

Stanford Students' Say on Fossil Fuel Funding

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Introduction

Pretend you are a committee member entrusted with answering this question: should a school of sustainability receive money from fossil fuel companies? In December 2022, Stanford University's president asked nine people the very same. This independent Committee on Funding for Energy Research and Education (CFERE) was charged with evaluating the practice of receiving money from major oil and gas corporations for energy and climate research.

Although this independent committee sounds neutral, fossil fuel funding is anything but. CFERE was formed after mounting pressure from student activists calling out the funding's controversy, especially because a lot of the money goes to research programs within Stanford's Doerr School of Sustainability. The school was officially announced in May of 2022 after the university received a \$1.7 billion donation, 1.1 billion of which came from the pockets of investor and venture capitalist John Doerr. As the previous Stanford Earth, Energy, and Environmental Sciences became the Doerr School of Sustainability, students naturally questioned whether it would continue accepting fossil fuel money in its new mission of advancing sustainability research. After all, it has been acknowledged on the global stage that the climate crisis is a fossil fuel crisis (UN Environmental Programme). One might naturally question why companies whose business models are still reliant on fossil fuels are funding research aimed at combating the fossil fuel crisis.

But, you are playing the role of an independent committee member – say, you occupy a higher-up position at the Stanford Law School blocks away from Doerr. You may feel impartial to the fossil fuel industry. Although somewhat aware of its past and current deceptions (Franta, 2021; Public Citizen, 2023), you may trust that any conflicts of interest are barred by the objective scientific method and the mission to advance a sustainable future for all. Ultimately, you may think that programs and professors alike should be free to take any fossil fuel money as long as it is put to good use by advancing climate solutions. The student activists, you may conclude, are simply too idealistic and needlessly distraught.

However, it makes perfect sense for young students to be particularly concerned about climate research, for we will be the ones facing continued, worsening climate impacts 50 years from now. We are the generation that will bear the brunt of the climate crisis and that, today, is increasingly learning about a just clean energy transition and how we can contribute to it. Across various fields of study and backgrounds, we are the ones who will tackle this issue in the long term. In the shorter term, we are and will continue to be the researchers in fossil-fuel-funded labs, the ones being recruited by fossil fuel companies in career fairs, and the students sitting in environmental courses biased by fossil fuel interests.

Our voices have been central in the climate movement and beyond. Divestment and dissociation movements in U.S. universities have often been student-led (Students Demand Action). For example, in the 60s, Stanford and many other schools vowed to cease all endowment investments in South African apartheid ties (Students Demand Action), while, over the past decade, hundreds of U.S. universities divested their endowments from fossil fuel companies, both thanks to student organizing. Interestingly, despite decade-long student pressure, the Stanford Faculty Senate voted ‘no’ on divestment (Pang, 2021). The fear that fossil fuel funding was going to be threatened by divesting from funders was cited as a primary concern. Given students’ role in the climate crisis and our persistent determination to ensure our schools’ integrity, all our voices must be centered in the fossil fuel funding debate from early on.

Through a student survey, I strived to highlight our crucial perspectives. In this report, I seek to answer whether, among Stanford students in 2023-2024, what are the perceptions of fossil fuel funding for university research? Moreover, do these perceptions change after more information on the Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability’s research funding is provided? To this end, I will first contextualize students’ responses by exploring the history of fossil fuel funding and providing information on the fossil fuel industry and its partnership with Stanford. I will then delve into what my survey findings reveal about Stanford students’ say on fossil fuel money for research.

History & Context

The practice of corporations funding scientific research is long-standing. After all, academic research is expensive and research grants are crucial but hard-won. Indeed, U.S. academic institutions spend nearly \$100 billion on research every year (Gibbons). To cover these costs, there has been a historical shift away from relying on the U.S. federal government’s Research & Development (R&D) funding (Rudy, 2007). After the economic downturns of the 1970s, the U.S. federal government’s funding of university research saw a steady decline, while corporate funding gradually filled this gap and covered

increasing costs (Rudy, 2007). As one example of many, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), a federal government agency, funded over 67% of U.S. medical and health research in the late twentieth century but in 2016 funded only 22% (Ioannidis, Hozo, & Djulbegovic, 2022; Schulthess, 2023; Boadi, 2014). When a company offers money or is sought out for financial sponsorship, the ensuing industry collaboration can be a fruitful process that leads to invaluable scientific and medical developments, as evidenced by vaccines and solar photovoltaic panel advances.

However, there are risks. Profit-driven goals may pose conflicts of interest with the research's mission. A well-known example is the bias of tobacco-funded health studies in the latter half of the twentieth century, which significantly downplayed the severity of smoking and disinformed a multitude of people. In contrast, independent studies answering the same scientific questions highlighted the cancerous and respiratory harms of tobacco smoking (Thacker, 2022). Today, the overwhelming majority of medical journals no longer publish papers funded by tobacco companies due to such negative funder influence (Thacker, 2022).

