

Dear Members of the Stanford Board of Trustees:

Please remove Stanford from investments in the catastrophe of climate change.

Greenhouse gasses have already raised global temperatures, altering weather patterns, creating storms that directly destroy wealth and well-being, threatening water supplies, and diminishing agricultural productivity with ripples throughout the economy—ripples, waves, and what threaten to be tsunamis.

We know that the environmental instability promised and already begun will disrupt the lives of more than just polar bears and penguins. Environmental instability creates economic and then political and social instability. The history and assurance of environmental disruption is human suffering, societal discord, unstable governments, and war. Our participation in creating greenhouse gasses is participation in the biological impoverishment of our world and the resulting widespread chaos. We can and must work to mitigate the suffering already built into the atmosphere. We must also work to minimize further climate disruption and its attendant loss of civility and prosperity.

The single biggest driver of climate change is the burning of fossil fuels. Divestment from the fossil fuel industry and anything else that we can do to reduce the impending climate change are the responsible and beneficial courses of action for Stanford University and all involved with it. Climate change matters globally; it matters here; it matters to us. Other institutions may dither in myopic hand-wringing, unwilling or unable to cope with a new world problem. Stanford has the wherewithal to lead.

Under the Board of Trustee's oversight Stanford is a leader in the full array of university endeavors at home and around the globe. You, the current Board of Trustees of Stanford University, have inherited and propagated a tremendous legacy. Please do not let that legacy include destructive indifference to the funding of greenhouse gas industries. Please defund climate change.

Thank you.