

CHICAGO DIVESTMENT ORDINANCE VIRTUAL ACTION TOOLKIT



Protesting outside Chicago City Hall - demanding fossil fuel divestment

[Sign up](#) to join the #DivestChi Twitter Storm

PURPOSE

350 Chicago is kicking off a #DivestChicago #DivestChi Action Day on **Wednesday March 16th**. A Fossil Fuel Divestment Ordinance (02022-672) was introduced into the Chicago City Council on **February 23rd**. This initiative is to push the City of Chicago to move forward with the ordinance, requiring the city to immediately freeze any new investments in the top 200 fossil fuel companies* (Actually the city will exclude 225 fossil fuel companies) and divest from direct ownership and any commingled funds, including fossil fuel public equities and corporate bonds.

Alderpersons Maria Hadden, Daniel La Spata, Scott Waguespack, and George A. Cardenas are the sponsors for the ordinance. Mayor Lori Lightfoot introduced the ordinance into the City Council. City Treasurer Melissa Conyears-Ervin supports the ordinance and her administration wrote the ordinance in collaboration with 350 Chicago. Yet, we need as many aldermen to support the ordinance as possible. Please make your voice heard. Help protect Chicago and its future inhabitants by telling the aldermen and alderwomen of the city to codify fossil fuel divestment into law.

Let's make sure they pass the Fossil Fuel Divestment Ordinance!,

[*http://fossilfreeindexes.com/research/the-carbon-underground/](http://fossilfreeindexes.com/research/the-carbon-underground/)

HOW TO TAKE ACTION

Call. Tweet. Email. Or do all three!

CALL

Call your alderperson on **Wednesday, March 16th**. Demand they pass the fossil fuel divestment ordinance for Chicago's operational portfolio.

[Look up my ward and alderperson's phone number](#) and use the below script or share your own message!

Phone Script

Hi, my name is (your name) and I live in the ward. I'm calling to urge Alder(wo)man (your alder) to vote for the Fossil Fuel Divestment ordinance (Record #O2022-672) sponsored by Alder persons Maria Hadden, Daniel La Spata, Scott Waguespack and George A. Cardenas. Climate change is an urgent issue and I want the world to know that Chicago takes action on the climate crisis seriously. Over 38 other US cities, such as New York, Los Angeles, Boston, Minneapolis and Madison have committed to divesting from fossil fuels, let's make Chicago number 39.

TWEET

Tweet at the Treasurer (@ChiTreasurer) and / or your alderperson using the hashtags below on **Wednesday, March 16th!**. Use as many of the sample tweets below as you want! Add any graphics that you wish.

Or you can use the graphics [here](#).

Tag 5 friends to get them to participate in the #DivestChi #DivestChicago Day of Action, so everyone knows!

Sample Tweets

Simply copy and paste. Use as many of these tweets as you'd like.

Chicago has the opportunity to join the divestment movement and encourage socially and environmentally responsible investing. (Alder person twitter handle) commit to 100% divestment from fossil fuels. Pass the ordinance! #DivestChi #DivestChicago

Divesting Chicago's operations budget from fossil fuels is a smart move financially and ecologically. (Alderperson twitter Handle) Will you join us on the right side of history and commit to 100% divestment? Pass the ordinance! #DivestChicago #DivestChi

(Alderperson Twitter handle) Protect Chicago tax-payers from losses during the transition to a clean energy economy. Chicago should invest in companies with environmental, social and good governance practices. Vote for the Ordinance to divest! #DivestChi #DivestChicago @ChiCouncil

Our taxes should be invested in a brighter future, not in destructive fossil fuels assets. (Alderpersons twitter handle) Chicago needs investments in sustainable infrastructure like community solar. Please support the Fossil Fuel Divestment Ordinance in City Council.

Main hashtags:

#DivestChicago

#DivestChi

#ClimateActionNow

#ActOnClimate

Infographics

Why should Chicago divest from fossil fuels?

