

WHAT'S
NEXT?

DIVEST

UBC

Land Acknowledgement

We are on the unceded, traditional, ancestral and occupied homelands of the x^wməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam) people.

For those who are non-Indigenous, our presence on these lands is an ongoing act of colonization. When we acknowledge these territories, we also acknowledge our responsibility to centre and support Indigenous sovereignty in all our organizing and being.



DIVEST UBC

DIVEST!

DIVEST UBC 350

←

40

BREAK UP WITH OILS

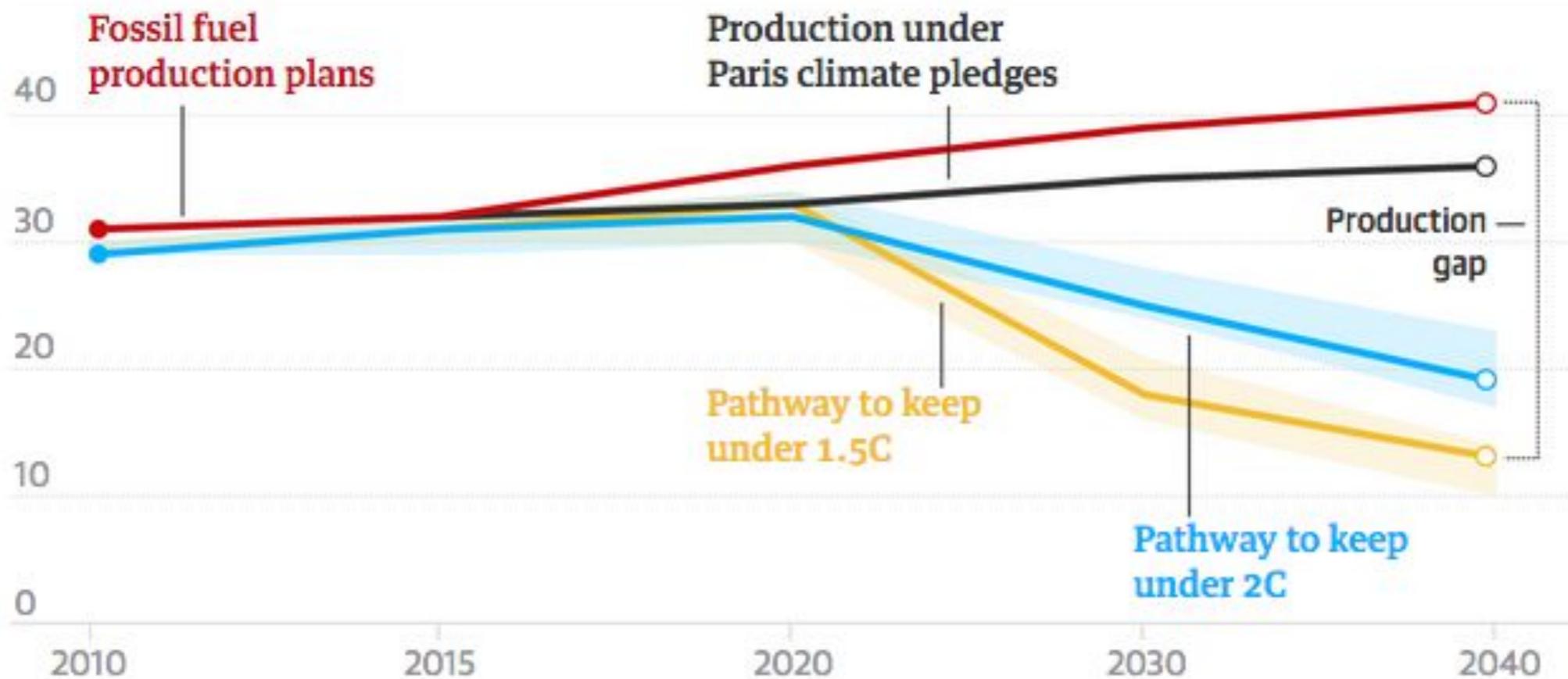
A photograph of a forest with a large fire in the background. The fire is bright orange and yellow, with thick smoke rising into the air. The foreground shows a path or clearing with some fallen branches. The overall scene is hazy and has a strong orange tint.

