

# FOSSIL FREE CAREERS SUMOTION TEMPLATE

## This Student Union notes:

1. That the operations of the oil, gas and mining industries<sup>1</sup> cause immense environmental harm, by accelerating the climate and ecological crisis<sup>2</sup>, polluting the water<sup>3</sup> and permanently destroying landscapes.<sup>4</sup>
2. That these extractive operations also cause direct social harm, by displacing people from their homes and lands,<sup>5</sup> destroying livelihoods,<sup>6</sup> demolishing sacred indigenous sites,<sup>7</sup> and leaving workers and communities with severe health problems.<sup>8</sup>
3. That graduates are increasingly turning away from the oil and gas sector. A 2017 study showed the number of graduates taking jobs in the industry had dropped by 60% in four years.<sup>9</sup>
4. That young people see oil and gas as the most unappealing sector to work in.<sup>10</sup> They associate it with responsibility for the climate crisis, and believe there is no future for jobs in the industry.<sup>11</sup>
5. The University Careers Service does not have a publicly accessible policy that excludes the promotion of careers in the oil, gas and mining industry through its website, careers fairs, emails to the student body and other recruitment events.
6. Birkbeck, University of London was the first in the UK to exclude the oil, gas, and mining industry from all recruitment activity in September 2022.<sup>12</sup> 4 UK universities have now taken this step, and a further 20% of all UK universities have made similar exclusions for other industries, including the tobacco, sex, and gambling industries.
7. The university has made a public ethical and sustainability commitment. This includes a commitment to fully removing its investments in fossil fuel companies. [include/tailor as appropriate]

## This Student Union believes:

1. Inviting oil, gas, and mining companies to advertise with the careers service adds legitimacy to the idea that these companies are an acceptable part of our society and our future.
2. The University Careers Service should ensure that its recruitment activities and events are in line

with the university's publicly stated ethical principles of sustainability.

3. The university's careers service has a responsibility to its students to promote jobs with a future.
4. Ending this university's complicity in career pipelines into the oil, gas, and mining industry is an effective method of showing solidarity with communities affected by these companies' operations.

**This Student Union resolves:**

1. To publicly support the Fossil Free Careers campaign,<sup>13</sup> and demands that our university career's department:
  1. Refuses all new relationships with oil, gas or mining companies.
  2. Declines to renew any current relationships with oil, gas or mining companies after the contractually obligated period ends.
  3. Adopts a publicly available Ethical Careers Policy that explicitly excludes oil, gas and mining companies from recruitment opportunities.
2. To mandate the relevant full-time and part-time officer(s) to actively work with the Fossil Free Careers campaign group and People & Planet to ensure that Union work is linked up with grassroots campaigners.
3. To mandate the relevant full-time and part-time officer(s) to help set up meetings relating to the Fossil Free Careers campaign with relevant university staff, and include student campaigners where relevant.
4. To use relevant SU social media channels to amplify petitions, statements and other calls to action from the Fossil Free Careers campaign.
5. To send out a press release and website statement announcing the passing of this motion and the support of the union for this campaign.
6. To never allow oil, gas, or mining companies access to SU-organised events, or to lend the SU name, logo or endorsement to events which include these companies.
7. To refuse the presence of oil, gas and mining companies in any SU-controlled physical or digital space.

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1. For a precise definition of the companies we refer to when we say 'oil, gas, and mining companies' - See the [Fossil Free Careers Targets](#) page.
2. [Revealed: the 20 firms behind a third of all carbon emissions](#)
3. [Impacts of copper mining on people and nature](#)
4. [Revealed: Trump officials rush to mine desert haven native tribes consider holy](#)
5. [The Dark Side of Coal](#)
6. [CUT AND RUN:How Britain's top two mining companies have wrecked ecosystems without being held to account](#)
7. [Rio Tinto blasts 46,000-year-old Aboriginal site to expand iron ore mine](#)
8. [Cerro de Pasco: The city built around a mine](#)
9. [Oil industry has a millennial problem as talent pipeline trickles](#)
10. [Millennials at work](#)
11. [How do we regenerate this generation's view of oil and gas?](#)
12. [Fossil fuel recruiters banned from UK university careers service](#)
13. [People & Planet's Fossil Free Careers Campaign](#)

## TIPS FOR PROPOSING THIS TEMPLATE MOTION

- 1) This is a template commonly used in universities. Different Student Unions/Councils might have different styles. Make sure to check the style used in recent successful motions, and to make edits where required to ensure the motion is tailored to your university context. If you need help, please feel free to email [fossilfreecareers@peopleandplanet.org](mailto:fossilfreecareers@peopleandplanet.org)
- 2) A lot of Student Unions/Councils will have a chair/secretary who is responsible for the smooth running of meetings. Try to speak to them beforehand for advice on how meetings work.
- 3) Note that motions will likely need to be sponsored by a number of Student Union/Council members, or a (larger) number of students in order to be brought for debate. Think about which of these options is better for you.
- 4) Whichever option you choose, it's a good idea to reach out to Student Officers/Councillors beforehand. Think about which ones you have relationships with, and whose remit might cover what the motion is talking about. Welcome input from them about how to get it passed.
- 5) Whichever option you choose, it's also a good idea to show that there's a broad coalition of groups behind you where possible, and that you have deep and diverse support.
- 6) It's a good idea to prepare properly. Have a think about who is going to say what when you're debating it, and think about any questions that might come up and how you will respond.
- 7) Tip off the student press and your allied societies that you're trying to pass the motion.
- 8) If the motion does get passed, this means you have a commitment on paper from your Student Union/Council to support you. Make sure you follow through on it! Start looping relevant officers into your campaign, and make sure you make full use of their support and institutional access. Alert the student press to build momentum from this win.
- 9) If the motion doesn't pass, don't be disheartened. You can still work with the Union/Council to amend the motion into something that will pass. Make a note of any Officers who were supportive of the motion, and reach out to them to start involving them in the campaign.