms; the Ottoman shall automatically accede to the position of Chair after serving one half-term excepting a
case of a no-confidence vote. The Chair shall chiefly be responsible for presenting the work of the Committee to the outside world, whereas the Ottoman shall chiefly be concerned with the internal mechanics of the Committee. Each will assume the other’s full duties and responsibilities in all cases where the other is unable to execute them.

The Treasurer shall have general charge of the financial affairs of the Committee, and keep thorough and accurate financial records. They shall oversee all grantmaking processes.

The Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the group, and of all its activities and programs. They will maintain the records of the Committee and certify all its formal correspondence.

The Events Director shall oversee the planning and execution of all campus and community events bearing the Committee’s name.

The Communications Director and Vice-Director shall publicize all the Committee’s events, initiatives, and policies. They shall be responsible for handing all requests from the media.

The Social Director shall oversee the Committee’s membership structure, hold regular social events for the group, and oversee recruitment of new members.

The Policy Director shall oversee the intellectual foundation for the Committee’s various initiatives and policies, and coordinate the research and study functions of the Committee.

The Outreach Director shall foster strong connections between the Committee and various groups outside of itself, including other environmental groups, research groups, political groups, and the Faculty.

ARTICLE SIXTH, ON PROJECT GROUPS. The immediate structure of the Committee shall be supplemented by any number of Project Groups, which shall be endorsed by a majority vote of the Board. The Board may elect by a majority vote at any time to put a Project Group into dormancy if it is found that it is no longer providing a valuable service to the Committee or the community at large. Project Groups shall target a specific environmental concern, and shall organize meetings and activities outside the immediate structure of the Committee, although they shall have the full organizational and nominal support of the Committee in all of their programs. Autonomous leadership of these groups will be vested in Co-Chairs, who will stand for elections at a subsequent time to the Board’s elections. All membership laws laid out to the Committee at large are also conferred to the Project Groups.

ARTICLE SEVENTH, ON ELECTIONS. The entire Committee shall meet twice a year, once in the spring and once in the fall, to choose officers. Any member of the Committee may stand for election, at their own nomination or the accepted nomination of another. The terms of the officers shall be staggered so that no more than four-fifth of all the Board’s positions are to be decided at any one election. The elections shall be overseen, managed, and publicized by members of the Board not standing for election during that term and by outgoing members of the Board not running for reelection, together who shall form an election commission Any undergraduate may be nominated for election. Nominations shall be in writing to the election commission at least two weeks prior to the elections. All members in good standing will be eligible to vote in a blind ballot. The manner and structure of voting shall be determined by the election commission.

ARTICLE EIGHTH, ON MEETINGS. Meetings of the Committee shall be held on a regular basis for all purposes necessary for the group. A special session may be called at any time by the Chair and Ottoman or by petition of any five members of the group. The Chair and Ottoman shall preside over all meetings; in their absence, the Board shall choose amongst themselves another member to preside. The Secretary shall inform the group in writing wherever possible at least one week prior to each meeting.
ARTICLE NINTH, ON IMPEACHMENT AND VACANCIES. If any member of the Board is unable to execute their duties for any reason, the remaining Board shall, by a two-thirds vote, install a replacement to the position, who will stand for election at the next electoral cycle, regardless of whether that position would have been up for election at that time otherwise. If any member of the Board is found derelict of duty, a petition of seven members to the Board and a majority Board endorsement of the petition shall serve to remove the derelict officer from their position, after which the filling of the vacancy shall proceed as above. A petition of no confidence by seven members shall prevent the automatic accession of the Ottoman to Chair at the half-point of their term; upon certification of such a petition, the upcoming election will include an election for Chair, which the accused Ottoman may still run for, but they will not accede to the position automatically.

ARTICLE TENTH, ON AMENDMENT AND ENDORSEMENT. This Constitution shall become the supreme governor of the Committee upon a two-thirds majority of the active membership of the group. To amend the Constitution, a petition to the Board must be endorsed by a simple majority of the board, after which it must be endorsed by two-thirds of the active membership at the next electoral cycle.