We are facing a
climate crisis.

The science says keep it in the ground

Fossil fuel production is set to be far above safe climate levels

50 Gigatonnes of carbon dioxide per year

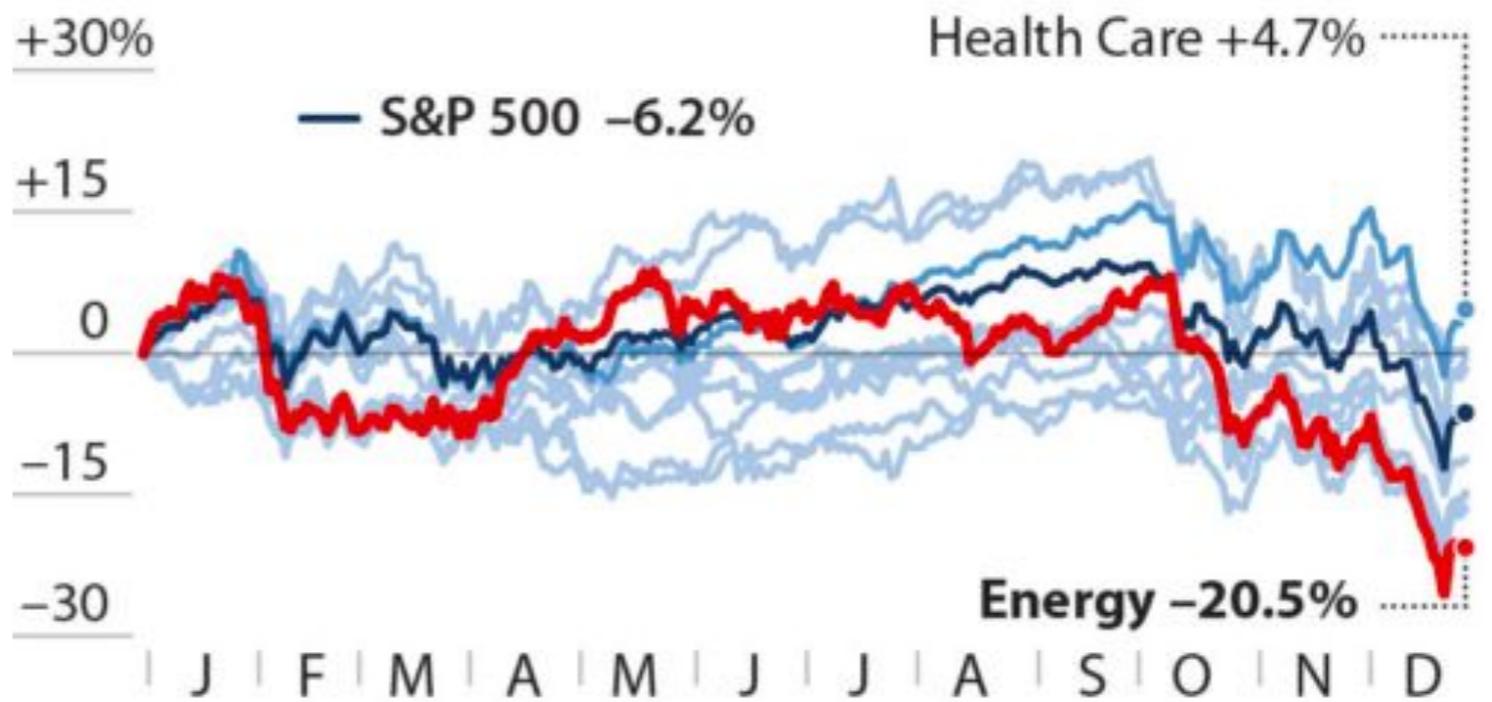


Guardian graphic. Source: The Production Gap: SEI, IISD, ODI, Climate Analytics, CICERO & UNEP, 2019

