

## **Highland Pension Fund Divestment Strategy**

### **AIM:**

- council political pledge to divest by COP26 + adopt Highland Charter
- Actual divestment at pension fund March meeting after COP26

### **Opportunities:**

- COP26 political moment + increased interest and public pressure
- Groups across highlands working on their councillors
- Backing and promo from FoES and COP26 Coalition
- Glasgow council commitment as precedent, Fife council adopted a similar motion recently

### **Challenges:**

- Fudging of councillors re: 'net zero' 'political commitments'
- Resistant councillors - political conservatism + concern about responsibility
- Capacity and time in groups
- Geography - spread out groups

### **Communication/ ways of working:**

- Central campaign with core shared tactics and events
- Groups to use and run with tools in their own way
- Communicate via google group and regular meetings

## Key targets:

- Get as many Councillors on board in Highland and Na h-Eileanan an Iar as possible- as political pressure is key in run up to COP26
- [Pension fund committee](#)

## Secondary targets:

- Pension fund officers
- Major employers in the HPF

## Background information:

- [Research by Friends of the Earth Scotland into Scottish local government pension fund investments in fossil fuels](#) (Feb 2021)
- [Blog to summarise the report's findings](#)

## Core tactics 2021

- Central e-action to councillors asking to support pledge - all groups to circulate widely on social media ([launch end of July / early August?](#))
  - Possibility for street stalls to sign up to send e-action if capacity ([August? - early September?](#))
  - Create social media pack for sharing
- Councillor pledge - all groups to meet with local councillors and encourage them to sign the pledge. ([launch at same time as e-action, ideally get 3 or 4 councillor pledges for press release?](#))
  - Share images of councillors who have pledged on social media

- Scope for groups to promote this and share in their own tone
  - Create briefing for people meeting councillors on divestment + Highland Charter ([launch with e-action and pledge](#))
  - Scotland wide lobbying training organised by FoES/Platform ([August?](#))
- Open letter calling on Highland Council and Western Isles to divest for relevant orgs to sign, including organisations and groups who are not based in the Highlands ([led by Protect Our Winters](#))
- Public event in August as part of [Skye Climate Festival](#) with the aim of getting more people to take e-action and arrange meetings with councillors.
    - Share via COP26 coalition, FoES, POW and other groups to get mass audience.
    - Take action in meeting - 100 e-actions taken in the meeting.
    - Can invite speakers from communities impacted by Highland Council's investments - Mossmorran, Chile BHP mines.
- Motion for divestment put to **council September meeting 9th** (**inspired by [Glasgow councillor motion in favour of divestment in April](#)**)
    - Find supportive councillors in advance who may put this through, pool knowledge
- Actions in September in run up to council meeting and pension fund meeting

- Possible flyposters with images of destruction caused by investments with QR code to take link
- In person protest at full council meeting and pension fund meeting
- Media - articles and op eds pitched from different groups. Working with FoES media team.
  - Youth angle - “pension funds destroying our future”
  - International allies - “impact of these companies on our lives”
  - POW targeting outdoor industry - Open letter from Athletes
- 5th Nov decentralised day of action for divestment across UK (if there is not political commitment yet then big hypocrisy protest)
- 6th Nov Global Day of Action for COP26

### **Link to COP**

- Register as a COP Hub so highland people interested in the COP get directed towards the campaign
- Organise actions on 5th and 6th Nov

### **Councillor pledge text: e.g.**

**“I call on the Highland Council Pension Fund to divest from fossil fuels and adopt the Highland Charter for Responsible Investment.”**