Indeed, research bias is a well-documented and proven phenomenon – plenty of studies have shown that, even when scientists try to be objective, funders' interests can influence which questions are asked and how they're answered, as with tobacco (Boutron; Oreskes, 2015). This is beyond individual researchers – entire research programs' agendas can become aligned with funders' interests rather than society's needs (Oreskes, 2022). Mechanisms and partnership criteria that check for conflicts of interest and bias allow for reliable, helpful scientific information and advances to reign, drastically shaping the livelihoods of citizens – as by promoting quitting smoking to taking a vaccine. Yet, has that been the case with fossil-fuel-funded climate research?

As climate change became a central concern among universities by the 2000s, fossil fuel companies began funding major academic energy centers aimed at developing pathways for a carbon-free future. Princeton University's Carbon Mitigation Initiative in 2000 was soon followed by Stanford's Program on Energy and Sustainable Development in 2001 (Thacker, 2022). Today, many if not most institutions of higher education receive fossil fuel funding for research meant to innovate energy systems in the face of global warming (Kumar, 2023).

Given such widespread partnerships, it is worth diving into the fossil fuel companies' track record. By definition, they are corporations that extract and/or produce crude oil, natural gas, and/or coal – resources that have powered all the advancements of modern society, yet are causing dire climate disasters and at least 5 million deaths due to fossil-fuel-related air pollution every year (Lelieveld et

al., 2023). The truth is that fossil fuel companies, particularly in the U.S., have deceived the public for years and continue to do so. For forty years, various oil and gas companies have known with astounding accuracy about the severity of climate change but intentionally incited climate doubt in the public (Hall, 2020). As scientists and activists have fought for the truth to come to the surface, fossil fuel companies switched to inciting climate delay instead, emphasizing natural gas use and technologies that are friendly to their current business models (Merner, 2023). Multinationals like Chevron, Exxon, BP, and Shell greenwash or exaggerate their measly clean energy and low-carbon investments (Li, 2022). Yet, in contrast to what their extensive marketing may suggest, none of 28 of the world's most prominent fossil fuel companies are aligned with the Paris Climate Accord (Dietz, 2021). They seem much more focused on lobbying against climate legislation and activism instead (Lakhani, 2023; InfluenceMap).

Behind the curtains, Big Oil is expanding fossil fuel production despite outcries from the United Nations to cease it (UN) and subsequently perpetuating energy injustices. In Nigeria's Niger Delta region, Shell has plagued towns with oil spills, while failing to support and pay for damages to the impacted communities (Craig, 2022). In Brazil's Amazon, Petrobras – which also funds some programs at Stanford (Doerr) – has conducted harmful drilling on valued Indigenous land (Benassatto & Adler, 2023). In the city of Richmond, California, redlined communities of color are disproportionately located close to a major Chevron oil refinery, leading to dire health effects due to toxic air pollution (Cagle, 2019). Many fossil fuel companies fuel these injustices, and we must reflect on how climate research at Stanford – aimed at advancing a just energy transition – ultimately relates to its funders' track records.

Fossil Fuel Funding at Stanford

Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability's partnerships with fossil fuel companies occur in many ways – chats with fossil fuel CEOs on campus (Clark & Alvarez, 2022), fossil fuel executives helping decide the schools' research priority of carbon removal (Clark, 2023), sponsorship of student club events (SEC), participation in career recruitment events, scholarships for students, funding of individual faculty's research, and, last but not least, funding of research programs. Out of Doerr's fifteen Industrial Affiliate Programs, fourteen receive fossil fuel funding (Doerr). In summary, they consist of the Energy Corporate Affiliates (which includes research into energy transmission, storage, and finance), the Stanford Center for Carbon Storage (which includes research into carbon removal), and twelve others that include research into fossil fuel extraction,

management, and/or exploration. In total, these programs receive about \$10 million from fossil fuel companies per year.

Questions of whether such funding sources influence research have naturally been asked. A 2022 study conducted at Columbia University analyzed the language of academic energy centers' reports, social media, and more to measure each center's collective sentiment of different energy sources (Almond et al., 2022). The ones funded by fossil fuel corporations – all at Stanford, MIT, and Columbia – were much more favorable to natural gas than renewable energy sources. Meanwhile, those not receiving any fossil fuel funding expressed much greater favorability for renewables and were neutral to natural gas. Such influence is informally seen on websites like Stanford's Natural Gas Initiative's, a Doerr Industrial Affiliate Program, as messaging emphasizing natural gas' role as a transition fuel (NGI) is very similar to that on its funders' webpages (Shell Global). Other research studies also provide detailed insights into compromised academic integrity in universities as a result of fossil fuel funding (Ghirga, 2025; Hiltner et al., 2024). Case studies such as that of Louisiana State University (LSU) provide even more blatant examples of fossil fuel donors having a direct say and hence influence on the topic and direction of academic research (Sneath, 2024).

Further research has been done on the perceptions of a broader set of the population – *Data for Progress* surveys found that 57% of a politically diverse sample of 1,200 voters agreed that “Colleges and universities studying the impacts of climate change and sustainability should refuse donations from fossil fuel companies so they can remain unbiased in their research” (Scott-Buechler, 2022). It was also found that university favorability lowered significantly after respondents learned of fossil fuel funding for climate research (Kumar, 2023).

