# Divest UK

A student campaign working towards fossil fuel divestment and responsible investment at the University of Kentucky



# Why we care (and you should too!)

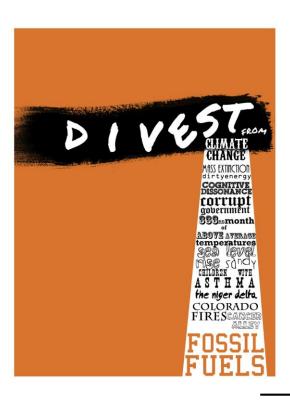


- New IPCC report shows that we urgently need drastic changes to avoid catastrophic climate change
- Climate change threatens all life on earth, hitting the most vulnerable first

# What do we want?

- 1. Divestment from all major fossil fuel corporations.
- 2. Re-investment in sustainable investments like clean energy with a focus on communities dependent on the fossil fuel industry.
- 3. Addition of **social and environmental goals** into the University's policy for managing all endowment investments.
- **4. Transparency** through posting of information about all investments on the university website in clear and accessible language.

## What is fossil fuel divestment?



- -Ending all investments in fossil fuel companies made by our \$1.4 billion endowment.
- -First popularized by Bill McKibben, founder of 350.org, who laid out the "climate math" showing these companies were overvalued.
- -Divestment was successfully used in the 1970s and 1980s against companies doing business with apartheid South Africa.



## Who has divested?

- -1029 institutions have divested over \$8.05 trillion.
- -Universities like UMass, Oregon, Stanford, Johns Hopkins, Syracuse, the University of California system, and more!
- -The entire country of Ireland.
- -Pension funds of cities, like New York City.
- -Faith-based institutions have divested the most by type.



# Why divest?

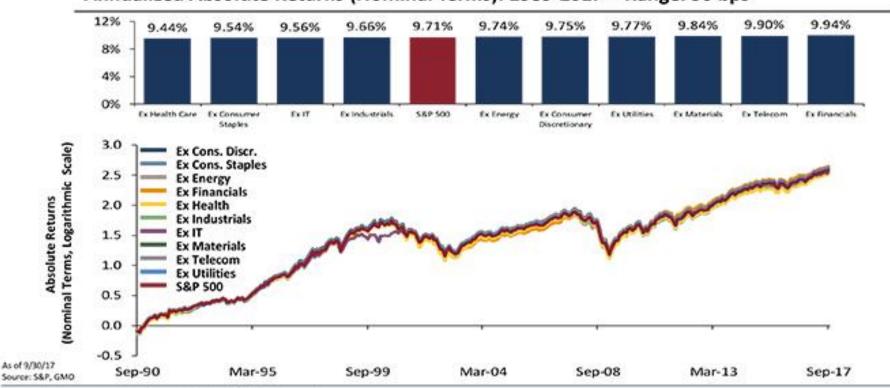


- -Climate change threatens human society and our planet. Divestment stigmatizes the fossil fuel industry and shows climate leadership.
- -Frees up money for re-investment in clean energy.
- -Studies show benefits or no impact on returns (Weber and Hunt 2018, Trinks et al 2017, Plantinga and Scholtens 2016).
- -Stranded asset/carbon bubble problem creates serious risks.



# Yes, You Can Divest From Oil – or Anything Else – Without Much Consequence

#### Annualized Absolute Returns (Nominal Terms): 1989-2017 - Range: 50 bps



# The importance of just transition



- Historically, environmental groups have left coal-impacted communities behind.
- Just transition focuses on providing sustainable opportunities for coal-impacted communities.
- Divest UK is advocating for a just transition:
  - Targeted endowment investment in E. Kentucky
  - Earmarking returns for E. Kentucky-focused scholarships

### What we've done

-Petition (~1200 signatures)

-Kernel Article

-4 Admin Meetings

-Coalition Building

-Board Presentation -A

-Actions









- UK Greenthumb
- The Queer Project
- SSTOP Hunger
- Campus Kitchen
- UK Debate Team
- English Graduate
  Student Association

# **The Current Coalition**

- UK United Students Against Sweatshops
- St. Augustine's Chapel
- Sigma Tau Delta
- Knitting Club

KENTUCKY CAN DIVEST.



## **Get Involved!**

- Sign our petition!!
- Come to our meetings! Every Thursday at 7PM in the Student Center Room 330D
- Join our campus coalition!
- Collaborate on events and promotion

### Follow us on social media!







@divest\_uk