

Graduate Student Senate

Resolution 9.10.2026.4

Reaffirming a Call for a Report on Fossil Fuel Divestment

Sponsor(s): Collin Coil, President of the GSS

Date Introduced: September 17, 2026

WHEREAS, On March 4, 2020, the Graduate Student Senate adopted Bill 2, calling upon the University to divest its endowment from fossil fuels and urging the President and the Board of Trustees to release public bi-annual updates detailing progress toward full divestment and ensuring that divestment is sustained through future administrations, and the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to divest on July 14, 2020; and

WHEREAS, On March 19, 2024, the Senate unanimously adopted Resolution 3.19.2024, renewing that call and requesting a public report by Earth Day of that year, and no public report of the kind requested has since been made available to the campus community; and

WHEREAS, Campus reporting has indicated that the University remained contractually obligated to four indirect fossil fuel investments, together valued at approximately \$157,000, or roughly 0.02 percent of the endowment, until those contracts lapse in 2027,¹ placing the University within a year of the point at which it can confirm publicly that its 2020 commitment has been fully honored; and

WHEREAS, The University's Comprehensive Sustainability Plan identifies investments as a governance priority, commits UVM to increase the share of positive sustainability investments and shareholder advocacy, and commits the University to create a leadership group to advise, report on, and track implementation and to communicate regularly with the campus community;² and

WHEREAS, The survey that informed that plan found that ninety percent of respondents agree the University has a responsibility to lead in sustainability while only twenty-eight percent agree it does enough to justify its sustainability reputation, and respondents specifically asked that progress on goals be shared frequently; and

WHEREAS, Pillar 4 of *Green, Gold, and Bold*, "Enable Excellence," commits the University to approach its work with a mindset of stewardship, collaboration, transparency, and sustainability, to invest strategically and transparently, and to practice a culture of openness;³ and

¹*The Vermont Cynic*, "UVM to keep indirect investments in fossil fuels until contracts lapse." Available at: <https://vtcynic.com/news/uvm-to-keep-indirect-investments-in-fossil-fuels-until-contracts-lapse/>

²University of Vermont, *Comprehensive Sustainability Plan, 2023–2040*. Available at: https://www.uvm.edu/d10-files/documents/2025-06/ComprehensiveSustainabilityPlan_06.03.2025_Spreads.pdf

³University of Vermont, *Green, Gold, and Bold*. Available at: <https://www.uvm.edu/president/strategicplan>

WHEREAS, Periodic public reporting on a completed commitment costs the University little, whereas a commitment that goes six years without public accounting invites the perception that the reputation is doing the work the record should; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Graduate Student Senate (GSS) reaffirms Bill 2 of 2020 and Resolution 3.19.2024 and calls upon the President and the Board of Trustees to release, no later than Earth Day (April 22, 2027), a public report stating the current status of the endowment's fossil fuel holdings, including any remaining indirect exposure, the lapse dates of the remaining contracts, and the steps taken to complete divestment; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the GSS urges the President and the Board of Trustees to publish bi-annual updates each Fall and Spring until full divestment is confirmed, in keeping with the Comprehensive Sustainability Plan's commitment to report on and track implementation progress; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President and the Board of Trustees.

Collin Coil

Adopted by the Graduate Student Senate on: October 15, 2026
President, Graduate Student Senate