However, there have been no notable studies on the essential perceptions of student bodies. I hope that the survey conducted in this study helps fill this gap and bring our voices to the forefront of any future key decisions on the matter, better informing faculty and committee members at Stanford and beyond.

Methods

The survey was conducted on the Qualtrics platform and included a broad set of questions in three sections. The first section (Appendix A) consists of questions that can be answered on a scale of five options. The first question (“*How much do you know about fossil fuel funding at the Doerr School of Sustainability?*”) relates to what extent the respondent knows about fossil fuel funding at Stanford, from “Nothing” or “A little” to “Somewhat”, “A lot”, and “A great deal.” The three questions that follow (“*What do you think is the effect of fossil fuel funding at Stanford?*”, “*How do you view the Doerr School of Sustainability?*”, and “*How do you view Stanford as a whole?*”)

range from “Negative(ly)” or “Somewhat negative(ly)” to “Somewhat positive(ly)” or “Positive (ly)”, with the midway being “Neutral.” They ask students about their views on fossil fuel funding, the Doerr School of Sustainability, and lastly Stanford as a whole. All questions were neutrally worded to minimize any influence on respondents’ perceptions – “effect” is used as opposed to “impact” for example.

The second section (Appendix B) includes information regarding Stanford’s fossil fuel money flows. I limited the scope to Industrial Affiliate Programs, which have disclosed their funding at the end of 2023 (Doerr). Respondents are re - asked the survey’s central question (“*What do you think is the effect of fossil fuel funding?*”) after being provided with this informational text. Then, there are three questions (Appendix C) where respondents can select more than one answer. The first (“*Which of the below scenarios do you think of as an effect of fossil fuel funding?*”) asks what they think the effects of fossil fuel funding are, with three positive and three negative answer choices being provided – all commonly used arguments on each side of this debate. Similarly, the second (“*Which of the below scenarios do you think of as an effect of dissociation, or ENDING fossil fuel funding?*”) asks about what they think the effects of dissociation or ending fossil fuel funding would be, which also includes three positive and three negative answer choices. Lastly, the respondent is asked (“*Which of the following energy sources do you think are favorable to society?*”) what energy sources they see as “favorable,” wording that is intentionally up to the respondent’s interpretation and own perceptions. All answer choices were randomized, varying in order from respondent to respondent to minimize any potential influence from the answer choices’ order.

Finally, the third section (Appendix D) pertains to personal information like programs of study, year of school, and membership in environmental organizations (“*Your Year,*” “*Your Age,*” “*Your Major/Program(s) (declared or most likely),*” and “*Are you part of an environmental or energy club/organization?*”). I aimed to measure overrepresentation by environmental and energy fields of study (which are more likely to be more informed about this funding). Outreach was done through school-wide email lists, Slack groups, and individuals’ own outreach, reaching a broad and diverse base of students. These channels included the ‘service for all’ email list that includes all Stanford students, dorm groupchats or Slack channels, club groupchats or Slack channels, and occasional one-on-one outreach. A raffle for \$20 Amazon gift cards was made out of personal funds to encourage survey engagement. Incomplete responses were excluded. The survey was designed to be short, taking less than 5 minutes to complete, such that attention checks were not needed. This study was conducted as the final paper for the Program in Writing and Rhetoric (PWR) 2 class called, “In Science We Trust” which pertained to science

communication. I followed the class-taught ethical guidelines regarding survey data collection during Winter and Spring 2024, requiring the respondents' signature or initials at the end of the survey to signal agreement to the following message, "*By signing my first and last name below or initials, I consent to having my responses be anonymously used for an in-class project and be presented as part of a larger data sample. I am aware that the data collected may be published in the future*" (Appendix D).

Results

The survey gathered 408 complete and valid responses from Stanford students, hence rendering a sample size of 408 respondents. The numbers in the paragraphs below were derived from analyses of the raw data.

Precisely 75% of respondents are undergraduate students and the remaining 25% are graduates. Given that most Stanford students (55.3%) are graduate students (Stanford), this sample does not match up with the student body and is a better indicator of undergraduates' perceptions. This is a significant limitation to this survey's results, which cannot be generalized to the larger student body but constitute a preliminary sense of its perceptions. This is mainly because the number of responses from graduate students of Stanford's law, medical, business, and education schools' students was very low. Around 18.6% of respondents are in environmental and energy fields (Earth Systems, Environmental Engineering, Sustainability, Geophysics, or Energy Science), which is likely an overrepresentation – the exact percentage is not publicly available, but an estimate is that at least 900 students (6.7%) are in such fields when excluding aforementioned low-response graduate students (see Appendix H for calculations). However, the Spearman correlation between being in an environmental or energy program and views of fossil fuel funding's effect was nearly negligible – the correlation coefficient ρ (which measures the degree of correlation on a scale from -1 to 1) was -0.057. Membership in an environmental or energy club (25% of respondents) and funding views had a low correlation of $\rho = 0.20$.

For the very first question (Figure 1), the largest share of students indicated that they know "Somewhat" about fossil fuel funding at Doerr, while 86% responded they "Nothing," "A little," or "Somewhat." This high percentage also makes the sample more representative, as most students likely don't know much about this matter.

