

**FOSSIL FUELED**

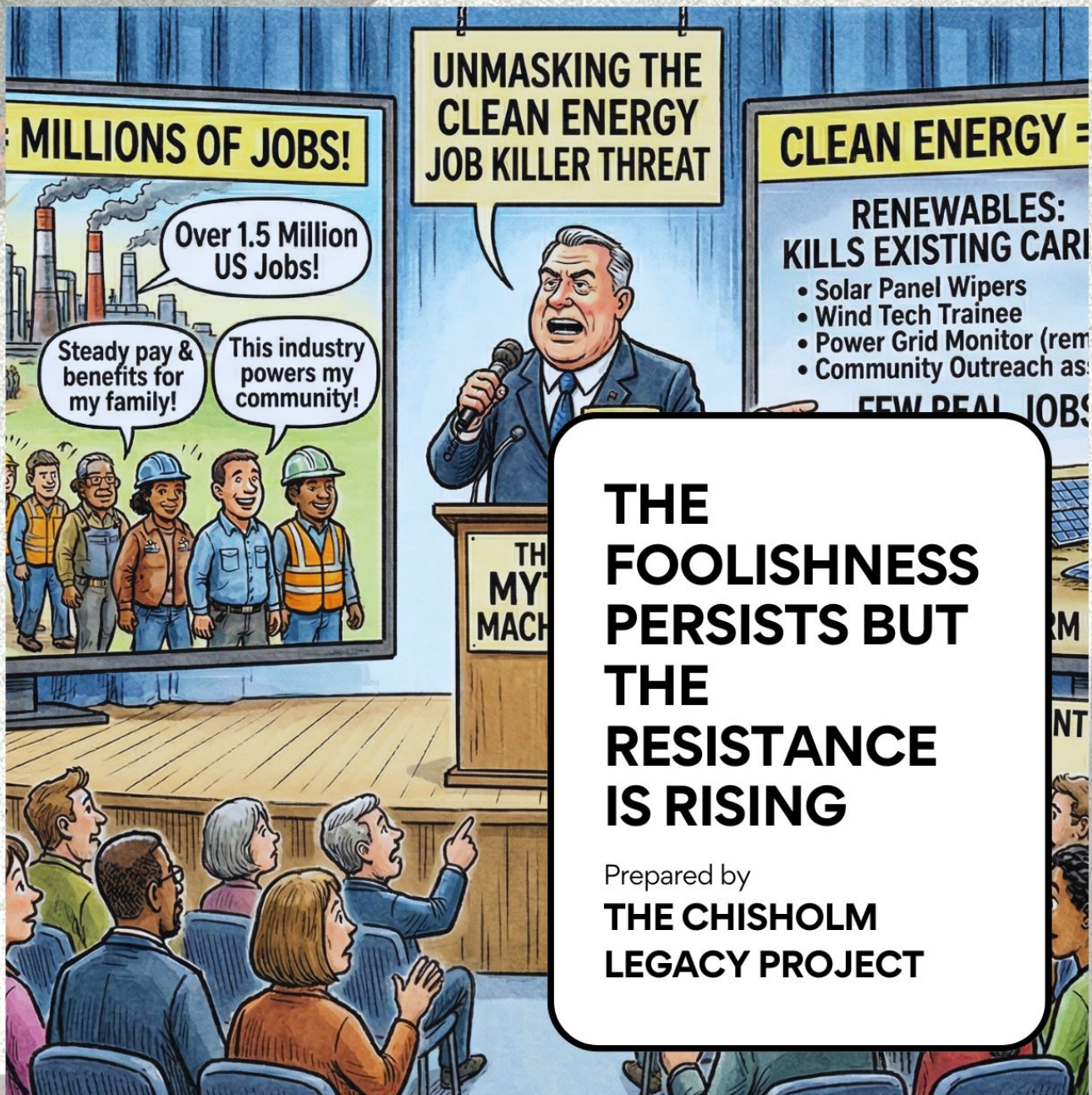


THE  
CHISHOLM  
LEGACY  
PROJECT

# FOOLERY

# 3.0

THE AUTHORITARIAN TAKEOVER EDITION



# **Fossil Fueled Foolery 3.0— The Authoritarian Takeover Edition**

*The Foolishness Persists but the Resistance is Rising*

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# Preamble: Unmasking Deception, Advancing Black Liberation, and Securing a Just Transition

Since the NAACP's release of the original Fossil Fueled Foolery (FFF) Report in 2019 and FFF 2.0 in 2021, the fossil fuel industry has continued to refine its manipulation tactics to perpetuate its polluting practices and profiteering and delay the transition to clean energy.

We know the backdrop. From the time that stolen indigenous territories became the United States, Black people were the first commodified entities in the "markets." The land we were forced to work served as the stage for the extractive economy and its harmful relationship with the earth. This economy has continued to operate on a foundational injustice: treating Black communities as sacrifice zones. From the toxic shadows of refinery corridors to neighborhoods systematically redlined into industrial pathways, Black communities have borne the disproportionate brunt of fossil fuel pollution, alongside other people of the global majority.

As the climate crisis accelerates, bringing devastating heat with each year breaking the record of the last, voraciously destructive wildfires, supercharged storms with the approaching hurricane season projected to be particularly harmful, and compounding health disparities impacting our very same neighborhoods that bear the brunt of the pollution driving climate change... the architects of this harm have not retreated. They have adapted. They have escalated. Their wielding of violent means has evolved, but it is no less deadly.

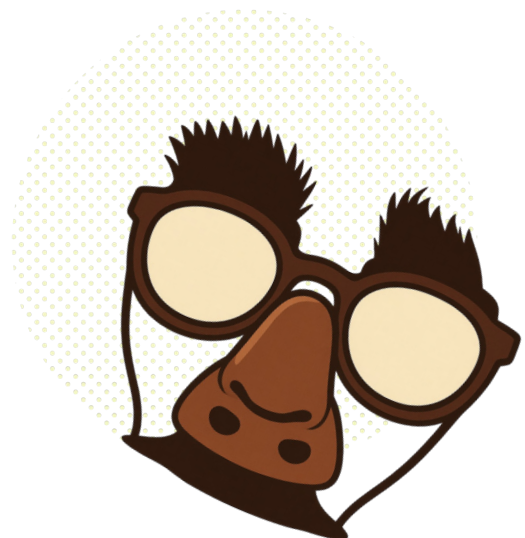
Fossil Fueled Foolery 3.0 exposes the sophisticated, modernized machinery of deception deployed by the fossil fuel industry to maintain its grip on power and obscene wealth. Having only just conceded the battle on outright climate denial, the industry now deploys a far more insidious playbook designed to delay climate action, fracture frontline power, and actively subvert Just Transition.



# The Ever-Evolving Playbook: Targeting Black Communities

The fossil fuel industry has learned to weaponize the language of our own movements and take heartless advantage of the vulnerability wrought by the extractive economy for which they are primary purveyors. By co-opting the nomenclature and even the values of civil rights, equity, and economic justice, these corporations attempt to manufacture consent for their continued violence against our communities. In this report, we dismantle these tactics:

- **Weaponizing Civil Rights Values:** We expose how polluting industries fund front groups and co-opt trusted community voices to argue that fossil fuel expansion is a matter of “civil rights,” “energy poverty,” or “affordability” for Black families, deliberately masking the lethal health impacts of their operations.
- **False Solutions in Frontline Neighborhoods:** We highlight how dangerous, unproven technologies like Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS), hydrogen combustion, “bridge fuels” and even AI data centers are aggressively marketed as climate action. Adding insult to injury, these false solutions are strategically placed in Black communities to extend the lifespan of legacy polluting infrastructure.
- **The Myth of Economic Dependence:** We challenge the false narrative that the fossil fuel industry is the primary guarantor of economic stability for Black workers. This report unpacks how the industry lures communities with the promise of jobs while inflicting the devastating health and environmental costs onto those same workers and their families.
- **Policy Sabotage and Regulatory Capture:** We detail the behind-closed-doors campaigns to dismantle environmental protections that protect our health and wellbeing from pollution. We also reveal the aggressive lobbying to divert public funds away from community-owned renewables into corporate fossil fuel subsidies.



# A Mandate for a Just Transition

We release *Fossil Fueled Foolery 3.0* against the backdrop of a coordinated authoritarian takeover, where the machinery of climate deception is deeply entwined with escalating, systematized assaults on trans rights, women's rights, and racial justice. These attacks are not parallel crises; they are symptoms of the exact same pathology. The extractive economy relies on a captured political system to treat both the earth and marginalized bodies as disposable commodities to be exploited for concentrated wealth and power. The fossil fuel industry actively benefits from this reactionary political apparatus, utilizing it to maintain industry dominance, fracture community solidarity, and criminalize dissent. Therefore, our resistance cannot be siloed. Part and parcel of the extractive economy is the war machine being deployed and taking the lives of innocent people, exacerbating the energy affordability issue, and diverting billions of dollars in much needed domestic resources. Advancing a true Just Transition demands far more than simply shifting our energy sources—it is an urgent call to action to completely dismantle the toxic marriage between the extractive economy and our political institutions, recognizing that the fight to defend our bodily autonomy, our civil rights, and a livable planet are inextricably one and the same.

