



Power Shift 2013 | Pittsburgh, PA

ORANGE SQUARE

*notes from the student fossil
fuel divestment movement*

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Orange Square is produced by the Publications Working Group of the Divest Fossil Fuels Student National Network
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studentsdivest.org/nationalnetwork

What is Orange Square?

Orange Square is the national publication of the newly formed Divest Fossil Fuels Student National Network. Borrowing its name from the fossil fuel divestment symbol that rose to prominence in Spring 2013 (see pg. 5), Orange Square seeks to be a student-run outlet for campaign updates, political analysis, reportbacks, poetry, artwork, and strategic visioning of the student fossil fuel divestment movement.

Our Power Shift issue is the first to be published, and is an experiment of sorts. We hope with increased participation in the National Network, Orange Square can take shape to fit the needs of our movement. If you're interested in joining the Publications Working Group and collaborating on the next issue of Orange Square, email diveststudentnetwork@gmail.com.

Also please contact us if you have submissions for the next issue, including but not limited to political analyses, campaign updates, visual art, short stories, archival stories/documents, letters to the movement, etc.

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Artwork featured in this Issue

Illustrations in this issue of Orange Square are from "Climate Change: Stories for Social Justice" an interactive art exhibition at Washington University in St. Louis.

From the artists: "The goal of this project is to tell a story of the intrinsic, indissoluble relationship between human rights and fossil fuel consumption and extraction. We hope these stories may remind viewers of environmental justice violations occurring in their own backyards. In the spirit of those communities standing up across the planet for the security of their homes and families, we garner responsibility to take immediate local and global action. The project is ongoing and welcomes new collaboration."

Two illustrations from the project are reproduced here. Thank you to all the artists for the incredible work.

Check out the full exhibition here:

<http://cargocollective.com/climatechangestoriesforsocialjustice>

Contact materialmonster.washu@gmail.com if you have an idea for a panel or are interested in getting involved with the project.

Divestment Events at Power Shift

- Official Divestment Session Breakout:
Saturday - 11:30 to 12:30 - Room 301
Join hundreds of others for exciting conversations about how we move our divestment campaigns forward for wins!
- Join the National Network:
Saturday - 12:30 to 1:30 - Starting in Room 301
Come here about the newly formed national network, how we came to be, our vision moving forward, and how we can grow! [Bring some Lunch! & we'll try to bring in some snacks]
- National Network Part 2:
Saturday - 9 to 10pm - Location TBA;
We'll be continuing the discussion from lunch about the vision and strategy of the National Network and have breakouts of our working groups!

Dear Students,

We write to you from the front lines. Some of our communities have been fighting the fossil fuel empire for generations. Others have only recently joined this struggle. We send our support and gratitude for leading this fossil fuel divestment campaign. This is a mighty cause you are joining: challenging some of the biggest threats humans have ever seen and committing to what must become a global movement.

We support your mission to hold your universities accountable. Institutions of learning must challenge systems that endanger the future of younger generations. We believe that colleges and universities divesting from fossil fuels and reinvesting in clean energy will deliver a powerful political message. And yet, we—as frontline and indigenous leaders—encourage you to dig deeper. We encourage you to understand your campaigns as part of a much longer struggle, one that has been going on for generations, for justice and health, and the environment.

The corporations you are targeting have pushed our people up against the edge of survival. We live in the land coal companies have stolen and destroyed. We live in the land the oil, fracking, and uranium industries have poisoned. As the climate crisis worsens, it is frontline and indigenous communities who are hit hardest. When you demand that your colleges cut financial ties to ExxonMobil or Peabody Coal's latest projects to pillage the earth – it's our land and communities you're acting in solidarity with. Our work is deeply tied together.

Please join us. From the indigenous peoples, to the coal fields, fracking wells, refineries, and communities facing all manners of extreme energy production. Fight the fossil fuel industry on campus, but not only on campus. Join us in our communities and our fights and bind your struggle to ours.

We welcome you to this movement with open arms. Together we can defeat the dirty energy industry and build a healthy, sustainable, and just world.

