

## Fossil Free Europe - **Moral divestment narrative**

Note: Select those arguments that resonate most with your intended audience. Adapt them to best suit your context.

Supporting facts	Core narrative	Supporting narrative
<p><a href="#">IEA: World Energy Outlook</a></p> <p><a href="#">IPCC: 2 degree possible and affordable</a></p> <p>UK: <a href="#">Zero Carbon Britain</a></p> <p><a href="#">Greenpeace Energy Revolution</a></p> <p>A <a href="#">transition to renewable energy is possible globally</a> and <a href="#">is already underway</a>.</p> <p>Switzerland: “100% erneuerbar” by Rudolf Rechsteiner explains how Switzerland can become 100% renewable by 2030.</p> <p>In 2013, the oil and gas industry spent € 54 million in lobby work.</p>	<p>We have the solutions to prevent climate catastrophe but the fossil fuel industry is successfully blocking any political action.</p>	<p>Every year, the fossil fuel industry spends millions of euros to spread misinformation about climate change, warp our political progress, and block clean energy solutions.</p> <p>The Magritte Group is successfully tearing up policy at EU level (example <a href="#">1</a>). NL book: <a href="#">De Twijfelbrigade</a>. US example: <a href="#">Koch industries</a>.</p> <p>Example: Switzerland is Europe’s battery (hydro-power) and has the potential to become Europe’s Sahara with the solar energy available in the Alps. The nuclear, gas and coal lobbies manage to stop any kind of concrete energy transition.</p>

Using just the reserves listed on the world's stock markets in the next 40 years would be enough to take us beyond 2°C of global warming. Carbon Tracker Initiative: [Unburnable Carbon](#)

Do the math: We can emit another 565 gigatons CO<sub>2</sub> to stay below 2°C. The fossil fuel industry has 2,795 gigatons in their reserves. <http://math.350.org/>

We have already used about two thirds of our carbon budget. [IEA: Redrawing the energy-climate map](#)

According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), in its "[World Energy Outlook](#)", total proven international reserves contain 2,860GTCO<sub>2</sub>—almost three times the carbon budget.

For it to remain 'likely' (= a 66% chance) that we stay below 2°C, the total amount of carbon dioxide emissions released must be less than 1000 billion tonnes. [IPCC AR5 WG I](#) (carbon budget)

The fossil fuel industry has five times more carbon dioxide in their reserves than what we can emit to stay below the 2°C target. This makes 80% of the known carbon reserves unburnable. But fossil fuel companies are determined to extract and burn as much carbon as possible to maximise their profits. They are planning to cause planetary disaster.

Over two-thirds of the world's fossil fuels are held by privately or state owned oil, gas and coal corporations, which are also contributing even more carbon emissions. Carbon Tracker Initiative: '[Unburnable Carbon](#)'

[ExxonMobil](#) and [Royal Dutch Shell](#) have openly dismissed the 2°C target.

Every year, the fossil fuel industry spends millions of euros to discover and develop yet more carbon: In 2014, Exxon is spending \$33 billion.

Far from reducing efforts to develop fossil fuels, the top 200 companies spent \$674bn in 2012 to find and exploit even more new resources, a sum equivalent to 1% of global GDP, which could end up as "stranded" or valueless assets, according to [Lord Stern](#).

[Top 200](#) fossil fuel companies by size of carbon reserves

The fossil fuel industry's reserves are growing while our carbon budget is shrinking at an alarming rate. (= [updated top 200 list](#), 2014) Fossil Free Indexes: [The carbon underground](#)

Just [90 companies](#) caused two-thirds of man-made emissions.

<p>Because of the size and influence of the fossil fuel industry, they are essentially included in all portfolios where no active steps have been taken to exclude them. Even ethical funds include oil and coal companies. No UN guidelines are strong enough to exclude this rogue industry</p>	<p>It is wrong to fund an industry that is wrecking our climate. The divestment movement urges public institutions to pull their money out of oil, coal and gas companies.</p> <p>Instead of fueling climate change, public institutions should support a just transition to a regenerative economy rooted in social and ecological justice</p> <p>In the past, colleges, along with cities, states, religious institutions and pension funds have divested from rogue industries like tobacco or immoral regimes such as Apartheid South Africa. Now, it's time to divest from fossil fuels and weaken the industry's grip on politics.</p>	<p>Public institutions have a responsibility to look out for the public good and are directly accountable to citizens. But many support the fossil fuel industry through direct or indirect investments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If it's wrong to wreck the climate, its wrong to profit from that wreckage.</li> <li>- You (public institution) are investing in the destruction of the climate/ people's lives/ future generations.</li> <li>- Your investments are undermining your purpose/ mandate/ values.</li> <li>- You want to be a climate/ sustainability leader? Prove it!</li> <li>- You cannot promote any kind of livable future while funding the fossil fuel industry, and therefore climate wreckage.</li> </ul> <p>Divestment is an effective tactic that has worked before: Comparison with anti-apartheid movement, <a href="#">report Smith School, Oxford University</a></p>
---	--	--

<p>A <a href="#">study by the University of Oxford</a> concluded that the fossil fuel divestment movement is growing faster than any previous divestment campaign and that, “The outcome of the stigmatisation process, which the fossil fuel divestment campaign has now triggered, poses the most far-reaching threat to fossil fuel companies and the vast energy value chain.”</p>	<p>The divestment movement is spreading quickly and has become the fastest growing movement of its kind. Dozens of institutions have already <a href="#">committed to divest</a> and the movement enjoys broad public support.</p>	<p>Since 350.org launched the divestment campaign in the autumn of 2012, the movement has spread to over 500 universities, cities, states and religious institutions across the United States, Australia, Canada and Europe, with dozens of institutions already committing to divest.</p> <p>In Europe, the first Fossil Free campaigns kicked off in autumn 2013. Now <a href="#">campaigns</a> are well underway, for example in Sweden, the Netherlands, Norway, Germany, the UK and Switzerland.</p> <p>The small Dutch town of Boxtel is the first municipality in Europe to go fossil free.</p> <p><u>Endorsements</u>  The divestment movement enjoys endorsement from high-level figures such as Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Christiana Figueres, World Bank President Jim Yong Kim and anti-apartheid campaigner archbishop Desmond Tutu.  <a href="#">Connie Hedegaard</a></p>
--	--	--