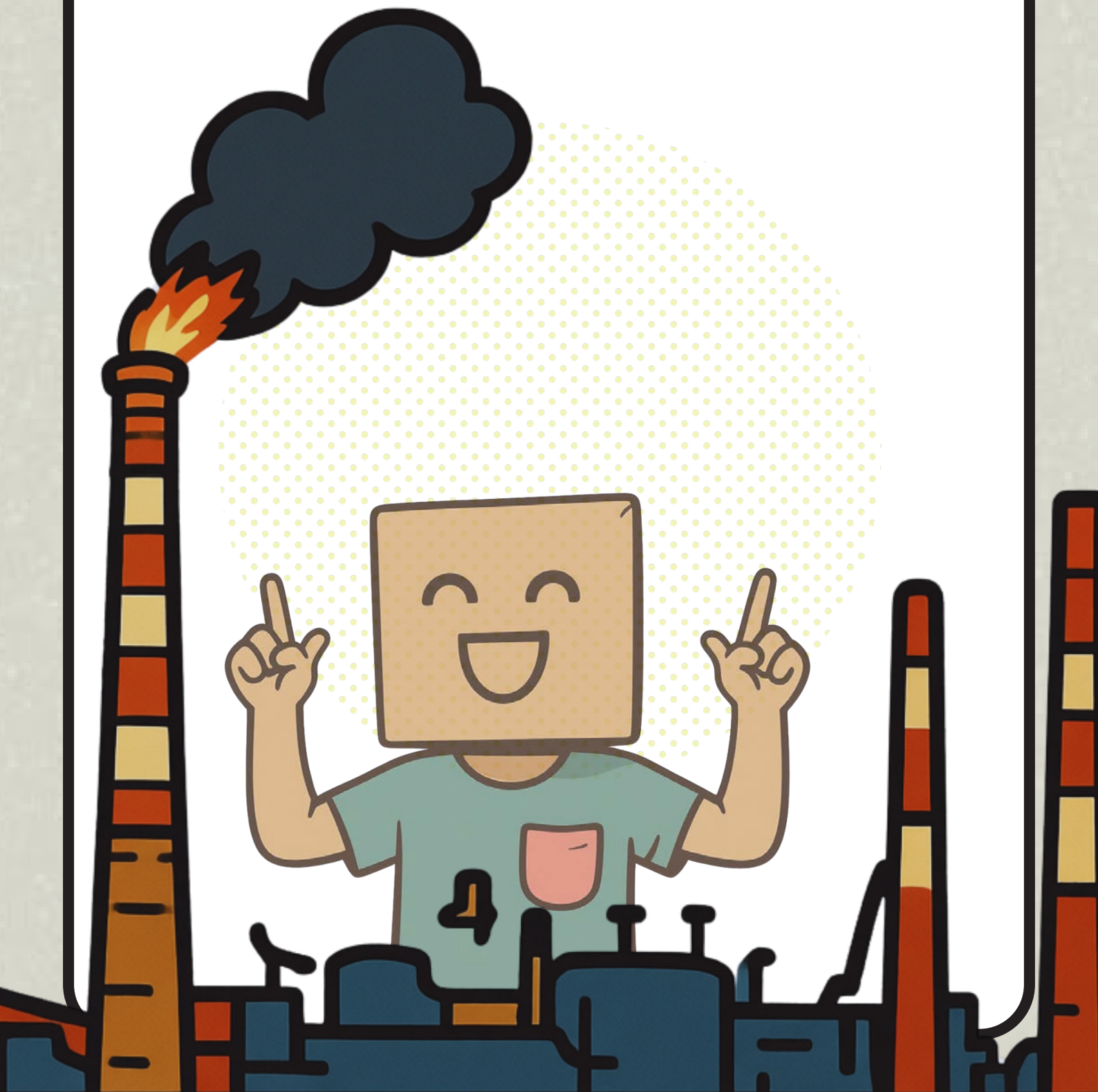
Just Transition is a fundamental pillar of Black Liberation. And Black Liberation is a prerequisite for achieving Just Transition. Climate justice demands the complete dismantling of the extractive economy that has historically exploited our labor, our health, our communities, and Mother Earth on which we all depend for our existence. We must build a regenerative economy rooted in self-determination, which means Black communities, and all frontline communities, holding ownership, power, and democratic control over our systems.

*Fossil Fueled Foolery 3.0* is an inoculation against corporate manipulation. It is a vital tool for organizers, policymakers, and community members to recognize the traps set by polluting industries and to reject the false choices they present, clearing the way to advance true justice and a regenerative economy.

As the movement adage goes: Transition is inevitable, but justice is not guaranteed. We must refuse to let the very industries that poisoned our past dictate our future. We've seen the spoils of fossil fueled foolery embodied in the extractive economy, the authoritarian regime, and the myriad assaults on our communities. This is far from a necessary evil. It is past time to unite, seize the reins, build, transition, and get free.

# Fossil Fueled Foolery: 2021-2026 Update

After examining actions over the past 5 years, we share an updated look at how the fossil fuel industry has continued to wield the ten core manipulation tactics, complete with recent examples.



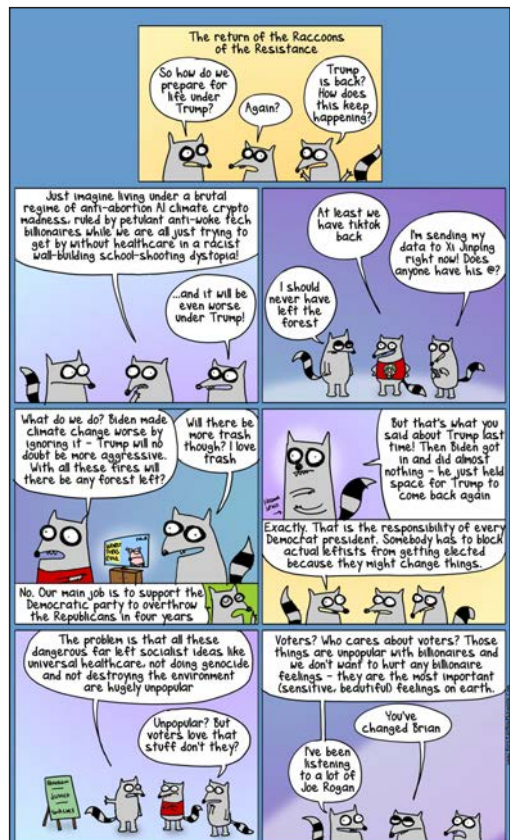
# 1. Invest in Efforts that Undermine Democracy

The fossil fuel industry funds efforts to suppress votes, gerrymander districts, and subvert democratic processes to maintain control and push favorable legislation.

- Targeting Voter Access:** In 2023, Southern Company, CenterPoint Energy, and multiple other major utilities donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to politicians who authored and pushed “omnibus” voter suppression laws, such as Texas’s Senate Bill 1 and Georgia’s Senate Bill 202, disproportionately affecting access to the polls for Black and Brown voters as well as people with limited English proficiency.
- Criminalizing Protest:** In 2024, fossil fuel lobbyists were exposed as the “architects” of new laws in states like Utah and West Virginia that classify non-violent protests near “critical infrastructure” (pipelines) as high-level felonies, punishable by up to 10 years in prison.
- Targeting Shareholder Rights:** In 2025, major oil companies, including **ExxonMobil**, filed lawsuits against their own shareholders to prevent them from voting on climate-related resolutions. This bypasses the Securities Exchange Commission’s typical oversight, effectively using the legal system to silence investor-led climate advocacy.



Source: <https://www.statepress.com/article/2024/11/opinion-political-cartoons#> (Accessed March 30, 2026)



Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentsfree/picture/2025/jan/20/trump-is-back-how-do-we-prepare-for-life-under-a-brutal-regime-of-ai-climate-crypto-madness> (Accessed March 30, 2026)

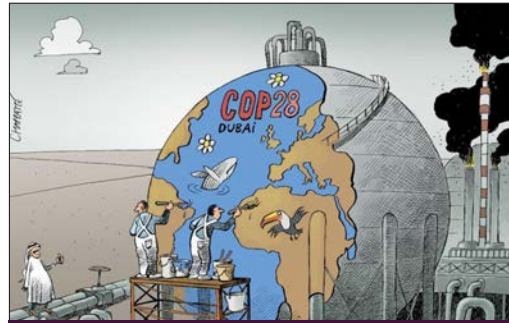


Source: <https://anntelnaes.substack.com/p/why-im-quitting-the-washington-post> (Accessed March 30, 2026)

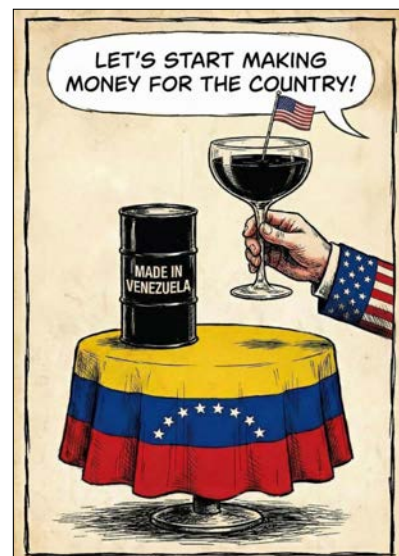
## 2. Finance Political Campaigns & Pressure Politicians

Fossil fuel corporations pour staggering amounts of money into political campaigns and lobbying to ensure elected officials vote against environmental protections.

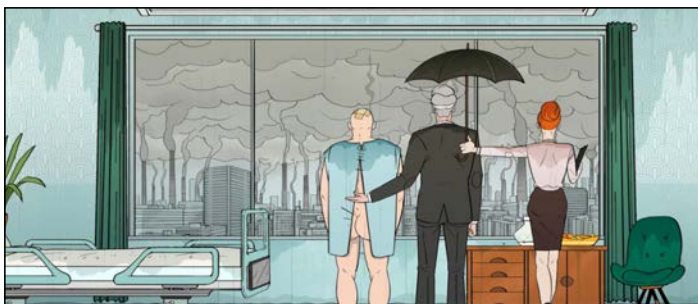
- Windfall Tax Lobbying:** In California, Chevron funneled over \$7 million into a front group called “Californians for Energy Independence” to lobby against a windfall profit tax aimed at penalizing price gouging in 2023.
- Dark Money in Ohio:** In 2023, The Empowerment Alliance (TEA), a gas-backed dark money group, spent millions to pass Ohio House Bill 507, legally redefining “natural gas” as “green energy.” This bypasses environmental protection and unlocks “green” funding.
- Record Federal Lobbying:** In 2024, the fossil fuel industry spent over \$150 million on federal lobbying in a single year, the highest since the landmark cap-and-trade battles of 2009, specifically targeting the rollback of EPA power plant standards.
- Defanging Corporate Liability:** Fossil fuel CEOs, with ExxonMobil’s Darren Woods in the lead, leveraged direct access to high-level U.S. administration officials to successfully lobby against and delay landmark environmental disclosure laws, such as the European Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive, which aimed to hold companies liable for environmental harms.



