



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented On	Date
Type of Action	Type
Status/Result	Status

1 S.A. Resolution # XX

2 **Divestment from Coal: Towards a Sustainable Endowment**

3

4 **Sponsored by: Emma Johnston '16**

5

6 **Whereas**, Cornell's endowment is currently free of any and all investments **direct**
7 **holdings** in companies dedicated to the extraction of coal **and has been free of all**
8 **such holdings for at least seven years, according to our Chief Investment Officer;**

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10 **Whereas**, **global investors report that** the coal industry continues to demonstrate poor
11 performance as a financial investment **due to weakened demand growth and**
12 **rising production costs, and** is projected to become even less profitable in the
13 future;

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15 **Whereas**, the Cornell investment office has no upcoming plans to invest directly in
16 coal;

17

18 **Whereas**, the extraction of coal and other fossil fuels negatively impacts the natural
19 environment as well as the health and livelihoods of people **in the US and** around
20 the world;

21

22 **Whereas**, greenhouse gas emissions from the burning of coal and other fossil fuels are
23 the primary contributor to dangerous anthropogenic climate change that
24 degrades human and environmental health;

25

26 **Whereas**, on March 21, 2011, the Ithaca campus of Cornell University moved Beyond
27 Coal by burning the last stores of coal in its Central Energy Plant;

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29 **Be it therefore resolved**, that Cornell shall **continue to not avoid** investing in
30 companies dedicated to the extraction of coal **at any point** in the near- ~~or~~ **and**
31 long-term future;

32

33 **Be it therefore resolved**, that Cornell should make public its divestment from
34 direct holdings in coal in an effort towards increased financial transparency, in
35 alignment to sustainability actions on campus, and in harmony with its long-
36 standing core values of open intellectual inquiry and expression,

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38 **Be it finally resolved**, in consonance with previous recommendations made by the
39 Student Assembly, that divestment from coal is maintained as a step towards full
40 divestment from all direct holdings and commingled funds in the fossil fuel

41 industry when Cornell achieves carbon neutrality and in no case later than the
42 year 2035.

43

44 **Respectfully Submitted,**

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46 **Emma Johnston '16**

47 *Arts and Sciences Representative, Student Assembly*

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49 **Alex Ilich '16**

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51 **Cole Norgaarden '17**

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53 *(Reviewed by: Community Life Committee, 11/19/14)*