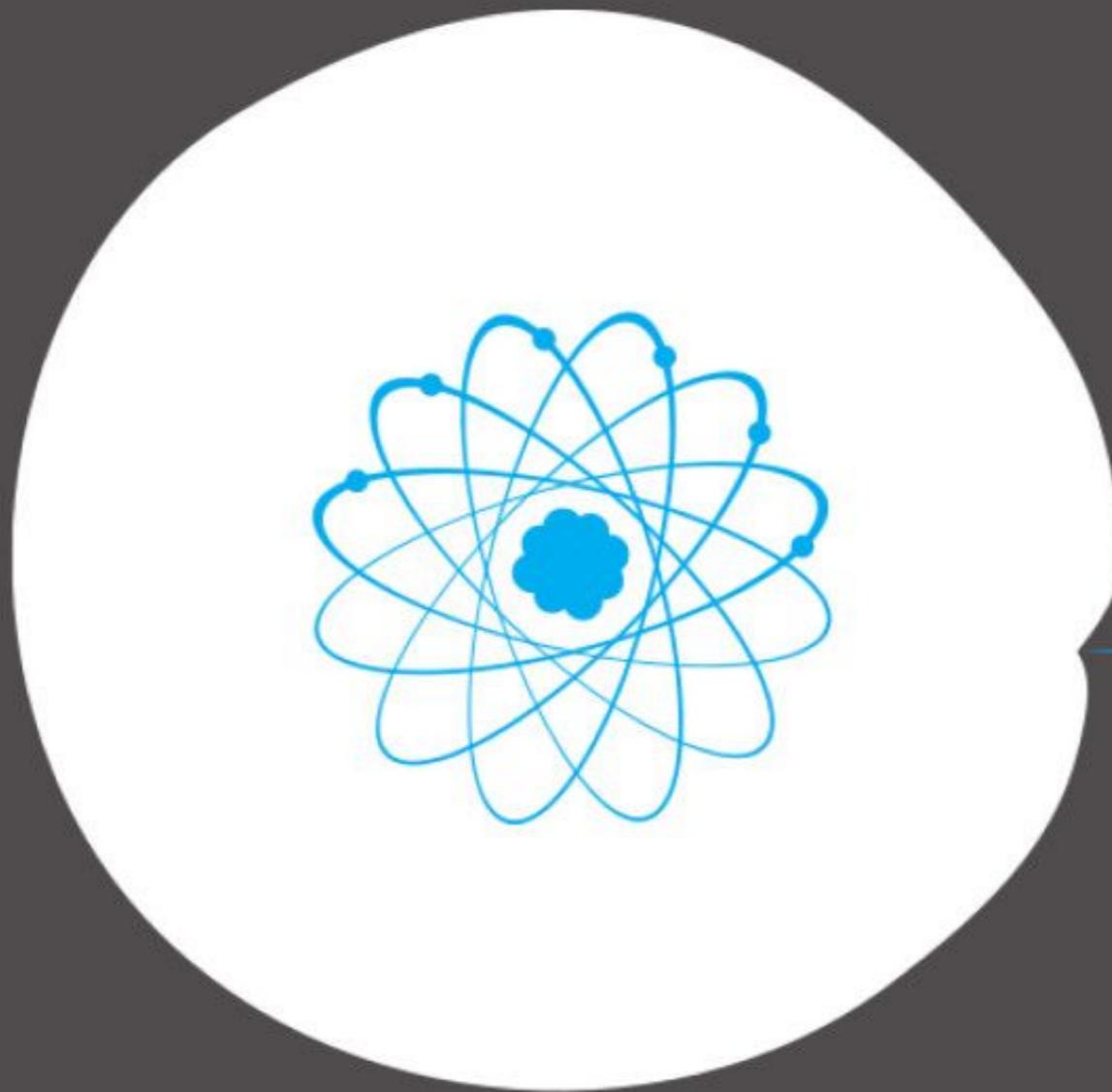
The financial evidence is clear

“We compare financial performance of investment portfolios with and without fossil fuel company stocks over the period 1927–2016. Contrary to theoretical expectations, we find that fossil fuel divestment does not seem to impair portfolio performance. These findings can be explained by the fact that, so far, fossil fuel company stocks do not outperform other stocks on a risk-adjusted basis and provide relatively limited diversification benefits.” (Trinks et al 2018)

Energy: S&P's Worst Sector in 2018



Source: S&P Dow Jones Indices



To keep below 2 °C of global warming,
60 - 80% of fossil fuel reserves of listed firms are unburnable.
There is more fossil fuel listed on the world's capital markets
than can be burned.

