

THE FOSSIL FREE REPORT CARD



Grading Our Universities: How Have They Done?

In 2022, Students for a Fossil Free Future (S4F) released a report outlining the links between Singapore universities and fossil fuel companies. S4F highlighted why those links impede the energy transition and our recommendations regarding them.

In 2023, let's see what steps they have taken, and how they currently score on being fossil free.

* indicates that the score displayed is an average

Finance & Management

Recommended	NUS	NTU	SMU	SUTD/SIM/SIT
1. Develop and publish a time-line for complete divestment from fossil fuels.	No 0	No 0	Insufficient data 0	Insufficient data 0
2. Commit to ceasing new direct and indirect investments in fossil fuels and sign on to the United Nations-supported Principles for Responsible Investment (UN PRI).	No 0	No 0	No 0	Insufficient data 0
4. Restrict the appointment of individuals who currently hold or previously held senior leadership positions in a fossil fuel company to universities' Boards	No change: One board member was formerly a senior leader in the fossil fuel industry. 0	No change: Two members of the board are former or current senior leaders in fossil fuel industries. 0	No change: One board member was formerly a senior leader in the fossil fuel industry. 0	In SUTD, no change: One board member was formerly a senior leader in the fossil fuel industry. 0 In SIM & SIT, there do not seem to be any such board members. 1
Total Score	0/3	0/3	0/3	*0.5/3

Academia

Recommended	NUS	NTU	SMU	SUTD/SIM/SIT
1. Regarding scholarships and prizes where the money is guaranteed in trusts, remove the name branding of fossil fuel companies and seek to replace them with alternatives from companies committed to the transition.	There are still at least 6 named fossil fuel- sponsored prizes. In 2023, the LKYSPP accepted a gift of \$101 million from a fossil fuel billionaire for scholarships. - 1	At least 9 named fossil fuel- sponsored prizes. Any increase may be due to better research. 0	There are still at least 4 named fossil fuel- sponsored scholarships, but there are now also some sustainability- focused scholarships being offered. 0.5	In SIT, there are at least 2 named fossil fuel- sponsored bursaries. 0 In SUTD and SIM, there does not appear to be any such funding. 1
2. Discontinue named research and academic funding associated with the fossil fuel industry.	At least 3 named fossil fuel- sponsored professorships or research fellowships, 1 less than our report found in 2022. 0.5	There does not seem to be any academic funding from fossil fuel companies. 1	No change: At least 1 named fossil fuel- sponsored professorship. 0	There does not appear to be any academic funding from fossil fuel companies. 1
3. Implement climate crisis education for all students in our universities.	All CHS students must take a module which includes a section on climate change. While this is good, there should be an entire module on the climate crisis required for all students. 0.75	It is good that there are sustainability modules and major pathways, but all are optional. 0.5	It is good that there are sustainability modules and major pathways, but all are optional. 0.5	It is good that all 3 universities offer several sustainability modules, but all are optional. 0.25
4. Expand opportunities, resources, and support for university stakeholders to research, learn about, and take action on climate change and climate justice within their departments and units.	Research projects are being created for a range of climate change issues, such as healthcare, nature-based solutions, coastal & flood protection, and energy infrastructure. 1	Research projects are being created for a range of climate change issues, such as a programme for interdisciplinary transition issues. 1	Research projects are being created for climate and environmental issues like green finance and sustainability reporting standards. 1	The universities have research projects for a range of climate issues such as energy transition and sustainable design/ engineering. 1
Total Score	1.25/4	2.5/4	2/4	*3.75/4

Professional Development

Recommended	NUS	NTU	SMU	SUTD/SIM/SIT
1. Commit to stop seeking new industry partnership programmes with fossil fuel companies which are related to the extraction, refinement, or use of fossil fuels.	<p>No change:</p> <p>At least 2 events with fossil fuel companies have continued in 2022 and 2023.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">0</p>	<p>No change:</p> <p>At least 2 events with fossil fuel companies have continued in 2023. One professional development program continues partnerships with fossil fuel companies.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">0</p>	<p>No change:</p> <p>At least one professional development program continues partnerships with fossil fuel companies.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">0</p>	<p>There do not appear to be any partnerships with fossil fuel companies.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1</p>
2. Seek to increase the advertisement of roles centred on alternative and sustainable industries to replace fossil fuel companies' advertisement of roles related to the extraction, refinement, or use of fossil fuels.	<p>There are dedicated sustainability talks and industry engagements at career fairs and other events.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1</p>	<p>There do not appear to be any efforts to increase advertisement of sustainability roles.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">0</p>	<p>There do not appear to be any efforts to increase advertisement of sustainability roles.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">0</p>	<p>There do not appear to be any efforts to increase the advertisement of sustainability roles.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">0</p>
3. Develop and publicise training, certification, and job transition pathways for employees of fossil fuel companies seeking to move to renewable or other sustainability-related sectors.	<p>There are career transition programs, courses, and certifications on sustainability, though none are targeted at employees in fossil fuel sectors.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">0.25</p>	<p>Offers career transition programs, courses, and certifications on sustainability, though none are targeted at employees in fossil fuel sectors.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">0.5</p>	<p>Offers career transition programs, courses, and certifications on sustainability, though none are targeted at employees in fossil fuel sectors.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">0.5</p>	<p>All 3 universities offer courses and certifications on sustainability, though none are targeted at employees in fossil fuel sectors.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">0.5</p>
Total Score	1.25/3	0.5/3	0.5/3	1.5/3

Co-Optation of Campus Spaces

Recommended	NUS	NTU	SMU	SUTD/SIM/SIT
1. Replace existing event sponsorships from fossil fuel companies with funding from companies committed to the post-carbon transition.	No change: Continues to hold sponsored on-campus events sponsored by fossil fuel companies. 0	There do not appear to be any such events or sponsorships. 1	There do not appear to be any such events or sponsorships. 1	There do not appear to be any such events or sponsorships. 1
2. Continue holding and promoting events which critically engage with the climate crisis on a systemic level.	There do not appear to be such events. 0	There do not appear to be such events. 0	There do not appear to be such events. 0	Insufficient information. 0
Total Score	0/2	1/2	1/2	1/2

FINAL GRADES TABLE

Category	NUS	NTU	SMU	SUTD/SIM/SIT
Finance & Management	0/3	0/3	0/3	*0.5/3
Academia	1.25/4	2.5/4	2/4	*3.75/4
Professional Development	1.25/3	0.5/3	0.5/3	1.5/3
Co-Optation of Campus Spaces	0/2	1/2	1/2	1/2
Final Score	2.5/12	4/12	3.5/12	*6.75/12
GRADE	F	F	F	D