

**Implementing the Northwestern Strategic Plan:
Establishing Northwestern as a Global Leader in Environmental and Financial Sustainability**

Whereas, since 1895, average global temperatures have risen by more than 1.5 degrees Fahrenheit, and 80% of this increase has occurred since 1980;

Whereas, human activity--primarily through the combustion of fossil fuels and the release of greenhouse gas emissions--is responsible both for observed global temperature rises and their associated effects on climate;

Whereas, this rapid temperature increase has exacerbated weather extremes including heat waves, drought, flooding, and sea level rise;

Whereas, these extreme events have and will continue to negatively impact the U.S. economy. In 2012, the US accounted for 67% of the \$160bn lost globally due to natural catastrophes;

Whereas, projections for future warming based on various scenarios of fossil fuel consumption vary between 2 degrees Fahrenheit and 10 degrees Fahrenheit;

Whereas, new fossil fuel resource discoveries have created the potential for unforeseen warming;

Whereas, among the many fossil fuels in our global economy, coal has the highest carbon intensity relative to energy output;

Whereas, coal mining and combustion have negative effects on human health due to the degradation of both air and water quality;

Whereas, these consequences disproportionately affect lower income and minority persons at home and abroad;

Whereas, such concerns have prompted the City of Chicago to close the Fisk and Crawford coal plants on the South/West side of Chicago;

Whereas, the City of Chicago has taken action to use little to no coal in our City's power supply;

Whereas, Northwestern has a history of successful divestment from fossil fuel companies-- in

2005, Northwestern committed to remove funds from Sinopec Corp., a Chinese oil company; PetroChina Company, Ltd., a Chinese oil company; ABB Ltd., a Swiss power company; and Tatneft, a Russian oil company, in response to political and social concerns in Sudan;

Whereas, the market performance of the Dow Jones U.S. Coal Index has proven to be volatile but ultimately stagnant over the past decade;

Whereas, the voluntary acquisition of financial stocks and holdings represent an implicit support of a company and its industry, and it is within the right of any stockholder to sell and purchase shares for reasons that lie outside mere financial self-interest;

Whereas, on January 21, 2013, President Obama declared, "We, the people, still believe that our obligations as Americans are not just to ourselves, but to all posterity. We will respond to the threat of climate change, knowing that the failure to do so would betray our children and future generations. Some may still deny the overwhelming judgment of science, but none can avoid the devastating impact of raging fires, and crippling drought, and more powerful storms. The path towards sustainable energy sources will be long and sometimes difficult. But America cannot resist this transition; we must lead it. We cannot cede to other nations the technology that will power new jobs and new industries – we must claim its promise. That is how we will maintain our economic vitality and our national treasure – our forests and waterways; our croplands and snow capped peaks. That is how we will preserve our planet, commanded to our care by God. That's what will lend meaning to the creed our fathers once declared";

Whereas, the Northwestern Strategic Plan lays the vision for our university to “contribute to the solutions for renewable energy and a sustainable environment and to how public policies and economic incentives promote implementation of new technologies and practices”;

Be it resolved by the Associated Student Government here assembled, and the signatories of this resolution who represent a diverse set of students, faculty, and staff, support complete financial divestment from the coal industry;

Be it further resolved, that Northwestern is a global leader in sustainability and can strengthen that position by committing to increased investments in clean renewable energy;

Be it further resolved, that our university should commit to limit future investments in the fossil fuel industry, and explore the possibility for full divestment from this industry in the coming years.

