Jewish Climate Network

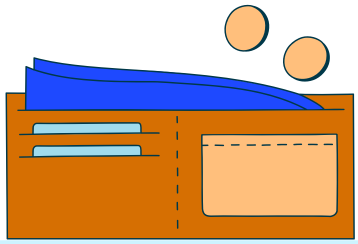
Finances Resource

Moving your money

Moving your money, changing your superannuation fund and shifting your mortgage makes a huge difference.

If you decide to move your super fund or bank, the sooner the better; not only because of the money you move now, but because of thousands of dollars of future compound value you divert.

Why is this action impactful?



Fossil fuels in Australia are expensive. They're so expensive that they often need government subsidies, and always need heavy private investment, to keep running.

Many banks and superannuation funds loan our cash, investments and superannuation balances to coal, gas and oil companies to help them stay open, make a profit, and develop new projects.

At March 2022, over 180 Australian super funds were managing assets with a pooled value of $3.4 trillion, many of which were invested in fossil fuels.

As recently as 2022, the big four banks were financing coal, oil and gas to the tune of $7.2 billion (ANZ), $5.1 billion (Commbank), $4.54 billion (Westpac) and $4 billion (NAB).

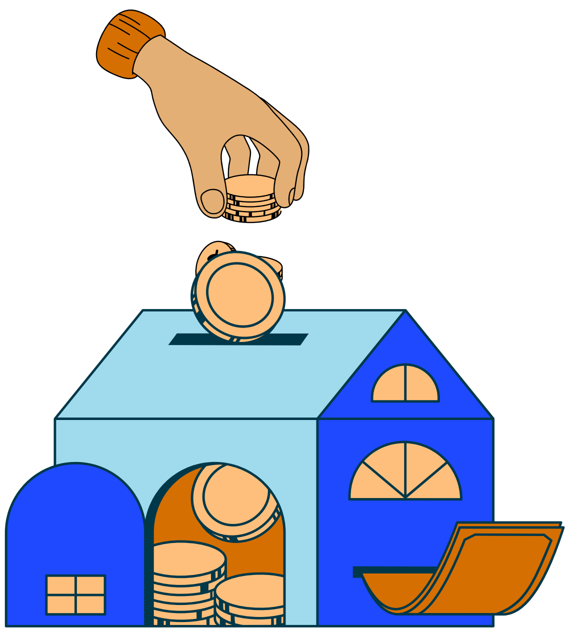
Pulling our money from these institutions, and letting them know why we've made the move, means less money used in propping up these industries, and more customer pressure on these financial institutions to shift their strategies towards a zero emissions future.

Step 1.

Check if your bank/super fund is invested in fossil fuels.

Here are lists by Market Forces of the exposure of all the Australian superannuation funds and Australian banks to fossil fuels.
Note: It reads better on a computer than a phone.

These lists are comprehensive, however their data is now 1-2 years old. If you are with a fossil fuel lending fund listed above, contact your fund to find out specifically what you are invested in, or review your product disclosure statement. Some institutions also have publicly available climate change positions online.



If you are interested in contacting your fund/bank to learn more about their relationship with decreasing emissions, over the next few pages we have provided you with a list of 9 questions you can send to them.

If you already know that your fund/bank does not meet your expectations in this area, skip to page 8.

For investment products, visit Responsible Returns to see if your chosen fund has been certified by the Responsible Investment Association Australasia (RIAA).

Checking if your bank/super fund is invested in fossil fuels.

Below are useful questions to find out what real action your bank/fund is taking now to protect the future you, your friends and family are saving for.

These questions have been adapted from the "Pension scheme climate action checklist" produced by 'Make My Money Matter' in November 2022.

- https://makemymoneymatter.co.uk/reports/

The language used is focusing on super funds but can be easily adapted for other financial institutions like banks and investment funds.

Question	Rationale	Ideal Answer
1 Have you publicly committed to **Net Zero targets** which include at least **halving emissions by 2030 (compared to 2005 levels)**?	Many super fund providers now have Net Zero commitments. Does your provider have one, and does it aligns with global emissions targets? Net Zero strategies should include a reduction in emissions by at least half before 2030 and full net zero before 2050.	Yes, the fund has clear 2030 and 2050 targets and a delivery plan to achieve them.
2 Have you published short-term (by 2025) emissions reduction targets? And if so, **what are those targets**?	Achieving a halving of emissions by 2030 will require short-term targets that front load impact. A 2025 emissions reduction goal is crucial if super providers are serious about their commitment, and are prepared to hold themselves to account on their progress.	Yes, the super fund provider has committed to, and is delivering, short-term targets for emissions reduction.