**Source:** Patrick Chappatte, Globe Cartoon. <https://www.chappatte.com/en/images/emirates-host-cop28>



**Source:** <https://english.news.cn/20260105/30cd-0f2b2e6948e483971c0ef-b998f73/c.html> (Accessed March 30, 2026)



**Source:** <https://www.cartoonbrew.com/shorts/the-well-oiled-plan-short-pick-255674.html> (Accessed March 30, 2026)

### 3. Fund Biased Scientific Research

The fossil fuel industry funds “research” at prestigious institutions to manufacture doubt about climate science and validate the continued use of fossil fuels.

- Columbia University Study:** In 2022, researchers at Columbia University identified hundreds of fossil fuel-funded “energy centers” at U.S. universities that produce studies more likely to be favorable toward natural gas than peer-reviewed independent research. The researchers used a text-as-data approach to analyze over 1.1 million sentences from 1,706 reports produced by 26 university-based “energy centers.” They found that academic centers heavily funded by the fossil fuel industry produced overwhelmingly positive reports about natural gas. The researchers noted that sentiments from these university centers were functionally indistinguishable from the public relations materials produced by industry groups like the American Gas Association.
- Bicameral Staff Report on Deception:** In 2024, a major U.S. congressional investigation revealed internal documents showing how “Big Oil” uses university partnerships to lend an aura of credibility to disinformation. The investigation uncovered a BP internal strategy memo specifically earmarking millions for research at Imperial College and Princeton to produce white papers “highlighting the role of gas as a friend to renewables,” essentially buying academic “authentication” for gas expansion.

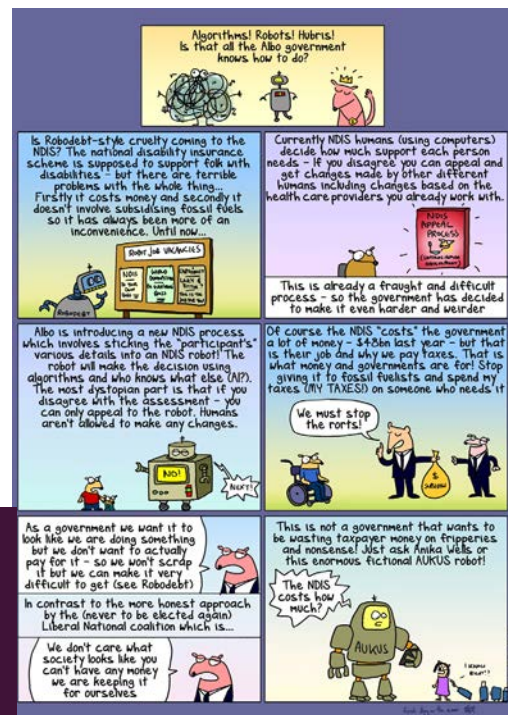
Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/picture/2025/dec/08/algorithms-robots-hubris-is-robotdebt-style-cruelty-coming-to-the-ndis> (Accessed March 30, 2026)



Source: <https://www.texasobserver.org/loon-star-state-hoax/> (Accessed March 30, 2026)



Source: Kevin KAL Kallaugher, The Economist. <https://substack.com/@kaltoons/note/c-202288947> (Accessed March 30, 2026)



- **Columbia University Exposed from Within:** In 2024, student activists and researchers analyzed industry-funded research at Columbia’s Center on Global Energy Policy (CGEP), finding a clear bias toward natural gas expansion. A student-led investigation revealed that Columbia’s CGEP accepted over \$15 million in fossil fuel funding, leading to research outputs that showed a “discernible sentiment bias” in favor of natural gas.
- **Hacking Climate Advocates:** In 2025, court documents reveal that **ExxonMobil** indirectly funded a criminal scheme to hack the emails of scientists and staff at the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) to undermine their research on climate liability.



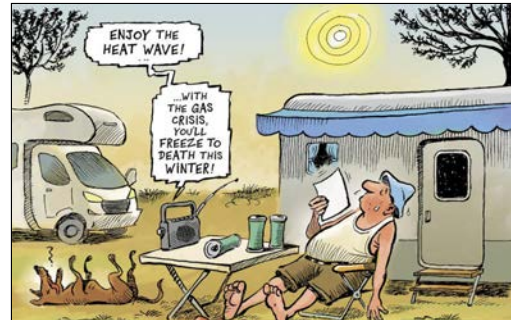
Source: <https://www.ucs.org/resources/climate-deception-dossiers> (Accessed March 30, 2026)



## 4. Claim Regulations Hurt Low-Income Communities

The industry falsely frames a transition away from fossil fuels as an “economic attack on the poor” pitting clean air against affordability.

- Attacking the EPA “Soot Rule”:** Trade groups filed lawsuits and lobbied against stricter EPA particulate matter standards, claiming the costs would cause “utility shutoffs for the most vulnerable” resulting in “blackouts in minority neighborhoods” ignoring that these same communities suffer the highest rates of respiratory illness from those plants. They deliberately ignored the fact that 60% of the health benefits of the rule would directly benefit communities of color with pervasively low wealth.
- The “Energy Poverty” Narrative:** During the push to ban gas stoves in new buildings, in 2023 industry-funded groups like the American Gas Association (AGA) ran campaigns claiming that electrification is a “racist” policy that would make cooking unaffordable for Black families, despite the known health benefits of removing indoor gas combustion. AGA partnered with social media influencers and local “energy poverty” advocacy groups to claim that federal efficiency standards for stoves were a “direct attack on Black culture and cooking” despite data showing that gas stoves contribute significantly to childhood asthma in those same homes. The AGA continues to frame gas bans as “regressive policies that harm the poor” despite the high costs of gas volatility. Utilities have lobbied against more efficient water heaters and furnaces, framing these standards as a “tax on the poor” while simultaneously raising customer rates to pay for new fossil fuel infrastructure.



**Source:** Patrick Chappatte, Globe Cartoon. <https://chappatte.com/en/images/did-you-say-heat-wave> (Accessed March 30, 2026)



**Source:** Patrick Chappatte, Globe Cartoon. <https://chappatte.com/en/images/small-gestures> (Accessed March 30, 2026)

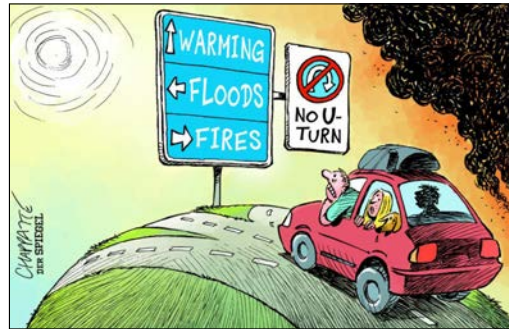


**Source:** <https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2025/9/22/2343932/-Cartoon-Lowering-the-temperature> (Accessed March 30, 2026)

## 5. Deny or Understate Health Harms

Fossil fuel corporations systematically downplay, hide, or deny devastating health impacts, such as cancer and respiratory illness, and other challenges caused by their operations.

- Underreporting Methane via MethaneSAT:** Independent satellite data exposed that between 2024 and 2025, operators in the Permian Basin leaked methane at rates four to six times higher than officially reported to the EPA, effectively hiding the true climate and localized health impact of their operations.
- Cancer Alley Denials & Data Manipulation:** Despite formal EPA findings of “unacceptable cancer risk” in St. James Parish, Louisiana, the Louisiana Chemical Association continues to fund studies claiming there is “no credible evidence” linking local petrochemical plants to the high rates of illness. In response to the “Formosa Plastics” litigation, industry-funded scientists argued that the high cancer rates in St. James Parish were due to “individual lifestyle choices” (smoking and diet) rather than heavy industrial emissions. In 2025, Johns Hopkins researchers highlighted the persistent gap between industry self-reporting and actual cancer risks in Louisiana’s industrial corridor.
- Coal Ash Minimization:** Utilities in the South have successfully lobbied to keep toxic coal ash in unlined pits near Black communities, publicly claiming the risk of groundwater contamination is “negligible” despite industry internal data showing highly elevated arsenic levels.



**Source:** Patrick Chappatte, Globe Cartoon. <https://chappatte.com/en/images/theres-no-way-back> (Accessed March 30, 2026)



**Source:** <https://gemini.google.com/share/c03661792aff> (Accessed March 30, 2026)

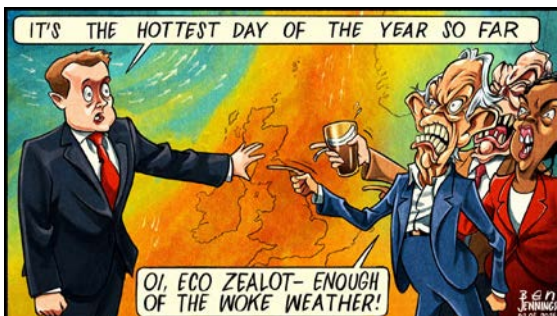


**Source:** <https://www.greenpeace.org/aotearoa/story/8-animated-films-inspire-action/> (Accessed March 30, 2026)

## 6. Deflect Responsibility – Shift Blame

The fossil fuel industry seeks to shift the burden of solving the climate crisis onto individual consumers and local municipalities, distracting from systemic industrial production.