Respectfully Submitted,

Authors: *Mark Silberg, ASG AVP for Sustainability and SEED Senator; David Snyder, NETG*

President and NESC Co-Director; Paige Humecki, ESW Co-President; Brian Lange, ESW Co-President; Gina Krupp, Recruitment Chair, Northwestern Sailing Team; Alex Lubben, Peer Health Exchange Leadership Council Member

Sponsors: Robert Whittier, NU Director of Sustainability; Miranda Zhao, Residential College Board President; Alex Van Atta, ASG Student Life Vice President; Steven Monacelli, ASG Community Relations Vice President; Ian Coley, Off-Campus Caucus Whip; Prathyusha Chenji, Women's Residential College President; Erik Zorn, Humanities Residential College President; Henrik Westerkam, GREEN House President; Tyler Rehak, CCS President; Michael Carmody, Slivka Residential College President; Delta Tau Delta--Beta Pi Chapter; Elyse Ausenbaugh, Alpha Phi President; Will Ritter, Sigma Chi President; Emily Bauersfeld, GlobeMed at Northwestern Co-President; Hannah Grooms, Environmental Engineering Undergraduate Society President; Danielle Littman, Co-Chair Freshman Urban Program; Kiley Naas, Project Wildcat President; Megan McEvily, Northwestern Sailing Team President; Alicia White, Center for Energy and the Environment (Roosevelt Institute) Co-Director; Zach Glasser, Roosevelt Institute Co-President; Jamie Weil, Roosevelt Institute Co-President; Julia Standley Pradhan ASG Sustainability Committee Member; John Secaras, ASG Sustainability Committee Member; Wesley Lien, ASG Sustainability Committee Member; Elizabeth Conger, ASG Sustainability Committee Member; Amanda Myers, SEED Co-President; Chloe Lansdale, ASG Sustainability Committee; Katherine Voo, Kappa Kappa Gamma Vice President of Standards; Rachel Scholes, ESW Clean Energy Project Manager; Alex Entz, Students for Education Reform President; Emily Hoffman, Materials Science Student Association President; Annas Rahman, Society of Physics Students President; Stephanie Kim, NCDC Co-Chair; Amalia Namath, NCDC Co-Chair; Madeleine Steger, SEED Co-Chair; David Harris, ASG Services Vice President; Matthew Glazer, Northwestern University Jews Over Twenty President; Kathryn Bailey, Northwestern Peer Health Exchange Co-Coordinator; Will Oliver, GlobeMed Summit Co-Director; Linzy Wagner, PARC President; Danielle Moehrke, ASB Program Director; Sarah Coughtrie, Camp Kesem Northwestern Co-Chair; Austin Rim, Camp Kesem Northwestern Co-Chair; Kevin Short, NU Gives Back Co-Founder; Carly Shagrin, Bobb-McCulloch Vice President and Eco Rep; Jazzy Johnson, Coalition of Colors Chair; Adriana Stanovici, RotarACT at Northwestern Co-President; Eileen Dominic, RotarACT at Northwestern Co-President; Joshua Kaplan, American Institute of Chemical Engineers Chapter President; Kalindi Shah, GlobeMed at Northwestern Co-President; Marie Donaldson, Supplies for Dreams President; Michael Borchetta, Phi Kappa Psi President; Harry Hahn, WildRoots Co-President; Pritha Ghosh, Graduate Student Association President; Laurel Childress, PhD Candidate, Earth & Planetary Sciences Dept.; Mike Morgan, Off-Campus Senator; Dana Leinbach, APO/SCNO Senator; Paul Koscumb, Student Groups Caucus Whip; Seth Stein, William Deering Professor, Earth and Planetary Sciences; Christiane Rey, Distinguished Senior Lecturer, Department of French and Italian; Adam Atkinson-Lewis, Co-President, Kellogg Energy Club; Matt Goldrick, Associate Professor of Linguistics; McKenzie Maxson, RCB District 1 Senator; Morgan Hunt, RHA District 7 Senator; Connor Regan RCB District 2 Senator; Cory Behroozi, Social Justice Coalition Senator; Jessica Winegar, Associate Professor of Anthropology; Petros Karahalios, RHA District 6 Senator; Robert Launay, Professor, Anthropology; Micaela di Leonardo, Professor,

Anthropology & Performance Studies