



## Key Policy Asks Committee Paper Template

[This template assumes that your institution currently has not committed to any of the Invest for Change key policy asks. It has been designed so that it can be easily adapted to the particular context of your university, where certain commitments may already have been made. Make sure to look into your university's existing policy by googling '[University Name] investment policy' and don't hesitate to get in touch with [zak.coleman@sos-uk.org](mailto:zak.coleman@sos-uk.org) if you'd like help understanding your university's policy and adapting this policy proposal template to your specific institution]

### Introduction

The climate emergency poses an existential threat to the long-term future of *[INSERT UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE NAME]*. Today, at 1.1 degrees of heating, increasingly devastating impacts are already being felt around the world. Last summer [update if using template past summer 2023], Europe experienced its worst drought in 500 years<sup>1</sup>. One third of Pakistan's landmass was flooded in what the UN termed a 'climate catastrophe'<sup>2</sup>, killing over 1,700 people<sup>3</sup> and displacing 33 million more<sup>4</sup>. London saw fires sparked by temperatures exceeding 40c. 9.5 million people were displaced in Bangladesh by the country's worst flooding in a century.<sup>5</sup> Today, 124 million people are already facing crisis levels of acute food insecurity or worse.<sup>6</sup> This is set to worsen significantly as global heating disrupts the stable weather patterns, water availability and soil health on which our modern human societies depend. The UN Secretary General has called the climate emergency a "code red for humanity"<sup>7</sup>, warning that on currently trajectories we are "firmly on track toward an unlivable world"<sup>8</sup>.

The world's leading climate scientists at the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) have made clear that global heating cannot exceed 1.5 degrees above preindustrial levels if we are to avoid catastrophic, exponential climate impacts beyond human civilisation's capacity to adapt to. Beyond 1.5 degrees, key climate and ecological 'tipping points' are breached, setting in motion ecological chain reactions that accelerate devastating processes of ecological and climate degradation with unprecedented and far-reaching consequences for the fundamental environmental systems which support human life. In 2022, the IPCC therefore warned of "a brief and rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable future for all"<sup>9</sup>, making clear that "without immediate and deep emissions reductions across all sectors, limiting global warming to 1.5°C is beyond reach"<sup>10</sup>. Just one of the outcomes of allowing heating to continue on current

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-62648912>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sce4Hj3MSY0>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/10/21/economic-woes-shifting-ties-complicate-pakistan-flood-recovery>

<sup>4</sup> <https://insideclimatenews.org/news/16092022/pakistan-flood-displacement/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/6/21/bangladesh-india-floods-kill-over-100-millions-in-need-of-aid>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.fao.org/state-of-food-security-nutrition/2021/en/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-58130705>

<sup>8</sup> <https://apnews.com/article/climate-united-nations-paris-europe-berlin-802ae4475c9047fb6d82ac88b37a690e>

<sup>9</sup> IPCC Press Release, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022. <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/resources/press/press-release/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.ipcc.ch/2022/04/04/ipcc-ar6-wgiii-pressrelease/>



trajectories is a projection that 700 million people on the African continent - half its population - will be forced from their homes, becoming climate refugees, by 2030<sup>11</sup>.

Whilst the climate emergency affects all people, its earliest and most severe impacts are disproportionately faced by those least responsible for global emissions, including: frontline communities in low-lying and climate-vulnerable, low-emitting nations in the Global South<sup>12,13</sup>, indigenous peoples<sup>14</sup>, women<sup>15</sup> and impoverished communities<sup>16</sup>. Addressing the climate crisis is therefore not just an issue of human civilisation's survival, but also of addressing deep-rooted global inequalities of gender, race and class.

In this sobering context, the Students' Union is proud to be part of a university which acknowledges the urgent need for bold, science-based climate action and is committed to helping to create a fairer, more equitable world. *[insert previous statement on climate crisis/inequality/anti-racism, if there is one, from the university website, statement from the Vice Chancellor, etc - particularly useful if there's anything related to 1.5 degrees, the Paris Agreement, or the UN]*. The university's existing commitments to *[insert existing commitments, e.g. net zero target, if applicable]* are hugely welcome signs of commitment to addressing the climate emergency.

