2021 Must Mark the End of International Support to Coal, Oil, and Gas

Urgent action is needed to ensure 2021 marks the end of international public finance to fossil fuels. This would free up significant support for clean energy and a just and equitable transition worldwide.

Energy scenarios, including from the International Energy Agency, stress that drastic emission cuts are needed now to limit global warming to 1.5°C. To respect this temperature limit, governments and companies must stop investing in new coal mines and oil and gas fields from 2021 onwards and simultaneously wind down existing fossil fuel production. Instead, governments are propping up fossil fuels with huge amounts of public money. G20 members still provide at least three times as much public finance for fossil fuels (USD 77 billion) as for clean energy (USD 28 billion) every year.

But momentum is growing to end overseas finance to not only coal but also oil and gas. In March 2021, the United Kingdom was the first major economy to adopt a comprehensive approach by announcing an immediate end to trade and development support for coal, oil, and gas. Several development banks, like the European Investment Bank, the Dutch development bank FMO, and the French Development Agency, have also adopted robust restrictions to their oil and gas financing. These governments and institutions are leading the way in aligning finance with the Paris Agreement. They have created examples that should be followed by others.

Any new support to oil and gas risks locking in outdated energy infrastructure in places that need investments in clean energy the most. In fact, many fossil fuel infrastructure assets may soon become stranded, and heavily centralized power generation, notably from gas, is not needed to deliver on energy access and development objectives in the Global South. At the same time, clean alternatives such as wind and solar are becoming increasingly cost competitive and respond effectively to clean cooking and electricity needs in the Global South.

The window of opportunity to make a 1.5°C future possible is rapidly closing. Delayed action will only bring more violent and devastating impacts to the climate crisis. Ahead of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change’s 26th Conference of the Parties (COP 26) in Glasgow, governments and public finance institutions—national and regional development banks as well as export credit agencies—have a clear task to promote a climate-safe, equitable transition toward clean energy. We call them on to:

- Immediately rule out any new international public finance to coal, oil, and gas projects across the entire value chain (extraction, transport, distribution, and power generation), including through export credit agencies.
- Avoid loopholes that allow indirect public finance for fossil fuels to continue through associated infrastructure, technical assistance, or financial intermediaries.
- Ramp up bilateral and multilateral climate finance to deploy renewable energy at scale, grant universal and affordable access to energy, and enable an equitable and just transition for affected communities and workers in the Global South.
• Prioritize support to low-income countries that face the largest energy access and transition challenges, including by acting on debt relief and increasing grant-based finance.
• Ensure a whole-of-government approach to ending public finance for fossil fuels as part of efforts to align public finance with the Paris goals and improve transparency and reporting standards.

Progressive governments and public finance institutions should launch a joint statement with the objective of leveraging these principles by COP 26 and ensure that others follow suit. As the COP 26 host, we call on the United Kingdom to show leadership to deliver on this agenda and keep the promise to internationalize its first-mover commitment on shifting overseas finance from fossil fuels to clean energy.

AFRICA

Egypt

Ghana
AbibiNsroma Foundation
Alliance for Empowering Rural Communities

Malawi
People’s Federation for National Peace and Development

Nigeria
Climate Change Network Nigeria

South Africa
African Climate Reality Project
Ecology Africa Foundation
Fund Our Future
Laudato Si’ Movement

Tunisia
Association Tunisienne de Droit du Développement

Uganda
Centre for Citizens Conserving Environment
Environment Governance Institute
Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development – INFORSE East Africa

1 We express solidarity with civil society groups calling for the postponement of COP 26. But under no circumstance should climate action be postponed. We call on governments and public finance to deliver a joint statement in 2021.
ASIA & PACIFIC

Australia
ActionAid Australia
Jubilee Australia
Neighbours United for Climate Action
Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of Victoria & Tasmania
Veterinarians for Climate Action

Bangladesh
Aid Organization
Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association
Coastal Livelihood & Environmental Action Network

India
Environics Trust
Growthwatch
Indian Social Action Forum
South Asian People’s Action on Climate Crisis

Japan
Friends of the Earth Japan
Japan Center for a Sustainable Environment and Society (JACSES)
Mekong Watch

Malaysia
The Borneo Project

Mongolia
Oyu Tolgoi Watch
Rivers without Boundaries Coalition

Nepal
Digo Bikas Institute

New Zealand
Gen Zero

Philippines
Legal Rights & Natural Resources Center – Friends of the Earth Philippines

Taiwan
Mom Loves Taiwan Association

Vietnam
CHANGE

Regional
Asian Peoples’ Movement on Debt & Development
EUROPE

Austria
Coordination Office of the Austrian Bishops’ Conference for International Development & Mission (KOO)

Belgium
Citizens’ Climate Lobby Belgium
Eurodad
Food & Water Action Europe
Health & Environment Alliance

Bulgaria
Friends of the Earth Bulgaria
Institute for Circular Economy

Denmark
ActionAid Denmark
Just Finance International – VedvarendeEnergi

Finland
EKOenergy Ecolabel
Maan Ystävät Ry – Friends of the Earth Finland

France
Aitec
Friends of the Earth France
Notre Affaire à Tous
Reseau Action Climat France

Georgia
Greens Movement of Georgia – Friends of the Earth Georgia

Germany
Andy Gheorghiu Consulting
Germanwatch
Urgewald

Italy
Emergenzaclimatica.it
Legambiente ONLUS

Latvia
Green Liberty

Lithuania
Ziedine Ekonomika

Norway
Norwegian Forum for Development & Environment
Norwegian Grandparents Climate Campaign
Portugal
Climáximo

