

APPENDIX II: ENCYCLOPEDIA OF PRO-DIVESTMENT ORGANIZATIONS

2 Degrees Investing Initiative

<http://2degrees-investing.org/>

Two degrees Celsius warming is the lowest reasonably safe amount, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. 2 Degrees Investing Initiative is a think tank that aims at “connecting the dots between climate goals, investment frameworks, and financial policies.”⁷¹⁷ It recommends how to invest in companies whose practices would not push the world past that limit. Founded in Paris in 2012, the Initiative works on projects in Europe, China and the United States.

350.org (Go Fossil Free)

350.org

<http://gofossilfree.org/>

350.org is fossil fuel divestment central. Bill McKibben founded the international activist group in 2008 with seven former students from Middlebury College. The organization is named for the parts per million of atmospheric carbon dioxide deemed safe for the environment. (Current atmospheric CO₂ is about 400 parts per million.) With 94 core staff members in 15 countries,⁷¹⁸ and thousands of activist followers, 350.org is one of the largest grassroots environmental groups in the world. 350.org led the campaign against the Keystone XL pipeline and popularized the fossil fuel divestment movement with Bill McKibben’s viral August 2012 *Rolling Stone* article, “Global Warming’s Terrifying New Math”⁷¹⁹ and fall 2012 speaking tour “Do the Math.”⁷²⁰ 350.org has campaigns in every inhabited continent and in almost every country, and operates the Go Fossil Free umbrella organization that includes more than 500 divestment campaigns. It has a network of “organizers” responsible for supporting divestment campaigns in geographic regions and offers annual Fossil Free Fellowships to pay and train student activists.

717 “Core Concept,” 2 Degrees Investing. http://2degrees-investing.org/#!/page_Concept

718 “Staff,” 350.org. <http://350.org/about/team/>

719 McKibben, “Global Warming’s Terrifying New Math.”

720 “Do the Math,” 350.org. <http://math.350.org/>

As You Sow

<http://www.asyousow.org/>

As You Sow engages in shareholder activism and legal activity to push companies toward its principles of sustainability.

Carbon Tracker Initiative

<http://www.carbontracker.org/>

The Carbon Tracker Initiative is a London-based nonprofit financial think tank that developed the “Carbon Underground” list of the top 100 coal and top 100 oil and gas companies. This is the list 350.org asks institutions to divest from. The Carbon Tracker Initiative also developed the so-called “carbon bubble” argument in a 2012 report “Unburnable Carbon: Are the World’s Financial Markets Carrying a Carbon Bubble?” which laid out the math McKibben later used to such advantage: “If the 2°C target is rigorously applied, then up to 80 percent of declared reserves owned by the world’s largest listed coal, oil and gas companies and their investors would be subject to impairment as these assets become stranded.”⁷²¹

Ceres

<http://www.ceres.org/>

A nonprofit advocacy group that aims to “mobilize a powerful network of investors, companies, and public interest groups” to adopt “sustainable business practices,”⁷²² Ceres promotes the “carbon bubble” theory that cancelling investments in fossil fuel companies is financially wise because of impending climate legislation that will cause those companies’ values to plummet. The Investor Network on Climate Risk, a network of more than 110 institutional investors representing more than \$13 trillion in assets, is one of Ceres’ projects. Bob Massie, now president of the New Economy Coalition, was Ceres’ president until 2003.

721 *Unburnable Carbon*. Carbon Tracker Initiative.

722 “About Us,” Ceres. <http://www.ceres.org/about-us>.

