

1. What

Divest Invest is a process to divest portfolios of fossil fuel shares within five years and to invest at least a portion of wealth in climate solutions, such as renewable energy, clean tech and energy efficiency.

Divest Invest both points to the problems *and* finds the solutions – raising the alarm on the risks of fossil fuel investments and the recklessness of the fossil fuel industry while speeding up investment in low-carbon technologies around the world.

2. Who

Europeans for Divest Invest is a group of several trusts and foundations including the Waterloo Foundation, Tellus Mater and the Frederick Mulder Foundation, led by Sarah Butler-Sloss and Mark Sainsbury. They are working with foundations in the USA, including Wallace Global Fund and Rockefeller Brothers Foundation.

The movement is quickly gaining momentum. There are now have **100 philanthropic foundations** and family offices, universities and faith groups, including Stanford and Glasgow University, the Churches of Sweden and England. They are being joined by major financial institutions. Axa has committed to divest €500m of coal assets and triple “green investments” to €3bn by 2020. The Norwegian Sovereign Wealth Fund is to divest all coal-focused investments from its £600bn equivalent sovereign fund, totalling about £6 billion.

3. Why

Finances: Rapidly falling costs of renewable energy, coupled with increasing costs of exploration and extraction against a backdrop of political uncertainty, stop investments in fossil fuel companies being the reliable source of dividend they once were.

Ethics: The threat of change to our planet’s and humanity’s systems is stark. Any charitable foundation seeking to alleviate poverty, improve health, secure social progress and protect ecosystems must now consider the effort against climate change as a necessary factor to their work.

Influence: Some fossil fuel companies refuse to change their business plans away from a >2°C despite acknowledging the risks outlined above. When such rational debate proves ineffective, we believe a more effective strategy is to isolate these companies than engage as shareholders.