How much do you know about fossil fuel funding at the Doerr School of Sustainability?

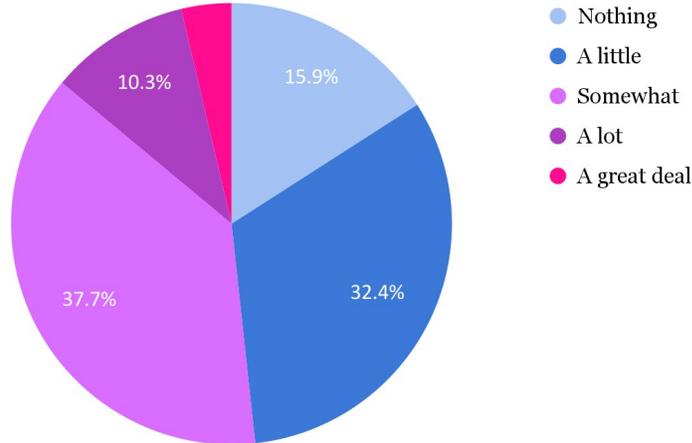


FIGURE 1. Breakdown of responses for, “*How much do you know about fossil fuel funding at the Doerr School of Sustainability?*” (408 Respondents, Winter & Spring, 2024).

The question of the hour – students’ perceptions of fossil fuel funding (Figure 2) – shows that the largest share (41.4%) view fossil fuel funding as negative. Overall, 72.3% of respondents view this funding’s effect as “Negative” or “Somewhat Negative,” 15.2% view it as “Neutral,” 10% as “Somewhat Positive” and 2.5% as “Positive” (amounting to 12.5% for any positive perceptions). Hence, this indicates that most students reported negative or somewhat negative perceptions. A potential explanation is that students, despite knowing somewhat or little about the issue, are concerned about its problematic complications based on what they do know about the fossil fuel industry as a whole and based on an intuitive sense of conflicts of interest in research. Still, there is a small negative correlation of $\rho = -0.15$ between a respondent’s self-reported knowledge of fossil fuel funding at Doerr and its perceived effect, such that, to a small extent, the more one knew about fossil fuel funding, the worse they perceived its effects to be.

What do you think is the effect of fossil fuel funding at Stanford?

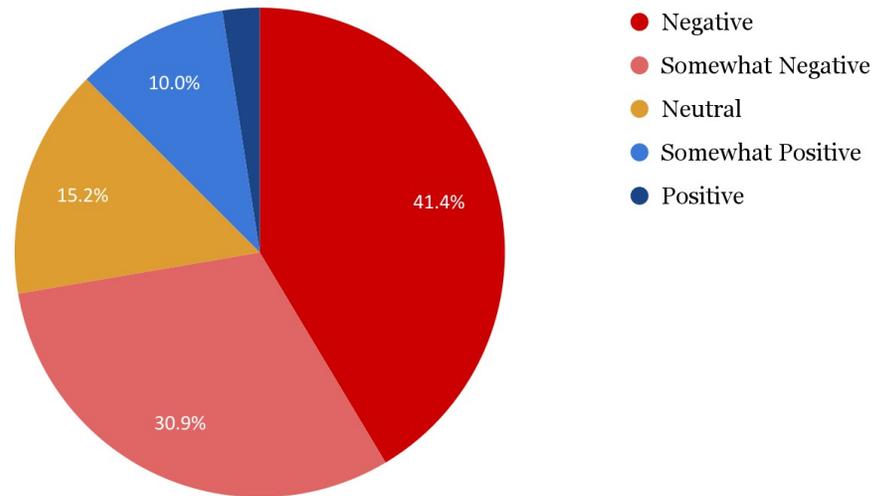


FIGURE 2. Breakdown of responses for, “*What do you think is the effect of fossil fuel funding at Stanford?*” (408 Respondents, Winter & Spring, 2024).

Directly following this question, students’ views of both the Doerr School of Sustainability (Appendix E) and Stanford (Appendix F) from “Negatively” to “Positively” were measured. Most relevant is the relationship between these views and those of fossil fuel funding. The correlation between views of the funding (Figure 2) and that of Doerr is $\rho = 0.49$, showing that there is some positive correlation between viewing the funding as negative and viewing Doerr as an institution negatively. The correlation is smaller for Stanford ($\rho = 0.38$). However, the correlation between the views of Doerr and that of Stanford is $\rho = 0.57$, indicating that, to some extent, the more negatively a student views Doerr, the more negatively they view Stanford. These highlight the potential reputational risks of this issue.

Being given more information about the fossil-fuel-funded programs (Appendix B) did not have too significant of a change in the responses, having a high correlation coefficient of 0.74 with the original answers. However, it seemed to have a slightly polarizing effect (Figure 3), as negative perceptions of this funding increased to 44.4% and positive perceptions increased to 4.7%. Neutral perceptions increased to 16.9%, and overall (somewhat) negative and (somewhat) positive perceptions corresponded to 67.7% and 15.5% respectively. Further analysis and questions are required to measure respondents’ reasons for changing their answers. Still, it seems that it increased confusion regarding the programs themselves, and different parts of the informational section appealed to some respondents but were particularly problematic to others. Energy storage research, for example, likely appealed to some, but the mention of research into oil and gas extraction may have increased others’ concerns.

