

# CHANGE THE WORLD

*GLOBAL WARMING IS CHANGING THE WORLD FOR THE WORSE,  
BUT THESE PEOPLE ARE FIGHTING BACK  
AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE*

*By EW Staff*

## KAIA HAZARD SITS-IN FOR DIVESTMENT

**Kaia Hazard**, a senior in environmental science with a minor in Spanish at the University of Oregon, is the campaign coordinator for Climate Justice League's Divest UO campaign. Divest UO is a student-led campaign dedicated to ending the UO Foundation's investments in fossil fuels.

When Hazard moved from Gresham to Eugene in 2012, she hadn't declared her major, but after getting involved with environmental activist groups on campus her sophomore year, she says she couldn't stay away: "You can't not stay involved."

Hazard helped organize the Feb. 16 sit-in outside the office of UO President Michael Schill to protest the UO Foundation's investment in fossil fuels. The UO Foundation is a nonprofit organization that gifts money to further the university's mission, according to its website. Hazard says she hopes eliminating fossil fuels from the foundation's portfolio will lower the university's carbon footprint and diminish its impact on the environment.

Tobin Klinger, the UO's senior director of public affairs, says the foundation's investment in fossil fuels adds up to less than one percent of its annual endowment, and that the university's role is to follow the foundation's lead.

"We actually have a very common belief system surrounding fossil fuels and the impact they're having," Klinger tells *EW*. "The foundation's current model for the way they purchase securities, their current estimate for the actual holding related to fossil fuels is less than one percent, and nine percent of the portfolio is spent on green technology."

Although Schill doesn't have a vote in the foundation's decisions, his support for divestment, Hazard says, would help their cause.

The Divest UO group plans to continue the sit-in through March 16, Hazard says. "We know it's not going to be an immediate effect," she adds. "After the sit-in is over, it's important to keep up the pressure because we're a campaign that isn't going anywhere."

Graduating this June, Hazard says she'd like to find work that combines her degrees studying environmentalism and Spanish.

"That would be ideal if I could go work on environmental causes in Central or South America," Hazard says. "It's a region that needs a lot of help and attention, especially environmental justice issues that are plaguing the area." — *Mohammed Alkhadher*

## YOUTH EARTH GUARDIAN

Climate change needs to be addressed for the sake of the next generation — it's the broken-record mantra of city officials and politicians throughout the nation.

At South Eugene High School, the next generation is taking it upon itself to address climate change through the Earth Guardians 350 Club, which began last September.

**Sage Fox**, 18, is a leader and co-founder of the club. A senior at South Eugene High School, he advocates for climate action through Earth Guardians 350.

Fox says the mission of the club is "to give South Eugene students a voice in climate change topics, use our position as youth to advocate for climate change issues and back up local organizations by saying we are the youth and we demand climate change action."

The club started when Fox and fellow co-founders Wesley Georgiev and Corina MacWilliams noticed a lack of environmental clubs at South Eugene.

"I learned about climate change at an early age and I've seen the effects on my life. Having the educational background to know what much worse effect it will have, I felt compelled to take action against it," Fox says. "I thought working with 350 and starting a club at South would be the best way I could maximize my voice in this issue, trying to work from the political standpoint against climate change."

The club, which has around 25 members, meets every week to discuss climate issues, listen to guest speakers and make posters for club activities.

Outside the classroom, Fox says, members of the South Eugene 350 Club attend Eugene City Council meetings to put pressure on city officials to implement the Climate Recovery Ordinance which, according to the city of Eugene, would reduce fossil fuel use by 50 percent by the year 2020.

Fox says that when he testifies at City Council meetings, he explains his observations — from skiing during the winter and seeing less snow each year to wildfires he has seen while backpacking in the summer.

Overall, the main message Fox and his peers convey is a sense of urgency regarding climate change. Ultimately, Fox explains, the club wants "the city of Eugene to take its part in the worldwide movement to stop climate change."

Despite the fact that Earth Guardians 350 members represent a younger demographic of activists, Fox says the club's message has garnered respect and been well received.

"City councilors and legislators are usually very receptive to the youth voice because youth do not really get involved in politics very often and are usually not very active citizens," Fox says.

One impediment to implementing the Climate Recovery Ordinance, he says, is that city officials have other priorities, such as urban expansion and building apartments.

"The biggest obstacle we have right now is bad priorities," Fox says. Check out the national Earth Guardians movement at [earthguardians.org](http://earthguardians.org). — *Claire Rischiotto*

Your individual choices affect climate change — if you drive a car, or what car you buy, what products you consume and if you reuse and recycle.

At the same time, major corporations have spent millions of dollars denying climate change. As Big Tobacco once denied cigarette smoke is unhealthy, corporations such as the Koch Industries and ExxonMobile have spent millions to sow doubt about climate change, despite knowing the science is real.

The fossil fuel industry would like you to think it's all your fault. Climate change gets blamed on consumer choices, not corporate misdeeds. Can you affect climate change? Yes, and you can fight it. As anthropologist Margaret Mead said, "All social movements are founded by, guided by, motivated and seen through by the passion of individuals."

Kelsey Juliana, age 20, has been fighting climate change since she was 15, from a state lawsuit in 2011 to the federal lawsuit argued March 9 in federal District Court in Eugene. Juliana and 20 other plaintiffs, the youngest age 7, say that the federal government is violating their constitutional and public trust rights as a result of decades of promoting the development and use of fossil fuels.

Don't believe in global warming? "Go outside and observe nature, explore," Juliana says. "Have fun, then over time you will notice a change. I've noticed it."

Have you noticed it? Climate change is real; now go do something about it. — *Camilla Mortensen*

