**Divesting from fossil fuels**

Many people in our Sangha would like to do something effective to make a difference with regard to climate change, but wonder where to start. One of the most tangible and effective things one can do is to withdraw financial support from fossil fuel companies. This is known as divestment. It can be done both by individuals as well as by Sangha institutions such as centres, retreat centres, and team-based right livelihood businesses.

**Why divest?**

This article from the Guardian in 2015 gives a very good overview of the difference that divesting can make and answers most of the most common questions.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/jun/23/a-beginners-guide-to-fossil-fuel-divestment?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other>

**Fill out the Triratna divestment survey**

Tejopala is trying to get a snapshot of how much of our movement has divested and who is thinking of doing so. Please fill out one or both of the following short surveys:

* Individuals: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/L66TBHS>
* Sangha institutions: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LZ9J5K3>

**How to do it**

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| **Who this applies to** | **What to do** |
| Sangha institutions | **Form a team**.  It may well be most effective for this to comprise the Chair, Treasurer and a divestment champion who can do some of the research. |
| Sangha institutions | **Discuss the ethics**.  Meet as a team and discuss whether you agree in principle to divest. Is it an expression of the precepts? |
| Both individuals  and Sangha institutions  Both individuals and Sangha institutions  Both individuals  and Sangha institutions  Individuals  Sangha institutions | **Review you current situation and your options :**  Your **bank** – do they lend to coal, oil or gas companies?  Your **electricity company**  - is it 100% renewable or not?  **Any investments** **you may have**  – do they invest in fossil fuels?  **Your pension fund  –** does it invest in companies in the fossil fuel sector?  You may wish to **contact someone who has already done it**. The Sydney Buddhist Centre divested in 2016. You can contact them on [info@sydneybuddhistcentre.org.au](mailto:info@sydneybuddhistcentre.org.au) and ask how they found it. |
| Both individuals  and Sangha institutions | **Decide**  Make a clear decision to divest including a date when you will do it by. It may take some time so it can be good to decide a start date as well as a finish date. |
| Both individuals  and Sangha institutions | **Divest**  Write to your bank, electricity company and fund manager to let them know you will change companies by a certain date unless they divest completely from fossil fuels in that time. If they call you or offer to meet this is a chance to discuss your reasons.  When the deadline passes, change companies. |
| Both individuals  and Sangha institutions  Both individuals  and Sangha institutions  Sangha institutions  Sangha institutions | **Tell people about it**  Write to your bank, electricity company, pension fund etc and let them know that you've changed and why.  Post about it on social media.  Put out a press release and get some media coverage.  Email those on your email list and put it on your website. |
| Both individuals  and Sangha institutions | **Review**  Every six months or a year, review the financial and ethical consequences of divesting. Sangha institutions may wish to do this in their teams. |

**Useful sources of information**

***United Kingdom***

**Changing banks**

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/may/16/how-to-divest-your-bank-account-of-fossil-fuels?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other>

[www.moveyourmoney.org.uk](http://www.moveyourmoney.org.uk)

**Changing pension fund**

<https://www.theguardian.com/money/2015/may/09/how-get-pension-fund-divest-fossil-fuels?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other>

**Changing electricity company**

[www.greenelectricity.org](http://www.greenelectricity.org)

***USA***

**Changing electricity company**

[www.epa.gov/greenpower/guide-purchasing-green-power](http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/guide-purchasing-green-power)

**Investments and 401Ks**

<https://gofossilfree.org/usa/your-roadmap-to-personal-divestment/>

<https://fossilfreefunds.org/>

**Changing banks**

<http://breakupwithyourmegabank.org/>

**Changing credit card company**

[www.takechargeofyourcard.org](http://www.takechargeofyourcard.org)

***Australia***

**Changing electricity company**

[www.greenelectricity.org.au](http://www.greenelectricity.org.au)

**Changing bank, superannuation fund and other investments**

[www.marketforces.org.au](http://www.marketforces.org.au)

***All locations***

**Avoiding the most fossil-intensive investments**

<http://fossilfreeindexes.com/>