

4 HISTORY OF FOSSIL FUEL DIVESTMENT CAMPAIGNS

Fossil Fuel divestment campaigns have so far been successful across 43 countries; **600+ institutions and 50,000+ individuals have committed to divest, with around \$3.4 trillion pledged to divestment!**⁴

These institutions are mostly foundations, faith-based organizations, universities and more recently pensions funds and private insurance companies. Many of these organizations are reinvesting in climate solutions, especially in sustainable energies.⁵ This is impressive considering the divestment movement was born in 2011, and demonstrates the public's acknowledgement that we need to take immediate action to stop the fossil fuel industry and to keep carbon in the ground.

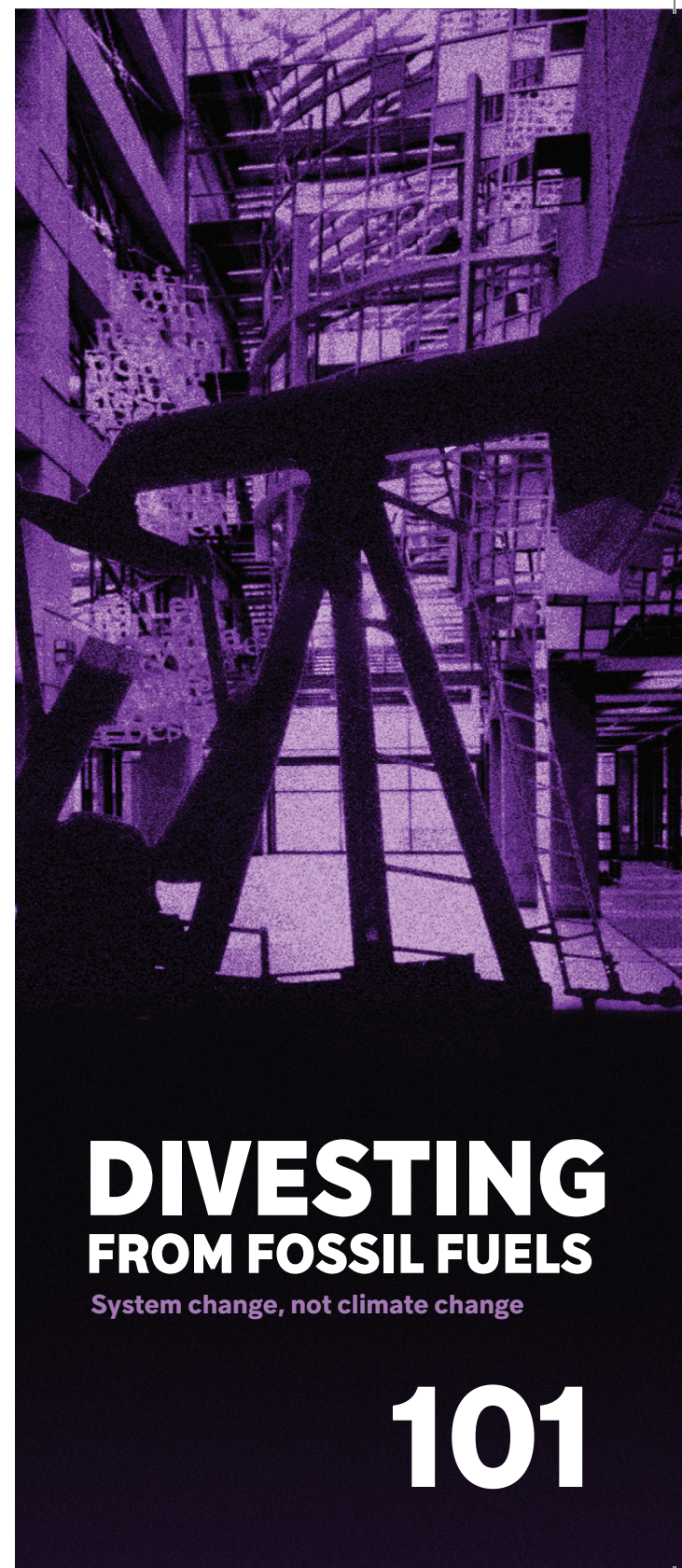
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About Divest Concordia

We are a coalition of students and community members calling on Concordia University to divest its holdings from fossil fuel industries and reinvest into more socially responsible alternatives. We aim to build critical awareness around the social injustice of resource extraction projects including environmental racism and environmental destruction. We align ourselves with larger climate justice and anti-colonial movements across the continent.

Our organization's objectives are:

1. To freeze Concordia University's current investments in the fossil fuel and fossil fuel related industries;
2. To divest these investments from Concordia University over a 3 year-period;
3. To adopt binding socially and environmentally responsible investment policy into Concordia University's mandate;
4. To have proper student representation on the committee responsible for formulating said policies;
5. To have Concordia University endorse divestment through public statements. Furthermore, to call on other universities to engage in fossil fuel divestment.



DIVESTING FROM FOSSIL FUELS

System change, not climate change

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1 WHAT IS DIVESTMENT

Saying no to fossil fuels! Divestment is the removal of investments from companies involved in socially, environmentally, and economically harmful projects – in the case of Divest Concordia, companies involved in extracting fossil fuels, and related industries. There are currently over **650 divestment campaigns in North America alone.**¹

Collectively, we will have a huge impact and can inspire others – schools, union pension funds, perhaps even banks or credit unions – to follow suit and show that resource extraction projects are no longer socially acceptable.

OVERVIEW

totals

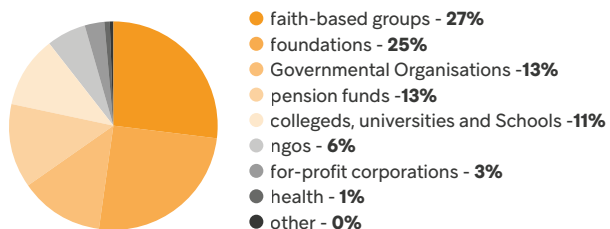
\$3.4 trillion

approx. Value of institutions divested

495

institutions divesting

WHAT KINDS OF INSTITUTIONS ARE DIVESTING?



2 HOW DOES IT WORK

Divestment campaigns work by stigmatizing the fossil fuel industry and demonstrating how they are socially and ethically unacceptable.

New investments in fossil fuels are wasted money, and current investments are at risk of a catastrophic crash.

The goal of divestment campaigns is to destabilize the legitimacy of the industry.

3 WHEN HAS IT BEEN SUCCESSFUL

Divestment was a tactic used during the resistance in apartheid South Africa to deny the legitimacy of apartheid, raise awareness around the issue globally and publicly decry it as ethically unacceptable.² Divestment was also used as a tactic by student groups in universities to fight against big tobacco industries. These campaigns were successful in convincing institutions to divest from companies that supported the industry.³

"Just as we argued in the 1980s that those who conducted business with apartheid South Africa were aiding and abetting an immoral system, we can say that nobody should profit from the rising temperatures, seas, and human suffering caused by the burning of fossil fuels."

– Archbishop Desmond Tutu