In solidarity,

Robert J Thompson, REDOIL (Kaktovik, AK)
Kirby Spangler, Castle Mountain Coalition (Palmer, AK)
Veronica Coptis, Center for Coalfield Justice (Greene County, PA)
Janene Yazzie, Sixth World Solutions
Chief Gary Harrison, Chickaloon Tribe Alaska
Dustin White, Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition (Southern West Virginia)
Iris Marie Bloom, Protecting Our Waters
 (Pennsylvania Marcellus Shale Region)
Bias Espinosa, Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services
 (Houston, TX)
Victoria Corona, Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services
 (Houston, TX)
Liana Lopez, Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services (Houston, TX)
Theresa Dardar, Pointe-au-Chien Indian Tribe (Louisiana)
Meagan Dochuk, 1st Nations Aamjiwnaang
Ron Plain, 1st Nations Aamjiwnaang
Elandria Williams, Highlander Center (Knoxville, TN)



Typhoon Bopha [Mindanao, southernmost island of the Philippines]
 Nancy Yang & Trevor Leuzinger

Announcing the Divest Fossil Fuels Student National Network

On September 17, 2013, students and alumni of fossil fuel divestment campaigns from across the U.S. launched the Divest Fossil Fuels National Student Network by forming the National Student Spokescouncil.

The National Student Spokescouncil is a space for student divestment campaigners to connect, build alignment, and strengthen our movement. A strong student divestment network can more successfully collaborate with off-campus divestment and the larger climate justice movement, and can work to strategize and coordinate collective action independent of and alongside our ally NGOs.

The launch followed months of discussion, outreach to student leaders, and a proposal sharing process. Our work began at the Power Up! Divest Fossil Fuels Convergence at Swarthmore College, and continued through national and regional calls and convergences including the Divestment National Town Hall Call (April) and G.R.O.W. Meet-ups (July-August). In August, we began planning for the launch of the Network at Power Shift 2013 in Pittsburgh.

As part of the planning process, we distilled and made decisions on national network proposals – ideas for projects, tasks, and actions submitted by divestment organizers from across the U.S. Although we outreached to students prior to September 17, we recognize that those involved with planning still represent a small subset of the national fossil fuel divestment movement. In light of this, the National Student Spokescouncil was launched as a transitional structure for the national student network; the Spokescouncil is an open and flexible model subject to change with increased participation from the student divestment movement and allied staff organizers.

The National Student Network is designed as a place for students to dream big about the changes we can make as youth organizers when working together in concert. Imagine a divestment campaign escalating on 20 major campuses in the spring to win divestment, while elevating the struggle for climate justice nationally. Imagine a divestment movement mobilized to join frontline communities in doing over 100 direct actions in one summer targeting fossil fuel infrastructure. Imagine a divestment movement coordinated by state to help enact key state legislation to shut down fossil fuel transportation. Imagine a divestment movement allied with DREAMers, Dream Defenders, United Students Against Sweatshops, Student Labor Action Project and other youth movements to fight for true climate justice - a world in which community resilience is valued above all, where people can work for a living wage without poisoning their communities, where people who are pushed out of their own homes due to climate impacts are welcome into others', and

where racial and economic justice are the foundation of our society.

Some of these dreams sound impossible, but we have to reach far in order to confront this crisis. If we want to achieve climate justice, we have to shift the very nature of what is possible through collective and strategic action.

At this point, our National Network is focused on student campaigns. We are aware that fossil fuel divestment extends beyond colleges and universities and that divestment is one tactic among many in the climate justice movement – however, due to the shared experiences of the campus context and existing affinity of campus campaigns we see the formation of a student network as a strategic building block for broader coordination. Alumni of divestment campaigns and NGO staff organizers are welcome to join working groups as equal collaborators, but not as representatives of other organizations.

National Working Groups

The National Student Spokescouncil acts as a hub for student “working groups,” affinity groups organized around particular projects and tasks. As working groups grow, they will elect a number of spokespersons to participate in “spokescouncil calls” to coordinate and align with other working groups.

Each working group is open to new members and collaborators. In fact, an important next step in forming a strong national network is to involve more student divestment organizers in working groups and the spokescouncil.

Below are brief descriptions of ad-hoc working groups that have been formed through various conference calls and events since the Power Up! Convergence. These groups are neither closed nor static, and will live and evolve in their mission as the work, people, and student divestment network lives and works.

Solidarity/Frontline Connections

Aims to facilitate outreach and relationship-building between student organizers and those on the frontlines of the fossil fuel industry and climate change. Currently, we are working to develop mutual partnerships between divestment campaigns and other struggles for energy and climate justice. (contact dinah.dewald@gmail.com)

"I'm incredibly excited to facilitate partnerships with frontline organizations because having those roots and relationships serve as a powerful reminder of just how urgent our work is--not to mention the incredible skills and deep knowledge these communities bring to their work, which the young divestment movement has a lot to learn from."

