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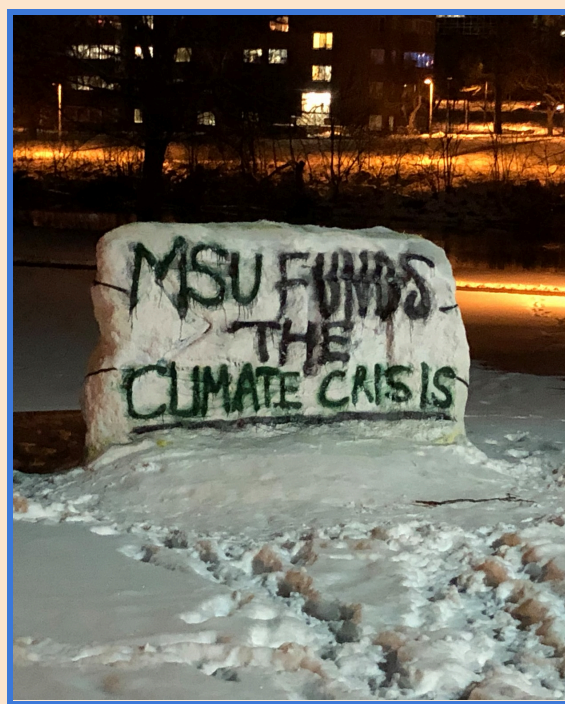
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**BREAKING: Dozens of MSU Students rally for fossil fuel divestment, joining nationwide action at 50+ colleges**

**East Lansing, MI** - Between February 13th and 14th, DivestMSU held a series of actions, demanding that Michigan State University end its investments in the fossil fuel industry. Their actions are part of DivestEd's National Fossil Fuel Divestment Day, where over [50 college campuses](#) have called attention to the urgent need for fossil fuel divestment.

On Thursday night, DivestMSU began its series of actions painting the Rock, and released a banner at the Hannah Administration building early the following morning—both stating “*MSU Funds the Climate Crisis.*” DivestMSU hopes to raise further awareness regarding the University’s investments in the fossil fuel industry. Within a few hours leading up to the Board of Trustees meeting, the banner was taken down—*yet another example of the University’s attempt to obfuscate its investments in the fossil fuel industry and silence student voices.* By investing in fossil fuel companies, no matter if it is directly or indirectly, the University is complicit in the climate crisis.



On Friday afternoon, students and alumni gathered for a National Divestment Day rally, *centering the disproportionate impact of fossil fuel industries on marginalized communities*. According to a 2019 report, MSU invested about \$103 million in Marathon alone. Jake Nessel, an organizer with DivestMSU, spoke about working at a summer camp in Detroit. “The asthma rates in southwest Detroit are far higher than the rest of the state, and kids are missing school because of it. This is something that disproportionately impacts black and brown communities.” He



He continued, “MSU has praised Marathon for its [investments in underprivileged communities](#), but any resident near Marathon’s Detroit refinery will tell you that the company is not a community partner.” Jessica Díaz, an organizer with Sunrise Movement, spoke of her experiences growing up in Houston, with the constant smell of pollution and the fear of explosions due to [aging fossil fuel infrastructure](#) in her hometown.

In recent months, we have seen growing support nationwide for fossil fuel divestment. In particular, the Association of Big Ten Students unanimously passed a resolution, [sponsored by the University of Michigan](#), demanding that all Big Ten institutions divest from fossil fuels. DivestMSU was inspired by the 1970s movement where [MSU students organized to divest from apartheid](#). In 1978, the MSU Board of Trustees voted to divest from apartheid because they understood the *moral imperative to act*. We believe that fossil fuel divestment should be no different. If the University is going to teach students about climate change, then they have a moral obligation to combat climate change as well. This week’s actions are the culmination of months of organizing, but they only mark the beginning of this movement.

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## **ABOUT DivestMSU**

DivestMSU is a coalition of students, faculty, and alumni at Michigan State University. We are demanding that the Board of Trustees and President Stanley implement sustainable policies that reflect MSU’s forward-looking vision. We believe that MSU must transition entirely from fossil fuels by transitioning to 100% sustainable energy and completely divesting to ensure all students and people have a livable future. *Read more about our [open letter to the Board of Trustees here](#).*