What do you think is the effect of fossil fuel funding at Stanford?

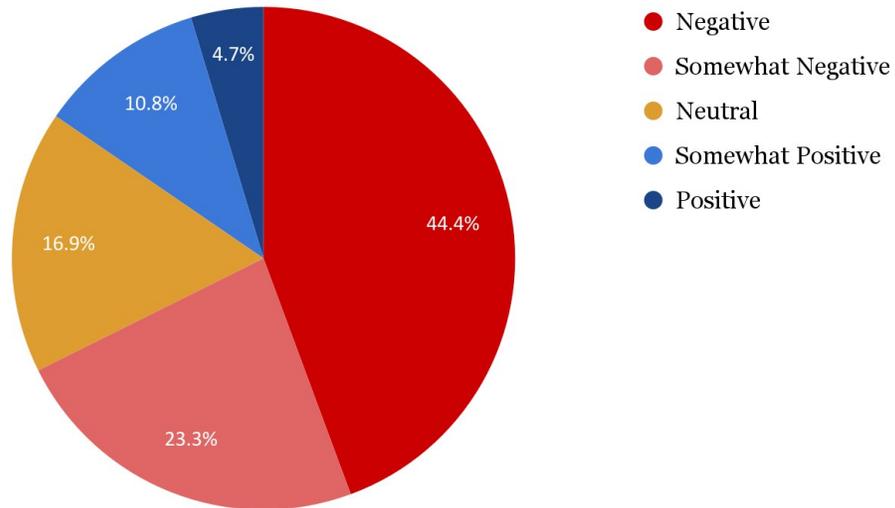


FIGURE 3. Breakdown of responses for, “*What do you think is the effect of fossil fuel funding at Stanford?*” after being given more information (408 Respondents, Winter & Spring, 2024)

In fact, an optional elaboration section, which 94 respondents (23%) answered, showed that 26 students asked questions or were unsure about the overall effect of fossil fuel funding given its complexity or their desire for more information. Negative responses showed distrust towards fossil fuel donors and concerns for influence on research, while positive responses often asserted that the money flow for energy research itself is helpful – for these 19 respondents, positives outweighed negatives

Optional elaboration after given more information

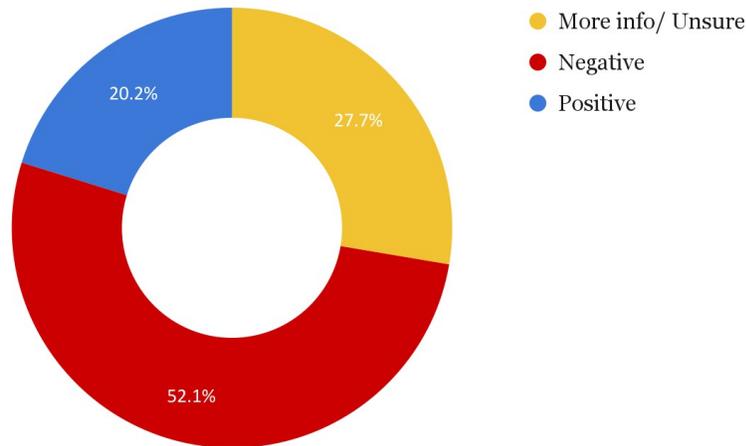


FIGURE 4. Breakdown of responses for elaboration on the previous question, “*What do you think is the effect of fossil fuel funding at Stanford?*” after being given more information (408 Respondents, Winter & Spring, 2024)

The questions where students could select more than one option are perhaps the most insightful. For the question asking the respondent to select the effects of this funding, the relative magnitudes (Figure 5) and corresponding percentages (Figure 6) of answers are found below. The most significant choices were research bias and influence (78.4%), followed by greenwashing of the funder fossil fuel companies (74.3%) and less research integrity (59.6%). The three positive options were not picked by a majority. These responses more clearly show that influence on research – likely stemming from an intuitive sense of conflicts of interest – is at the forefront of students’ minds. Awareness of greenwashing is also evident. These perceptions align with the aforementioned track record of many fossil fuel companies and the history and studies of funder interests’ effect on research.

Which of the below scenarios do you think of as an effect of fossil fuel funding?

