

POLICY ON DIVESTING INVESTMENTS FROM CARBON-INTENSIVE ENERGY INDUSTRIES



Introduction:

This policy is part of **KLE Academy of Higher Education and Research's** broader commitment to making investment decisions that not only seek financial returns but also contribute to a fairer, more just, and ecologically sustainable world. It outlines the guiding principles, criteria, and procedures for divestment, alongside the process for reinvesting resources into sectors and initiatives that align with our core values. Designed to be flexible and adaptive, this policy reflects the evolving landscape of global sustainability challenges and the shifting needs of our stakeholders. In response to urgent global issues such as climate change, human rights abuses, and social inequality, institutions across sectors are increasingly recognizing the importance of aligning their investments with their ethical and sustainability goals. A divestment policy acts as a strategic framework to ensure that an organization's financial resources support not only economic growth but also its commitment to social, environmental, and governance responsibility.

Vision:

"To foster a sustainable and ethical future by aligning our investments with responsible social, environmental, and governance standards, while supporting the transition to a low-carbon, equitable, and just global economy."

Mission:

"To intentionally divest from industries and companies that harm the environment, violate human rights, or engage in unethical practices, while reinvesting in sustainable, responsible, and impact-focused initiatives that promote long-term social and environmental well-being."

MEASURES UNDERTAKEN BY KAHER:

1. **SOLAR PANELS:** KLE Academy of Higher Education & Research has installed solar panels at various locations across its campus, playing a pivotal role in the transition to renewable energy. By harnessing solar power, the institution is actively reducing its reliance on fossil fuels, contributing to the mitigation of climate change, and promoting sustainable energy solutions. These solar panels are integral to the campus's energy strategy, providing a clean, renewable source of electricity and supporting the broader goals of environmental responsibility and long-term sustainability.
2. **ENERGY CONSERVATION:** KLE Academy of Higher Education & Research is deeply committed to energy conservation and sustainability, integrating a range of initiatives across its campus to reduce energy consumption and environmental impact in the form of solar panels, LED lights, energy audit & green audit. By prioritizing energy-efficient technologies, renewable energy sources, and responsible resource management, the institution is actively contributing to a greener future.
3. **CARBON CREDITS:** KLE Academy of Higher Education & Research is dedicated to sustainability and environmental responsibility, and as part of its broader efforts to reduce its carbon footprint by measuring carbon footprints at the campuses. The institution is actively exploring and implementing carbon credit measures. These initiatives are aligned with the academy's goal to contribute to a low-carbon future while promoting environmental awareness and responsible resource management across the campus community.
4. **ELECTRIC VEHICLES:** KLE Academy has embraced electric vehicles as a cleaner, more sustainable alternative to traditional fossil fuel-powered transportation. The integration of EVs into the campus's transportation network helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions, lower air pollution, and minimize dependence on fossil fuels. KLE Academy is striving to create a vehicle-free or low-traffic campus to improve air quality, reduce noise pollution, and foster a healthier, more walkable environment for students and staff. This initiative is focused on

promoting sustainable modes of transportation and enhancing the campus experience for everyone.

5. **PLASTIC FREE CAMPUS:** KLE Academy of Higher Education & Research is committed to environmental sustainability and has implemented a comprehensive **Plastic-Free Campus** initiative. This initiative is aimed at reducing plastic waste, promoting eco-friendly alternatives, and fostering a culture of sustainability across the campus. By addressing the environmental impact of plastic, the academy is taking proactive steps to minimize its carbon footprint and protect the ecosystem.
6. **WASTE SEGREGATION:** KLE Academy of Higher Education & Research is dedicated to promoting sustainability across its campus, and an essential part of this effort is its robust **waste segregation initiative** at key locations such as **Tels** (the academy's teaching and learning spaces) and **Arters** (the student recreation and common areas). Proper waste segregation not only helps reduce the overall environmental impact of the campus but also fosters a culture of responsibility among students, staff, and faculty. Waste segregation is facilitated by the installation of clearly labelled bins at multiple points across Tels and Arters. These bins are color-coded and designed to separate waste.
7. **WATER RECYCLING:** Water recycling at KLE Academy of Higher Education & Research is an essential part of the institution's broader environmental sustainability strategy. Through initiatives like rainwater harvesting, sewage treatment, greywater recycling, and the use of water-efficient fixtures, the academy is conserving water, reducing its environmental footprint, and ensuring a sustainable water future for the campus community. These efforts not only contribute to the academy's sustainability goals but also provide valuable lessons for students and staff on the importance of responsible water use and the need for sustainable resource management.
8. **DROUGHT-TOLERANT PLANTS:** For KLE Academy of Higher Education and Research, incorporating drought-tolerant plants and smart water conservation practices would help maintain a green and sustainable campus despite the semi-arid climate of Belagavi. A variety of drought-tolerant trees, shrubs, succulents, and ground covers are integrated into the campus landscape to create an attractive and resilient environment.
9. **HERBAL PLANTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINIBILITY:** KLE Academy of Higher Education & Research has taken proactive steps toward environmental sustainability by integrating **herbal plants** into its campus ecosystem. The use of medicinal and aromatic plants not only enhances the biodiversity of the campus but also offers a range of environmental, health, and educational benefits. By cultivating and promoting herbal plants, the academy is contributing to cleaner air, healthier surroundings, and a more sustainable, nature-friendly campus.

