

Grinnell College

Fossil Fuels and Climate Impact Task Force

- **By the Way, Your Home Is On Fire**
The Climate of Change and the Dangers of Stasis
By Rebecca Solnit

- “Divestment serves a number of direct and indirect causes, including awakening public opinion to the dangers we face and changing the economic/energy landscape. As is now widely recognized, preventing climate change from reaching its most catastrophic potential requires keeping four-fifths of known carbon reserves (coal, oil, and gas) in the ground.”

Pitzer College in 1963

- Looking north toward the San Gabriel Mountains prior construction.



The first graduating class of 1964



Pitzer College's 50 Year Engagement

- Mission Statement
- Pitzer College produces engaged, socially responsible citizens of the world through an academically rigorous, interdisciplinary liberal arts education emphasizing social justice, intercultural understanding and environmental sensitivity. The meaningful participation of students, faculty and staff in college governance and academic program design is a Pitzer core value. Our community thrives within the mutually supportive framework of The Claremont Colleges, which provide an unsurpassed breadth of academic, athletic and social opportunities.

The College's Newest Core Value

- **Environmental Sustainability:** Sensitivity for and preservation of the environment is a key value of Pitzer College. Campus landscaping utilizes drought-resistant, native plants and the College is proud of its many LEED-certified sustainable buildings. Students shape their daily activities, programming and studies to ensure they leave the environment and the world stronger than how they found it. Students interested in environmental issues will find Pitzer an exciting living and learning laboratory.

Since the College's beginning there has always been curriculum including environmental issues. Today there the College has both an Environmental Analysis Major as well as an Environmental Science Major offered through the Keck Science Program.

Courses include the following:

- ANTH 012 PZ -Native Americans and Their Environments

- ANTH 110 PZ -Nature and Society in Amazonia
 - ANTH 129 PO -Native California
 - ANTH 145 PO -Cultural Ecology
- CLAS 175 PZ -International Cultural Heritage
 - EA 031 PZ -Restoring Nature
- EA 074 PZ -California's Landscapes: Peoples and Ecosystems
 - EA 085 PO -Food, Land & the Environment
 - EA 098 PZ -Urban Ecology
- EA 108 PZ -Natural History and Naturalists: History and Practice
 - EA 115 PZ -Qualitative Research Methods
 - EA 140 PZ -The Desert as a Place
- EA 141 PZ -Progress and Oppression: Ecology, Human Rights, and Development
 - EA 162 PZ -Gender, Environment & Development
 - EA 165 PZ -Resource Depletion and Ghost Towns
 - EA 171 PO -Water in the West

Student Activism

- The Grove House is a Craftsman-style house that serves as a restaurant, student center and residence. In **1976**, it was purchased for \$1 and then moved to campus in two pieces. It sat for several years before it was restored and finally opened in February **1980**.



Parking lots removed for gardens



Outback program for native plants



- A Cleaner Tomorrow--Environmental Education program that teaches elementary school students about environmental issues and solutions to these problems.
- Composting Club
- Claremont Market Shares--The Claremont Market Shares is a student-run food distribution program that connects Claremont students, staff and faculty with affordable weekly shares of local, sustainable produce in a goal of creating a more transparent, just, and local market for farmers and consumers
- Ecology Center--EcoCenter is Pitzer's longest standing environmental club. We seek to engage Pitzer and the greater 5C community in environmental issues and sustainability
- Food Not Bombs
- Garden Club
- Green Bike Program--The GBP is a student-run organization created to promote cycling, bike safety and sustainability at The Claremont Colleges and the surrounding community
- Pitzer Green Initiative Fund--The PGIF provides funding for on-campus student sustainability initiatives
- Redford Conservancy Fellows--A diverse and passionate team of Pitzer students who are committed to collaborative and interdisciplinary approaches to environmental sustainability, the longevity of Southern California's natural environment, and the well-being of its peoples

Way to Go, Joe

How Joe Clements Transformed the Pitzer Panorama

Some people leave a footprint, Joe Clements left an entire landscape. Clements retired in June after serving as Pitzer's arboretum manager for more than 13 years. The College hired him the day after he retired from the Huntington Botanical Gardens, where he curated the desert garden.