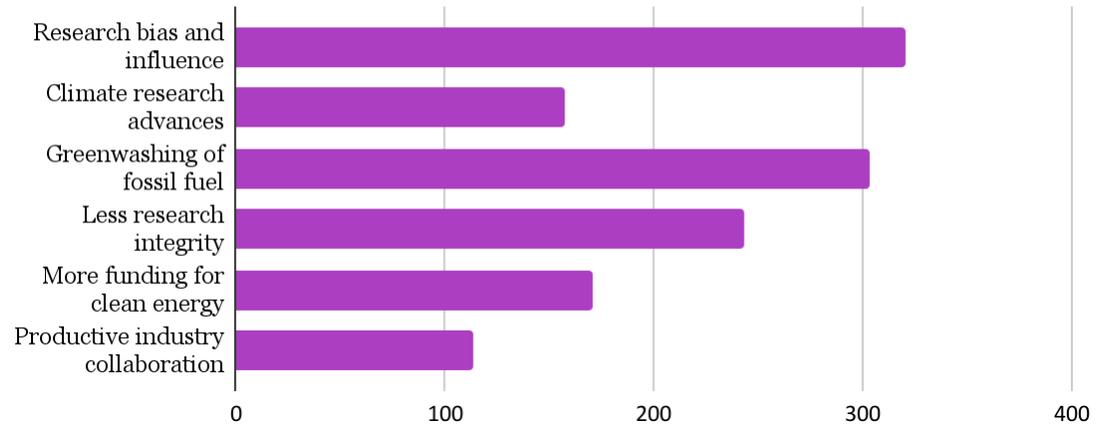


FIGURE 5. Relative breakdown of responses for, “Which of the below scenarios do you think of as an effect of fossil fuel funding?” (408 Respondents, Winter & Spring, 2024)

78.43%	Research Bias and influence
38.48%	Climate research advances
74.26%	Greenwashing of fossil fuel companies
59.56%	Less research integrity
41.91%	More funding for clean energy research
27.94%	Productive industry collaboration

FIGURE 6. Breakdown of responses for, “Which of the below scenarios do you think of as an effect of fossil fuel funding?” (408 Respondents, Winter & Spring, 2024)

When it comes to the effects of ending oil and gas funding, or dissociation from these companies, answers (Figures 7 and 8) also included three positive and three negative options.

Logically, the most-picked option was “Less research bias and influence” at 63.2% – although this does not match with the percentage that selected research bias as an effect. The second most significant (59.1%) shows a concern for finding alternative sources of funding. This mentality of money scarcity is reflective of the history and reality of corporate funding for research as discussed – even though most students were concerned about funder-driven bias, we are also concerned about how to replace such funding. This may signal to

society that more non-fossil-fuel money for research – corporate or governmental – is needed for climate research, such that corporate interests and values can align with those of schools of sustainability like Doerr, and that the many existing climate research funds need to be further emphasized.

Another interesting result is that 54.9% believed that dissociation will increase academic freedom, while only 12% saw it as decreasing it. I intentionally did not mention academic freedom for whom – faculty or students. Naturally, students are more likely to think about their own academic freedom – our freedom to speak out in our labs, conduct objective research, decline fossil fuel funding, and more. Respondents may also simply have considered that, without financial ties to oil and gas corporations, researchers – students and faculty alike – are better encouraged to come to whichever conclusions as they are free from any conflicting interests that favor certain answers over others. However, critics often see dissociation as an inhibitor of faculty’s academic freedom by restricting their choices of funding sources, even though the American Association of University Professors (AAUP)’s academic freedom definition itself includes safeguarding against the risks of funder interference (AAUP).

Which of the below scenarios do you think of as an effect of dissociation, or ENDING fossil fuel funding?

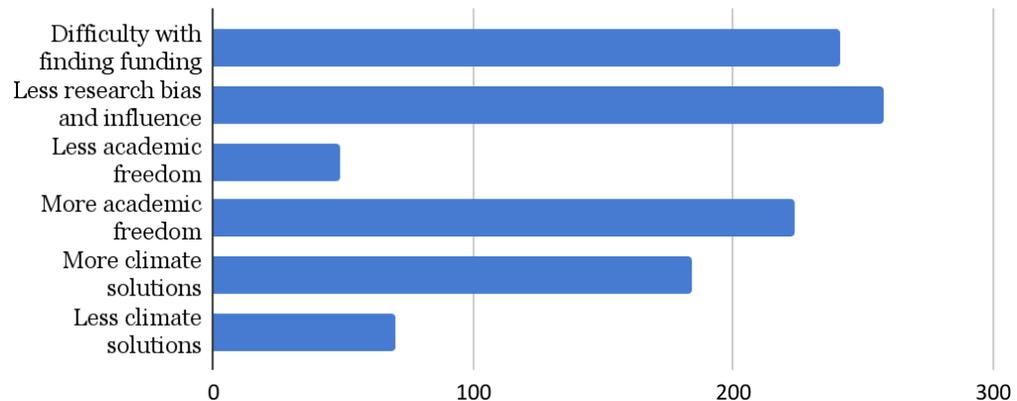


FIGURE 7. Relative breakdown of responses for, “Which of the below scenarios do you think of as an effect of dissociation, or ENDING fossil fuel funding?” (408 Respondents, Winter & Spring, 2024)

59.07%	Difficulty with finding funding alternatives
63.24%	Less research bias and influence
12.01%	Less academic freedom
54.90%	More academic freedom
45.10%	More climate solutions
17.16%	Less climate solutions

FIGURE 8. Breakdown of responses for, “Which of the below scenarios do you think of as an effect of fossil fuel funding?” (408 Respondents, Winter & Spring, 2024).

Conclusion

As a member of the committee on fossil fuel funding, it would be within your power to highlight students’ perspectives when coming to a decision on whether fossil fuel funding should be restricted. In the two major committee meetings this year, dozens of faculty, staff, and students convened to talk over this matter, including myself. The first panel included discussions on criteria for choosing which fossil fuel companies to potentially dissociate from, though there was still no consensus on whether such restrictions should occur in the first place. The second panel included the Dean of Research and two directors of fossil-fuel-funded programs, which gave a very one-sided take on the issues at hand. Many voices, including students’ collective perspectives, were missing in those panels.