Question	Rationale	Ideal Answer
3 In the last 12 months, has there been a reduction in the carbon intensity of your portfolio, (e.g. tonnes of CO2/$m invested)? If so, by how much?	Science warns that unless global greenhouse gas emissions fall by 7.6% each year between 2020 and 2030, the world will miss the opportunity to deliver the 1.5°C temperature limit of the Paris Agreement. Every year that passes without adequate progress makes the required reductions steeper.	There has been a reduction of the portfolio's carbon intensity (ideally, this will have been by at least 7% in the last year).
4 Have you published a policy on ceasing finance of fossil fuel expansion, which aligns to the International Energy Agency's Net Zero by 2050 roadmap which states "beyond projects already committed as of 2021, there are no new oil and gas fields approved for development in our pathway, and no new coal mines or mine extensions are required".	The International Energy Agency (IEA) Net Zero by 2050 road map requires no new fossil fuel expansion beyond projects already committed as of 2021, and a complete phase-out of coal. While we will continue to require limited fossil fuels as we transition to a low carbon world, we cannot have new expansion if we are to have a chance of limiting global warming below 1.5°C and avoiding dangerous climate and environmental tipping points. Instead, there must be a rapid scale-up of renewable energy, alongside efficiency measures, underpinned by a phasing out of existing fossil fuels. Asset owners should use their voice and set expectations, including voting policies, that act to stop new expansion in their assets.	Yes, the super fund provider has published and is working on delivering a 'no new fossil fuel expansion' policy in line with the latest climate science.

Question	Rationale	Ideal Answer
5 Have you published a policy or made a public commitment on eliminating deforestation in your portfolio?	In order to limit global warming, we need to eliminate deforestation, as it accounts for around 15% of global carbon emissions. Super fund providers must map and disclose deforestation risk and commit to eliminating deforestation in their assets.	Yes, the super fund provider has committed to the elimination of deforestation from super fund portfolios.
6 Do you plan on increasing your investment in climate solutions? If so, by how much?	While the urgent focus is on achieving net zero by earlier than 2050 across their portfolios, this focuses more on the avoidance of harm vs. the required investments in driving the transition. Leading super fund providers – with a long term investment horizon - should be exploring more ways to fund the necessary solutions to solve climate-related problems, creating positive and co-beneficial impacts.	Yes, the super fund provider has set out a rapid increase in the scale of investments in climate solutions.
7 What evidence can you provide of robust stewardship to influence the companies you invest in?	Super fund providers should be able to show how they are using their seat at the table (through engaging and voting) with investee companies and other assets to influence them in achieving global temperature goals. As stewards for super members' money, they should be communicating progress to their members on it regularly.	Yes, we have publicly available stewardship policies on how we engage with investee companies to influence a transition to net zero, with specific targets around alignment with temperature goals. We've established a timeline for our engagement policy and we report against it.

Question	Rationale	Ideal Answer
8 Have you published a voting policy that is aligned to achieving the 1.5 degree global goal? (e.g. stating that you will vote against an investee company/directors if it does not have a credible climate transition plan in place)	As major investors, super fund providers – both individually, and collectively - must use their power by introducing more robust stewardship practice. Although stewardship may be undertaken by a super fund's asset managers, this is no excuse for the asset owner not to set clear expectations on climate, including voting policies that are aligned to a 1.5°C pathway.	We have published how we will vote at investee company meetings with the objective of achieving the 1.5 degree global goal and will communicate with members.
9 How do you engage with members and make sure their views are taken on board?	Having a clear strategy and approach to engage with members is a clear sign of sustainability best practice. Leading super funds engage with their members in a range of ways, such as regular newsletters, access to technical platforms that allow members to indicate their preferences, or educational webinars, creating a space for transparency, accountability and feedback from members.	We communicate with our individual and corporate members frequently and in a digestible manner to keep them updated on our climate policies and commitments, their money's impact and stewardship activities.

Assess the answers you get from these questions and compare them to your personal goals and values.

The next 3 steps will briefly guide you through the motions of changing funds/banks if you decide to chose this direction.

Step 2.

Join your new fund/bank and transfer from your previous one.

If you decide to switch your super fund or bank, register online with the new fund/bank you want to join, or call or email them about how to join. In most cases, they will guide you about the easiest way to switch over.

Tell your super fund/bank why you're leaving them.

Step 3.

This is key and amplifies your influence and impact. Call or email your previous super fund/bank to tell them you're leaving them because of their investments in fossil fuels. See template text you can use.

Step 4.

Share your actions with friends & family.

This further amplifies your influence and impact and educates your peers about the power of moving your money. Tell them face to face, put it on social media, text people, email your entire contact list if you want!