SAN FRANCISCO STATE FOUNDATION
DIVESTMENT PROCESS

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Process

- Students met with President Wong and members of Foundation Board
- Most wanted complete divestment of fossil fuel stocks
- 350.org’s influence
SF State’s Commitment to Social Justice

- SF State has a long commitment to social justice
- President Wong and the Foundation Board wanted to do something
- But Complete Divestment ok all fossil fuel companies very difficult
Problem

• Fossil Fuel Stocks Represent 7% of World Stock Market
• That doesn’t include utilities and other large fossil fuel users
• Managers of separately managed accounts (SMAs) generally balk at screening more than 10% of their stock universe
• Cannot screen in commingled funds
• Divestment limits options for managers severely
Coal/Tar Sands are most of the Problem
Solution

• Spring 2013
  • SF State Foundation resolves to immediately divest of direct investments in Coal/Tar Sands
  • Sets up ad hoc Committee to study further action

• Spring 2014
  • SF State Foundation continues coal/tar sands divestment
  • Resolves to create carbon footprint of portfolio
  • Offers donors a “green” fossil fuel free option
  • Monitors commingled funds
Conclusion and Moving Forward

- University Foundations Can Succeed:
  - Meet fiduciary responsibilities
  - Monitor and Divest of worst offenders
  - Send a message