Croatan Institute

<http://croataninstitute.org/>

The Croatan Institute (“CROATOAN”) is named for the people whose name was found carved on a tree near the lost British colony of Roanoke. The Institute views the name as an example of racial injustice to fight and environmental conservation to celebrate: the supposed descendents of the tribe, scattered, are the Lumbee, who have been denied formal recognition because of their intermarriage with other groups, and the name of the 77,000-acre federally protected forest in the area is the Croatan National Forest. The Institute provides research on sustainable investing, such as the development of fossil fuel-free investment portfolios. Its staff includes Dan Apfel, former executive director of the Responsible Endowments Coalition, and Sandra Korn, famous for a February 2014 article in the *Harvard Crimson* calling for the replacement of academic freedom with “academic justice,” which would ban scholars’ expressions of politically incorrect ideas.⁷²³

Energy Action Coalition

<http://www.energyactioncoalition.org/>

As a coalition of more than 30 groups working to reduce the use of fossil fuels and to increase the use of renewable energy, the Energy Action Coalition is a hub of activism. It has sponsored biannual “Power Shift” convergences for more than 10,000 activists, ranging from students to professionals.⁷²⁴ At the 2009 convergence, Van Jones, then President Obama’s “green czar,” gave a speech in which he screamed, “This movement is deeper than a solar panel, deeper than a solar panel! Don’t stop there! Don’t stop there! No, we’re going to change the whole system. We’re going to change the whole thing!”⁷²⁵ That speech provoked criticism and led to his resignation from his post. The Energy Action Coalition has a dedicated National Divestment Campaigner, Sean Estelle, who joined the movement after he became involved with Occupy Wall Street.⁷²⁶ EAC partners include Greenpeace, Responsible Endowments Coalition, and the Sierra Student Coalition.

723 Sandra Y.L. Korn, “The Doctrine of Academic Freedom,” *Harvard Crimson*, February 18, 2014. <http://www.thecrimson.com/column/the-red-line/article/2014/2/18/academic-freedom-justice/>.

724 2007, University of Maryland-College Park. 2009, Washington DC. 2011, Washington DC. 2013, Pittsburgh. Additional international PowerShift conferences have been organized by foreign groups in their own nations.

725 Van Jones, Keynote Address, Power Shift Conference on Climate Change, Washington, D.C., February 27, 2009.

726 “Our Staff,” Energy Action Coalition. <http://www.energyactioncoalition.org/about/our-staff>.

Divest Invest Philanthropy

<http://divestinvest.org/philanthropy/>

A two-staff member nonprofit, Divest Invest aims to “reinforce” the fossil fuel divestment movement by providing a network for institutions and individuals that want to divest from fossil fuels and reinvest in “clean energy.”⁷²⁷ It counts 104 signatories, including the Rockefeller Brothers Fund and the Ben and Jerry’s Foundation.⁷²⁸

Faculty/Staff Divestment Network

<http://facultydivest.org/>

A national network of college professors and staff who support divestment from fossil fuel, the Faculty/Staff Divestment Network offers resources, information, an email listserv, and training. It was started by husband/wife pair Cynthia Kaufman, director of the VIDA Institute for Democracy in Action at De Anza College, which divested from fossil fuels in October 2013, and Carlos Davidson, professor and program coordinator in environmental studies at San Francisco State University, which divested in May 2013.

Fossil Fuel Divestment Student Network

Studentsdivest.org

Started by student activists, the Divestment Student Network holds training sessions across the nation and provides a web of activist support. Run by volunteers, many of whom have since graduated from college and work in other areas of advocacy and organizing, the DSN has a “People of Color” caucus,⁷²⁹ an Alumni Divestment Network to retain activists who might otherwise graduate out of the student movement,⁷³⁰ and operates the “#BankOnUs” Escalation Pledge for campaigns to vow to move past petitioning and meeting with administrators to hold sit-ins, stage blockades, and otherwise “disrupt the unconscionable status quo of inaction.”⁷³¹

727 :Philanthropy Commitment, Divest-Invest. <http://divestinvest.org/philanthropy/philanthropy-commitment/> .

728 Signatories, Divest-Invest. <http://divestinvest.org/philanthropy/signatories/>.

729 “People of Color Caucus,” Fossil Fuel Divestment Students Network. http://www.studentsdivest.org/poc_caucus.

730 “Alumni Divestment Network,” Fossil Fuel Divestment Students Network. <http://www.studentsdivest.org/adn>.

731 “Escalation Pledge,” Fossil Fuel Divestment Students Network. <http://www.studentsdivest.org/escalation>.