- Personal Carbon Footprints (Ongoing):** Companies continue to promote “personal carbon footprint” calculators, a tactic originally popularized by BP to shift the focus to individual lifestyle choices like recycling or diet, rather than the fact that 100 companies are responsible for 71% of global emissions.
- Plastic Recycling “Fraud”:** In 2024, the Center for Climate Integrity released a report proving that the industry has known for 30 years that plastic recycling is not viable but continued to promote it to shift the burden of waste management onto local municipalities and taxpayers. During Plastics Treaty negotiations, fossil-fuel-backed lobbyists pushed for the treaty to focus exclusively on “waste management” (blaming poor local infrastructure) rather than “production caps” on the plastic itself.
- The “Scope 3” Rebranding/Erasure Campaign:** In 2025, ExxonMobil CEO and other major fossil fuel company CEOs launched a global media campaign to eliminate “Scope 3” emissions (downstream emissions) from corporate carbon accounting. They argue that emissions are a “consumer behavior problem” rather than a production problem, so emissions from the products they sell (gasoline, etc.) are counted as “consumer responsibility” rather than “corporate responsibility.”



Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentsfree/picture/2025/may/01/ben-jennings-on-the-opposition-to-net-zero-cartoon> (Accessed March 30, 2026)



Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=57QweJ1eW3Y> (Accessed March 30, 2026)



Source: <https://mackaycartoons.net/2025/08/06/wednesday-august-6-2025/> (Accessed March 30, 2026)



Source: <https://sustainabilityillustrated.com/en/2018/04/17/carbon-offset/> (Accessed March 30, 2026)

## 7. Co-opt Community Leaders and Organizations

Fossil fuel companies use targeted philanthropy and “partnerships” to coerce the silence of trusted local leaders and civil rights groups.

- “Frontline” Front Groups:** Western States Petroleum Association allegedly created a group, Californians for Energy Independence, which appeared to be a grassroots community initiative with paid spokespeople to mimic community concerns about oil taxes, directly mirroring corporate talking points.
- e-Sportswashing:** Fossil fuel companies sponsor e-sports and gaming tournaments to co-opt youth communities and “wash” their image among a new demographic.
- Utility “Charitable” Influence:** Investigations into Alabama Power and Duke Energy revealed that these utilities provide substantial grants to Black-led nonprofits on the condition that they do not intervene when the companies advocate to keep coal plants open, or in “rate cases” where the utility seeks to raise prices, thereby using charitable giving to compel complicity from local community groups. Community members say this creates a “culture of silence” wherein leaders feel they cannot speak out against rate hikes or pollution.
- DEI Rollbacks:** After making “racial justice” pledges in 2020, as the tide turned in 2025, major utilities like Duke Energy have quietly dismantled diversity programs and partnerships with Historic Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and continue to site polluting plants in Black communities. For example, companies like Chevron fund “Climate Innovation” centers at HBCUs— a greenwashing tactic to recruit young Black talent while continuing to site refineries in frontline Black neighborhoods.



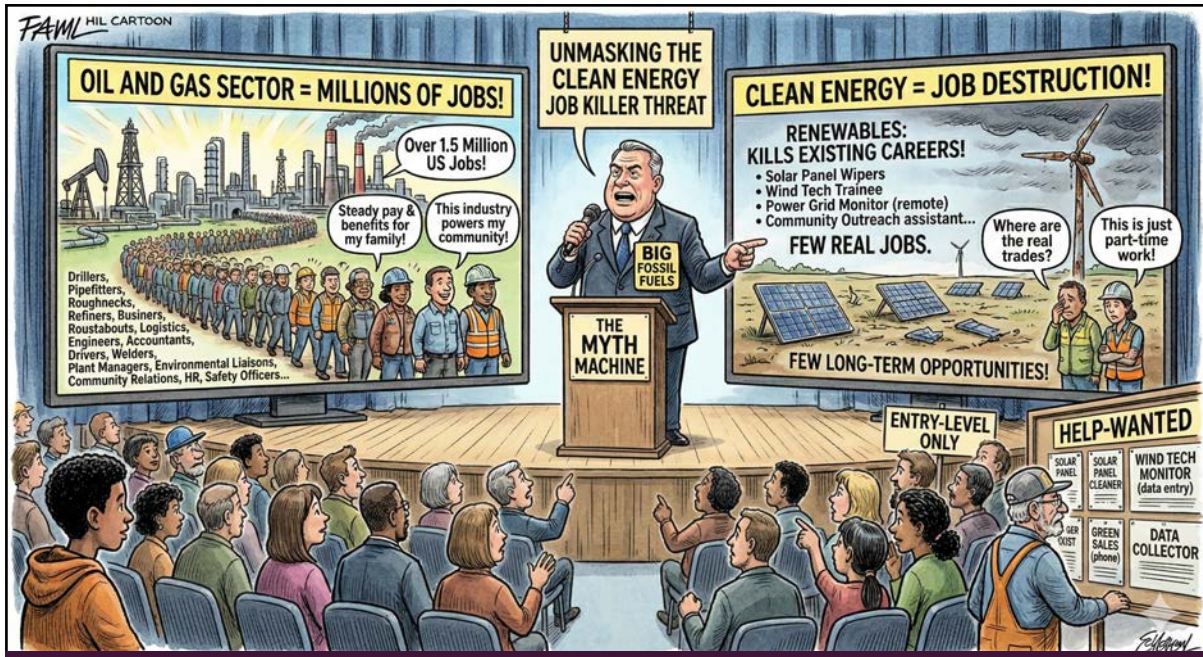
**Source:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kvtpl96-BfI> (Accessed March 30, 2026)



**Source:** [https://www.newweather.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/e\\_Sportswashing\\_big\\_polluters\\_gaming\\_esports.pdf](https://www.newweather.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/e_Sportswashing_big_polluters_gaming_esports.pdf) (Accessed March 30, 2026)

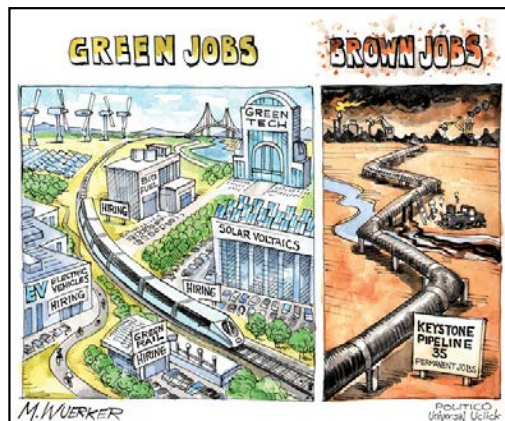
## 8. Exaggerate Job Creation

The oil and gas industry heavily inflates job numbers to justify the expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure, while ignoring the poor quality and temporary nature of the actual roles.



Source: <https://gemini.google.com/share/cea7e97fca51> (Accessed March 30, 2026)

- The 11 Million Jobs Myth:** The American Petroleum Institute (API) claims the industry supports 11.3 million jobs. However, 2024 Bureau of Labor Statistics data showed direct oil and gas employment is only roughly 500,000 (less than 0.4% of U.S. jobs). Reports from the Fiscal Policy Institute show how industry-funded studies often inflate job numbers by 10 to 20 times the actual count.
- “Ghost” Infrastructure Jobs & Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG):** During the build-out of LNG terminals on the Gulf Coast, developers promised thousands of local jobs to secure tax breaks. However, 2024 audit data showed that over 70% of the specialized workforce was imported from out-of-state, leaving local communities with only temporary, low-wage service and security roles.



Source: <https://www.politico.com/cartoon-gallery/cartoons-wuerker-on-earth-day?slide=20> (Accessed March 30, 2026)

- Alaska Case Study – Nonresident Labor in Construction/Energy:** In the oil and gas industry, 37.4% of the workers were nonresidents in 2023, up from 36% the year prior, according to the state’s annual report. Among oil and gas workers whose jobs are on the North Slope, 45% were nonresidents that year.
- Automation Displacement:** The industry has cut workers at record numbers due to automation. Companies like Shell have touted “job growth” from new facilities while simultaneously deploying “digital twin” technology and automation that dramatically reduces the actual headcount of permanent local workers.

**GREEN JOBS NOW**

NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION  
**9.27.08**  
TO BUILD THE NEW ECONOMY

WWW.GREENJOBSNOW.COM

Source: <https://www.politicalgraphics.org/post/green-jobs-now-poster-of-the-week> (Accessed March 30, 2026)

Jobs for the boys!? Everyone hates jobs for the boys (except the boys). A new (old) report the government really regrets commissioning shows "jftb" is RAMPANT

MERIT SELECTION PANEL NEGO WHITSIT

A mystery for the ages - how is it that former politicians, staffers and their ilk are miraculously appointed to boards and committees just before an election? Nobody knew how or why it happened until now.

This new report says more than 1 in 5 government appointments are partisanly adjacent. A widespread practise that is as egregious as it is shameless and someone should do something about it!

Of course it is based on merit! How dare you!

The report sensibly recommends that

- Board appointments be limited to 4 years or money poisoning whichever comes first
- Can only be on one board at a time
- No appointments made in the six months prior to an election
- After exiting government ministers banned for 18 months and staffers for six months
- That these recommendations become law and not be ignored

A spokesperson for the minister said this issue really gives Australians the pip. However as the opposition is terminally unelectable right now...

