

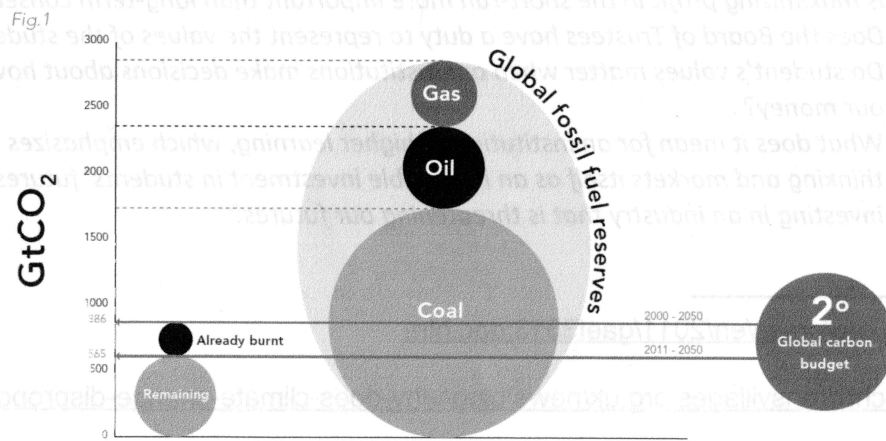


Divestment 101: Climate Justice and the Seven Sisters

There is a serious urgency to take action:

- Fossil fuel companies have almost 3000 gigatons of CO₂ worth of fossil fuels that they have identified as know reserves.
- The consensus of the scientific community is that in order to remain in **stable climate conditions** we must keep global temperature rise **below 2 degrees Celsius**.
- If we exceed this level, we will trigger **runaway climate change**.
- In order to avoid the level of carbon emissions necessary to avoid this temperature increase, **we cannot burn 80% of the known reserves**.
- Fossil fuel companies are currently **still exploring for new reserves** to burn.
- Fossil fuel companies run on extracting and selling fossil fuels. They have proven that **they will not stop** doing so even in the face of overwhelming science that if they continue on their current trajectory, emissions will cause runaway climate change. Our colleges **cannot be financing and condoning** the industry that is **causing climate change and is threatening our futures**.

Comparison of the global 2°C carbon budget with fossil fuel reserves CO₂ emissions potential



Climate change disproportionately affects women:

- Women are 70% of the world's poor¹
- Women are 80% of climate refugees²
- Women are 14 times more likely than men to die in climate disasters³
- Each of these statistics shows the deep impacts that climate change has on women's lives and which further **obstruct women from equally pursuing education, participating in the economy, and enjoying a stable, safe environment.**

The students have spoken:

- students at every single seven sisters college have started divestment campaigns.
- In every instance where a referendum has been held, students have overwhelmingly voted in favor of divestment.
- So why hasn't a single Seven Sisters administration taken action to divest?

We need the student government to be our advocate.

- **Value of referendums:** Administrators cannot question if students support for divestment when referendums show overwhelmingly that they do.
- **Value of endorsements:** When student governments publicly endorse divestment campaigns it shows that students are committed to working together and that the SGA is willing to use its power to stand up for student voices
- **Value of SGA Advocacy:** Our administrators have clearly shown that they are not effective advocates for students in this case. It is left to student government to represent us when our administrators will not.

Divestment has become a question of the value of student voices.

- What does it mean that even after students have fought to make their voices heard, administrators have not taken action towards divestment?
- Divestment is asking some fundamental questions of our institutions:
 - *Is maximizing profit in the short-run more important than long-term consequences?*
 - *Does the Board of Trustees have a duty to represent the values of the student body?*
 - *Do student's values matter when our institutions make decisions about how we spend our money?*
 - *What does it mean for an institution of higher learning, which emphasizes critical thinking and markets itself as an invaluable investment in students' futures, is also investing in an industry that is threatening our futures?*

¹ <http://www.un.org/press/en/2011/gaef3313.doc.htm>

²

<http://www.soschildrensvillages.org.uk/news/blog/why-does-climate-change-disproportionately-affect-women>

³ http://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/climateconnections_1_overview.pdf