Intentional Endowments Network

<http://www.intentionalendowments.org/network>

The Intentional Endowments Network links higher education presidents, business officers, trustees, investment committee members, students, alumni, faculty and staff, and others who aim to invest endowment holdings in companies that meet institutions' sustainability principles. The Network's goal is that such investment principles "become the norm in higher education and other tax-exempt organizations."⁷³² It holds conferences and publishes research and guides. Its principal is Anthony Cortese, who co-founded with John Kerry and Teresa Heinz the organization Second Nature, which first introduced sustainability to higher education in 1993. As president of Second Nature, Cortese launched the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment, now signed by 695 presidents and chancellors, which pledges institutions to "integrate" sustainability throughout the college curriculum, to achieve carbon neutrality, and to adopt other sustainable practices.

New Economy Coalition

<http://neweconomy.net/>

The New Economy Coalition, whose mission is to create "deep change in our economy and politics," is a network of progressive organizations working to change the economic system. It facilitates discussion and alliances among its members, which include a number of fossil fuel divestment organizers such as the Fossil Fuel Divestment Student Network, 350.org, Maypop Collective for Climate and Economic Justice, and Responsible Endowments Coalitions. It has also provided funding for students to attend divestment convergence trainings with the Fossil Fuel Divestment Student Network in San Francisco.⁷³³ The organization does not take positions on particular policies but endorses matters of "principle," such as the People's Climate March and the #BlackLivesMatter movement.⁷³⁴ NEC's president is Bob Massie, Episcopal priest and social activist who is an expert on South African apartheid divestment and a prominent supporter of fossil fuel divestment. When Bill McKibben first considered the idea of a divestment campaign, he first sought and secured Massie's approval.⁷³⁵

732 "Network," Intentional Endowments Network. <http://www.intentionalendowments.org/network>.

733 "Grants Program," New Economy Coalition. <http://neweconomy.net/programs/regranting>.

734 "Join the New Economy Coalition," New Economy Coalition. <http://neweconomy.net/members/join>.

735 McKibben, *Oil and Honey*, pp.151-152.

Responsible Endowments Coalition

<http://www.endowmentethics.org/>

REC, as it often calls itself, was founded in 2004 by five student activists from Barnard College, Duke University, the University of Pennsylvania, Swarthmore College and Williams College who wanted of their colleges' endowments to be a "force" that "promotes sustainability, equity, human rights, democracy, and prosperity for all."⁷³⁶ Since then, REC counts 300 partner divestment campaigns and claims six divestment victories (not all involving fossil fuels.)⁷³⁷ One of its current targets is the ending of investment into fossil fuel companies. It provides training, strategy and advice, template resolutions, research; gives presentations on campuses; facilitates meetings with activists and administrators; holds conferences; and sponsors a campaign to organize alumni in favor of divestment. With a longer history than 350.org's, REC has supported some of the very first fossil fuel divestment campaigns even before McKibben led 350.org to champion divestment. When Swarthmore Mountain Justice organized in fall 2011 around divestment, REC's then-executive director Dan Apfel coached the students.⁷³⁸

Sierra Student Coalition

The student division of the Sierra Club sponsored some of the first divestment campaigns before 350.org made the campaign a national issue. First established in 1991, the coalition has 13,000 students and 250 groups nationwide "working for just, sustainable communities and the protection of the environment."⁷³⁹ In 2009, it launched a Campuses Beyond Coal Campaign to push colleges and universities toward renewable energy;⁷⁴⁰ by fall 2011, Beyond Coal staff organizers piloted two coal divestment campaigns at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign. The Sierra Student Coalition also sponsors "Seize the Grid," a campaign demanding "100% just and local renewable energy by 2030."⁷⁴¹ After Bill McKibben and 350.org upped the level of aggressive protesting, Sierra Club executive director Michael Brune rescinded the Sierra Club's prohibition on direct action.

736 "Mission & History," Responsible Endowments Coalition. <http://www.endowmentethics.org/mission-history>.

737 *Ibid.*

738 "He really helped us get the campaign off the ground after we had the idea," Aronoff said of Apfel. James B. Stewart, "A Clash of Ideals and Investments at Swarthmore," *New York Times*, May 16, 2014. http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/17/business/a-clash-of-ideals-and-investments-at-swarthmore.html?_r=0.