...the government will happily ignore all the recommendations. "Captain's picks" are a fun and convenient way to reward (and silence) political allies so instead of doing anything the government plans to "overhaul the existing framework".

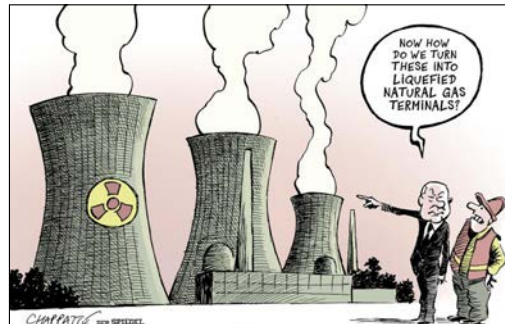
Did you hear? Theyre overhauling the existing framework! Phew! Democracy is saved! Oh thank goodness

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentsfree/picture/2025/dec/03/jobs-for-the-boys-everyone-hates-jobs-for-the-boys-except-the-boys> (Accessed March 30, 2026)

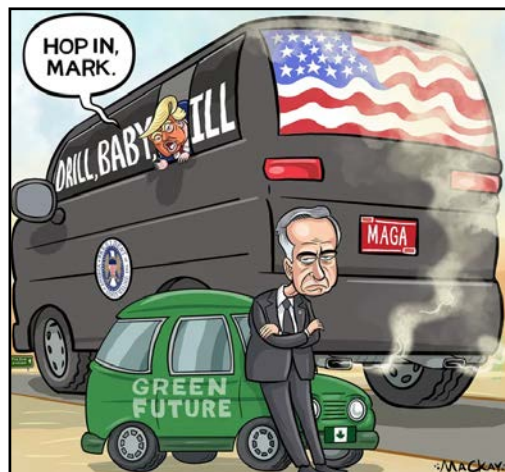
## 9. Praise False Solutions

The fossil fuel industry promotes expensive, unproven, or carbon-intensive technologies like “carbon capture” and “blue hydrogen” to delay the deployment of genuine renewable energy.

- Carbon Capture (CCS) as a Lifeline:** Major oil companies secured “Green Bonds” for Carbon Capture, but internal reports show 95% of captured CO<sub>2</sub> is used for “Enhanced Oil Recovery” —using carbon to pump *more* oil out of the ground. ExxonMobil’s \$4.9 billion acquisition of Denbury (a CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline company) highlights this strategy. Similarly, a Greenpeace report, *Selling Hot Air*, detailed how a major Shell carbon capture project was funded by 93% public money while failing to meet its targets. Shell received hundreds of millions of dollars in carbon credits for emissions that it never actually reduced. The public spent more than a billion dollars to capture less than one per cent of upstream oil sands emissions, even as overall oil production and greenhouse gas emission levels have continued to rise.
- The “Blue Hydrogen” Subsidy Push:** The industry heavily lobbied for tax credits for “blue hydrogen” (hydrogen produced from gas via steam methane) claiming it is “clean” despite an Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) study showing it can be 20% more carbon-intensive than simply burning the gas directly, due to methane leaks.
- Natural Gas as “Green”:** Industry lobbying successfully influenced the European Union to label natural gas as a “sustainable” investment in its green taxonomy, misleading investors globally into thinking natural gas is a long-term climate solution.



**Source:** Patrick Chappatte, Globe Cartoon. <https://chappatte.com/en/images/germany-shuts-down-its-nuclear-plants> (Accessed March 30, 2026)



**Source:** <https://mackaycartoons.net/tag/ev/> (Accessed March 30, 2026)

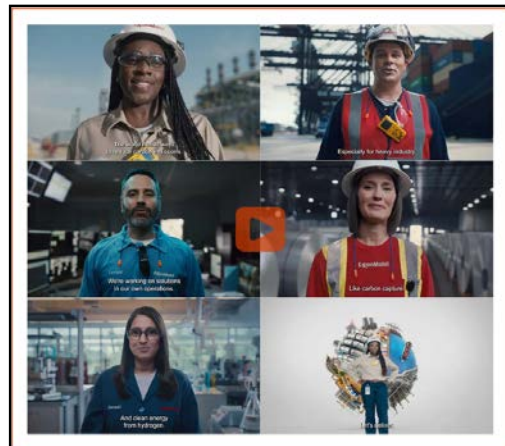


**Source:** Patrick Chappatte, Globe Cartoon. <https://chappatte.com/en/images/succession> (Accessed March 30, 2026)

## 10. “Embrace” Renewables to Control the Market

Fossil fuel companies claim to support the renewable transition in their advertising, while simultaneously spending very little on clean energy and aggressively lobbying against decentralized solar.

- Token Investments vs. Reality:** In a major study published by Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona in *Nature Sustainability* in October 2025, researchers audited the top 250 oil and gas producers, which collectively account for 88% of global hydrocarbon output. They found that these 250 giants own just 1.42% of the world’s operational renewable energy capacity. Renewable energy generation makes up a microscopic 0.13% of these companies’ total primary energy extraction. Meanwhile, these same companies spend hundreds of millions on public relations to project a climate-friendly image.
- Crushing Rooftop Solar:** In states like Florida and California, investor-owned utilities lobbied to gut “Net Metering” laws, which allow residents to get credit for the solar power they produce. This makes rooftop solar unaffordable for homeowners, forcing people to remain dependent on utility companies’ often fossil-fueled grid and ensuring that only the utility company can profit from the solar transition via “utility-scale” solar farms.
- Utility-Scale Monopoly:** Utilities are actively fighting “community solar” projects (which are community-owned) in favor of centralized “utility-scale” solar, ensuring they maintain an absolute monopoly on the price and distribution of energy. There is a coordinated national effort by utility trade groups, such as the Edison Electric Institute (EEI), to train utility executives on how to run advocacy campaigns against distributed solar. It documents how utility-funded front groups author and introduce model bills in state legislatures to eliminate net-metering and block third-party ownership of solar arrays.



**Source:** <https://climateintegrity.org/uploads/media/Advertisements-Big-Oil-Climate-Ads-2025.pdf> (Accessed March 30, 2026)



**Source:** <https://gemini.google.com/share/39156f779338> (Accessed March 30, 2026)

# Global Foolery

Manipulation tactics we see domestically in the United States were beta-tested – and are being deployed with even less regulatory oversight – in the Global South. From hijacking United Nations climate negotiations with overwhelming lobbyist presence, to deploying sophisticated, AI-driven disinformation campaigns across the Global South, multinational polluters continuously adapt their strategies to delay a just energy transition. As detailed across nine distinct case studies spanning from the violent militarization of extraction in Mozambique and ruthless legal retaliation against defenders in Ecuador, to the displacement of Indigenous populations in Argentina and India, this section illustrates how the industry consistently weaponizes false economic promises, co-opts state security, and funds biased science to silence dissent and lock vulnerable nations into a cycle of ecological devastation. The global playbook relies heavily on neocolonialism: extracting wealth and resources from Global South nations while offloading the environmental, health, and social devastation onto frontline communities.

Some of the most glaring global examples of the fossil fuel industry's manipulation tactics in action:

## 1. UN Climate Summits—Conference of Profiteers/Conference of Polluters—The Lobbyist Swarm

*(Tactic: Finance Political Campaigns & Pressure Politicians)*

- Perhaps the most brazen display of global manipulation is the industry's infiltration of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties (COP) climate negotiations. Research from the "Kick Big Polluters Out" coalition revealed that over 5,000 fossil fuel lobbyists were granted access to UN climate summits over the last four years. At recent COPs, industry lobbyists have vastly outnumbered the official delegations of almost every climate-vulnerable nation. They effectively act as a shadow negotiating block, aggressively watering down global treaty language to protect oil and gas interests by ensuring



**Source:** <https://www.ceew.in/what-on-earth/zero-counts> (Accessed March 30, 2026)



**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/on-fossil-fuel-lobbyists-and-un-climate-talks-green-humour-by-rohan-chakravarty/article70262515.ece> (Accessed March 30, 2026)

that phrases like a mandatory “fossil fuel phase-out” are replaced with loopholes for “unabated emissions” or a reliance on unproven carbon capture technology.

## 2. False Verification Down Under

*(Tactic: Fund Biased Scientific Research)*

- In 2022, Woodside Energy, Australia’s largest oil and gas producer, commissioned the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, Australia’s national science agency to verify that gas exports reduce emissions. An independent review found the industry-funded scope was skewed to hide the fact that the projects prolong coal use.

## 3. East Africa: The EACOP Illusion and Silencing Dissent

*(Tactics: Exaggerate Job Creation & Undermine Democracy)*

- The East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), driven heavily by the French oil giant TotalEnergies and the China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC), is slated to be the longest heated crude oil pipeline in the world, running through Uganda and Tanzania. The project is touted locally and globally as a massive job creator and economic boon. In truth, it threatens the water sources of millions in the Lake Victoria basin and is displacing tens of thousands of farmers, often with delayed or inadequate compensation. When local environmental and human rights defenders speak out against the land grabs and ecological risks, they face severe state-sponsored retaliation. Activists are routinely arrested, harassed, and intimidated under the guise of “national security” — a classic industry tactic of relying on state power to silence opposition to extraction.

## 3. Nigeria: The Niger Delta Sacrifice Zone

*(Tactics: Deny Harms, Deflect Responsibility, and Co-Opt Community Leaders)*

- The Niger Delta is one of the most notorious historical and ongoing examples of fossil fuel exploitation, dominated by companies like Shell and Eni. Decades of frequent, massive oil spills and constant gas flaring have poisoned the soil, destroyed local fishing economies, and led to severe health crises. Yet, companies frequently blame local “sabotage” or “oil bunkering” for the spills to deflect responsibility from their own decaying, poorly maintained infrastructure. The industry has historically co-opted local leaders and fueled community divisions through selective payouts to prevent a unified front. Tragically, the industry has also been deeply complicit in the violent suppression of protest, most infamously culminating in the 1995 execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and the Ogoni Nine after they peacefully protested Shell’s operations.

