

HEALTHY INVESTMENT FOR DOCTORS IN TRAINING

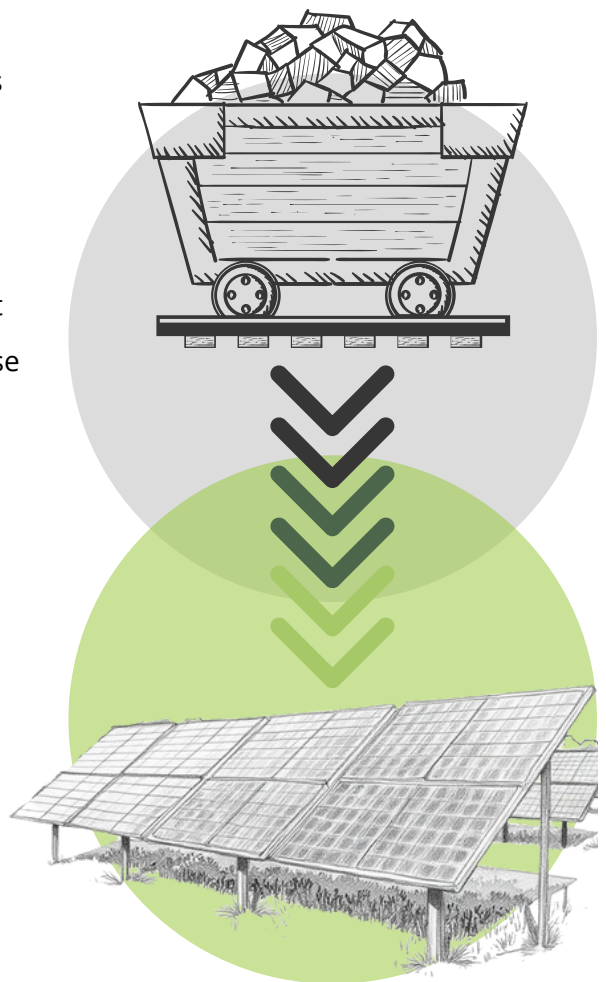
Climate Change is a Global Health Crisis

Humans are facing record breaking threats to their wellbeing and survival from the rapidly changing climate and practices which are exceeding our planetary boundaries.¹ Our consumption of fossil fuels is undeniably responsible – despite this, fossil fuel projects continue to expand, supported by government subsidies and funded by investment from institutions and individuals.^{2,3}

What is Healthy Investment?

Whether we're aware of it or not, our money is contributing to climate change. The vast majority of Australians have accounts with the big four banks, which lent \$3.6 billion to the fossil fuel industry in 2023.⁴ The top 30 Australian superannuation funds have also more than \$39 billion invested in companies with the biggest fossil fuel expansion plans, and the average investment option has nearly 9% of its members' share investments in these companies.⁵

Healthy investment is the decision to select a bank, super fund or other investment that is consciously excluding harmful industries, like the fossil fuel industry, whilst supporting those involved in the transition to sustainable practices.⁶ It works by removing the social licence for an industry to operate.⁶ It also creates consumer demand and pressure for institutional investors to respond with climate transition plans and divested products. Medical organisations such as the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and the British Medical Association have already divested.⁷



Will Healthy Investment affect my returns?

Research has shown that screening out carbon intensive and fossil fuel companies does not significantly reduce returns in an otherwise varied portfolio. In fact, there may be significant financial risks in keeping money invested in fossil fuels in a carbon-constrained world.^{8,9}

How do I go about Healthy Investing?

Banks

Find out where your bank stands on fossil fuel investment.

If they support fossil fuel industries, write to request a commitment to reduce, then cut their investment in these companies.

If the reply is unsatisfactory, move to a bank committed to being fossil fuel free, and let them know why they lost you.



Super Funds

Find out how exposed your superannuation fund is to fossil fuels.

If your fund has a 'Socially Responsible' Investment option, review their inclusion and exclusion criteria. Write and make a complaint to your fund if they do not disclose their position or offer a fossil fuel free option.

As a last resort move your super funds to an alternative provider.

Institutions

Advocate for transparency and encourage institutions you are involved in to review the climate impact of their investments. Such institutions include universities, hospitals, clinics and specialist medical colleges.

Resources

Market Forces – compare your bank and super funds:

<https://www.marketforces.org.au/info/compare-bank-table/>

<https://www.marketforces.org.au/superfunds/Ethical-Investing>

Responsible Investment Association Australasia (RIAA):

<https://responsibleinvestment.org/>

Responsible Returns:

<https://www.responsiblereturns.com.au/>



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Healthy Investment for Doctors in Training

Doctors for the Environment Australia acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which this document has been produced. We recognise that First Nations peoples have cared for Country for millennia and seek to learn from Indigenous ways of knowing, being and doing. We acknowledge that sovereignty of this land was never ceded and pay our respects to First Nations Elders past and present, and to emerging leaders.



About Us

Doctors for the Environment Australia (DEA) is an independent, non-government organisation of medical doctors in all Australian states and territories.

DEA's work is based on the premise that humans need a future with clean air and water, healthy soils capable of producing nutritious food, a stable climate, and a complex, diverse and interconnected humanity whose needs are met in a sustainable way. We are therefore interested in environmental protection and restoration to promote human health and social stability.

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