

TO: Assembly

FROM: Tom Harrington

RE: Endorse Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty

DATE: 13 March 2025

Assembly Notes:

That the fossil fuel industry causes immense environmental harm, accelerating the climate and ecological crisis and polluting the landscape.

That the operations of the fossil fuel industry cause serious social harm, by displacing people from their homes en masse, causing serious health issues worldwide, and destroying livelihoods.
That studies have shown that university students see climate change as one of the biggest global issues facing them, experience anxiety over the climate crisis, and show interest in measures to combat it [1].

The Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty (FFNTP) is an international treaty proposal calling for the complete and equitable end of new fossil fuel projects and phase out of all current fossil fuel usage. It was first proposed by 14 pacific island nations, who are disproportionately affected by the climate crisis.

The FFNTP has been endorsed globally by 16 nation states, over 120 cities, the World Health Organisation [2], and university institutions such as University College Cork [3] and Stirling Students' Union [4].

Assembly Believes:

Pushing for the university to endorse the FFNTP is a way for the Students Union to represent students' beliefs surrounding climate change.

The FFNTP foregrounds the needs of Global South nations who are disproportionately impacted by the climate crisis and will therefore work to promote global climate justice.
The Students Union should take the opportunity to encourage the university to follow in line with its sustainability policy and goals.

Durham Students Union and Durham University supporting the FFNTP is a step towards the necessary sustainability goals agreed upon at the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties over the last three decades.

Assembly Resolves:

To publicly endorse the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty (FFNPT), and to publicise that decision.

To Lobby Durham University to formally endorse the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty (FFNPT), and to publicise that decision, especially in relation to the upcoming Coimbra Climate Symposium hosted in Durham.

[1] https://www.studentminds.org.uk/uploads/3/7/8/4/3784584/climate_change_and_student_mental_health.pdf

[2] <https://fossilfuelstreaty.org/diplomacy>

[3] <https://www.ucc.ie/en/news/2023/ucc-formally-calls-for-a-fossil-fuel-non-proliferation-treaty-.html>

[4] <https://www.instagram.com/globaljusticenow/p/DDPQqM6oqV0/>