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Submitted via petition

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WARWICK SU AGAINST ENDORSING THE ACTIONS OF FOSSIL FUEL COMPANIES

If passed, the Students' Union (excluding Societies & Clubs) will boycott fossil fuel companies. This policy will also mandate Union Officers to lobby the University, Modern Records Centre and BP to open the BP archive to the public.

This Union Notes:

1. That Ethical and Social Responsibility is a core value of the SU.¹
2. That 97% of climate scientists agree that humans are the dominant cause of climate change.²
3. That the SU has a policy mandating it to support the Fossil Free campaign which involves removing the University's investments in the top 200 fossil fuel companies as an ethical and financial imperative.³
4. That according to Greenpeace, since 1997 the owners of Koch Industries, whose main business is the refining and distribution of oil and petroleum have sent at least \$79,048,951 to groups who deny climate change science.⁴
5. That from 2011-2014, Shell lobbied the then EU's Commission President Jose Barroso, and was successful in reducing the Union's 2030 renewable energy targets, ensuring that they were not legally binding and making gas, a fossil fuel, a component in the targets.⁵

¹ www.warwicksu.com/yourunion

² <http://www.climate.nasa.gov/scientific-consensus/>

³ <http://www.sunion.warwick.ac.uk/council/Policy/Policy/Ethics%20and%20Environment/052%20-%20Support%20the%20Fossil%20Free%20Campaign%20on%20Campus.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.greenpeace.org/usa/en/campaigns/global-warming-and-energy/polluterwatch/koch-industries/>

⁵ <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/apr/27/shell-lobbied-to-undermine-eu-renewables-targets-documents-reveal>

6. That in April 2015, Peabody Energy, the world's largest private coal company, issued a public statement asserting that climate change was "an environmental crisis predicted by flawed computer models".⁶
7. That in 2008 the world's largest oil company, ExxonMobil, gave hundreds of thousands of pounds to lobby groups that have published "misleading and inaccurate information" about climate change.⁷ ExxonMobil also supports the American Petroleum Institute, which in 1997 invested \$7 million in advocating the fossil fuel industry.⁸
8. That Shell has spilt more than 1.6 million gallons of oil in Ogoniland, Nigeria.⁹ Human Rights Watch states that more than two thousand Ogonis have been killed whilst protesting against Shell's activities.¹⁰ Shell has contributed to the funds of the Nigerian Mobile Police Force, a brutal and indiscriminate branch of the Nigerian Military.¹¹ The Guardian alleged that Shell was also "embroiled in the hanging of Prominent Ogoni journalist Ken Saro-Wiwa", who was also a lecturer at Warwick University.¹² In 2007 Friends of the Earth alleged that the damage caused by Shell's oil activities to local communities and the wider environment could be assessed at \$20 billion.¹³
9. That Amnesty International quotes an environmental lawyer's 1993 report that Texaco (Chevron's subsidiary) "intentionally dumped more than 19 billion gallons of toxic wastewater in Ecuador and was responsible for 16.8 million gallons of crude oil spilling from the main pipeline into the Ecuadorian rainforest".¹⁴
10. That a University of Massachusetts study has ranked ConocoPhillips thirteenth among U.S. corporate producers of air pollution.¹⁵ According to the researchers, ConocoPhillips facilities release more than \$8 million of toxic chemicals annually into the air.¹⁶ In 2003, ConocoPhillips was named as a defendant in a lawsuit brought by a Georgian environmental group called Green Alternative. The suit claimed that a number of foreign oil companies colluded with the Georgian government to induce authorities to approve a \$3 billion pipeline without properly evaluating environmental impact.¹⁷

⁶ <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/peabody-energy-chairman-and-ceo-greg-boyce-calls-for-five-point-plan-to-accelerate-transition-to-a-low-carbon-economy-300072709.html>

⁷ <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/jul/01/exxon-mobil-climate-change-sceptics-funding>

⁸ <http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/MultimediaFiles/Live/FullReport/5292.pdf>

⁹ Friends of the Earth, Briefing "Shell. Wildlife destroyer of the year?", October 2006

¹⁰ Human Rights Watch, "Rivers and Blood: Guns, Oil and Power in Nigeria's Rivers State", February 2005

¹¹ United Nations, Commission on Human Rights Report, Mission to Nigeria, January 2006,

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/country,,UNCHR,,NGA,,45377b020,0.html>

¹² Guardian 1/2/2008 "Militants and government force rethink for oil group"

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2008/feb/01/oilandustry.shell>

¹³ Guardian 31/01/07, "Campaigners urge Shell to put profits in to clean-up"

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2007/jan/31/oilandpetrol.energy>

¹⁴ Amnesty International USA, "Chevron (CVX) in the Amazon – Oil Rights or Human Rights? Texaco's legacy, Chevron's responsibility"

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/our-work/issues/business-and-human-rights/oil-gas-and-mining-industries/chevron-corp>

¹⁵ Political Economy Research Institute, "THE TOXIC 100: Top Corporate Air Polluters in the United States"

<http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0933679.html>

¹⁶ UK Parliament Select Committee on Environmental Audit, Written Evidence submission by Green Alternative 20 October 2000

<http://www.parliament.the-stationery-office.com/pa/cm200708/cmselect/cmenvaud/929/929we02.htm>

¹⁷ Houston Business Journal "ConocoPhillips names as a defendant in environmental lawsuit" 27th June 2003

<http://houston.bizjournals.com/houston/stories/2003/06/23/daily53.html>

11. That a BP archive containing scientific knowledge on renewable energy projects from the 80s and 90s are still unavailable to the public sphere as of the 24th of April 2015, despite claims from the BP Chairman at the most recent shareholder meeting that 'nothing is locked away'.¹⁸

This Union Believes:

1. That institutions should condemn companies engaging in activities “maintaining the use of unscrupulously environmentally unsustainable and damaging policies”, “the pursuit of large profits in the face of massive human suffering”, and “policies that endanger indigenous communities”.
2. That institutions and their members, will not exist on an uninhabitable planet.
3. That the evidence suggests that oil companies are unethical both in their disregard for the environment and for their role in various cases of human rights abuses.
4. That the hidden scientific advancements, hosted next to the Modern Records Office at Warwick University for BP, represents a clear conflict of interest given the University is considering removing its investments in fossil fuels.
5. That a practical way of condemning these companies and campaigning for climate justice is to remove these companies’ ability to greenwash by sponsoring and advertising within progressive institutions such as universities.
6. That for three decades fossil fuel companies have been actively involved in climate change denial.
7. That fossil fuel companies have directly lobbied and been successful in reducing national climate change targets.
8. That major fossil fuel companies have been involved in climate change denial.
9. That as well as climate change denial fossil fuel companies are complicit in human rights abuses.
10. That societies and clubs should seek funding from morally sound causes although ultimately have autonomy over the sources of their funding.

This Union Resolves:

1. To boycott fossil fuel companies as defined by fossil fuel producing, refining and distributing companies in The Carbon Underground 200TM.¹⁹
2. To support students campaigning through their societies against the fossil fuel industry.

¹⁸ <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/apr/24/bp-renewable-energy-archive-still-closed-despite-promise-to-open-to-public>

¹⁹ <http://fossilfreeindexes.com/research/the-carbon-underground/>

3. To mandate the President to write to the VC, head of the Modern Record Centre and the Chair of BP demanding that BP's archive in the Modern Record Centre be open to the public.
4. To mandate the Societies and Sports Officer to encourage Societies and Clubs who have historically received funding from fossil fuel companies to switch to fossil free alternatives and to offer assistance to any society & club who request help.