## 4. Ecuador: The “Amazon Chernobyl” and Legal Retaliation

*(Tactic: Undermine Democracy & Legal Bullying)*

- For decades, Texaco (now Chevron) deliberately dumped billions of gallons of toxic wastewater into the Ecuadorian Amazon, devastating the health and environment of local Indigenous communities. When these communities successfully sued Chevron in Ecuadorian courts and won a multi-billion-dollar judgment, Chevron refused to pay. Instead, they

launched an unprecedented legal assault against the communities' lead lawyer, Steven Donziger, and the advocates supporting them. Chevron used Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPP) to drain resources, bankrupt their opponents, and intimidate anyone else who might think of holding them accountable globally. They effectively maneuvered to put Donziger under house arrest for years, sending a chilling global message: *If you fight us and win, we will destroy your life.*

## 5. Australia: Buying Science

*(Tactics: Fund Biased Research & Co-opt Communities)*

- **Australia (CSIRO and Woodside):** The Australian oil and gas giant, Woodside, commissioned the country's national science agency (CSIRO) to produce a report validating that their gas exports would "reduce global emissions." Independent watchdogs later revealed the study's scope was explicitly tailored by the industry to ignore their proposed portfolio, with an increase in gas exports would effectively delay the regional transition away from coal, effectively buying scientific authentication for expansion.

## 6. India: Bulldozing Forests

*(Tactic: Claiming false solutions as equitable universal access to energy)*

- **India (Adani in Hasdeo Arand):** The Adani Group has pushed forward with massive coal mining operations in the Hasdeo Arand forest, one of India's most ecologically sensitive regions and home to Indigenous Adivasi communities. Despite massive local resistance and the clear threat to biodiversity, the project has been aggressively pushed through under the banner of national "energy security" and overriding local democratic consent and Indigenous land rights.

## 7. Mozambique: The Cabo Delgado Gas Displacement

*(Tactics: Deny Harms & Co-opt State/Security Forces)*

- The liquefied natural gas (LNG) megaproject in Cabo Delgado, spearheaded by TotalEnergies, has become a carbon timebomb. Gas exploitation has fueled regional conflict, displacing over 600,000 people and turning local residents into internal refugees. TotalEnergies recently pushed to lift "force majeure" and resume operations in late 2025, despite ongoing violence. The industry has effectively co-opted state security, concentrating Mozambican military troops to protect the gas infrastructure while leaving local communities vulnerable to attacks. Local chiefs and NGOs had to formally request UN intervention for human rights violations allegedly committed by the state forces



**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/green-humour-rohan-chakravarty-india-environmental-laws-diluted-national-interest-protected-areas/article69123384.ece> (Accessed March 30, 2026)

protecting the site, illustrating the violent militarization of fossil fuel extraction.

### 8. Argentina: The Vaca Muerta Megaproject

*(Tactics: Undermine Democracy & Sidelining Indigenous Rights)*

- Vaca Muerta in Northern Patagonia is one of the world's largest fracking frontiers, heavily exploited by multinational and state-owned oil companies. The intense extraction process is rapidly fragmenting the landscape, contaminating water sources, and creating severe health risks for the local population. Taking advantage of sweeping national deregulation in 2024 and 2025, the industry actively undermined democratic oversight. Companies occupied areas of traditional Mapuche territory without free, prior, and informed consent. Furthermore, environmental watchdogs had to take the government to court just to secure access to basic seismic and emissions data, proving the industry's reliance on state secrecy to hide its destruction of Indigenous lands.

### 9. Guyana: The Offshore Exploitation Illusion

*(Tactics: Claim Regulations Hurt the Economy & Exaggerate Jobs)*

- Guyana is currently the site of one of the most aggressive deepwater oil expansions on the planet, led by an ExxonMobil consortium. While the discovery of over 11 billion barrels of oil promises massive GDP growth, the contracts heavily favor multinational corporations, leaving the country's rich biodiversity and coastal communities bearing almost all the ecological risk of a potential deepwater blowout. The industry weaponizes the economic narrative, framing their expansion as the only viable path for Guyana's development and climate adaptation funding. By dangling the promise of national wealth, they pressure the government to fast-track permits and bypass rigorous environmental oversight. Local courts have even had to reprimand the state's environmental agency for being "derelict" in its duties to properly regulate the consortium's drilling permits.

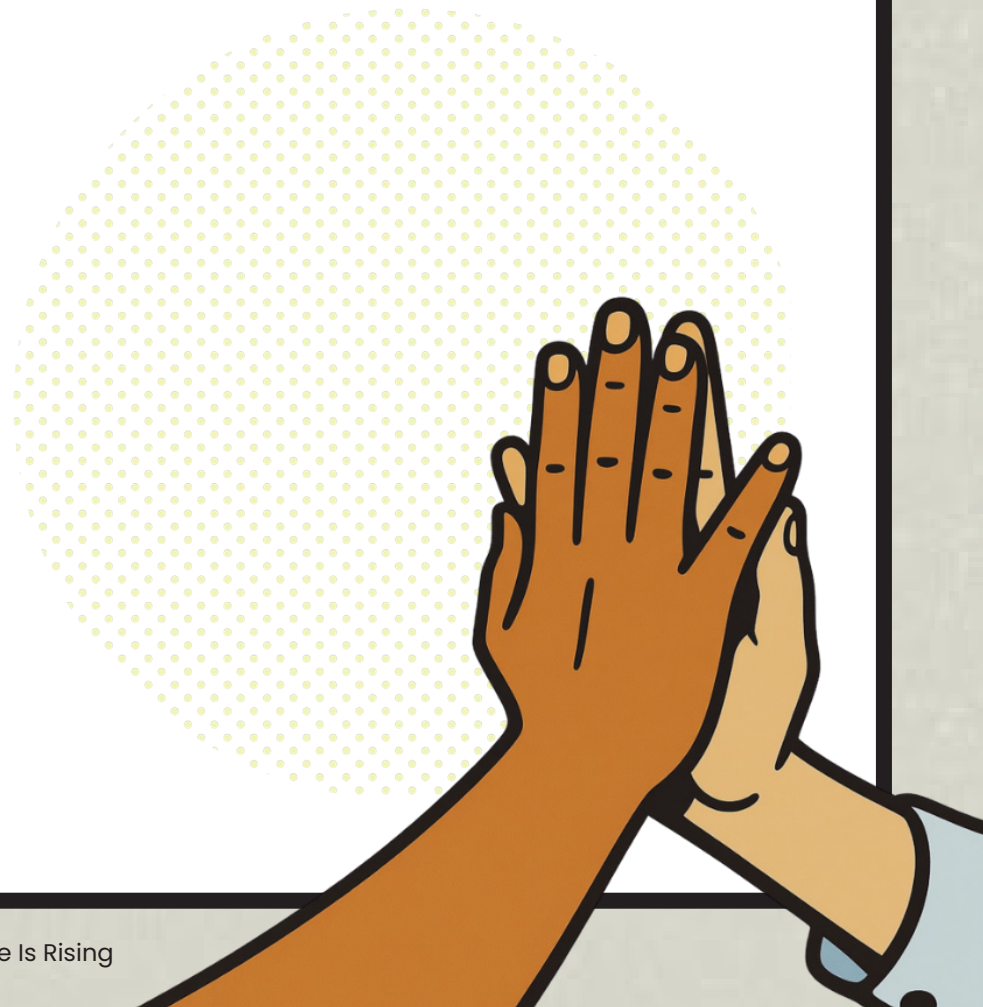


**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/on-fossil-fuel-lobbyists-and-un-climate-talks-green-humour-by-rohan-chakravarty/article70262515.ece>  
(Accessed March 30, 2026)

## 10. Brazil: Disinformation at COP30 in Belém

*(Tactics: Finance Politicians & Fund Biased Narratives)*

- During the UN COP30 climate summit held in Belém, Brazil, in late 2025, the Global South became the primary battleground for sophisticated industry manipulation. The fossil fuel industry sent a record-breaking number of lobbyists to the summit, outnumbering every national delegation except the host country, to sabotage language demanding a fossil fuel phase-out. Beyond lobbying, the industry funded a massive wave of AI-driven climate disinformation targeting African and Latin American digital networks. Using highly organized campaigns, they weaponized postcolonial marginalization by spreading the narrative that a transition to renewable energy is an “economic attack” by the West on the Global South. This sophisticated warfare is designed to sow mistrust in climate solutions and ensure Global South nations remain dependent on fossil fuel infrastructure.  
*(Please see the section on “International Victories by Frontline Communities in Global South Nations” for what happened after COP30 concluded.)*



