

Help us invest in the fossil fuel-free future we want

Steering the world and South Africa away from the most destructive climate change future is an urgent necessity – and an opportunity.

For the past two months, we have been running a petition campaign calling upon you, SA's top asset managers and owners, to help us invest in the future we want. We want funds free of the coal, gas and oil that are the biggest contributors to climate breakdown.

The petition was signed by over two thousand South Africans, liked by six thousand more on social media, and endorsed by the nation's top green and sustainable development NGOs.

When we met people on the ground, most signed without hesitation, passionate that they want the option to divest. Many were young people. Your future savers and investors.

The world has agreed it is vital to limit average global warming by 2100 to 1.5°C. But on current trends, we may hit that threshold within the next 15 years. As visible impacts of climate change outpace scientific predictions, it seems the scientific community, far from being alarmist, has been too cautious.

Scientists tell us that, "a deep transformation based on a fundamental reorientation of human values, equity, behaviour, institutions, economies, and technologies is required."

On behalf of our supporters, partners, stakeholders and communities, we ask:

Asset managers:

Explain to your clients and trustees the risks of climate change. Enable a just transition. Create decarbonised savings and investment vehicles for trustees and savers to invest in.

We want our savings to support a swift, fair, South African and global transition to a socially just, cleaner energy economy; to a climate that is safe for ourselves, for vulnerable communities, and future generations; while taking care of workers in the fossil fuel industry.

"Equity analysts typically do not capture non-linear risks likely to materialise beyond 3-5 years," research shows. "Once climate change becomes a defining issue for financial stability, it may already be too late," says Mark Carney, governor of the Bank of England.

So, push out your horizons. Explicitly capture and integrate these risks in your assessments of value.

We know that trustees and clients often focus on short-term returns. But this threatens everyone's long-term interests. It's time to actively create and market funds built on socially and ecologically sustainable foundations, free of fossil fuels.

Asset owners:

Advise retirement fund beneficiaries that enjoying a retirement income can be assisted by having a stable planet on which to enjoy it.

That whole countries and cities (like Ireland, New York, London and Cape Town) are divesting. That over \$6.2 trillion in collective global assets has already been committed to decarbonisation. That some insurance companies now refuse to underwrite fossil fuel infrastructure. That the likes of Sasol face major threats to their business models and future litigation from climate change victims.

Help us use our collective savings to build the world most of us actually want.

South Africa: #DivestNow.

**Sign the petition at
www.amandla.mobi/divest-now**

We thank our communities and partners for their endorsement.

Current petition signatories: 2,039.

Endorsed by: 350 Africa, African Climate Reality Project, amandla.mobi, Centre for Environmental Rights, Cullinan & Associates, Earthlife Africa, EcoMaties, Fruits & Roots, Groundwork, Green Anglicans, UCT Green Campus Initiative, Greenpeace, Greenpop, Oxfam, People's Health Movement, SA Climate Action Network, SAFCEI, transparenCI, WWF.

