



2 West Road  
Lancaster  
LA1 5PG  
UK

*Scientists for Global Responsibility (SGR) is a membership organisation promoting responsible science and technology*

Telephone: 01524298601  
info@sgr.org.uk  
www.sgr.org.uk

Randy Fiser  
CEO, American Geophysical Union  
2000 Florida Ave NW  
Washington District of Columbia 20009

10th March 2022

Dear Mr Fiser

As Responsible Science campaigner for Scientists for Global Responsibility (SGR), I am writing in reference to our October 2019 report, *Irresponsible Science?: How the fossil fuel and arms industries finance professional engineering and science organizations*, which we are expanding to include a number of international organizations.<sup>1</sup> We have now created a short follow-up report which examines the American Geophysical Union in relation to these areas, to which we draw your attention.<sup>2</sup>

Firstly, I would like to recognise the American Geophysical Union (AGU)'s commitment to divesting from fossil fuels and charting a path towards net carbon neutrality for all of its investments. We would, however, be interested to know the following in relation to the organization's recent commitment:

- When does the AGU expect to be fully divested?
- What are the AGU's plans for explicitly excluding investment in fossil fuels from its investment strategy in order to ensure long-term commitment?
- How does the AGU plan on measuring its path towards net carbon neutrality across all of its investments?
- How will you ensure transparency regarding your investments in specific companies or sectors?

SGR also calls on the AGU to:

1. redirect your investments to industries/ organisations that mitigate climate change and promote planetary health, such as energy conservation, renewable energy and energy storage;
2. estimate and report on the carbon footprint of your investment portfolio using tools such as the Montreal Pledge website<sup>3</sup>;

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.sgr.org.uk/publications/irresponsible-science>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.sgr.org.uk/sites/default/files/2022-02/American\\_Geophysical\\_Union\\_Report.pdf](https://www.sgr.org.uk/sites/default/files/2022-02/American_Geophysical_Union_Report.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.unpri.org/montreal-pledge>

-----  
Part of the campaign awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017

---

**SGR Patrons include:** Professor Keith Bamham • Alan Baxter CBE FStructE Hon FRIBA • Professor Roy Butterfield CEng • Bill Dunster RIBA • Professor Tim Foxon • Professor Sandy Halliday CEng FRSA • Professor Pauline Harrison CBE • Professor Alastair Hay OBE • Professor Alice Larkin • Kate Macintosh MBE RIBA • Professor Bill McGuire • Professor Ursula Mittwoch • Professor Jenny Nelson FRS • Professor Megan J W Povey • Professor William Powrie CEng FICE • Lord Rees of Ludlow OM FRS • Professor Anna Stavrianakis • Professor Julia Steinberger • Rt Hon Dr Gavin Strang • Daphne Wassermann CEng FIMechE • Professor David Webb FRAS FRSA • Jane M Wernick CBE FEng Hon FRIBA • Professor Mark Whitby FEng FICE Hon FRIBA • Professor John Whitelegg FRSA •

3. eliminate any financial links to corporations that have received significant penalties in the last five years related to law-breaking or major malpractice or are likely to in the near future;

4. join the Energy Institute and Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining (IOM3) in signing the Pledge to Net Zero<sup>4</sup>;

Considering the practical implementation of these actions, we strongly recommend that the American Geophysical Union complete these actions by mid-2023.

You may also be interested in SGR's new Science Oath for the Climate<sup>5</sup>, where scientists, engineers and academics commit to holding their professional associations, institutions and employers to these same standards on climate change as they've committed to themselves.

We believe the shift in wider expectations about good climate governance means that the reputational sensitivity of the issue has only risen since the publication of the *Irresponsible Science?* report, especially given the prominence of the COP26 climate negotiations last year and the resulting international attention on carbon emissions, goals and institutions as well as the recent ruling by a Dutch court that Shell must reduce its carbon emissions in line with the Paris Agreement.<sup>6</sup>

I look forward to hearing your response. If you reply within two weeks we will take your reply into account as part of our media work around this and similar letters that we have written to a selection of professional scientific organizations. All the letters and accompanying reports will be made public as part of this media work.

Thank you and best wishes

Liam Killeen  
Responsible Science Campaigner, SGR

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.pledgetonetzero.org/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.sgr.org.uk/projects/science-oath-climate-text-and-signing>

<sup>6</sup> <https://theconversation.com/shell-ordered-to-cut-its-emissions-why-this-ruling-could-affect-almost-any-major-company-in-the-world-161754>