–Dinah DeWald

Training/Mentorship

Facilitate mentorship for students, by students, and to create space for political education that connects the student divestment movement to broader struggles for social and economic justice; connecting student divesters around shared challenges, organizing skill-shares and trainings, and facilitating conference calls on specific topics to improve connections and support
(contact becca.rast@gmail.com)

"Each divestment campaign has learned so much over the past year (or more) and we all have experiences to share with each other. Through creating stronger mentorship and training between students we can support each others campuses in taking it to the next level!"
—Becca Rast

Events

Propose and plan for national/regional gatherings, convergences, action camps, etc. Events Working Group is coordinating with divestment organizers in California to organize Power Up! 2.0, a student fossil fuel divestment national convergence. Get connected with the National Network to learn more!
(contact: sachiehh@gmail.com)

National Publication: ORANGE SQUARE

Edit and distribute web/print Orange Square publication created by and for the student divestment movement, including analyses, campaign reportbacks, interviews, announcements, etc.
(contact: zein.nakhoda@gmail.com)

National People of Color Caucus

Provide a place for divestment organizers who identify as people of color to meet, share experiences/analysis, and engage with the broader national divestment network
(contact: zein.nakhoda@gmail.com)

Strategy

Distill national strategy proposals that were generated over the summer; work with other working groups and allies in the climate justice movement to propose collective strategies for divestment wins and climate justice.
(contact: lblount1@gmail.com)

Power Shift Planning

Plan and coordinate the national student divestment network spaces at Power Shift 2013 including outreach, facilitation, logistics, etc.
(contact: lrigell1@swarthmore.edu)

Facilitation

Organize and convene spokescouncil calls, facilitate communication and alignment between working groups
(contact: dinah.dewald@gmail.com)

**Interested in joining a working group?
Contact the point person with questions
and for ways to be involved.**

A New Symbol? The Orange Square

*Sachie Hopkins Hayakawa, Sally Bunner, and Lauren Ressler
February 24, 2013*

This afternoon, as students take action at Swarthmore College we will be wearing orange squares pinned to our chests. We have chosen to wear this symbol today in solidarity with other student power movements internationally — most notably the Quebec Student Movement.

The red square of the Quebec Student Movement draws its origins from “carrément dans le rouge,” meaning “squarely in the red,” and refers to the condition of students trapped by immense debt. The red square was embraced by the 2005 student strike in Canada and became a symbol of solidarity for the student movement globally that signifies a belief in free education. “Institutional memory is critical to cultivating a lasting student power movement with graduation an ever present reality; sharing this symbol and the story of how this has grown is deeply a part of building that”, reflects Anthony Garoufalidis-Auger a student from Concordia University, in Montreal.

In Quebec in 2012, as students marched through the streets, businesses would hang red squares in their front windows and many community allies wore them publicly. It is a powerful visibility tool that has become nearly ubiquitous in Canada. Quebec students emphasize that it requires few resources to produce and is comprised of readily accessible materials. That being said, last year Quebec stores ran out of red fabric and cloth as the movement spread from classrooms to community spaces. It fostered a sense of collective identity.

We have chosen the color orange, rather than green, to reframe our movement’s scope as much larger than an environmental issue. This is not a single-issue movement. This is a space where environmental justice, climate justice, and economic justice have come into contact. We understand that we will not win the fight against the fossil fuel industry without confronting racism, classism, homophobia, and other systems of oppression in our movement spaces. At this convergence we have begun conversations about intersectionality and historical responsibility on an international scale.

"When we talk about the 11 or so million people who are undocumented, we need to remember that they're mostly from the Global South. They have been divested of their language, their land, their wealth, and their climate by the global north. Migration under those circumstances is normal. Global south migration to the global north is the direct consequence of climate debt," said Aura Bogado, one of last night's keynote speakers.

One of the core intentions of this convergence was to elevate the voices of those who have been systematically pushed to the margins. We acknowledge that the history of the environmental movement has been one which is primarily privileged and white. If we are to create structures for true justice, we must put the voices of those who have not had the opportunity to speak from their experience of injustice at the forefront. But we must also recognize that we cannot treat anyone individually as tokens for the varying aspects of their marginalized identities.

The collective movements we are building thrive when there is a wide range of individual identities. We cannot win in the ways that we want to win if this is not a representative group of the true diversity which is present in our schools, families, communities, cities, etc.

