

Northeastern University

Student Affairs

Dear students, faculty, and staff colleagues,

Environmental sustainability, including fossil fuel divestment, is an issue receiving increasing national visibility. In March 2014, the Northeastern student body demonstrated its desire to take action on climate change. Through a referendum, 75% of the students who voted voiced their support for fossil fuel divestment. Student Affairs has been engaged with the student organization, DivestNU, over the past year, actively bringing together administrators and advocates in the discussion of divestment and sustainability.

- In the past year, DivestNU has been hard at work engaging the entire Northeastern community with social media, direct conversations, educational events, collaboration with student organizations, and more.
- Through DivestNU and the Student Government Association's engagement after the election, the idea for the creation of a Social Impact Council was born.
- In the fall of 2014, President Aoun announced the creation of the Social Impact Council composed of students, faculty and administrators from diverse viewpoints. This group is designed to deal with a broad range of social issues that confront the university community; the issue of divestment is among the first to be tackled by the Council.
- As the Council explores fossil fuel divestment, DivestNU will serve in an ad-hoc role, providing its insight and recommendations.
- We anticipate the Council will offer its recommendations based on Northeastern's unique set of circumstances and aligned with the university's mission, which includes meeting global and societal needs.

The work undertaken in collaboration with DivestNU is a clear example of constructive and productive involvement of passionate and engaged individuals striving to make positive change. As a university with a very strong track-record on sustainability, we welcome student involvement on this issue. We are committed to continuing to explore the issue of fossil fuel divestment through the Social Impact Council, and look forward to ongoing engagement with students on matters of social import including the issues raised by this year's referenda.

Sincerely,



Madeleine Estabrook
Vice President for Student Affairs
Northeastern University
104 Ell Hall
360 Huntington Avenue
Boston, MA 02115