In this paper, the Students' Union seeks to build on *[INSERT UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE NAME]*'s existing commitments. It aims to provide a comprehensive roadmap for aligning our investment practices with our commitment to advancing environmental and social sustainability, with a particular focus on tackling the climate emergency.

In developing this proposal, the Students' Union has drawn on resources and expertise from a wide range of specialist organisations, including the Impact Investing Institute, higher-education-focused sustainability charity SOS-UK and leading responsible investment organisation ShareAction, in addition to careful study of sustainable investment best practice examples from across the higher education sector.

**The Students' Union is requesting that [INSERT UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE NAME] implements a new Ethical Investment Policy, including the following:**

## **1. An ethical exclusion policy**

The University should publicly exit all investments in industries whose core business model is driving the climate crisis and/or acute human rights violations. The University should also commit formally to excluding investments in these industries in future investment decisions.

In the first instance, excluded industries must include:

- i) **The fossil fuel industry**, defined as any company or project engaged in exploration, production, refining, marketing, storage and/or transportation of

---

<sup>11</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/ATAG/2022/729334/EPRS\\_ATA\(2022\)729334\\_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/ATAG/2022/729334/EPRS_ATA(2022)729334_EN.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-02-28/global-south-cities-face-dire-climate-impacts-un-report>

<sup>13</sup> <https://gceurope.org/global-north-and-global-south-how-climate-change-unveils-global-inequalities/>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/climate-change.html>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-43294221>

<sup>16</sup> <https://blogs.worldbank.org/climatechange/when-poverty-meets-climate-change-critical-challenge-demands-cross-cutting-solutions>



oil, gas and/or coal and consumable fuels as well as companies that offer oil and gas equipment and services.

More than half of UK universities have now divested from fossil fuel companies<sup>17</sup>, including the country's largest endowments at the universities of Cambridge, Oxford and Edinburgh.

These decisions followed concerns that institutions dedicated to supporting young people and defending scientific integrity should not be profiting from, and providing social and academic legitimacy to, an industry that is ignoring the global scientific consensus and accelerating the climate emergency.

Indeed, the world's major fossil fuel companies' investments in fossil fuel expansion still dwarf their renewable energy investments<sup>18</sup>. In fact, the 12 largest fossil fuel companies are investing \$103 million a day in new oil and gas projects until 2030 - when the IPCC has warned global emissions need to halve. This is fundamentally at odds with the repeated warnings of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change<sup>19</sup> - composed of the world's top climate scientists - and the International Energy Agency<sup>20</sup>. Both have made clear that there can be no new fossil fuel developments if the world is to have any chance of meeting the 1.5 degree heating threshold that is critical for avoiding the most catastrophic, cascading climate impacts. Most major fuel companies also remain members<sup>21</sup> of trade associations which conduct political lobbying aimed at watering down, delaying or halting climate legislation entirely.<sup>22</sup> No major oil or gas company has a credible plan to align its business model with the Paris Agreement, nearly a decade after it was signed.<sup>23</sup>

Major fossil fuel companies also have a long history of collaboration with the world's top human-rights-abusing governments, including making payments to police and military forces known to carry out violence against local communities<sup>24</sup>, involvement in violations of indigenous land rights<sup>25</sup>, the forced displacement of local people<sup>26</sup> and fuelling often deadly<sup>27</sup> violence against environmental activists and communities located around production or exploration sites.<sup>28</sup>

---

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/jan/13/half-of-uk-universities-have-committed-to-divest-from-fossil-fuel#:~:text=Seventy%2Deight%20of%20the%20UK%27s,from%20the%20fossil%20fuel%20industry.>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2022/feb/11/more-cash-than-we-know-what-to-do-with-oil-and-gas-companies-report-bumper-profits>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.ipcc.ch/2022/04/04/ipcc-ar6-wgiii-pressrelease/>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.iea.org/news/pathway-to-critical-and-formidable-goal-of-net-zero-emissions-by-2050-is-narrow-but-brings-huge-benefits>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.api.org/membership/members>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/jul/19/big-oil-climate-crisis-lobby-group-api>

