

FOSSIL FREE STUDENT UNION MOTION, 2021-22

This Union **notes** that:

1. Fossil fuel companies were responsible for 71% of global carbon emissions between 1988 and 2017.
2. No new fossil fuel infrastructure projects could be built after 2017 to be Paris Compliant, unless others were shut down before the end of their lifetime.
3. Climate change impacts are already being felt by communities across the globe. Since 2010 climate-related disasters across the world have displaced 21.5 million people annually.
4. Frontline and Indigenous communities continue having to resist the destructive business models of fossil fuel companies operating on their lands.
5. That People & Planet, who began their Fossil Free campaign in 2013, have supported over half of UK universities to announce divestment from fossil fuels and sever their links with these companies.

This Union **believes** that:

1. The fossil fuel industry, by extracting, processing, promoting, and facilitating the use of, selling, and profiting from fossil fuels, as well as by having a major influence on government policy, is driving climate change and its catastrophic impacts.
2. We should support the struggle of frontline and Indigenous communities in their resistance against fossil fuel extractors.
3. That we are running out of time to keep global warming below 1.5-2C above pre-industrial levels - the limit for ensuring a safe and stable future for the planet and all people on it.
4. That university commitments to tackling climate change - such as carbon neutral / net zero strategies - should extend to their investment portfolios and policies.
5. That our universities must be a part of the solution and act against these injustices by severing ties with the fossil fuel industry. Over half of UK universities have made a public commitment to divest from fossil fuels and it's time that our university joined them.



This Union **resolves** to:

1. (delete as appropriate):
 - a). if the university has investments - adopt the People & Planet Fossil Free campaign and demand that our university: 1. exclude the fossil fuel industry from their investment portfolio; 2. introduce a publicly accessible ethical investment. policy excluding the fossil fuel industry; 3. commit to, and fully divest from all fossil fuels within 3 years.
 - OR**
 - b). if the university does not have investments - adopt the People & Planet Fossil Free campaign and demand that our university: 1. sign the [Fossil Free Declaration](#) to publicly affirm that they do not hold investments in fossil fuel companies, as well as committing to never invest in them in the future; 2. introduce a publicly accessible ethical investment policy excluding the fossil fuel industry.
2. Mandate the relevant full-time officer(s) to support students to lead, and put resources towards, a high-profile divestment campaign on campus, including - where relevant - the dissemination of information about the university's investment practises.
3. Mandate the relevant full-time officer(s) to request quarterly updates of the university's investment portfolio.
4. Mandate the relevant full-time officer(s) to lobby for and secure student representation on all university investment-related committees.
5. Mandate the relevant full-time officer(s) to lobby the university to end all future investments in fossil fuel companies and to divest from fossil fuel industry companies immediately.
6. Mandate the relevant full-time officer(s) to actively work with People & Planet groups and other union societies involved in fossil fuel divestment and related campaigns to ensure that Union work is linked up with grassroots campaigners.
7. Link up with other campaigns taking place on campus in order to support one another and to create a movement aimed at social justice with solidarity at its core.



Background Briefing

- Notes 1: [New report shows just 100 companies are source of over 70% of emissions - CDP](#)
- Notes 2: [The '2°C capital stock' for electricity generation: Committed cumulative carbon emissions from the electricity generation sector and the transition to a green economy - ScienceDirect](#)
- Notes 3: [UNHCR - Frequently asked questions on climate change and disaster displacement](#)

[Climate change link to displacement of most vulnerable is clear: UNHCR | UN News](#)

- Notes 4: [Indigenous Resistance Against Carbon | Indigenous Environmental Network \(ienearth.org\)](#)

[Frontlines of the Climate Crisis: Fossil Fuel Resistance - YouTube](#)

- Notes 5: [People & Planet's Fossil Free campaign | People & Planet \(peopleandplanet.org\)](#)

[Fossil Free Victories | People & Planet \(peopleandplanet.org\)](#)

- Resolves 1: [Fossil Free Declaration | People & Planet \(peopleandplanet.org\)](#)