

2,795 Gt
Proven Reserves

Why Divest?

 97% of climate scientists agree:
human activities are causing climate change

The international consensus is that **2° Celsius** is the maximum safe increase in average global temperature.¹

To stay under this limit, we can release no more than 565 additional gigatons of CO₂. Burning all currently established fossil fuel reserves will release 2,795 gigatons of CO₂ – approximately five times the so-called ‘carbon budget’.² Despite this, the industry continues to spend billions of dollars looking for even more.³

According to NASA, August 2016 was the **hottest month on record**, continuing a streak of 11 consecutive record-breaking months.⁴ Climate change is already responsible for 300,000 deaths a year⁵ and creates more refugees than war.⁶

2° C

What is divestment?

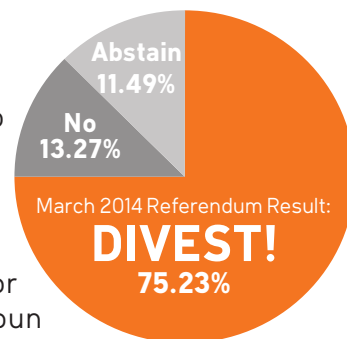
Simply put, it is the opposite of investment. Divestment would **relocate endowment funds** currently invested in the fossil fuel industry. It means removing our endorsement of a toxic industry, stripping away their social license, and expressing a **moral imperative**.

565 Gt
Carbon Budget
through 2050

What has Northeastern done?

President Aoun claims it is a “top priority” for Northeastern to develop “environmentally friendly policies, systems, and facilities” to make us an **“exemplar in sustainability”**.⁷ Investing millions in the fossil fuel industry is fundamentally incompatible with this mission.

In Spring 2014, DivestNU received **overwhelming support** for divestment from the student body. In 2015, President Aoun established the Social Impact Council to examine divestment, among other issues. In March 2016, **the Council released a report strongly in favor of divestment**.[†] When the administration failed to acknowledge the report’s release, 20 students sat-in at the visitors center and were threatened with arrest.



CO₂ Added
1750–Now

Atmospheric
CO₂
pre-1750

This summer, the administration **rejected divestment**, falsely characterizing it as incompatible with active engagement on global challenges.⁸

Students and faculty **continue to push for divestment**, and won’t rest until administrators put their institution’s values, and their students’ values, first. Help us become that “exemplar in sustainability” – **sign the faculty petition at divestnu.org**!



[†]Read the full report at divestnu.org/sicreport

Sources: [1] IPCC AR5; [2] Carbon Tracker; [3] Oil Change International; [4] NASA; [5] World Health Organization; [6] International Red Cross; [7,8] Northeastern University