

DIVEST
CAMBRIDGE 

THE UNIVERSITY HAS OVER
£5 BILLION OF INVESTMENTS

- THE LARGEST UNIVERSITY
ENDOWMENT OUTSIDE THE US

IT HAS NO CLEAR POLICY
ON ETHICAL INVESTMENT

Climate Change threatens lives and livelihoods around the world. Already it results in an estimated 400,000 deaths worldwide each year, and that number is growing. Whilst climate change is a worldwide phenomenon, the people worst hit are those least responsible for its causes – those who have least benefitted from the wealth that cheap energy has provided.

We have a responsibility, in the safety of this University, to accept that we are all part of the cause of this climate crisis. But we can also be part of the solution. It can be hard to know where to start when faced with such a vast challenge. Turning off your lights and unplugging chargers, whilst admirable, simply don't match the scale of the problems we face.

However, we do have opportunities to make a difference. We are part of a university that is a world leader in research, a university that makes headlines around the world. And that gives us power.

If Cambridge University divested from fossil fuels – joining over 612 institutions with a combined value of \$3.4 trillion who have done so already – the world will take note. In the past, divestment has been used to successfully target the Apartheid regime in South Africa, tobacco industry lobbyists, and those benefitting from violence in Darfur. Now it's time to send a message that fossil fuels are on the way out. That it's wrong to profit from a failure to take action on climate change.

Last year, Cambridge Zero Carbon launched a divestment campaign that achieved a huge amount of progress. Our petition received over 2000 signatures, over 100 fellows signed our open letter, and about 300 people attended our march through Cambridge. We produced a 74 page report for the University, laying out the case for divestment. And we had some success – the University released a report accepting that they should invest ethically, and wrote to their fund managers to say as much to them. But they made no moves to actually change how they invest – there were plenty of words, but few actions. To be quite honest, we expected this to be the case, and we have a plan for this year to ensure that real change does happen.

This year, we can achieve divestment at Cambridge. But we need your help, and the support of CUSU.

You can find out more about Cambridge Zero Carbon here: www.zerocarbon.soc.soc.srfc.net/ and you can find our report here: <https://goo.gl/18Bcoc>