Resolution divesting the City of XXX from publicly-traded fossil fuel companies

WHEREAS the climate crisis is a serious threat to current and future generations here in XXX and around the world; and

WHEREAS, The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fourth Assessment Report found that global warming is already causing costly disruption of human and natural systems throughout the world including the melting of Arctic ice, the ocean’s rise in acidity, flooding and drought; and

WHEREAS, Almost every government in the world has agreed through the 2009 Copenhagen Accord that any warming above a 2°C (3.6°F) rise would be unsafe, and that humans can only pour about 565 more gigatons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere to maintain this limit; and

WHEREAS, For the purposes of this resolution, a “fossil fuel company” shall be defined as any of the two hundred publicly-traded companies with the largest coal, oil, and gas reserves as measured by the gigatons of carbon dioxide that would be emitted if those reserves were extracted and burned, as listed in the Carbon Tracker Initiative’s “Unburnable Carbon” report; and

WHEREAS, In its “Unburnable Carbon” report, the Carbon Tracker Initiative found that fossil fuel companies possess proven fossil fuel reserves that would release approximately 2,795 gigatons of CO2 if they are burned, which is five times the amount that can be released without exceeding 2°C of warming; and

WHEREAS the City of XXX has a responsibility to protect the lives and livelihoods of its inhabitants from the threat of climate change; and

Include any past resolutions the city has made to show it’s commitment to tackling climate change, for example: WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors
adopted Resolution No. 0158-02 committing the City and County of San Francisco to a greenhouse gas emissions reductions goal of 20% below 1990 levels by the year 2012; and

WHEREAS the city of XXX believes that its investments should support a future where all citizens can live healthy lives without the negative impacts of a warming environment; and,

WHEREAS, students at more than two hundred colleges and universities in the United States have launched campaigns to have their institutions divest from fossil fuel companies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Mayor and Council of the City of XXX declare that it is the policy of the City of XXX not to invest in fossil fuel companies; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Treasurer of the City of XXX shall review the investment portfolio of the City to identify any holdings that include direct or indirect investments in fossil fuel companies; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Treasurer of the City of XXX shall immediately cease any new investments in fossil fuel companies or in commingled assets that include holdings in fossil fuel companies; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, for any investments in commingled funds that are found to include fossil fuel companies, the Treasurer of the City of XXX shall contact the fund managers and request that the fossil fuel companies be removed from the funds; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Treasurer of the City of XXX shall ensure that none of its directly held or commingled assets include holdings in fossil fuel public equities and corporate bonds within 5 years as determined by the Carbon Tracker list; and
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Treasurer of the City of XXXX shall prepare a report discussing options for investing funds removed from fossil fuel stocks in a way that maximizes their positive impact by seeking out investments in opportunities to limit the effects of burning fossil fuels or help to mitigate its effects including, but not limited to, clean technology & renewable energy, sustainable companies or projects, and sustainable communities. Such opportunities should support local projects and local jobs; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Treasurer of the City of XXXX shall release quarterly updates, available to the public, detailing progress made towards full divestment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this policy shall remain in force until market conditions warrant review, and that the Treasurer shall request such review of the Council if warranted; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, That the City of XXXX urges [list any pension funds, union funds, your county, adjacent local governments, your state, your school district, any universities in your city, etc.] to join the City in these efforts and divest their own holdings from fossil fuel companies.
Drafted by the Mayors Innovation Project. For more information and related materials, see www.mayorsinnovation.org.