<sup>23</sup> <https://priceofoil.org/2022/05/24/big-oil-reality-check-2022/>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.behindthelogos.org/west-papua-operating-in-the-middle-of-a-genocide/>

<sup>25</sup> [https://www.ran.org/the-understory/extreme\\_energy\\_injustice/](https://www.ran.org/the-understory/extreme_energy_injustice/)

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/en/stories/2021/11/protecting-indigenous-peoples-rights-collective-fight>

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/sep/13/murders-environment-land-defenders-record-high>

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.behindthelogos.org/>



It is clear that the fossil fuel industry is fundamentally at odds with **[INSERT UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE NAME]**'s basic values of social equity, environmental sustainability and evidence-based, science-led climate action.

- ii) Companies involved in the manufacturing or supply of offensive weapons, armaments and other equipment to governments or other groups with a clear record of violating human rights, i.e. businesses which do not follow the UN Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights<sup>29</sup>.

Many arms companies continue to sell weapons and provide equipment to regimes with clear, well-documented records of war crimes and serious violations of human rights and humanitarian law<sup>30</sup>. This includes, but is not limited to, companies continuing to supply the Saudi-backed coalition in Yemen, the Israeli government's illegal occupation of the West Bank and Egypt's deadly suppression of pro-democracy protestors. Just some of the examples of the uses to which this equipment has been put by such regimes include indiscriminate aerial and artillery bombardments of residential areas, extrajudicial killings and upholding Israeli apartheid (as verified by Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and Israel's largest human rights organisation, B'tselem).

According to the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) - which were unanimously agreed at the UN Human Rights Council in 2011- companies have a responsibility to respect human rights wherever they operate in the world. This includes human rights abuses which are directly linked to products and/or services produced and supplied by the company, regardless of whether the company has caused or contributed to the impact. In other words, companies have a clear responsibility to prevent human rights abuses *in their supply chains*. Companies which continue to supply their weapons to governments and other groups where there is credible evidence that they will be used in the violation of human rights therefore represent morally unacceptable investments.

## Rationale

Profiting from fossil fuel expansion and the provision of arms to human rights abusing regimes and groups is profoundly incompatible with **[INSERT UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE NAME]**'s identity and mission as an institution that supports young people, upholds scientific integrity and defends basic human rights. Divestment from these industries is therefore an overwhelming and urgent moral imperative and one for which there is clear precedent within the higher education. As such, the Students' Union believes that these two sectors must immediately come under an exclusion at **[INSERT UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE NAME]** in any new Ethical Investment Policy.

Exclusion criteria must apply across all asset classes, including public equity, private equity, debt and property investments. Where investments are managed by third-party fund managers (indirect investments), the fund manager should be instructed by the university to screen out all investments falling under the exclusion criteria from its portfolio, including pooled funds.

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/Business/InterpretationGuidingPrinciples.pdf>

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/press-release/2019/09/arms-companies-failing-to-address-human-rights-risks/>

<sup>31</sup> [file:///C:/My Downloads/ACT3008932019ENGLISH.pdf](file:///C:/My%20Downloads/ACT3008932019ENGLISH.pdf)



For an example of sector best practice for exclusion, see Newcastle University's Investment Policy - which excludes all investments in fossil fuels and arms - [here](#).

**NB:** The Students' Union wholeheartedly endorses the need to preserve the real value of the endowment by maintaining stable long-term returns. Exclusion of particular industries on social and/or environmental grounds is, however, extremely common practice for institutional investors, particularly educational and charity investors whose core mission involves contributing to positive social and environmental change. These exclusions do not compromise investors' ability to meet critical return objectives, with evidence that a majority of screened funds outperform the market over the long term.<sup>32</sup>