In light of this, we make a call now and proclaim that the National Solidarity Divestment Movement is one which is ideologically anti-racist and anti-oppressive. We refuse to build a movement that does not highlight the real diversity of our world. While we cannot promise to be perfect, we encourage all criticism to keep us true to our ideals and our desire to be inclusive of all types of people.

If you resonate with this symbol of the orange square we have chosen to use, we encourage you to take this as your own. We acknowledge the many differing identities of peoples involved in movements and we hope to share with you our solidarity in this action. However, if this is not a symbol that you feel drawn to, we encourage you to choose your own symbol to express solidarity with.

Where are we now?

Sachie Hopkins-Hayakawa
October 2013

In February's Orange Square piece we talked about how the climate justice movement sits at a crucial crossroads of many other fights for justice, whether for community health, economic opportunity, or rights to migration and climate adaptation. In particular we talked a lot about the essential role of young people in challenging oppressive systems and bringing forth new, more just, ways of being in relation with each other.

This summer the Dream 9, and then the Dream 30, shone a spotlight on the impacts of border militarization and deportation of undocumented people. Working with the National Immigrant Youth Alliance, these undocumented activists made real the case that there must be a humanitarian path into the United States, and the deportations from detention must stop.

In Florida, we saw a legal system fully equipped to protect and promote the use of violence against young people of color. But far more importantly, we saw the Dream Defenders occupy the State Capitol for a total of 31 days, demanding an end to racial

profiling, Stand Your Ground Laws, and the school to prison pipeline!

We have so much work to do, but young people everywhere are rising to the occasion. As we build the National Student Divestment Network we not only strengthen our ties with each other, but we are able to discover our power as a generation, across movements, giving rise to change.

Connecting the struggles: BDS and Fossil Fuel Divestment at a Small College in Indiana

Written by: Adam Moskowitz (Earlham College)

Interview by: Sally Bunner (Earlham College)

When myself and a handful of students, mostly sophomores at the time, got together to discuss fossil fuel divestment in the cluttered living room of a student house on our campus, we knew we weren't the first. Another group at our school, the Students for Peace and Justice in Palestine (SPJP) had already been hard at work gathering interest for divestment as a tactic to create social change from our positions in an academic institution.

While we were just beginning to pour over the 15 coal companies that we thought were the most egregious, SPJP had already targeted three companies that directly profit from the Israeli settlements in Palestine. Both groups were asking the college to divest its endowment from different companies, and for different reasons. But what brings us together is the unfailing belief that our privilege as students can be used to hold corporations accountable for their actions, and that divestment is the best tool we have to act in solidarity with the threatened communities with whom we partner.

Earlham College, the academic institution that brought all of us together, presents itself as "globally engaged" and always on the side of justice. The fact that we have a Socially Responsible Investment Advisory Committee may give the impression that our public-relations image is accurate. While I love my school and cherish everything I've learned here, I can also confidently say that for the most part, this image is mainly cosmetic. To the college's credit, though, I wouldn't have been able to come to that conclusion without the critical thinking skills that our professors teach so well.

