

# Student-led Climate **Movements** Across the United States

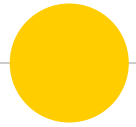




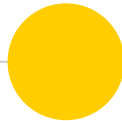
# Hello!

I am **Donna Shahbazi**

Creighton University alumna, founding member of the Cre\*ghton Climate Movement, first-year student at Seattle University School of Law, and a member of the Environmental Law Society.



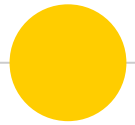
**The inspiration behind the research:**





# Creighton president says no after 2,093 CU students vote in favor of fossil fuel divestment

Rick Ruggles Nov 13, 2019 3





## Why do we need this information?

### EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

- Effective recruitment methods
- Questions to consider when forming an activism group
- Table highlighting successes, struggles, and failures of other student groups
- Contact information of allies

### EXPECTED PRODUCTS

- Research paper shared with participants of the study as well as organizations such as Nature, PBS, NCR and AASHE
- Presentation at the semi-annual JSGA summit
- The creation of a webpage or portal through the CEJS for streamlined digital access for all current student climate justice movements and those to come

*The Jesuit Student Government Alliance is a group of student body presidents at Jesuit Universities and Colleges. The JSGA serves to provide a platform of collaboration and advocacy for members. Members meet in-person twice a year. These opportunities provide ways for the group to discuss best practices, campus initiatives, and voice the opinion of their collective, Jesuit student bodies.*



## Methods – Interviews + Research

- ⦿ What initially inspired the movement?
- ⦿ What is the overall goal and how do you plan to reach it?
- ⦿ Which initiatives were successful, ongoing, set aside for the future, and have failed?
- ⦿ What is the relationship between the movement and the institutional leadership and the community?



## Who?

For each institution, I interviewed the student body president, the student movement leader(s), the director of the campus sustainability office, and any other contacts suggested along the way.





## Case Studies

### Creighton University

Donna Shahbazi (former student body president and CCM leader), Emily Burke (CCM leader), Michael Galeski (CCM leader)

### Gonzaga

Dr. Henning (director), Jim Simon (director), Marisa Montesi (alum)

### Seattle University

Dr. Lauer (ally), Ames Fowler (alum), Emily Nielson (student leader), Marrakech Maxwell (student government), Dr. Wilson (CFO), Dr. Zamora (professor)

### Santa Clara University

Emily Pachoud (program coordinator of Fossil Free SCU)

### University of Notre Dame

Aidan Creeron (student government), Annika Baron (student government)

### College of St. Benedict

Maggie Morin (climate justice club member)



## Case Studies

### Creighton University

After two years of student push, the university announced commitment to full divestment from the fossil fuel industry and dedication for carbon neutrality by 2050

### Gonzaga

The discussion around divestment began in 2015. The movement is “on life support”

### Seattle University

After six years of student activism, the university committed to full divestment. They are ahead of schedule and should be fully divested by 2023.

### Santa Clara University

The movement began in 2013. They are independent of student government. FFSCU has put a lot of energy in press.

### University of Notre Dame

Student advocacy began in 2016. The university has not made any commitments. Re: COVID 19 – “Hit the right stride at the wrong time.”

### College of St. Benedict

CSB/SJU has committed to achieve carbon neutrality by 2035. This institution has a sister/brother campus and multiple student groups/governments that they navigate.



# Key findings

- Priorities have changed making social movements harder considering COVID-19.
- Groups can save time by identifying the right audience early on.
- There is power in press and media.
- Groups are learning how to streamline activism.
- The downfall to a movement can be lack of continuity.



## Next Steps

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**Questions?**

Thanks!