Moreover, **[INSERT UNIVERSITY OR COLLEGE NAME]** is a universal owner<sup>33</sup>, holding a diversified portfolio with investments across the global economy. It also invests with an exceptionally long time horizon. As such, **[INSERT UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE NAME]** has a clear investment interest in preserving the long-term health of the overall global economy. This must involve addressing systemic threats to that health. Conflict-induced instability and the climate crisis are two pressing examples of such systemic risks. In reinforcing the established divestment precedent around these industries, **[INSERT UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE NAME]** contributes to the removal of their 'social license to operate', increasing pressure on governments and civil society to address their damaging corporate practices more robustly. This then helps to mitigate a clear systemic risk to the health and stability of the global economy and therefore the overall long-term health and stability of **[INSERT UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE NAME]**'s investment portfolio.

The Students' Union is calling for an exclusion, rather than engagement approach to these sectors, for several reasons.

Firstly, fossil fuel and arms exclusions are now well-established common practice across the higher education sector, as well as many other endowed charities. 100 UK universities have now made a fossil fuel divestment commitment.<sup>34</sup> This includes the country's largest educational endowments at Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh and Manchester and represents well over half of universities in the UK. We believe that joining together with this well-established movement of universities will enable us to make the greatest impact.

Additionally, the fossil fuel industry's core business model is inextricably tied to ongoing fossil fuel production and expansion, running counter to the urgent imperatives dictated by climate science. The Students' Union therefore does not believe that engagement with these companies can have a meaningful impact in terms of reforming their policies as the problem is related to their fundamental business model. Where there is not an existing precedent for exclusion of a particular sector, and where their business model is less fundamentally tied to environmental damage, we do believe **[INSERT UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE NAME]** has a key role to play in pushing internally for change (see below).

Although exclusion/divestment does have some direct financial impact on companies' cost of capital<sup>35</sup>, the primary impact of a high-profile, globally respected academic institution

---

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.ft.com/content/733ee6ff-446e-4f8b-86b2-19ef42da3824>

<sup>33</sup> [https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=3457205](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3457205)

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2022/oct/27/uk-universities-divest-fossil-fuels>

<sup>35</sup> <https://academic.oup.com/joeg/article/21/1/141/6042790>



like **[INSERT UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE NAME]** divesting from particular industries is not financial. Rather, it lies in the effect of shifting public discourse by removing what is known as an industry's 'social licence to operate'. In the context of a renewed effort from governments to expand fossil fuel development, at odds with the express warnings of climate scientists and energy experts that this violates upper climate limits, exercising this influence is more important than ever for helping to shift the political and public policy agenda in favour of science-led climate legislation. As institutions dedicated to defending scientific integrity, we have a particularly powerful public voice on this issue and a key role to play in calling out the industry's failure to meet critical internationally agreed science-based climate targets<sup>36</sup>. By contrast, universities are relatively small investors in raw financial terms. Our greatest influence comes from our public profile, not our private purse. **Any divestment decision should therefore be announced publicly and displayed prominently on the **[INSERT UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE NAME]** website.**

## 2. An Active Stewardship Approach

For those investments not covered by the exclusion list, the **[INSERT UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE NAME]** should set out how it plans to use its influence as a shareholder/asset owner to promote high standards of social and environmental responsibility for companies within its portfolio, particularly where companies have an acutely harmful environmental or social impact.

This should include:

- i) A commitment to use shareholder voting power to drive positive environmental and social change

The **[INSERT UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE NAME]**, either directly or via its investment manager/s, should adopt a 'support or explain' approach to environmental and social equity-related shareholder resolutions at company annual general meetings (AGMs). This approach has already been [adopted](#) by Jesus College (Cambridge) and St Anne's (Oxford), as well as the universities of Reading, Winchester, Lancaster, Bristol, Newcastle, Sussex and the University of the West of England.

There should be annual public disclosure of the **[INSERT UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE NAME]**'s voting record and rationale, particularly if the **[INSERT UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE NAME]** ever chooses not to support climate and social justice-related shareholder resolutions.

- ii) A clear, public and time-bound engagement escalation policy

Voting in favour of climate and social justice-related resolutions can have a major impact, particularly when working as part of broader shareholder coalitions coordinated by groups like ShareAction. In addition to adopting this as standard practice, the **[INSERT UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE NAME]** should utilise additional strategies for influencing companies if clear progress on pressing environmental and social concerns is not made.

