

My name is Jillian Gregg. I am a faculty in the Sustainability Double Degree program at OSU. I provide my title and affiliation for identification purposes only, since the views I express may or may not be consistent with those of my employer, Oregon State University.

My qualifications to speak on Climate Change are based on research I've performed on climate change impacts over the past 30+ years. Most recently, I am a co-author of the most highly cited climate science paper of 2023 titled "The state of the climate report: Entering uncharted territory".

I also developed and teach the General Education class on Introduction to Climate change at OSU for which I also wrote the textbook. This course has reached nearly 10K students since 2016.

Facts that I teach my students are that burning coal results in nearly twice the CO₂ emissions per unit energy generated compared to natural gas, and neither are needed in this day-and-age with the readily available and cost-effective renewable energy technologies.

I am encouraged that Oregon phased out coal use in 2016 and got rid of the last coal-fired power plant in 2020. But I am shocked to see that we still invest in Coal in other states, namely the Galvin plant in my home state of Ohio, where the plant spent \$20B to buyout the residents 2 decades ago. Most residents took the buyout and moved, but the plant continues to pollute through today and Oregon's state treasury fund has helped to keep it open. Hazardous contaminants in coal ash include not only CO₂ emissions, but mercury, cadmium, arsenic, lead, chromium and more - posing serious threats to air and water quality - it's a real witch's brew of bad stuff.

As such, I strongly support the Oregon House Bill 4083 which mandates that the Oregon state treasurer stops investing funds in companies that deal in coal. The extraction and combustion of coal significantly contribute to greenhouse gas emissions, which have been documented to contribute to the record-breaking heatwave of 2021 that killed 100s of people in the PNW.

Oregon Public Universities divested from fossil fuels in 2017. Since then, new Fossil-fuel-free investments have [consistently out-performed](#) the previous coal laden investments.

Divestment not only protects people and ecosystems. It positions Oregon as a leader in responsible and sustainable investment practices. And provides a better bottom-line with a better return on investment.