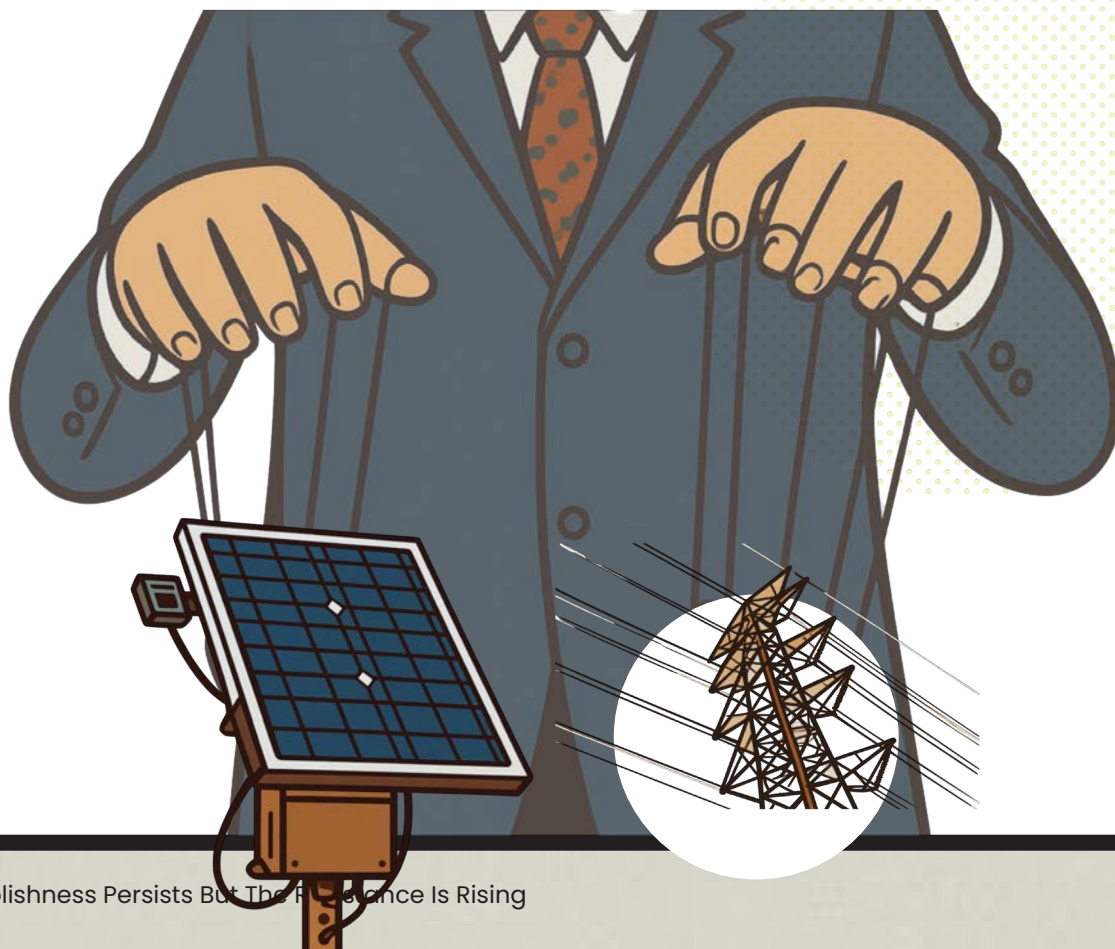


# The Fossil Fueled Foolery Tactics Tracker

**Purpose:** A quick-reference guide to decode industry messaging during city council meetings, in local news, or when reviewing corporate “sustainability” reports.

The Tactic	The Industry “Script” (What they say)	The Red Flag (What to look for)	The Reality Check (The truth)
<b>1. Undermine Democracy</b>	“We support ‘common sense’ election integrity and streamlined permitting.”	Funding for politicians who sponsor voter suppression or criminalize protest.	They are making it harder for impacted communities to vote or protest against them.
<b>2. Finance Politicians</b>	“We are proud partners in the local political process.”	Massive donations to local candidates right before a key zoning or environmental vote.	These “donations” are investments in favorable regulation and policy.
<b>3. Biased Research</b>	“Studies from the [Industry Name] University Center show gas is safe.”	Research funded by a specific company that hasn’t been peer-reviewed by independent scientists.	The industry often “buys” the prestige of a university to validate its own products.
<b>4. Claim Regs Hurt Poor</b>	“This new policy is an ‘Energy Tax’ that will hurt the most vulnerable.”	Framing environmental protections as a choice between “jobs” and “clean air.”	Pollution costs low-income families thousands in medical bills; clean energy is often cheaper.
<b>5. Understate Harms</b>	“Our emissions are within legal limits; there is no proven link to illness.”	Refusal to install community-monitored air sensors or localizing the blame on “lifestyle.”	“Legal” limits often don’t account for the cumulative impact of living next to multiple plants.
<b>6. Deflect Responsibility</b>	“Calculate your own carbon footprint! We all have a role to play.”	A focus on individual recycling or lightbulbs instead of industrial production levels.	100 companies are responsible for 71% of global emissions; a light bulb won’t fix that.

The Tactic	The Industry "Script" (What they say)	The Red Flag (What to look for)	The Reality Check (The truth)
<b>7. Co-opt Leaders</b>	"We are honored to receive this 'Community Partner' award from [Local Group]."	Large donations to civil rights or local non-profits that then go silent on pollution issues.	These donations are "hush money" designed to neutralize local opposition.
<b>8. Exaggerate Jobs</b>	"This project will create 5,000 high-paying local jobs!"	Using "indirect" job estimates (like sandwiches sold) to inflate the actual number of workers.	Most jobs are temporary construction roles filled by out-of-state contractors.
<b>9. Praise False Solutions</b>	"Hydrogen and Carbon Capture are the future of clean energy."	Promoting technologies that allow them to keep burning fossil fuels instead of switching to wind/solar.	These technologies are often unproven, expensive, and require more fossil fuel use.
<b>10. Control Renewables</b>	"We support solar, but only if it's managed through our central grid."	Lobbying against rooftop solar or community-owned energy "for safety and reliability."	They want to own the sun so they can continue to charge you for the power it generates.



# WHEN WE FIGHT, WE WIN

When frontline communities are inoculated against these tactics, and when we come together and organize, we can defeat multinational corporations with vastly extensive financial resources and political influence. Here are extraordinary examples from the past five years where Black-led grassroots movements and other frontline led efforts secured monumental legal and strategic victories in the U.S. and globally.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

## Black Residents Win Key Ruling in 'Cancer Alley' Environmental Racism Case

*Lawyers for residents say that zoning that concentrates pollution in Black districts is a violation of the 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery.*


By Adam Mahoney

February 11, 2026



**Source:** <https://capitalbnews.org/cancer-alley-residents-pollution-lawsuit/> (Accessed March 30, 2026)



## DOMESTIC: United States Frontline Triumphs

### 1. Memphis Community Against Pollution (MCAP): Defeating the Byhalia Pipeline (2021)

- Threat:** Plains All American Pipeline and Valero Energy planned to route the Byhalia crude oil pipeline directly through historic Black neighborhoods in southwest Memphis (like Boxtown and Westwood) and over the city's pristine drinking water aquifer. A land agent infamously called this route the "path of least resistance."
- Frontline-Led Victory:** Local residents, led by co-founders Justin J. Pearson (now a State Representative) and Kizzy Jones, formed MCAP, which successfully forced the cancellation of a crude oil pipeline routed through historically Black neighborhoods in Southwest Memphis. The community argued that the route was a textbook case of environmental racism and highlighted the severe risk of a spill contaminating the Memphis Sand Aquifer, the city's pristine drinking water source. Organizers used a combination of rallies, national media campaigns, and legal pressure regarding eminent domain and water protections pressure on the city council to block land access, ultimately forcing the developers to walk away. The multi-billion-dollar project was abruptly canceled in July 2021. As Pearson stated, "the community proved they were not the path of least resistance, but the path of resilience."
- Impact:** Following the cancellation, the Memphis City Council passed protective ordinances to prevent future pipelines from threatening the aquifer.



**Source:** <https://images.squarespace-cdn.com/content/vi/602aef80ede5cc16ae73697b/7ab72453-6274-49c8-b5c3-11b5faa974f3/Untitled+design+%2814%29.png?format=500w> (Accessed March 30, 2026)

### 2. Cancellation of the Keystone XL Pipeline (2021)

- Threat:** The proposed Keystone XL pipeline—a massive infrastructure project by Trans Canada Energy (TC Energy) intended to transport 830,000 barrels per day of highly toxic, carbon-intensive tar sands oil from Alberta, Canada, to the U.S. Gulf Coast. It posed a severe risk of devastating spills into the Ogallala Aquifer (a water source for millions), threatened to desecrate sacred Indigenous lands, violated long-standing treaty rights, and promised to lock in decades of catastrophic greenhouse gas emissions.



**Source:** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/perspective/6222453924> (Accessed March 30, 2026)

- **Frontline-Led Victory:** After a grueling 13-year fight led by a historic coalition of Indigenous land defenders, farmers, ranchers, and climate advocates, the multibillion-dollar tar sands project was officially terminated. The resistance utilized direct action, mass civil disobedience, and prolonged legal challenges centered on treaty rights and the protection of the Ogallala Aquifer. This relentless grassroots pressure delayed the project long enough for the Biden-Harris Administration to revoke its key border-crossing permit on day one, forcing TC Energy to formally abandon it.
- **Impact:** A monumental win for climate action and environmental justice. The victory kept billions of gallons of extreme fossil fuels in the ground, averting millions of metric tons of annual greenhouse gas emissions. It successfully protected the drinking water and agricultural lifeline of the Great Plains, upheld Indigenous sovereignty, and proved that diverse, frontline-led coalitions can successfully defeat entrenched corporate fossil fuel interests, setting a powerful precedent for future climate battles.

### 3. Cancellation of the PennEast Pipeline (2021)

- **Threat:** The PennEast Pipeline is a proposed 116-mile project designed to transport highly pressurized fracked gas from Pennsylvania into New Jersey. It threatened to carve through preserved open spaces, seize private farmland and state-owned conservation areas via eminent domain, and severely disrupt the Delaware River Basin, jeopardizing a delicate watershed that provides clean drinking water to over 15 million people while locking in decades of new methane emissions.



