



Divest Princeton is a coalition of students, faculty, staff, and alumni calling on Princeton University to fully divest its endowment from fossil fuels and to reinvest responsibly because of the existential threat posed by climate change. Divest Princeton calls for an end to all fossil fuel-funded research on campus. We are asking the University to:

1. **Divest its \$37.7 billion endowment** of the remaining \$700 million it still has invested in private equity fossil fuels as quickly as possible.
2. **Phase out all research and formal relationships** with fossil fuel companies that either spread climate misinformation or develop fossil fuels in conflict with global efforts like the Paris Agreement, and;
3. **Create oversight bodies** to ensure that the endowment is ethically invested, that research relationships are ethically sought, and that progress toward these goals can be verified by the public.

Q: Why should Princeton divest and dissociate from fossil fuel?

A: Science has proven irrefutably that the burning of fossil fuels drives the climate crisis. Lending fossil fuel companies financial and reputational support downplays the need for urgent reform and makes Princeton complicit.

Q: Will divestment hurt the University's endowment?

A: No. Brown University - which has divested – has led the Ivy League in returns. Investments in sustainable assets pose fewer risks and greater long-term potential than investments in fossil fuels. PRINCO has a fiduciary duty to divest. Learn more here about the financial case for divestment.

Q: Will dissociation threaten Princeton's climate research?

A: No –. Phasing out fossil funding partnerships will allow current projects to finish, and it will guarantee academic integrity going forward. Fossil fuel companies have donated over \$35 million since 2000 to fund University research. That sounds big but it is nothing compared to the \$41 million and \$53 million Exxon and BP spent respectively fighting climate legislation in 2019 alone. Dissociation can only mean cleaner, more credible research. The new Energy Research Fund will compensate for funding lost from dissociation however it is essential that it not just replace one fossil funder with another.

Q: Don't Princeton's investments give it influence over fossil fuel companies?

A: No, private fossil fuel companies answer to no one and are amongst the dirtiest of emitters. Princeton has also always refused shareholder activism.

Q: How can Princeton dissociate from fossil fuel while it still uses so much?

A: Princeton's Sustainability Action Plan outlines a transition to carbon neutrality. Divesting from fossil fuels would support that goal and hasten decarbonization in other sectors like transportation. It isn't either/or – it is everything everywhere all at once.

Q: Isn't divestment a form of political position-taking?

A: The urgent preservation of the planet is not up for political debate. We call for divestment and dissociation not just in the hope that it sparks change, but to align our investments with Princeton's Sustainability Action Plan, which encourages "movement towards the objective of nationwide decarbonization".

Q: Does divestment work?

A: Yes, symbolically and materially. Shell is on-record saying divestment has a "serious, adverse effect" on its bottom line. Princeton's \$37.7 billion endowment is its greatest source of leverage over climate change - now is the time to use it.

Please visit divestprinceton.com to find out more.