In relation to climate policies, this must mean significant progress towards alignment with a 1.5 degree heating scenario, including credible short and medium-term targets. Any role in facilitating new fossil fuel infrastructure or exploration must also not be tolerated.

---

<sup>36</sup> <https://priceofoil.org/2022/05/24/big-oil-reality-check-2022/>



Where progress is not observed, or is too slow, escalation should involve:

## Ahead of AGM Season

1. Requesting meetings and writing formal statements of concern to company management.
2. Making formal public statements of concern.
3. Notifying management of the **[INSERT UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE NAME]**'s intention to support and co-file particular resolutions and vote against the re-election of directors if progress isn't made on key environmental and social issues before the AGM.

## During AGM Season

1. Co-filing resolutions to address particular areas of concern.
2. Voting **against** management-proposed resolutions such as the re-election of company directors, excessive remuneration packages that are not linked to environmental metrics and the reappointment of auditors who sign off accounts with unrealistic assumptions relating to environmental risks and stranded assets.

Where the **[INSERT UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE NAME]** exercises its shareholder voting power through investment managers, the university should encourage its manager to follow this policy and escalation strategy. The investment managers should be required to regularly report on voting and engagement activities to the relevant university committees and staff members.

As capacity and time for this work is understandably limited, and in recognition of the fact that engagement is most effective when it is sustained and focused, the **[INSERT UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE NAME]** should prioritise engaging with companies that have a particularly key role in driving the climate crisis and/or social inequity. The **[INSERT UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE NAME]** should pay particular attention to ShareAction's annual 'Resolutions to Watch' List, focusing its engagement activities around these highest-impact resolutions at key companies.

In addition, given that fossil fuel combustion is the single largest source of global greenhouse gas emissions<sup>37</sup>, **[INSERT UNIVERSITY OR COLLEGE NAME]** should focus its engagement efforts on the sectors which most directly facilitate fossil fuel expansion. These include: **banks**, who provide project financing to specific fossil fuel infrastructure and exploration projects and/or general corporate financing to companies engaged in this fossil fuel expansion; **insurance companies** who continue to insure new fossil fuel projects and **utilities companies** which continue to build demand-side infrastructure for new fossil fuel projects. The **[INSERT UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE NAME]** should take a clear escalation approach to any company which continues to provide these services to companies engaged in building new fossil fuel infrastructure or exploring for new reserves, utilising the escalation approach outlined above.

## 3. A growing percentage allocation of the investment portfolio dedicated to impact investments

---

<sup>37</sup> <https://www.clientearth.org/latest/latest-updates/stories/fossil-fuels-and-climate-change-the-facts/>



Working to drive change in corporate practices at established companies through shareholder engagement is undoubtedly a critical tool in **[INSERT UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE NAME]**'s arsenal for promoting positive environmental and social change in established major companies. **[INSERT UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE NAME]** also has a role to play in scaling-up new and emerging projects/industries focused on delivering an equitable, sustainable future. For example, whilst investment in environmental solutions like renewable energy is growing, it is still well short of what is required to meet international climate targets. According to the International Energy Agency's 2022 World Energy Investment Report<sup>38</sup>, growth in clean energy investment since the Paris Agreement is "well short of what is required to hit international climate goals".

The Students' Union is proposing that **[INSERT UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE NAME]** helps to address the gap in investment for this and other urgent environmental and or social problems by dedicating a portion of the endowment specifically to impact investments. This proportion could be small in the first instance, with a goal to grow it over time.

Impact investments are those which generate a particularly strong, measurable positive impact on the environment and/or communities alongside stable financial returns<sup>39</sup>. This might include community energy projects that promote energy democracy, or projects to increase the provision of affordable, social housing for under-served communities. There are a range of impact investments which offer stable, market-rate returns alongside meaningful, positive environmental and social impact. Impact investments should involve primary market investing<sup>17</sup>, where investment provides new capital - known as 'additionality' - to companies and projects with a clear, positive environmental and social impact.

