



Fossil Free AU is excited to join over 200 campaigns at universities across the country working to divest their endowments from fossil fuels. We are a diverse coalition of AU student organizations, faculty, alumni, and community members committed to a sustainable and equitable future.

We begin this campaign in response to the threat that the continued burning of fossil fuels poses to current and future American University community members, along with our fellow citizens at home and around the world.

In this effort, we strive to honor American University's strong commitment to sustainability and social responsibility. We hope to turn the ideas we have learned at AU into meaningful action and service towards a prosperous and just future for all.

We are committed to an inclusive campaign that unites and engages the richness of our community, from environmental science professors to aspiring student investors. We will advocate for a university free of investments in fossil fuels through our undergraduate senate, a student referendum, and in consultation with stakeholders across the ideological spectrum.

We understand that this not a simple process given the complicated nature of a university endowment. With this in mind, we advocate for a two-step approach.

First, we ask the Board of Trustees to freeze new investments in fossil fuel companies by implementing a negative screen in the university endowment by the end of the calendar year. Second, we call for an official university dialogue on divesting our endowment from current holdings in fossil fuel companies and expanding socially responsible investments.

We hope AU will continue its proud tradition of seeking to bring about positive social change through its finances. Past students have successfully rallied to put in place negative investment screens against the oppressive government in Myanmar and more recently Sudan.

In this process, we reject the false choice between college affordability and sustainability. We believe that our investments in socially responsible companies can match our social justice values while growing our endowment and ensuring that an AU education is accessible for all.

In this campaign, we strive to embody the AU values that we cherish and believe in: passionate civility, respect for all parties, and relentless positivity. It is our sincere hope that AU will join peer institutions in seizing this opportunity by leading the sustainability revolution and ensuring that the American dream is green.

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