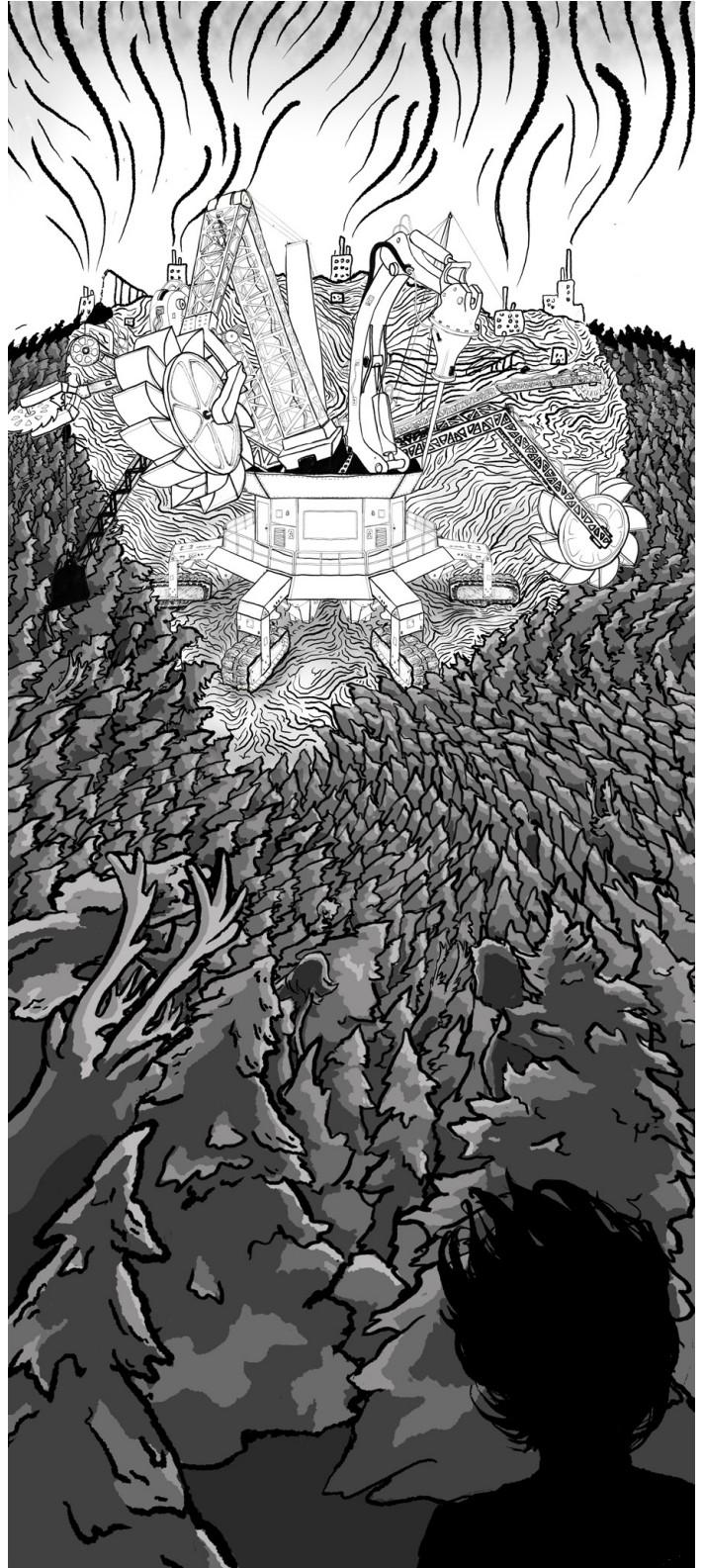
Oppression works in complex ways, weaving itself through systems and structures that we seemingly can't live without. And although our Responsible Energy Investment (REInvestment) Campaign and SPJP's Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Campaign may present ourselves as working towards different particular causes, the structures of oppression we are hoping to dismantle are fundamentally the same. When interviewed, Basil and Yazan (members of BDS and both students from Palestine),

strongly stressed the importance for our causes to unite, both locally and nationally. They specifically stated that “when we work together to end oppression, we further our ultimate goal towards justice for all peoples.” Yazan and Basil both joined BDS as a way to affect change while they are here in United States for their friends and family back home in Palestine. Now they are connecting with other students working for justice on a different level, and they are excited for our campaigns to work together.

Nationally, the BDS movement has made allies with many other movements including those working against the Prison Industrial Complex and members of the LGBTQ community. G4S is a company that sells security systems to the Israeli Military and also for-profit prisons in the United States. By pointing out this connection and creating allies with those struggling against another injustice, they are able to oppose Palestinian oppression and also unjust imprisonment in the United States. They also find allies amongst the LGBTQ community. Israel, as a state, often portrays itself as extremely pro-homosexual rights. While this is a progressive step for Israel, it is often used as a tool to hide the oppression that the Israeli state perpetuates against the Palestinian people. For BDS, these connections have helped students across the globe connect their struggles with others, a step that both Yazan and Basil believe is necessary to advance the goals of all groups who hope to end oppression.

Here on Earlham’s campus, REInvestment and BDS have also allied with each other and other groups working towards justice, and we have all seen the positives that have come out of this process. Together with the Real Food Challenge, BDS and REInvestment form the Social Justice League, which organizes events, carnivals, activism classes and more. We are stronger together and can mobilize more students on campus, making our impact greater and helping us recognize how much Earlham students care about issues of justice.

At the heart of all our struggles is non-violence, with the understanding that a “neutral” non-violence in the face of structural oppression is the same as the complicit violence we are trying to halt. Therefore, we are pushing our institution to take a stand on the issues that its students care deeply about, and are also intimately connected with. Some of us are from Palestine, some of us are from fossil fuel extraction communities. All of us will face the legacies of climate change, Islamophobia, oppression, and the struggle for justice in the 21st century. For today’s students who want to change the status quo and write a better future, look for how this intersectionality of oppression affects you and the people you live with- you may have more allies than you think!