The **[INSERT UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE NAME]** should allocate an initial percentage of the endowment to trial impact investment, with the aim to grow this percentage over time and with portfolio impact reported alongside financial return in university reporting processes.

The **[INSERT UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE NAME]** should avoid impact investing options provided by banks, private equity firms and/or fund managers whose overall policies are not consistent with key climate targets, particularly those who continue to provide financing to companies engaged in fossil fuel expansion or exploration, or to specific fossil fuel development or exploration projects. Instead, it should favour impact investment options provided by specialist impact investment houses which are not engaged with these activities anywhere in their operations such as Snowball, Triodos, Abundance and Thrive.

For examples of universities which have already committed to making impact investments, see the University of Bristol's policy [here](#) (page 2) and Jesus College, Cambridge's policy [here](#) (page 5). For best practice examples of charitable endowments which have led the sector in impact investing, see Friends Provident Foundation's investments in Snowball [here](#) and the Guys' and St Thomas' Trust's impact investments page [here](#). The University of Cambridge also made commitments to invest specifically in renewable energy and climate solutions as part of its 2020 investments announcement.

---

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.cnbc.com/2022/06/22/clean-energy-set-for-1point4-trillion-boost-in-2022-iea-says.html>

<sup>39</sup> <https://www.impactinvest.org.uk/our-case-studies/endowments/#:~:text=For%20the%20Impact%20Investing%20Institute,impact%20alongside%20a%20financial%20return.>



## 4. Engagement with asset manager/s to ensure alignment with the College's approach to responsible investment

The university should select asset managers whose overall approach to responsible investment aligns with that of the university, as set out in the new Ethical Investment Policy.

In particular, the Students' Union believes that halting fossil fuel expansion must be a priority for fund manager engagement efforts. The science is incontrovertible: there can be no new fossil fuel infrastructure or exploration anywhere in the world if we are to avoid breaching the critical 1.5 degree heating threshold. As a UK-based institution, ensuring that UK-focused asset managers are not facilitating new fossil fuel development in the North Sea should therefore be a particular focus of engagement, in addition to development further afield.

To achieve this, the university should make clear to its asset manager that it expects them to 1) vote against the re-election of directors at companies engaged in or facilitating the construction of new fossil fuel infrastructure or exploring for new reserves and 2) refuse to purchase new bonds from companies involved in this activity.

Ensuring that asset managers adhere to the university's instructions requires sustained engagement and robust accountability mechanisms. The College should require its asset manager/s to report on adherence to the policy alongside its regular financial reporting. The relevant Finance Team staff member should also regularly engage with the asset manager to ensure progress is being made.

This approach to alignment on climate and social equity principles should be clearly detailed during the tendering, monitoring and review process for the university's asset manager. Managers who are not aligned with the **[INSERT UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE NAME]**'s approach should not have their contracts renewed, and the reasons for the termination of this relationship should be made clear to the asset manager and publicly.

## 5. Transparency & Democracy

As part of its annual financial reporting, **[INSERT UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE NAME]** should include **public disclosure of holdings, voting and engagement activity**. This should include reports on the specific positive impact of the College's investments where relevant.

Public disclosure of holdings is increasingly common practice across higher education institutions, for instance at major endowments such as the University of Manchester, the University of Bristol and the University of Edinburgh. Engagement and voting activity summaries are now also commonly reported on in end-of-year reports.

**As is the case at many endowed higher education institutions, there should be a student representative on the Committee responsible for making investment decisions in order to provide the student stakeholder perspective to investment decisions. If necessary, finance training should be provided to enable students to participate fully.**

### Policy review

This policy should be reviewed in consultation with student representatives on an annual basis with a view to maintaining and strengthening the commitment to responsible investment in light of evolving evidence and emerging best practice.



# INVEST FOR CHANGE

The Students' Union is excited to present this proposal as a critical next step for enhancing ***[INSERT UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE NAME]***'s commitment to responsible investment and tackling the climate crisis.