Yet, this report shows that the Stanford student body has anti-status-quo, strong opinions – we recognize the risks of research influence and greenwashing when we see it. Notably, six graduate students were chosen by the committee to spearhead conversations around the matter. Three are activists with the Coalition for a True School of Sustainability, while three are students who work with fossil fuel companies. All six have, together, already written and published rigorous criteria for dissociation (From the Community, 2023). Yet, there is a false equivalency in making this group half-and-half with students only on the ends of the spectrum – as this report shows, that is far from the case for the entire study body. Students who are not involved in Doerr or activism or energy studies at all have a majority opinion on fossil fuel funding. As Stanford students and youth who will be impacted by the climate crisis, their views must be considered in the decisions made by the committee.

It is incumbent upon a research powerhouse like Stanford to tackle already-occurring global warming – and we cannot afford any funders slowing down climate progress. Most students know the

negative implications of fossil-fuel-funded climate and energy research. If the committee doesn't recognize them, we will continue to speak out and ensure that our voices, futures, research, and education are free from the interests and lies of the fossil fuel industry.

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Appendices

Appendix A

Section 1 Questions

Fossil fuel funding = practice of accepting money from fossil fuel companies.

Fossil fuel company = company that produces and/or extracts oil, natural gas, and/or coal.

How much do you **know** about fossil fuel funding at the Doerr School of Sustainability?

Nothing <input type="radio"/>	A little <input type="radio"/>	Somewhat <input type="radio"/>	A lot <input type="radio"/>	A great deal <input type="radio"/>
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What do you think is the **effect** of fossil fuel funding at Stanford?

Negative <input type="radio"/>	Somewhat negative <input type="radio"/>	Neutral <input type="radio"/>	Somewhat positive <input type="radio"/>	Positive <input type="radio"/>
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How do you **view** the Doerr School of Sustainability?

Negatively <input type="radio"/>	Somewhat negatively <input type="radio"/>	Neutrally <input type="radio"/>	Somewhat positively <input type="radio"/>	Positively <input type="radio"/>
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How do you **view** Stanford as a whole?

Negatively <input type="radio"/>	Somewhat negatively <input type="radio"/>	Neutrally <input type="radio"/>	Somewhat positively <input type="radio"/>	Positively <input type="radio"/>
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Appendix B

After being given more information, question reconsidering effect of fossil fuel funding.

Below is information regarding fossil fuel funding at Stanford so you can potentially reconsider the question, *what do you think is the **effect** of fossil fuel funding?*

Various programs at Doerr receive fossil fuel funding. For example, **fourteen out of fifteen Industrial Affiliate Programs** at Doerr receive fossil fuel funding.

One is called the Energy Corporate Affiliates, which includes research into energy transmission and storage. It received about \$4.2 million from fossil fuel companies in 2022.

Another **one** is the Stanford Center for Carbon Storage, which received \$460 thousand from fossil fuel companies in 2022.

The remaining **twelve** Industrial Affiliate Programs involve fossil fuel extraction, management, and/or exploration. For example, SUETRI-B: Reservoir Simulation Research Program and the Stanford Natural Gas Initiative pertain to oil and gas reservoir management and natural gas production and use respectively. These twelve programs received about \$5.1 million from fossil fuel companies in 2022.

Negative <input type="radio"/>	Somewhat negative <input type="radio"/>	Neutral <input type="radio"/>	Somewhat positive <input type="radio"/>	Positive <input type="radio"/>
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If you would like to elaborate on the previous question, please do so here.

Appendix C
“Select All” questions.

Which of the below scenarios do you think of as an **effect** of fossil fuel funding?

- Greenwashing of fossil fuel companies
- More funding for clean energy research
- Less research integrity
- Productive industry collaboration
- Climate research advances
- Research bias and influence

Which of the below scenarios do you think of as an effect of **dissociation**, or ENDING fossil fuel funding?

- Less academic freedom
- Less climate solutions
- More climate solutions
- More academic freedom
- Less research bias and influence
- Difficulty with finding funding alternatives

Which of the following energy sources do you think are **favorable** to society?

- Petroleum
- Wind
- Coal
- Nuclear
- Solar
- Natural gas
- Other

Appendix D

Section three's personal information questions

Your Year

Frosh

Sophomore

Junior

Senior

Co-term

Master's

PhD

Your Age

Your Major/Program(s) (declared or most likely)

Are you part of an environmental or energy club/organization?

