August 2023

The University of Kent has no investments in extractor fossil fuel companies, and commits to ensuring that they will be excluded from any future investments we make.

This is because we want to protect the future of all of our students – past, current and future - by committing to safeguarding a liveable climate for all.

In December 2015, 195 countries committed to a legally binding international commitment to keep global warming between 1.5 and 2 degrees – the first deal of its kind. Given that the fossil fuel industry is a leading contributor to climate change - with just 100 companies responsible for 71% of global carbon emissions - we feel that cutting ties is a common sense decision.

Universities exist for the public good, from conducting life-changing research to educating the global citizens and leaders of tomorrow. Furthermore, they are at the forefront of climate change research. As such we think it's important we do not invest in an industry that has 5 times more reserves than it is safe to burn to stay within the parameters of 1.5 and 2 degrees of global warming.

We acknowledge that more than half of all UK Higher Education institutions have thus far committed to divest from these corporations in some way and we wish to add our voice to this growing movement.

Our university is a globally responsible institution and commits to remaining fossil free as an act of solidarity with the frontline and indigenous communities disproportionately impacted by both climate change and the extractivist projects of fossil fuel companies.

We view this decision as us embracing our role as globally significant entities and reflective of our desire to be a part of the just transition to a low-carbon world.

We hope that many more of our fellow educational institutions will join us.

To this effect, the university declares that:

   1. It currently holds no investments in extractor fossil fuel companies.

   2. It will never invest in these companies.

Signed,

Professor Karen Cox

(Vice Chancellor)