Fossil Fuels Divestment

**Background**
Petitions have been received from students and faculty, calling for McMaster to sell its investment holdings in fossil fuels.

**Views**
Investing in fossil fuel-extracting companies is wrong. Their business model depends on developing resources at levels that aren’t compatible with ‘safe’ climate change limits.

Emissions from the extraction process, localized pollution and climate misinformation campaigns are more reasons to divest.

The argument is not that fossil fuel company finances and share prices would be affected directly.

**Myth: Divestment means losing money.**

**Options**
- Should McMaster make a public stand in support of divestment? Or are alternative actions more effective? How is McMaster best placed to advance solutions?

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**Fact:** Any replacement investment would need to meet financial screening requirements.

Two years of two-standard-deviation losses would have to happen before any payments from the endowment fund would be affected. Rigorous financial screening of all investments reduces this risk.

**Image sources**


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**Should McMaster stop investing in fossil fuel companies?**

Town Hall: October 17, 3-5pm, Convocation Hall

Divestment report and video available @ http://www.mcmaster.ca/vpacademic/PACFFD/pacffd2.html