10. **AWARENESS ABOUT ENVIRONMENT AND CLEANLINESS:** The **National Service Scheme (NSS)** at KLE Academy of Higher Education & Research plays a pivotal role in fostering a culture of environmental awareness and cleanliness. As part of its mission to develop students' personality through community service, the NSS encourages active participation in environmental sustainability initiatives on campus and beyond. Through a variety of programs, campaigns, and projects, the NSS units at KLE Academy engage students in promoting environmental consciousness, cleanliness, and sustainable practices, making a significant impact on the academy's efforts to create a greener and cleaner campus.

STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY:

Effectively implementing such a policy requires a well-planned approach, clear objectives, and robust mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation. Below are the strategies for successfully implementing a divestment policy:

1. **Setting Clear Divestment Criteria:** We will define specific Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) standards and exclusion criteria to identify industries or companies for divestment, such as fossil fuels, tobacco etc.
2. **Conduct Portfolio Review:** We will audit the current investment portfolio to assess alignment with divestment criteria and identify assets that should be divested.
3. **Develop a Transition Plan:** We will create a phased divestment strategy with clear timelines for withdrawing from non-compliant investments and reinvesting in sustainable, impact-driven sectors like renewable energy and green technologies.
4. **Engage Stakeholders:** We will involve key stakeholders (investors, board members, staff) early in the process through consultations, training, and transparent communication to build support for the policy.
5. **Establish Governance and Oversight:** We will set up a dedicated committee or team to oversee implementation, ensure accountability, and track progress through regular reporting and independent audits.
6. **Reinvest in Sustainable Alternatives:** We will Redirect divested funds into sustainable investments such as green bonds, impact investing, or socially responsible funds that align with the institution's values.
7. **Monitor and Measure Impact:** We will use impact measurement frameworks to track the financial and social performance of reinvested funds, ensuring they meet both sustainability and financial goals.

8. **Mitigate Financial and Reputational Risks:** We will assess potential risks, including short-term financial losses, and communicate the rationale behind divestment to mitigate reputational concerns.
9. **Foster Collaboration:** We will partner with other institutions or organizations with similar goals for knowledge sharing and collective action on responsible investing.
10. **Ensure Transparency:** We will provide regular public updates on progress, outcomes, and impact, demonstrating accountability and reinforcing the institution's commitment to sustainability.



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Registrar

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NOTIFICATION

Sub: Publish of Divestment Policy

In accordance with the resolution passed by the Board of Management during its 65th meeting held on 29th March 2024, the KLE Academy of Higher Education hereby notifies the publication of its Divestment Policy from carbon-intensive energy industries. This policy has been issued for the information and records of all concerned parties. It will come into effect immediately and is intended to guide all relevant stakeholders moving forward.




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Copy to:

1. The PA to Hon. Chancellor, KAHER, Belagavi.
2. The Special Officer to Hon. Vice Chancellor, KAHER, Belagavi
3. The Principals, All Constituent Units of KAHER, Belagavi
4. The Controller of Examinations, KAHER, Belagavi
5. The Director, Academic Affairs, KAHER, Belagavi
6. The Director, IQAC KAHER, Belagavi
7. To NSS Co-ordinator, KAHER, Belagavi