Yes

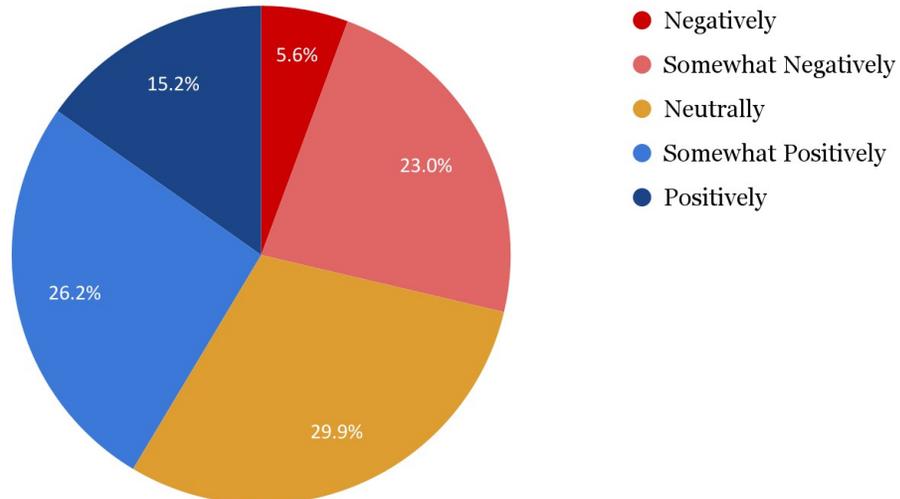
No

By signing my first and last name below or initials, I consent to having my responses be **anonymously** used for an **in-class project** and be presented as part of a larger data sample. I am aware that the data collected may be published in the future.

If you would like to be contacted for an interview in the future, check this box!

Appendix E
Breakdown of responses for, “How do you view the Doerr School of Sustainability?”

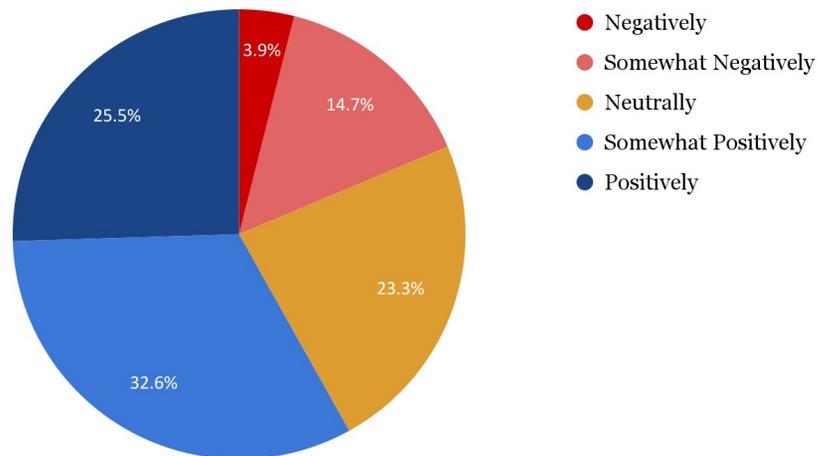
How do you view the Doerr School of Sustainability?



School of Sustainability?” (408 Respondents, Winter & Spring, 2024).

Appendix F
Breakdown of responses to, “How do you view Stanford as a whole?”

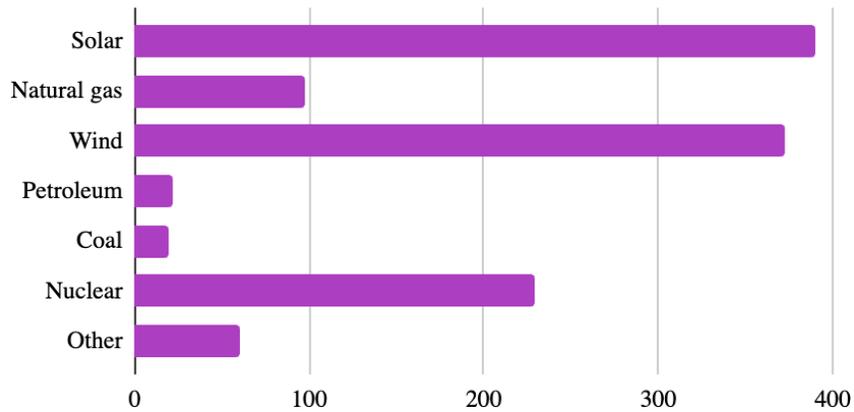
How do you view Stanford as a whole?



Breakdown of responses for, “How do you view Stanford as a whole?” (408 Respondents, Winter & Spring, 2024).

Appendix G
Breakdown of responses to, “Which of the following energy sources do you think are favorable to society?”

Which of the following energy sources do you think are favorable to society?



Relative breakdown of responses for, “Which of the following energy sources do you think are favorable to society?” (408 Respondents, Winter & Spring, 2024).

Appendix H

Mathematical calculations for an estimate of the percentage of Stanford students in Environmental & Energy Majors. (408 Respondents, Winter & Spring, 2024).

Enviro & Energy Programs & Majors	
Total Stanford students	17529
Enviro Engineering, Earth Systems, Geophysics, Sustainability majors	74
Engineering School	3500
Engineering school Students	5146.61
-> estimate: about 1/15 in Enviro Engineering so /15	343.107333
Doerr school students	600
Doerr + Enviro Engineering students	943.107333
Law school students	565
Med school students	1531
Education school students	400
Business school students	881

Total law + med + edu + business students	3377
Percent of all students except med, business, law, and education	0.06664127 567

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