

Vassar Student Association Resolution 27-7
A Resolution in Support of Divestment From Fossil Fuel Industries
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WHEREAS, scientific research has concluded that the fossil fuel industries (i.e. oil, gas, and coal) intend to produce more carbon emissions than would be safe for sustainability of the environment, and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned industries hold responsibility for the mass pollution of public air and water, and

WHEREAS, the coal industry is responsible for over 21,000 worker deaths per year due to unsafe and dangerous working conditions, and

WHEREAS, fluid from hydraulic fracturing contains known carcinogens, mutagens, and neurotoxins harmful to human health, and

WHEREAS, this Council recognizes that Vassar College invests endowment money in fossil fuel industries, and

WHEREAS, the Council recognizes that a number of Vassar College students live in areas negatively affected by fossil fuel extraction and burning, and

WHEREAS, the Council recognizes that a coalition of student groups including The Vassar Greens, The Grassroots Alliance for Alternative Politics, Vassar Animal Rights Coalition, Young Democratic Socialists, Democracy Matters, ProHealth, Slow Food, The Vassar Democrats, and Feminist Alliance have allied themselves in support of Vassar's complete and public divestment from fossil fuel industries, and

WHEREAS, a number of peer institutions including Middlebury, Swarthmore, Amherst, Ithaca College, Cornell, Harvard University and various other college campuses have begun similar grassroots campaigns, and

WHEREAS, the College Committee on Sustainability has written a letter encouraging the Campus Investor Responsibility Committee to divest, and

WHEREAS, Section 15, Part C of "The Governance of Vassar College" states "the investor responsibility committee [Campus Investor Responsibility Committee and Trustee Investor Responsibility Committee] shall review issues of 'overriding social concern' that might cause the college to take into account that concern in the management of the college's investments," and

WHEREAS, the fossil fuel industry's role in the global climate crisis is recognized as an issue of "overriding social concern," and

WHEREAS, research suggests that divestment would not cause harm to Vassar's financial health but rather improve it, this Council supports divestment while still

prioritizing important aspects of Vassar including Need Blind Admissions, Comprehensive Financial Aid Rewards, and Salaries and Wages of College Staff and Faculty above divestment,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council recognizes the detrimental effects of fossil fuel industries on the environment and human health, endorses efforts of the Vassar College Fossil Fuel Divestment Campaign, and the breadth of research, education, and outreach that the campaign has invested in the pursuit of a more sustainable and accountable use of endowment money, and strongly encourages the Council Investor Responsibility Committee and Board of Trustees to divest.