Tar Sands Extraction [Northern Alberta, Canada]
Matt Callahan, Katie Olson & Rachel Goldstein

G.R.O.W. Divestment Reportback

<http://growdivestment.org/>

Over the summer the G.R.O.W. Divestment Project (Gather. Rise. Organize. Win.) brought together students, community members, and climate justice activists for regional gatherings across the country. These gatherings strengthened networks of resistance that bridged divides between student organizers and frontline activists. As this summer's Summer Heat and Fearless Summer waves of action continued to escalate local struggles against extreme energy, GROW divestment gathering participants joined and supported these major mobilizations led by frontline communities.

The GROW Divestment Portland meet-up was a gathering of 30 different people from 8 cities throughout the Northwest—from Eugene, OR all the way to Bellingham, WA. Participants included members from the local Episcopal and Unitarian congregations who are working on divestment, students fighting a major coal export terminal in Whatcom County, and organizers from the local Portland Rising Tide chapter. By the end of the GROW gathering, plans were brewing to launch the Cascadia Divestment Coalition! Alex Chadsey, a student from Bellingham wrote some reflections on the weekend:

Portland, OR, by Alex Chadsey (Bellingham, WA)

Days after the Port of Vancouver approved the leasing of land to Tesoro to build a terminal on the Columbia River capable of shipping 380,000 barrels of nasty gnar-tar-crude by rail from halfway across the continent; one of the most spectacular demonstrations of the year took place just upstream! The Columbia River Summer Heat action was the place to be for anyone opposed to fossil fuel exports/ climate change, environmental degradation from extraction, and all of the social injustices associated with the aforementioned. Situated on a plaza bordering the bank of the mighty Columbia River, the event was kicked off with a series of open-air workshops on topics ranging from non-violent direct action, to story sharing of resistance from the KXL pipeline from folks on the frontlines. My personal favorite was the presentation on the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which is a little-known (I certainly hadn't heard about it up to that day) free trade agreement that will open the floodgates for more dirty exports, worker exploitations and will ultimately weaken the people's ability to hold anyone accountable (public, private, or otherwise) to the inevitable dirty deeds done for profit!...

After the festivities it was time for the action to begin. With roughly 100-200 kayakers spread out in symbolic blockade over the Columbia and around 500 on the bridge, we created quite a ruckus for all to see as we chanted, danced, waved all manner of signs and flags at the commuters on the I-5 bridge, and created a great mass for nearly four hours to showcase a giant banner drop under the bridge that read 'Coal Oil Gas: None Shall Pass!' The energy of that day was so intoxicating that even on the brink of total exhaustion, sunburn and dehydration, we still wanted more! While the demonstration was purely symbolic, it created a great entrance for folks new to the Cause (or otherwise not able to participate in the more hardline protests) and was an effective focal point to build momentum for those already involved and active wishing to take their game to the next level...

...Which brings me to part two of the weekend: the G.R.O.W. Divestment meet up. This workshop was the capstone to the events of the previous day, as well as an excellent forum for collectively pooling experiences in our previous work. Here we were given pointers for organizing our own movements and networking inter-organizationally by veterans of various environmental causes. By far the most useful part of the experience was the spark created by being around so many motivated individuals, and the opportunities (both inside and out of the workshop) for that spark to kindle a wildfire of discussions! Though not a stranger to socio-enviro issues, but somewhat new to Divestment and direct action on this level, I was a bit unsure of what to expect diving into this, and definitely self-conscious of my ability to participate. That feeling quickly dissipated, as I found support from people at all stages of engagement. It became clear how important it is to create a community of activists from many backgrounds to disseminate knowledge and facilitate growth and inclusion.



Reflections on Global Power Shift

<http://globalpowershift.org/>

Excerpts from Jess Grady-Benson (The Claremont Colleges Divestment Campaign), Ali Roseberry-Polier (Swarthmore Mountain Justice), and Becca Rast (Brown Divest Coal/Fossil Free Cal)

This summer we had the opportunity to attend Global Power Shift, a week-long international gathering of youth climate organizers that 350.org convened with the support of others. There were over 500 people there from over 135 countries. It's hard to describe what an incredible, exhausting, and thought-provoking gathering it was. We then traveled to the UK together to attending the People & Planet summer gathering. People & Planet is spearheading the divestment movement in the UK, so we were invited to come share our experiences as student divestment organizers. The following is a brief report-back on our time at each gathering.