DIVESTMENT WORKS

- During the 1980s, a divestment movement played a significant role in ending apartheid in South Africa.
- In 2018, analysts at Goldman Sachs said, "the divestment movement has been a key driver of the coal sector's 60% de-rating over the past five years."
- A number of fossil fuel companies, including Chevron, Peabody, and Shell, have stated that the divestment movement has posed a threat to their business.
- Studies have shown that the divestment campaign harms the financial value of fossil fuel companies by depriving them of funds for future projects, and because announcements of divestment hurt their stock prices.
- Chicago divesting will increase momentum for divestment

INVEST IN OUR FUTURE



DIVEST CHICAGO FROM FOSSIL FUELS

Climate Change and Lake Michigan

- The Great Lakes will experience more "dead zones," in which native species cannot survive, affecting water-based industries and anglers alike, leading to an increase in invasive species and disease.
- Climate change has started pushing Lake Michigan's water levels toward uncharted territory, as patterns of rain, snowfall and evaporation are transformed by the warming world, threatening the City with destructive flooding.



Protect Lake Michigan
Divest from Fossil Fuels

MOMENTUM FOR DIVESTMENT

- Many major American cities, including Denver, Kansas City, Minneapolis, New York City, San Francisco, Boston, and Seattle, have divested from fossil fuels.
- Two states, Maine and New York State, have both recently decided to divest their pension funds from fossil fuels.
- To date, over 1500 institutions, collectively valued at \$40.43 trillion, have divested from fossil fuels.

How to add image descriptions in Tweets from twitter.com

1. Click on the **Tweet compose** button, or press the “n” key to use the keyboard shortcut.
2. Attach your photo(s).
Note: For detailed instructions about adding photos to your Tweets, read this [article](#).
3. To insert descriptive text, click **Add description**.
4. Type your description of the image and click the **Done** button. To edit the description, re-open the **Add description** dialog prior to posting the Tweet. (The limit is 1000 characters.)
5. You can add a description to each image in a Tweet.
Note: Image descriptions cannot be added to videos.

EMAIL

[Look up your ward](#) and then find your ward’s website to find their email address or contact form.

Sample email

Dear Alder(wo)man (Alder’s name),

As a constituent of your ward, I am urging you to commit the city to divest from fossil fuels by voting for the Fossil Fuel Divestment Ordinance(02022-672). We only have 8 years left before we reach 1.5 degrees Celsius in global warming, which the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warns we should stay below. We are running out of time to act and we need to green our investments as we green our city’s infrastructure and energy generation.

Introduced into City Council by Mayor Lightfoot, the ordinance was written in conjunction with the Treasurer, Melissa Conyears-Ervin, her staff, and 350 Chicago. The ordinance is sponsored by 49th Ward Alderwoman Maria Hadden, 12th Ward Alderman George Cardenas, 1st Ward Alderman Daniel La Spata, and 32nd Ward Alderman Scott Waguespack. Over 38 other US cities, such as New York, Los Angeles, Boston, Minneapolis and Madison, have committed to divesting from fossil fuels, let’s make Chicago number 39. Can we count on you to vote for this ordinance?

Please find more information at gofossilfree.org and www.350Chicago.org.

Thank you,
(Your name)

BACKGROUND OF THE CAMPAIGN AND DEMANDS

NOT A PENNY MORE FOR FOSSIL FUELS.



Cut off the social license and financing
for fossil fuels – divest, desponsor,
defund.

Divest from
fossil fuel
companies.

Divestment holds the fossil fuel industry responsible for its culpability in the climate crisis.

By shifting public support and our money away from the fossil fuel industry, we can break the hold that they have on our economy and our governments, while making way for a just transition to renewable energy.

