

Advisory Statement Sponsored by Students for Renewable Energy

Given that Western Washington University is committed to carbon neutrality by 2050 via the Climate Action Plan we call on our university to continue its leadership role in sustainability. The WWU [Foundation Endowment](#), via its [investments in certain comingled investment funds, maintains an indirect ownership interest in certain equity fund, currently invests \\$1.5 million in energy companies that are involved in the production or distribution of fossil fuel related products](#) ~~companies involved with fossil fuels~~. The WWU Foundation Investment Policy includes a Social Responsibility Clause that ~~discourages~~ [allows an "independent weight" to be provided to the investment decisions made where "corporate policies or practices are deemed to investments that](#) "cause substantial social injury." ~~€~~[We believe that](#) climate change poses such a substantial threat to our world and local community that the social injuries inflicted by its effects justify the inclusion of fossil fuel investments under this social injury clause. ~~‡~~[We believe that](#) investing in funds which promote and/or engage in the burning of fossil fuels is unethical and contradictory to the mission of our university. [The University intends to form a study group with students to examine its current investments and explore ways to best make a difference.](#)

Question for the ballot: Should ~~WWU freeze all new investments in fossil fuels and develop and implement a plan to divest from current fossil fuel investments within five years~~ [the student body support partnership efforts between students and administrators to examine Western Washington University's current investments in companies involved in the production or distribution of fossil fuel related products, with the intention of regulating future investments and working to divest from current investments?](#) YES      NO