

1 **University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point SGA: Resolution in Support of Fossil Fuel Divestment at**  
2 **UW-Stevens Point**

3 **Whereas:** Global temperatures have already risen more than 1.5°F, which has been caused heavily  
4 by the combustion of fossil fuels releasing carbon dioxide, methane, and other greenhouse gases into  
5 the atmosphere.

6 **Whereas:** According to the Carbon Tracker Initiative, the proven coal, oil and gas reserves of the top  
7 200 fossil-fuel companies equals about 2,795 gigatons of CO<sub>2</sub>, or five times the amount we can  
8 release to maintain a 2°C (3.6°F) limit of planetary warming.

9 **Whereas:** Anthropogenic climate change is a threat to Wisconsin. The statewide annual temperature  
10 is projected to rise 4-9°F in the next century. A warmer annual temperature will cause warmer  
11 winters, increased rain precipitation, and a 25% increase in more intense rain events that produce at  
12 least two inches of rain.

13 **Whereas:** Wisconsin has started to take initiative, shown by the cities of Madison and Bayfield, and  
14 Dane County who have all pledged to divest. There are only a handful of municipalities and counties  
15 around the nation that have done so, showing that people in Wisconsin are climate conscious.

16 **Whereas:** UW-Stevens Point--through the strategic plan as part of the Partnership for Thriving  
17 Communities--states "Our university is at the forefront of sustainability issues..." and recognizes that  
18 "A sustainable community manages its resources in renewable ways and supports a life of balance,  
19 stability, and future abundance."

20 **Whereas:** UW-Stevens Point is a part of the American College and University President's Climate  
21 Change Commitment (ACUPCCC), and the Talloires Declaration commitment to environmental  
22 sustainability in higher education.

23 **Whereas:** Chancellor Patterson's signature in the ACUPCCC confirmed that our institution from  
24 there on out "...recognize[s] the scientific consensus that global warming is real and largely being

25 caused by humans. We further recognize the need to reduce the global emission of greenhouse gases  
26 by 80% by mid-century at the latest, in order to avert the worst impacts of global warming.”

27 **Whereas:** A movement that started in the US, calling for the divestment of holdings in fossil fuel  
28 companies, has grown rapidly throughout the country and now, the rest of the world. As of October  
29 2014, 181 institutions and 656 individuals have committed to divestment in the United States with  
30 400 campus campaigns to date, Fossil Free SP being one of them.

31 **Whereas:** Fossil Free SP has collected over 750 signatures from the student body, faculty and  
32 surrounding community in support of UW-Stevens Point’s divestment from fossil fuels. No UW  
33 schools have divested yet, but across the nation, more than 30 colleges and universities have chosen a  
34 fossil free portfolio.

35 **Whereas:** The UW-Stevens Point Student Government Association is the voice of our student body,  
36 and has the noble responsibility of ensuring the opinion of the students is heard.

37 **Recognizing:** UW-Stevens Point’s investments are ultimately the decision of the UW-Madison  
38 Board of Trustees to create a fossil free portfolio. It is the decision of the UW-Stevens Point Finance  
39 Committee to choose to move our investments into said portfolio. SGA’s support is in the form of a  
40 non-binding symbolic resolution.

41 **Therefore, be it resolved:** That the UW-Stevens Point Student Government Association supports  
42 complete financial divestment from the top 200 coal, oil and gas companies in order to act as a leader  
43 in our community and sustainability.

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