Working side-by-side, spade-by-spade, with Pitzer students and faculty in classes he taught with Professor of Environmental Analysis Paul Faulstich, he passed on his profound knowledge of nature, which ran from planting beds to bedrock. A geologist by training, Clements cultivated climate-appropriate, water-wise designs at the College. His belief in living, and planting, in accordance with the eco-system of one's zip code, complemented Pitzer's core value of environmental sustainability.

Although Pitzer's drought-tolerant landscape has been called "the most sophisticated and artfully presented collection of succulents, desert plants and Mediterranean-climate plants outside of a botanical garden," some simply call it "Joeyscape."



TOP PICKS

Joe Clements' Star Succulents

Before Joe Clements retired, we asked him to name his favorite succulents. His reply? "I like them all!" Among the thousands of succulents on the Pitzer campus, he named his top picks, often based on the dramatic figures they cut in the landscape.

He couldn't leave out the aloe and agave families. *Aloe camperi* attracts hummingbirds; *Aloe dichotoma* and *Aloe bainesii* are excellent low-water landscape trees; *Agave victoriae-reginae*, with its distinctive white markings, is a striking accent plant.

Visit www.pitzer.edu/arboretum for more of Joe Clements' favorites and to view a catalog of plants in the unique Pitzer landscape.



#1 Boojum Tree
(*Fouquieria columnaris*) There are forests of this odd-looking tree in Baja California, the place Clements first fell in love with desert landscapes. We have our own little forest of boojums just south of Broad Hall.

#2 Golden Barrel
(*Echinocactus grusonii*) This cactus, also endemic to Mexico, lends its spiky glow to our drought-tolerant landscape. There are hundreds on campus, with the oldest and largest in front of the Grove House.



#3 The Echeveria
family also tops his list. He often uses the beautiful colors and sculptural shape of the hybrid "Blue Curis" to balance plantings.

Original Residence Halls Replaced



Housing project begun 2005



The President's House became the first Leed home in Claremont



Founded in 2012

Robert Redford
CONSERVANCY
for Southern California Sustainability

PITZER COLLEGE



The Redford Conservancy will open Spring 2018

- Pitzer College, known for environmental studies, and Robert Redford, the actor known for environmental activism, have teamed up to create a conservancy at the college that will promote study of and conservation of the environment in Southern California, *The Los Angeles Times* reported. The program will be housed on an old infirmary on 12 acres of land next to the college's campus. The land is a rare coastal sage scrub ecosystem, and students will work on preserving it as part of the program.

Divestment—2014

- Pitzer College's breakthrough fossil fuel divestment climate action in Los Angeles, California April 12, 2014. Robert Redford is a trustee at Pitzer College, which is the first Southern California institute of higher education divesting its endowment of fossil fuel stocks. Pitzer College has announced it will divest its \$125 million endowment of financial holdings in fossil fuel companies by the end of the year.
- **The move makes Pitzer the first college in Southern California to commit to climate divestment, and the largest endowment in higher education to do so to date.**
- Divestment from fossil fuel companies is the goal of a network of activists who argue that profiting from or supporting industries that contribute heavily to climate change is morally wrong.