If we are to save our planet from climate change,
we have to write off \$20 trillion of stranded fossil fuel assets.

The housing bubble could be small
compared to the **carbon bubble** now looming.

“In addition, the results of this study suggest that even in markets with a high fossil fuel industry ratio, such as the Canadian financial market, divestment can be conducted successfully [...]

Furthermore, we conclude that the discussion about financial returns and divestment should focus less on possible financial losses of divestment but rather on financial losses of not divesting from fossil fuels [...]

Finally, from a managerial point of view, we suggest that fossil fuel divestment is in line with fiduciary duty.” (Hunt & Weber 2018)

U of T has lost \$550 million by choosing not to divest from fossil fuels, report claims

Corporate Knights uses “decarbonizer tool” to generate data

November 5, 2019

New Study Shows Oil, Coal and Gas Investments Drove Over \$19 Billion in Losses for Major Pension Funds

Divestment would have made NY pension fund \$22B richer

BY TOBY A.A. HEAPS

October 4, 2018

Addressing the legal argument

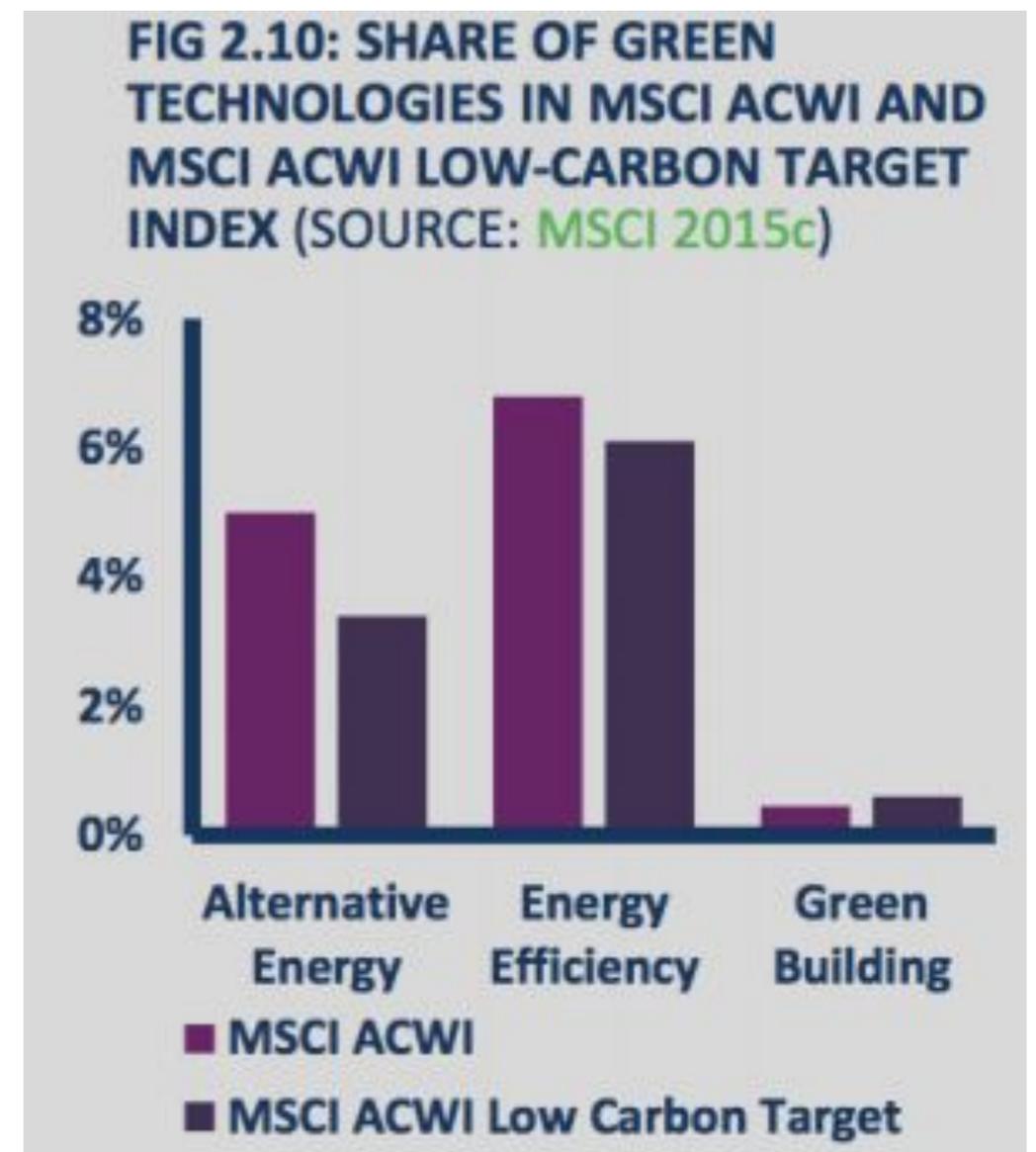
- Stepan Wood and Benjamin Richardson (current and former Canada Research Chairs in Environmental Law & Sustainability) have outlined multiple grounds by which full divestment can be legally justified
- Fiduciary duty to consider financial risk posed by climate change
 - Prudence means accounting for the long-term: “the trustee's duty is not to maximize returns on investments but rather to secure a “just” and “reasonable” return while avoiding undue risk” (Richardson 2016)
- Purpose of UBC’s charitable trusts
 - UBC’s purpose: “pursuing excellence in research, learning and engagement to foster global citizenship and advance a sustainable and just society across British Columbia, Canada and the world.”
 - Non-financial interests

