

Dear Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea,

We are proud of being part of a University which aspires '[to make world-leading contributions to understanding and addressing global challenges](#)'. We are calling on the University to take action to fulfill these objectives: to divest from fossil fuels and the arms trade. While we use our endowment fund to support the fossil fuel industry, we bear responsibility for the environmental damage and social injustice that result from it. Similarly, by investing in arms companies we are fueling conflict, poverty and human rights abuses.

The most [recent IPCC report](#) has clearly stated that anthropogenic global warming is "unequivocal". If we continue on the current trajectory to a 4°C rise in global temperature we will face [rising sea levels](#), reduced capacity of [food production](#), and immanent [resource wars](#). Whilst there is near-consensus concerning the causes and potential consequences of climate change, the global community has faltered in articulating the actions that must be taken to combat it.

We now have a [global movement](#) that has pinpointed a simple and necessary action: divestment from fossil fuels. From the [University of Glasgow](#), to the [British Medical Association](#), [The World Council of Churches](#), [Mary Robinson](#), [Desmond Tutu](#), UN [Climate Chief Christiana Figueres](#), [the Rockefeller Foundation](#) and the [National Union of Students](#) - the support for divestment is widespread. Collectively over [\\$50 billion](#) of investment in fossil fuels has been withdrawn. In order to stay below a two degree rise of global temperature, [80% of known fossil fuel reserves must stay underground](#). This is possible. A whole-scale shift to renewable energy production, coupled with increased efforts to reduce consumption would enable us to mitigate the effects of climate change. The fossil fuel industry poses a formidable barrier through [funding climate change denial](#) and [lobbying politicians](#), thus distorting public debate and preventing action on climate change.

Business as usual is not an option. Divestment from the fossil fuel industry means that our money will not further worsen the problem but also send a strong statement that the University of Edinburgh is making a '[significant, sustainable and socially responsible contribution to Scotland, the UK and the world](#)'. We further believe that divestment from the arms trade is crucial and follows the precedent set by divesting from [Ultra Electronics Ltd](#). Our continued investment in fossil fuels and arms, combined with the futility of shareholder engagement, constitutes inaction on climate change and human conflict across the globe. It is time that we stop thinking in terms of the risk of divestment and lead the way in creating a sustainable and secure future. By positively investing in renewable energy, local innovations and the university's own initiatives we will be fulfilling the [University's mission](#) and attempting to meet its targets to reduce carbon emissions.

We are calling on the University of Edinburgh to divest from fossil fuels and the arms trade.

Signed

1. Professor Crispin Bates, Director of Centre for South Asia Studies, School of History, Classics and Archaeology
2. Dr. Julie Cupples, Lecturer in Human Geography, School of Geosciences
3. Dr. Sara Rich Dorman, Lecturer in Politics, School of Social and Political Sciences
4. Dr. David Farrier, Lecturer in English Literature, School of Literature, Languages and Cultures
5. Dr. Guy Fletcher, Lecturer in Philosophy, School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Studies
6. Dr. Franklin Ginn, Lecturer in Human Geography, School of Geosciences
7. Dr. Hugo Gorrings, Senior Lecturer in Sociology, School of Social and Political Sciences
8. Dr. Andrew Harmer, Lecturer in Global Health Policy, School of Social and Political Science
9. Professor Jonathan Hearn, Professor of Political and Historical Sociology, School of Social and Political Sciences
10. Professor Lynn Jamieson, Professor of Sociology of Families and Relationships, School of Social and Political Sciences
11. Professor Patricia Jeffery, Emerita Professor of Sociology, School of Social and Political Sciences
12. Professor Roger Jeffery, Professor of Sociology of South Asia, School of Social and Political Science
13. Dr. Stephen Kemp, Lecturer in Sociology, School of Social and Political Science
14. Professor Simon King, Professor of Linguistics & English Language, School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Studies
15. Dr. Eric Laurier, Senior Lecturer in Geography and Interaction, School of Geosciences
16. Dr. Richard Milne, Senior Lecturer, School of Biological Sciences
17. Peter McColl, Rector and Chair of University Court
18. Dr. Fergus McInnes, Research Fellow, School of Informatics
19. Professor Michael Northcott, Professor of Ethics, School of Divinity
20. Professor Andrew Patrizio, Professor of Art History, Edinburgh College of Art
21. Dr. Pauline Phemister, Reader in Philosophy, School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Studies
22. Dr. Tom Slater, Reader in Human Geography, School of Geosciences
23. Dr. Katherine Smith, Reader in the Global Health Public Unit, School of Social and Political Sciences
24. Professor Liz Stanley, ESRC Professional Research Fellow, School of Social and Political Sciences
25. Professor Janette Webb, Professor in Institute of Governance, School of Social and Political Sciences
26. Dr. Tom Webster, Lecturer in History, School of History, Classics and Archaeology
27. Dr. Sarah Hill, Senior Lecturer in Population Health and Health Policy, School of Social and Political Sciences
28. Dr. Thomas Pierret, Lecturer in Contemporary Islam, School of Literature, Languages and Cultures
29. Rev. Ali Newell, Associate Chaplain
30. Professor Matthew Williams, Professor of Global Change Ecology, School of Geosciences
31. Dr William Mackaness, Senior Lecturer in Geographical Information Science, School of Geosciences
32. Professor David Stevenson, Atmospheric Chemistry Modelling, School of Geosciences
33. Dr. Kanchana Ruwanpura, Senior Lecturer in Human Geography, School of Geosciences
34. Dr. Caroline Lehmann, Lecturer in Biogeography, School of Geosciences
35. Dr. Samantha Staddon, Teaching Fellow in Environment and Development, School of Geosciences

36. Professor Dave Raey, Director of Post-graduate Teaching, School of Geosciences
37. Professor Mark Aspinwall, Professor of Politics, School of Social and Political Science
38. Dr. Shaun Bevan, Lecturer in Quantitative Political Science, School of Social and Political Science
39. Dr. Andrea Birdsall, Lecturer in International Relations and Co-Director of Undergraduate Studies, School of Social and Political Science
40. Dr. Philip Cook, Lecturer in Political Theory, School of History, Classics and Archaeology
41. Dr. Alan Convery, Lecturer in Politics, School of Social and Political Science
42. Professor Douglas Cairn, Professor of Classics, School of Social and Political Sciences
43. Melanie Scott, Assistant Director Student Disability Service
44. Dr. Andrew Cross, Research Associate, School of Geosciences
45. Dr. Jeremy Kidwell, AHRC Post-doctoral Research Fellow, School of Divinity
46. Dr. Songül Mecit, Post Doctoral Fellow in Islamic Studies, School of Literature, Languages and Cultures
47. Dr. Serpil Ozdemir, Teaching Fellow in Turkish, School of Literature, Languages and Cultures
48. Dr. Marisa Wilson, Chancellor's Fellow of Geographies and the Lived Environment, School of Geosciences
49. Mags Tingey, Research Officer in the Institute of Governance, School of Social and Political Sciences
50. Dr. Aaron Thierry, Postdoctoral Research Associate, CYCLOPS, School of Geosciences
51. Dr. Lisa Shillio, Fellow in Archaeology, School of History, Classics and Archaeology
52. Dr. Gemma Phillips, Research Fellow, School of Molecular, Genetic and Population Health Sciences
53. Dr. Isabel Fletcher, Global Public Health Unit Research Fellow, School of Social and Political Sciences
54. Dr. Isabelle Darmon, Lecturer in Sociology, School of Social and Political Science
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56. Dr. Claire Haggett, Lecturer in Sociology and Sustainability, School of Social and Political Sciences