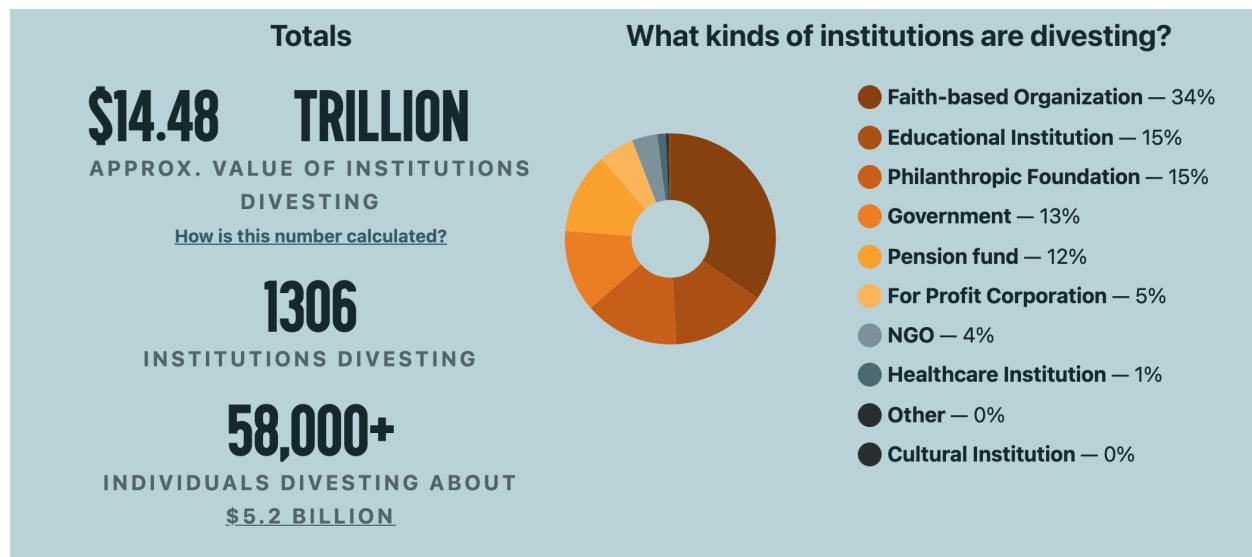
Fossil fuel companies are the wealthiest and most powerful companies on the planet, and they're using their money to block every serious attempt to stop climate change. By convincing our institutions to divest, desponsor and defund fossil fuels, we can turn the tide of public opinion against them.

Divestment Campaigns are Effective

1. Peabody, the world's biggest coal company, announced plans for bankruptcy in 2016, citing the divestment movement, which made it hard to raise capital.
2. In 2018, analysts at Goldman Sachs said, "the divestment movement has been a key driver of the coal sector's 60% de-rating over the past five years."
3. In a 2018 report, Shell announced that divestment should be considered a "material risk" to its business.
4. Blackrock, the world's largest asset manager, has joined a \$41 trillion climate change investing pact called the Climate Action 100+
5. Major banks are stopping the financing of new fossil fuel projects

Divestment Commitments Thus Far

1. \$14 trillion - the approx. value of institutions which have divested (1100+ institutions)
2. Multiple cities both in the US and abroad have committed to full divestment from fossil fuels: New York City, San Francisco, Kansas City, Minneapolis, Denver, Seattle, Paris, Berlin, Montreal, Oslo.
3. Ireland is the first country to fully divest.



The Ask

We want institutional investors, our town, city or state pensions and other public funds, to immediately freeze any new investment in fossil fuel companies, and divest from direct ownership and any commingled funds across all asset classes including fossil fuel public equities and corporate bonds within 5 years.

We do recommend a complete exclusion of ALL fossil fuel investment. However, we acknowledge that it might be difficult to identify the entire fossil fuel chain and therefore we suggest using the 200 publicly-traded companies list. This list includes the vast majority of traded coal, oil, and gas companies and ranks them by their amount of reserves.

We ask the city council to introduce an ordinance that makes fossil fuel divestment achievable according to the municipal code and a commitment that fossil fuel holdings will be unwound within 5 years.

We ask Treasurer Melissa Conyears-Ervin to support divestment of the city's operational budget, investments and pension funds from fossil fuels.