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## **Harvard Students Launch Campaign Asking Harvard to Divest from Fossil Fuels**

Harvard student activists recently launched “Divest for Our Future,” a campaign calling for Harvard to divest its endowment from fossil fuels in order to combat climate change. They want the university to phase out its investments in companies involved with the extraction, production, and distribution of oil, coal, and natural gas, and to reinvest the money into socially responsible funds

“We feel that there is a deep inconsistency in Harvard’s endowment practices, which contribute to climate change,” said Chloe Maxmin, a sophomore from Mather House helping to organize Divest for Our Future. “What is the point of investing for our education if those investments destroy our hopes of a livable future?”

“Harvard has already been a leader among universities with its ambitious 2008 greenhouse gas reduction goals,” said Alli Welton, a Dudley House sophomore involved in Divest for Our Future. “But given the massive impact of Harvard’s \$32 billion endowment, what’s the point of our campus-level initiatives when we invest in companies like Exxon Mobil? Harvard needs to go beyond slogans and greenwashing to take a real stand against climate change and move its money from fossil fuels into socially and environmentally responsible funds.”

Students cannot determine the exact size of Harvard’s investments in fossil fuels because of untransparent practices within the Harvard Management Corporation, the administrative body which manages Harvard’s endowment. However, Harvard reports a portion of its investments in [public SEC filings](#) that reveal current investments in natural gas and petroleum companies. Harvard has also historically [invested in Murray Energy](#) (now Alpha Natural Resources), the

mountaintop removal coal mining company whose safety violations [caused the deaths of 29 miners](#) in 2010.

Divest for Our Future organizers plan to spend the next few months building student support, educating the campus about the dangers of fossil fuels, conveying the opportunity for change through reinvestment, and pressuring the Harvard Management Corporation to reinvest in responsible funds.

Divest for Our Future is being organized by Harvard's chapter of Students for a Just and Stable Future, a New England-wide student network involved in political climate change advocacy, with support from the non-profit organizations Better Future Project and 350.org. Fossil fuel divestment campaigns are being launched at universities across the region including Amherst College, Brandeis University, Tufts University, and the University of New Hampshire.

Other press:

<http://www.thecrimson.com/article/2012/10/2/divestment-harvard-oped/>

<http://www.thecrimson.com/article/2012/9/27/harvard-dissent-climate/>