Addressing the legal argument

“I can understand why UBC’s lawyers and bean counters would want to be cautious about divestment, but there is a very good legal argument that fossil fuel divestment can be consistent with, and might even be required by, the University’s duties [...] Dozens of universities around the world, including many in jurisdictions whose legal rules are basically the same as ours, have joined the fossil fuel divestment movement. It beggars belief that all of them are acting on bad legal advice.” - Stepan Wood

'Low carbon' funds = Greenwashing

- Lowering financial 'carbon footprints' does NOT lower physical carbon emissions.
- For example: Selling a typical U.S. renewable energy investment and buying Boeing or Airbus decreases the carbon footprint of the investment by 55%.
- Actual existing 'low carbon' funds have claimed an 84% lower carbon footprint, despite reducing alternative energy investments by 30% and maintaining investments in large fossil fuel companies like ExxonMobil, Shell and Kinder Morgan.
- It is possible to increase investments in fossil fuels, while lowering the financial carbon footprint.
- So-called 'low-carbon' funds are creative accounting to avoid the problem. **They are not a solution.**



Our demand is clear.
We are asking for
full divestment.

NYCTM



**Norwegian
Sovereign
Wealth
Fund**



UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA

UQÀM



UNIVERSITÉ
Concordia
UNIVERSITY

ASSOCIATION
MÉDICALE
CANADIENNE



CANADIAN
MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION



**BNP
PARIBAS**



**European
Investment
Bank**



“Innovation: Cultivating creativity, resilience and shared risk-taking that catalyze new approaches within the university and beyond” (UBC Strategic Plan)

"The eyes of all future generations are upon you. And if you choose to fail us, I say -
we will never forgive you."

- Greta Thunberg at the UN Climate Summit, New York, 23 September 2019

A large crowd of people is gathered in an open area, likely a protest or demonstration. The crowd is dense and extends across the foreground and middle ground. Many individuals are holding up signs and banners, though the text on them is not clearly legible. In the background, there is a large, modern building with a glass facade and a flat roof. The building has several windows and a prominent entrance. The sky is clear and blue, suggesting a bright day. The overall scene is one of a significant public gathering.

Which side are you on?