Much of the U.S. planned expansion is tied to oil and gas fracking and liquefied fossil gas exports (LNG), centered in the Permian Basin of Texas and New Mexico and along the U.S. Gulf Coast. Communities that have long borne the toxic burden of oil and gas industry pollution, especially BIPOC and low-income communities, are fighting a wave of new infrastructure primarily designed to serve export markets. In 2023 alone, the Biden administration greenlit the Alaska Willow Project; approved multiple liquefied natural gas (LNG) export facilities in Alaska and along the Gulf Coast; held a massive oil and gas lease sale in the Gulf of Mexico; fast-tracked the Mountain Valley Pipeline; and supported the weakening of bedrock environmental laws making it easier for fossil fuel infrastructure to move forward. More U.S. onshore and offshore oil and gas lease sales are planned in 2023.

While the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), which President Biden touts as his flagship climate achievement, incentivizes new renewable energy and clean technology deployment, it does not guarantee any reduction in U.S. oil and gas production. In fact, the IRA encourages its expansion by mandating new fossil fuel leasing.

Despite the U.S.’s abysmal record in reigning in oil and gas production, examples of local leadership on this issue have emerged. In response to advocacy by communities on the frontlines of neighborhood drilling in California, Governor Gavin Newsom adopted measures to limit oil and gas production. These measures led to California becoming the first U.S. state to join the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance, although at associate member level because California has not yet committed to end new oil and gas drilling. Much work remains to protect communities — the Newsom administration must stop issuing new drilling permits and phase out existing extraction happening next to homes, schools, and parks. But these measures set a precedent for how major oil and gas-producing states in the U.S. can start leading a phase out of production absent stronger federal action. Washington State also joined the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance during COP27.