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New report finds the University of Toronto received over CAD 64 million from the fossil fuel industry between 2008 and 2018

TORONTO, ONTARIO — A new report by the student activist group Climate Justice U of T finds the University of Toronto received **over 64 million dollars between 2008 and 2018 from the fossil fuel industry**.

While U of T [committed to divest](#) its endowment from fossil fuel investments in 2021, the *Bound to Big Oil* report finds that U of T maintains strong relationships with fossil fuel companies. These include Imperial Oil, Saudi Aramco, Suncor and Enbridge. The report documents how U of T sponsors events with fossil fuel actors, allows big oil executives to occupy university governance positions, and accepts fossil fuel research funding. For instance, the fossil fuel industry funded at least **635 peer-reviewed research articles** affiliated with the University between 2018 and 2023.

Academic institutions can play a [vital role](#) in [tackling](#) the climate crisis. They are hubs of research, knowledge diffusion, and public discourse. The report is part of a [growing global call](#) for universities to fully dissociate from the fossil fuel industry.

In 2021, Princeton University committed to fossil fuel disassociation. [It admitted](#), “In keeping with its core truth-seeking mission and commitment to sustainability,” Princeton must cut ties with oil and gas companies that have engaged in climate disinformation. This pointed out the risks of allowing the industry profiting most from climate change to infiltrate trusted academic institutions and knowledge production.

The report recommends that the University of Toronto enact full fossil fuel dissociation.

Read the full report: [\[LINK\]](#)

Statements from report authors:

Amalie Wilkinson, student at the University of Toronto:



“U of T was recently named the most sustainable university in the world by the QS World University Rankings. Show me how partnering with Imperial Oil and Enbridge is sustainable. Show me how accepting money from Suncor, Cenovus, and RBC is sustainable. If U of T is going to call itself a climate leader, it is time for the administration to put its money where its mouth is. Full fossil fuel dissociation now.”

Leah McKinney, student at the University of Toronto:

"If U of T wants to live up to the values of sustainability that it espouses, it cannot continue taking money from fossil fuel companies that are ravaging our planet. These financial ties only pollute our research and provide oil companies with the social licence they need to keep operating."

Please find photos available [here](#). Please credit Climate Justice UofT.

***Climate Justice U of T** is a leading student organization at the University of Toronto advocating for climate justice. We document and expose our university's ties with the fossil fuel industry and advocate for full fossil fuel dissociation. We operate as a grassroots club, in solidarity with global liberation struggles for life & land. Climate Justice U of T works on stolen Indigenous land, specifically on the ancestral territory of the Huron-Wendat, Anishinaabe, and Haudenosaunee peoples.*