Pitzer College Divestment Resolution

- April 5, 2014 (Claremont, CA) – The Board of Trustees of Pitzer College directed:
 1. Pitzer divest its endowment of substantially all fossil fuel company stocks, with a target completion date of December 31, 2014.
 2. The Investment Committee develop and propose to the Board in the 2014-2015 academic year an Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) policy that will incorporate ESG considerations into endowment investment decisions.
 3. Creation of a designated fund within the Pitzer College endowment, the investment of which will be made towards promoting sustainability.
 4. The College establish a policy goal to accelerate the reduction of the College's carbon footprint and target a 25% reduction from current levels by the end of 2016, with the President reporting to the Board next year and annually on progress and efficacy.
 5. With the goal of fostering attentiveness and action on a forward-going basis, the College shall establish a Campus Sustainability Task Force, consistent with Pitzer community governance practice and engagement, to provide ongoing direction and oversight of programs that foster the development of an environmentally sustainable campus and college, and to report annually on its status and progress.
 6. The above recommendations are made with full recognition of the College's continuing need to operate in a fiscally prudent manner.

Pitzer College and BlackRock Launch First Ever ESG-Focused, Fossil Fuel-Free Global Equity Index Fund

- This August, Pitzer College became the founding investor in the *MSCI ACWI ex-Fossil Fuels ESG Focus Index Fund B*. This new fund uses a disciplined, quantitative approach to incorporate ESG factors in its portfolio construction while maintaining zero exposure to fossil fuel companies. The fund was developed with assistance from leading index provider MSCI and investment consulting firm Mercer. The college was able to reduce its fossil holdings from 5.5% of its \$130 million portfolio to about 1% without incurring significant transaction costs or experiencing more than a negligible effect on returns.

Pitzer College to Invest \$58 Million in Non-Fossil Fuel Index Fund--2017

- Pitzer College, along with asset management firm BlackRock, has launched the first ever environmental, social, and corporate governance-focused global equity index fund that is completely divested from fossil fuels, the college announced Sept. 21. Pitzer is set to invest \$58 million of its \$135 million-endowment into the fund, which represents the entirety of the public equity portion of Pitzer's endowment.
- The creation of the fund is a continuation of the climate action plan that Pitzer announced in 2014, which included a [commitment](#) to divest 99 percent of the college's endowment and create a fund to facilitate the investment of endowment funds into environmentally responsible companies.
- A global equity index fund is a single portfolio made up of publicly traded companies from around the world. Investors can buy shares of the fund without having to invest in individual companies. ESG funds are set up for those who want to invest in companies which have been screened for specific criteria regarding the environment, social relations and corporate governance.

As a major component of Pitzer's \$135 million endowment, the fund enables the College's public equities portfolio to achieve:

- Full global diversification across developed and emerging markets
- 100 percent divestment from fossil fuel stocks
- An estimated MSCI ESG portfolio score of AA-, as compared to a BBB score for the benchmark MSCI All Country World Index (ACWI)
- An estimated 40 percent reduction in portfolio carbon intensity vs. MSCI ACWI
- Estimated annual tracking error of 0.60% relative to MSCI ACWI
- Endowment management fee savings in excess of \$200,000 annually (largely due active to passive index)
- Pitzer shows that with some creativity, even a smaller endowment can put in place innovative investment structures to achieve its Responsible Investment goals while staying true to the Board's fiduciary obligations.

Pitzer College Today

- One of the first colleges in the US to launch an environmental studies program, Pitzer has promoted environmental awareness for nearly 50 years. Environmental Sustainability and Social Responsibility are Pitzer College core values. Nearly fifty percent of college buildings are LEED-certified. Drought-tolerant landscaping has helped Pitzer cut its water use in half since 2002. Pitzer was awarded a STARS Gold rating from the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education in 2016. The College researches, teaches and lives its commitment to sustainability. Pitzer has been ranked as the “greenest college campus” in California. College Prowler gave it top honors, and a perfect-10 score.

“The future is dark, which is the best thing the future can be, I think.” Virginia Woolf

- “To me, the grounds for hope are simply that we don’t know what will happen next, and that the unlikely and the unimaginable transpire quite regularly. And that the unofficial history of the world shows that dedicated individuals and popular movements can shape history and have, though how and when we might win and how long it takes is not predictable.”
- Rebecca Solnit, *Men Explain Things to Me*