Global Power Shift

Jess reflected: our week in Istanbul was challenging and mind-expanding in many ways. We acquired new skills in workshops and track sessions and made new friends from around the world.

But, most powerful was the opportunity to gain a new understanding of our individual positionality within a broader global climate movement. Hearing the stories of so many passionate and hopeful activists from politically sensitive and climate-impacted regions made me realize my privilege not only as a woman from the United States, but also as an activist from the Global North. I have taken for granted my ability to openly speak about activism, fearlessly attend protests, and organize campaigns, as a queer woman. Not to mention, I don't have to worry on a daily basis that my entire nation will be submerged by the ocean or overtaken by one storm. Not only are people from other parts of the world doing incredible things with passion like I have never seen before, but the stakes are much higher and the risk is great.

In an article for Waging Nonviolence entitled, [From Global to Local Power Shift](#), Ali reflected:

"... we recognized that we are each trying to protect something different, and our struggles are going to vary greatly from region to region. For Pacific Islanders, the focus is rising sea levels. For indigenous people in Sweden, the concern is shifting seasonal patterns that affect the reindeer populations they depend on. Meanwhile, for many others, climate change isn't even the main problem — it's the destruction caused by tar sands, coal mines and oil refineries. Hearing the different stories about people's organizing against fossil fuels and global warming left me feeling encouraged about the power of local resilience. Each story that I heard taught me about the incredible work that people are doing in their communities to fight for what is essential to them. And while we may not all have the same fight ahead of us, I learned that there is great potential for supporting each other's work and building connections between communities fighting similar struggles."

Becca built on these reflections: Understanding our position as students in the United States feels complicated, but places responsibility on us. First because of the serious inequality that already exists in the United States - and what this means for the impacts of climate change, and how our Universities and Colleges are complicit in this inequality. Second, that the US government and US companies are some of the largest drivers of climate change. We have a lot of responsibility, but we also have a lot of opportunity. The divestment movement has demonstrated that US students are ready to step up to the plate and take on the fossil fuel industry. Being at Global Power Shift confirmed this for me, and reminded me of the both local and international scale on which our solidarity must act.

What does this mean for the US divestment movement?

(Ali)...it can feel difficult to talk about both the ways that climate change is an issue that affects the entire planet and also the ways in which that looks vastly different in different parts of the world and across lines of race and class. My time at GPS helped ground me in the importance of finding ways to talk about climate change and fossil fuels as global issues while maintaining specificity in discussing who is affected and how. I hope that we (as a divestment movement) can find a way to start talking about climate change in terms of global justice, and speak intelligently about what this looks like. I would encourage campaigns to find ways to talk about climate change with a global justice lense, and to get more specific than "rising sea

levels" or "more storms" to look at the real impact that these changes are having on local environments and communities.

If you would like to hear more about the divestment organizing happening in other countries, check out [our full report-back online](#).

Students in Struggle

In Orange Square we hope to feature updates from, interviews with, and contributions by students engaged in social justice work outside of the divestment movement. For our first issue of here's two quick shout-outs to the work of students who really know how to dream.

DREAMers engage in border protests:

The National Immigrant Youth Alliance held its second border protest on September 30 as a part of the '#BringThem Home' campaign. Thirty young people who had either been deported from the U.S. or denied reentry walked north from Nuevo Laredo, Mexico to present themselves at a port of entry in Texas. Chanting "undocumented, unafraid," the Dreamers wore caps and gowns—many of them nearing middle-school and high-school graduation—as they asked to return to their lives in Arizona, California, Georgie, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, New York, Ohio, South Carolina, and Texas. In the first border protest NIYA held in July of this year nine Dreamers presented themselves at a port of entry in Arizona with the same request to enter the country. Receiving international attention from hundreds of organizations, an online petition reached 27,000 signatories, and 43 members of Congress sent letters to the president in support of the 'Dream 9', as they came to be known. Seventeen days after their detention, the Obama administration released the Dream 9 to their families. In a recent press release from NIYA they commented, "The fight to keep families together happens every day, everywhere that immigrants fear leaving their homes and being separated from their families. We are putting back together the families that the president and unjust laws have broken apart." Visit [dreamactivist.org](#) to take action to bring the #Dream30 home.

