

2023 Associated Students Resolution on Divestment



History

- Students and faculty have been advocating for the WWU Foundation to completely divest from fossil fuels for over a decade (campaign started in 2013)
- In 2018, with support from both the Associated Students and Faculty Senate, the WWU Foundation was able to invest 55% of its portfolio into Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) funds
 - “Environmental, social, and governance (ESG) investing is used to screen investments based on corporate policies and to encourage companies to act responsibly.” – Investopedia
- Now in 2023, we are once again asking the foundation to fully divest, while increasing transparency around their investment practices

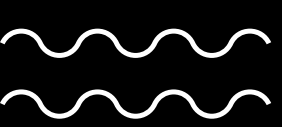
Why we want increased transparency and further divestment

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- Our investment practices drastically affected WWU's STARS report
 - Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System, a tool used to measure our progress in achieving our sustainability goals
 - Two out of the three categories surrounding our finances received a rating of "0"
 - Students do not want their education funded by the fossil fuel industry
 - We believe that as an institution, we should invest in the future, not jeopardize it

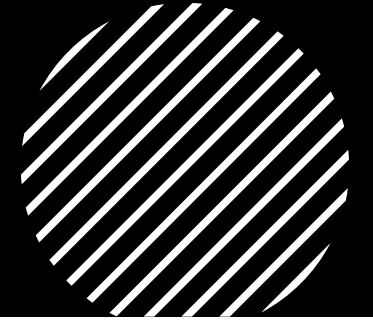


The Asks

- An easily accessible annual report on investment portfolio performance, and a breakdown of where the endowment is invested
- ESG is included as a priority within the upcoming Request for Proposals
- Include both a student and faculty representative in the Foundation's investment review committee
- The foundation demonstrates a dedication to Western's values, specifically sustainability



Campus Support



A letter of support for the resolution was created, and has garnered nearly 600 signatures from students, staff, and faculty, as well as over 50+ testimonials.



“As a WWU Alumni, I would love to see Western invest financially in so many of the ideas that it teaches and encourages with the goal of sustainability. Small student projects mean less when the school is putting money towards organizations and companies that make money in the production and use of fossil fuels, that run counter to the priorities of sustainability.”