739 "About Us," Sierra Club. <http://www.sierraclub.org/youth/about>.

740 "Campuses Beyond Coal," Sierra Club. <http://content.sierraclub.org/coal/campuses>.

741 Seize the Grid, Sierra Club. <https://secure.sierraclub.org/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=14723>.

Swarthmore College

This elite liberal arts college is the birthplace of the fossil fuel divestment movement. Its students launched the first fossil fuel divestment campaign in fall 2010 after peace and conflict studies professor George Lakey took students to West Virginian coal mines and urged them to join protests. Its graduates staff numerous pro-divestment organizations, including the Responsible Endowments Coalition, the Fossil Fuel Divestment Student Network, and the Maypop Collective (all three of which Swarthmore graduates helped found). In February 2013, Swarthmore hosted the first “divestment convergence” with activists from 70 colleges and universities across the country. In March-April 2015, it was the site of a 32-day sit-in with more than 200 students, professors, and staff taking turns in the protest. Swarthmore’s board of trustees has twice declined to approve divestment, but the campaign soldiers on.

Students for a Just and Stable Future

Students for a Just and Stable Future, founded in 2009, was the parent organization of Divest Harvard, which incorporated as a student group in August 2012, just after the release of Bill McKibben’s *Rolling Stone* article about “Global Warming’s Terrifying New Math.” A network of Massachusetts activists led by students, the group worked to oppose fossil fuels and promote renewable energy. Its website has shut down and it is unclear how active the group remains.

Sustainable Endowments Institute

<http://www.endowmentinstitute.org/>

Founded in 2005 by the Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, Inc., Sustainable Endowments Institute works to use institutions’ funds to promote environmental sustainability. It operates the Billion Dollar Green Challenge to encourage colleges and universities to invest in sustainability, and since 2011 it has served as a “consultant” for the fossil fuel divestment campaign.⁷⁴² Its founder, Mark Orlowski, was one of five founders of the Responsible Endowments Coalition.

742 “The Fossil Fuel Divestment Campaign,” Our Initiatives, Sustainable Endowments Institute. <http://www.endowmentinstitute.org/our-initiatives/>.

Training for Change

<https://www.trainingforchange.org/>

Training activists in the principles of nonviolent direct action, Training for Change has instructed social activists in the principles of nonviolent direct action since its founding by George Lakey in 1992. Its Organizing Skills Institute was used by Swarthmore Mountain Justice⁷⁴³ and recommended by the Fossil Fuel Divestment Students Network.⁷⁴⁴

Wallace Global Fund

<http://wgf.org/>

In June 2011, more than a year before McKibben sparked a national conversation about fossil fuel divestment, students met at the Wallace Global Fund to discuss the feasibility of starting a coal divestment campaign.⁷⁴⁵ Founded by former US vice president Henry Wallace (who served under Franklin Roosevelt), who rejected the idea of a post-World War II “American Century” as inconsistent with the “century of the common man,” the Wallace Global Fund promotes “structural change and defends the rights of the disenfranchised in the face of corrupt power.”⁷⁴⁶ Concerned about a “global corporatist state” as well as the onslaught of climate change, the Wallace Global Fund has divested its \$5 billion assets from fossil fuel companies.⁷⁴⁷ It also provides grants to pro-divestment organizations such as 350.org and As You Sow.

743 Sara Blazevic, “Swarthmore College Students Complete 32-Day Sit-In for Fossil Fuel Divestment,” Training for Change, 2015. <https://www.trainingforchange.org/blog/swarthmore-college-students-complete-32-day-sit-fossil-fuel-divestment>.

744 Resources, Fossil Fuel Divestment Students Network. <http://www.studentsdivest.org/resources>.

745 “Imagine a Fossil Free Future, Divest-Invest, Wallace Global Fund. <http://wgf.org/divest-invest/>.

746 “Our Mission,” Wallace Global Fund. <http://wgf.org/about-us-2/>.

747 “Mission Investing,” Wallace Global Fund. <http://wgf.org/mission-investing/>.