Slovenia
Focus Društvo za Sonaraven Razvoj – Focus Association for Sustainable Development
Umanotera, Slovenian Foundation for Sustainable Development

Netherlands
BankTrack
Both ENDS
Milieudefensie
Our Fish

Spain
Amigos de la Tierra España
eco-union

Sweden
Climate Parliament Sweden
Jordens Vänner – Friends of the Earth Sweden
Swedwatch

United Kingdom
Bond
Bretton Woods Project
CAFOD
Christian Aid
Citizens’ Climate Europe
Climate Action Network United Kingdom
Culture Unstained
Divest Brent
Don't Drill the Wight
Environmental Justice Foundation
Fresh Eyes
Friends of the Earth England, Wales & Northern Ireland
Friends of the Earth Scotland
Global Justice Now
Global Witness
Keep Kirdford & Wisborough Green
Operation Noah
Publish What You Pay UK
Recourse
Reform Radio
University of Sussex
Uplift
Weald Action Group

Regional
Corporate Europe Observatory
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Argentina
Asociación Amigos de los Parques Nacionales
Asociación Argentina de Abogados/as Ambientalistas
Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (FARN)
Periodistas por el Planeta

Costa Rica
Asociación La Ruta del Clima

Ecuador
Asociación Interamericana para la Defensa del Ambiente

El Salvador
CESTA AT El Salvador

Mexico
Jóvenes Por El Planeta

Paraguay
SOBREVIENCIA – Amigos de la Tierra Paraguay

Regional
350.org América Latina

MIDDLE EAST

Iraq

Jordan
Phenix Center for Economic Studies

Yemen
Resonate! Yemen
Yemeni Observatory for Human Rights

Regional
Arab Watch Coalition

NORTH AMERICA

Canada
Above Ground
AidWatch Canada
AQOCI (Association québécoise des organismes de coopération internationale)
Canadian Union of Postal Workers – Syndicat des Travailleurs et Travailleuses des Postes
Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice
Centrale des syndicats du Québec (CSQ)
Citizens for Public Justice
Climate Action Club
Climate Emergency Institute
Climate Justice Saskatoon
ClimateFast
Environmental Defence Canada
Équiterre
Fédération autonome de l’enseignement (FAE)
Front commun pour la transition énergétique
Grand(m)others Act to Save the Planet
Grandmothers Advocacy Network
International Centre of Art for Social Change
Just Earth
Mobilisation climat Trois-Rivières
Mouvement écocitoyen UNEplanète
New Brunswick Anti-Shale Gas Alliance
Projet Accompagnement Québec-Guatemala
Regroupement Des Universitaires
Resonant Cloud
Syndicat de la fonction publique et parapublique du Québec (SFPQ)
The Climate Reality Project Canada
Wilderness Committee

United States
1000 Grandmothers for Future Generations
198 methods
350 Bay Area Action
350 Colorado
350 Colorado Springs
350 Conejo / San Fernando Valley
350 Eugene
350 Hawaii
350 Montgomery County
350 NYC
350 PDX
350 Triangle
Action Center on Race & the Economy
Amazon Watch
Animals Are Sentient Beings
Arm in Arm
Aytzim: Ecological Judaism
Bank Information Center
Bisbee & Cochise County Community Rights
Businesses for a Livable Climate
California Businesses for a Livable Climate
Call to Action Colorado
CatholicNetwork US
Center for Earth Ethics
Church Women United in New York State
Climate Conversations Coaching & Action
Climate Crisis Policy
Climate Hawks Vote
Coalition to Protect New York
CODEPINK Golden Gate Chapter
Colorado Businesses for a Livable Climate
Connecticut Citizen Action Group
Earth Action
Earth Day Initiative
ecoAmerica
EcoEquity
Food & Water Watch
Foodscraps 360
Fossil Free California
Fossil Fuel Divest Harvard
FrackbustersNY
Friends of the Earth U.S.
Future Coalition
Gender Action
Georgia Interfaith Power & Light
Grassroots Global Justice Alliance
Green House Connection Center
GreenLatinos
I-70 + Vasquez Boulevard Superfund Community Advisory Group
Indivisible California Green Team
Institute for Policy Studies Climate Policy Program
International Marine Mammal Project
John Muir Project
Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action
Montbello Neighborhood Improvement Association
Mother Earth
New York Communities for Change
Newark Water Coalition
North American Climate, Conservation & Environment
North Dakota Native Vote
North Range Concerned Citizens
Nuclear Information & Resource Service
Ocean Conservation Research
Oceanic Preservation Society
Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition
Oil & Gas Action Network
Park Watershed
People of Albany United for Safe Energy
Physicians for Social Responsibility Arizona
Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania
Preserve Salem
Progressive Democrats of America Tucson
Rachel Carson Council
RapidShift Network
Santa Barbara Standing Rock Coalition
Seeding Sovereignty
Small Business Alliance
Social Eco Education Los Angeles
Spirit of the Sun
Stand.earth
Sunflower Alliance
Sunrise Movement
System Change Not Climate Change
Texas Campaign for the Environment
The CLEO Institute
Turtle Island Restoration Network
Unite North Metro Denver
Vote Climate
Wall of Women Colorado
Zero Hour

INTERNATIONAL
350.org
Big Shift Global
CARE International
Climate Action Network International
Friends of the Earth International
International Institute for Sustainable Development
Center for International Environmental Law
International Network for Sustainable Energy (INFORSE)
Oil Change International
System Change Not Climate Change
Tearfund