Dream Defenders convene People's Session:

The Dream Defenders captured the country's attention with their 31-day occupation of the Florida state capitol following the killing of Trayvon Martin and subsequent acquittal of George Zimmerman. However, the occupation appears to only have been the beginning of the work these young Floridians are committed to. In response to Governor Rick Scott's repeated refusal to convene a special session of the Florida state legislature to address "Stand Your Ground" laws, the Dream Defenders convened the "People's Session" July 30th-August 8th to take up the work the government was refusing to do. At The People's Session young folks got to hear expert testimony on "Stand Your Ground," extreme school discipline policies, and racial profiling—three factors contributing to the crisis black and brown Floridians face. A number of powerful resolutions were passed at the People's session, three of which make up Trayvon's Law, a bill that will stop the entrenchment of Florida youth of color in the school-to-prison pipeline; battle racial profiling; and repeal "Stand Your Ground." Visit [dreamdefenders.org](#) to keep updated on the power being built by this group, including on seven college campuses across Florida.

National Network Organizing Principles

Those involved in the Student National Network want to share the organizing principles we're striving to uphold. This is a living document and will be modified and edited as our work continues and we have collective conversations about our work going forward:

Importance of Student Power:

- + We are grateful for the institutional and organizational support from NGO's and prominent individual activists but affirm that the National Student Network is created for students by students.
- + We must build student power in ways that strengthen a national coalition of organizations capable of continuing struggles for social justice beyond divestment victory by developing organizational power and leadership on campuses first and foremost.

Anti-Oppression Framework:

- + As we work to build a mass movement to fight the oppression of the fossil fuel industry, we must also confront forms of oppression and hierarchy in our own organizations and movement.
- + We must look at how we conduct meetings, organize events, and communicate with one another and ask the questions: who is present? who is absent? how are hierarchical and oppressive behaviors operating and how can we overcome them?
- + We must recognize that oppression operates simultaneously on personal, interpersonal, institutional, cultural, and systemic levels in ways that interlock and reinforce one another. Developing skills to confront oppression at every level makes our organizations powerful, more affirmative of diversity, and resilient.
- + We must create safer spaces together that are accessible to all interested student organizers, including those who identify as differently abled, working class, poor, gender non-conforming/variant, queer, and students of color.

Climate/Economic Justice Framework:

Climate Justice challenges the ways in which existing unequal distribution of resources, oppressive power dynamics, and the effects of climate change disproportionately harm communities on the frontlines of extraction, burning, and climate change, especially low-income and communities of color.

- + We must recognize that divestment is only one "tool in the toolbox."
- + We must strive to use divestment as a form of solidarity organizing – a way to be an ally with frontline organizations.
- + We must strive to be active allies by building relationships with frontline communities, sharing their stories, and joining them in their struggles.
- + We must recognize the ways different social movements intersect. Instead of seeing different issues in competition, we should look for opportunities for synergy and solidarity.
- + We must work in concert with other movements using divestment as a tactic, including Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) around Israeli occupation and divestment from the prison industrial complex
- + We refuse to accept divestment that will result in lowering financial aid
- + We affirm that anti-racist struggle is at the heart of the struggle for climate justice, and must seek to join anti-racist struggle wherever possible. One amongst many pernicious legacies of white-supremacy in the US has been an inadequate commitment to anti-racist struggle within sectors the US environmental movement.

Individual Growth and Empowerment:

The National Student Network should be empowering on an individual level. Our collective strength is built upon the energy, skills, and well-being of our organizers. Everyone involved is encouraged to speak up, share from their experience, and take the full opportunity to grow as an organizer in ways that are creative, energizing, and fun. We must always strive to share skills across our campaigns.

Democratic Structures of Coordination:

- + We strive to build organizing structures that are non-hierarchical, maximize participation and skill-building, and encourage bottom-up autonomy while coordinating effectively through a national network structure
- + Organizing structures should always serve an immediate function; we encourage flexibility, and adaptation over time to accommodate changing network priorities.
- + We encourage transparency and intentional/explicit process
- + We strive to promote a culture of self- and group-care, to avoid burnout and support the health of individual organizers and the health of the network.
- + Conflict and disagreement make us stronger! (when done respectfully and constructively)

DIVESTMENT CAMPAIGNS: HOW DID THEY WIN?

Over a hundred colleges at least partially divested from apartheid South Africa. Now there is a web-based, searchable database that describes 18 campaigns, including a dozen that succeeded. Discover the methods used and allies gained at Spelman, Illinois, Rutgers, North Carolina, Stanford, Mills, Wisconsin, Toronto, Swarthmore, and others.

The Global Nonviolent Action Database

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