

What is fossil fuel divestment?

Divestment is the process of pulling your investments from fossil fuel companies in order to cease profiting from the destruction of the planet. Divestment is a tactic for fighting climate change.



Why now? A few years ago, global warming seemed like a distant threat. Now, millions of people have witnessed climate disruption first hand in the terrible droughts, floods, heat-waves, wildfires, and storms that have ravaged much of the globe. Scientists warn us that we're reaching tipping points where the system could spin out of control.

Here's the math: If we're going to limit warming to 2°C, a goal that even the most conservative governments in the world have agreed to meet, then we can only burn 565 gigatons more of carbon dioxide. But the fossil fuel industry has 2,765 gigatons of carbon in their reserves – nearly five times the safe amount – and every day they're searching for more. Their business model is incompatible with a livable climate.

Why divestment? 1) Divestment is a proven tactic in highlighting the destructive practices of fossil fuel companies in the public arena; 2) divesting from dirty energy is already generating market interest in creating environmentally sustainable investments; and 3) divestment can help create the political momentum we need to pass carbon-restrictive legislation.

Will I lose money if I divest? No. Don't believe us? Many big institutional investors are highlighting the increasing financial disincentives for investing in fossil fuel companies and the increasing financial incentives for divesting portfolios of fossil fuels. Even Goldman Sachs, one of the most establishment finance firms on Wall Street, is divesting from coal.

Divesting helps save the planet AND your money. If we're going to have any chance of slowing down climate change, most fossil fuel reserves will need to stay in the ground -- and investments based on those reserves will lose their market value. This is called the "carbon bubble."

It's going to take all of us to make a difference. We are excited that dozens of cities, religious institutions, foundations, organizations and thousands of activists have already divested or are in the process of doing so. Start a campaign and join the movement:

www.gofossilfree.org