**Source:** <https://why.org/articles/penneast-cancels-natural-gas-pipeline-project-cites-lack-of-environmental-permits-from-n-j/> (Accessed March 30, 2026)

- **Frontline-Led Victory:** Organizers successfully blocked this massive, fracked gas pipeline from crossing the Delaware River Basin. Local landowners fiercely refused to surrender their property to eminent domain, sparking a protracted, multi-year legal battle over land rights that reached the U.S. Supreme Court. Concurrently, relentless grassroots pressure empowered the state of New Jersey to deny crucial water quality certificates under the Clean Water Act, leaving the developers without a viable path forward and forcing the total cancellation of the project.
- **Impact:** A landmark victory for property rights, clean water, and environmental justice. The project's defeat protected dozens of pristine waterways and conserved lands, safeguarded the drinking water supply for millions, and stopped the release of millions of tons of greenhouse gases. It also cemented a powerful precedent regarding a state's authority to use the Clean Water Act to block harmful fossil fuel infrastructure, proving that a united coalition of local landowners, conservationists, and grassroots organizers can outlast deep-pocketed developers.

#### 4. Cancellation of the Northeast Supply Enhancement (NESE) Pipeline (2024)

- Threat:** The Northeast Supply Enhancement (NESE) project, commonly known as the Williams Pipeline—was a proposed 23.4-mile offshore pipeline designed to transport fracked gas from Pennsylvania through New Jersey to Long Island, New York. Trenching the pipeline would have required dredging miles of the Raritan Bay and Lower New York Bay, threatening to churn up millions of tons of seabed laced with highly toxic legacy pollutants like PCBs, lead, and arsenic. This posed a severe risk to coastal water quality, local fisheries, and rebounding marine life, all while threatening to lock the region into decades of climate-warming fossil fuel dependence.
- Frontline-Led Victory:** The bi-state “Stop the Williams Pipeline” coalition led the charge against this offshore fracked gas project. Grassroots organizers mobilized thousands of residents to submit public comments and focused heavily on the project’s existential threat to local marine life and water quality. This immense, sustained public pressure resulted in environmental regulators in both New York and New Jersey repeatedly denying essential water quality permits. After years of delays and failed extensions, Williams finally declined to pursue the project further.
- Impact:** A major triumph for coastal protection and regional climate mandates. The victory successfully prevented the resuspension of toxic chemicals, safeguarding the fragile marine ecosystems and local economies dependent on the New York Harbor and Raritan Bay. Furthermore, defeating the pipeline blocked a massive expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure, avoiding millions of metric tons of annual greenhouse gas emissions and forcing regional utility companies to pivot toward renewable energy and efficiency solutions instead.



**Source:** <https://insideclimatenews.org/news/22122025/new-jersey-regulators-consider-transco-nese-pipeline-again/> (Accessed March 30, 2026)

#### 5. Cancellation of the Navigator Heartland Greenway CO2 Pipeline (2023)

- Threat:** The Navigator CO2 Heartland Greenway project was a proposed 1,300-mile carbon capture and storage (CCS) pipeline slated to run through five Midwestern states (Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska, Minnesota, and South Dakota). It threatened to use eminent domain to forcibly seize private farmland to transport highly pressurized, supercritical carbon dioxide from ethanol plants to underground storage sites. Beyond severe property rights violations and



**Source:** <https://pureoldies1075.com/news/101101-navigator-heartland-greenway-co2-pipeline-nixed/> (Accessed March 30, 2026)

the permanent disruption of fertile agricultural land, the project posed lethal safety risks to rural communities; a rupture of concentrated, heavier-than-air CO<sub>2</sub> acts as a massive, sweeping asphyxiant.

- **Frontline-Led Victory:** An unlikely but incredibly effective alliance of Midwestern farmers, landowners, Indigenous groups, and environmentalists forced the cancellation of this proposed 1,300-mile carbon capture pipeline. The coalition heavily publicized the safety risks of highly pressurized CO<sub>2</sub> pipelines (frequently referencing a dangerous 2020 rupture in Satartia, Mississippi, that hospitalized dozens) and fiercely opposed the use of eminent domain for a private corporate project. This unrelenting grassroots pressure led state utility boards to deny essential construction permits, forcing the developers to pull the plug on the project.
- **Impact:** A massive victory for property rights, public safety, and environmental justice. The defeat of the Heartland Greenway pipeline protected thousands of acres of farmland and safeguarded rural communities from the terrifying risks of a pipeline blowout. Crucially, it dealt a major blow to the controversial, multi-billion-dollar carbon capture industry, demonstrating that broad, cross-partisan coalitions of conservative landowners and progressive climate advocates can successfully unite to stop hazardous “false climate solutions” from being built in their backyards.

## 6. Blocking the Mountain Valley Pipeline Southgate Extension (2023–2024)

- **Threat:** The proposed Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) “Southgate” project was originally designed as a 75-mile extension to transport fracked gas from the terminus of the mainline in Virginia into central North Carolina. The pipeline threatened to cross hundreds of waterways, including the ecologically vital Dan and Haw rivers, endangering the drinking water for surrounding communities. Furthermore, the route disproportionately targeted rural, low-income, and marginalized communities in Rockingham and Alamance counties, threatening to seize private land via eminent domain and burdening residents with toxic air pollution from proposed compressor stations.
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- Source:** <https://chesapeakeclimate.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Kidest-at-MVP-rally-in-2021-768x513.jpeg> (Accessed March 30, 2026)
- **Frontline-Led Victory:** While the main line of the Mountain Valley Pipeline was controversially forced through via a federal mandate, sustained opposition targeted its proposed “Southgate” extension into North Carolina. Local organizers and environmental justice advocates highlighted the threat to vulnerable communities and local watersheds along the route. By continually challenging the necessity and environmental safety of the project, they forced state regulators to deny air and water permits, compelling developers to drastically shrink and continually delay the extension.

- **Impact:** A vital, hard-fought victory for environmental justice and watershed protection. By forcing the developers to repeatedly delay and drastically scale back the project, including dropping the pipeline segment planned for Alamance County entirely, the coalition protected critical local waterways and spared frontline communities from the hazards of heavy construction and compressor station pollution. It stands as a powerful testament that even when massive fossil fuel projects are fast-tracked at the federal level, relentless local resistance can still effectively block their expansion and protect regional resources.

## 7. Halt on the North Brooklyn Pipeline Expansion (2022)

- **Threat:** The Metropolitan Reliability Infrastructure (MRI)—widely known as the North Brooklyn Pipeline—was a 7-mile high-pressure fracked gas pipeline proposed by National Grid. The route deliberately carved through working-class, predominantly Black and Brown communities, including Brownsville, Ocean Hill, Bushwick, and East Williamsburg, culminating at a liquefied natural gas (LNG) depot in Greenpoint. The project threatened to burden these environmental justice communities with severe explosion risks, toxic air pollution from new LNG vaporizers, and decades of locked-in climate emissions, all while forcing residents to pay for the project through increased monthly utility rate hikes.
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- Source:** [https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5ce0b9b4c14c-ff00014df8a4/5cea0a6f15fcc-0da64884871/5ec4124fa0ba8459be3a9e80/1594843714102/200229\\_NBPI-pipelineProtest\\_NikkiDodd-8.jpg?format=1500w](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5ce0b9b4c14c-ff00014df8a4/5cea0a6f15fcc-0da64884871/5ec4124fa0ba8459be3a9e80/1594843714102/200229_NBPI-pipelineProtest_NikkiDodd-8.jpg?format=1500w) (Accessed March 30, 2026)
- **Frontline-Led Victory:** The No North Brooklyn Pipeline coalition fought a massive utility company to stop the completion of a fracked gas pipeline routed through working-class, predominantly Black and Brown neighborhoods in New York City. Organizers launched a highly visible utility rate strike and filed a landmark civil rights complaint under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, arguing the route was discriminatory. They successfully blocked the construction of the final pipeline phases and LNG vaporizers.
  - **Impact:** A groundbreaking victory for environmental justice and ratepayer protection. By successfully blocking Phase 5 of the pipeline and halting the expansion of the Greenpoint LNG facility, the frontline coalition prevented tons of toxic emissions from worsening local air quality and asthma rates. Crucially, the campaign pioneered the use of coordinated utility strikes and federal civil rights laws to combat environmental racism, establishing a powerful, replicable blueprint for marginalized communities fighting to stop utility companies from treating their neighborhoods as sacrifice zones.

## 8. Cancellation of the Jordan Cove LNG Terminal and Pacific Connector Pipeline (2021)

- Threat:** The Jordan Cove Energy Project and its accompanying 229-mile Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline proposed to transport fracked gas across Southern Oregon to a massive export terminal in Coos Bay. It threatened to seize private property from hundreds of landowners via eminent domain, clearcut old-growth forests, and disrupt over 400 waterways, including the vital Rogue, Klamath, and Umpqua rivers. Furthermore, the project threatened Indigenous cultural sites and traditional territories, posed severe safety risks by placing a highly volatile LNG facility in a known seismic and tsunami zone, and was projected to become the single largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Oregon.
- Frontline-Led Victory:** This victory culminated a 15-year battle waged by a coalition of Indigenous tribes, landowners, and climate groups in Southern Oregon. The proposed facility would have been the first LNG export terminal on the West Coast, requiring a massive pipeline through sensitive forests and waterways. Unyielding local opposition provided the political cover for the state to deny crucial Clean Water Act permits, eventually forcing the Canadian developer to pull the plug.
- Impact:** A monumental triumph for Indigenous sovereignty, landowner rights, and global climate justice. Defeating Jordan Cove prevented the construction of a massive fossil fuel export hub that would have locked in decades of international greenhouse gas emissions. The victory successfully protected hundreds of pristine waterways, preserved critical salmon habitats, saved family farms from corporate seizure, and demonstrated the immense power of rural and Indigenous alliances in stopping deep-pocketed, international fossil fuel corporations.



**Source:** <https://pipelinefighters.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/jordan-group-rally-nolngexports.jpg> (Accessed March 30, 2026)

## 9. Rejection of the Kalama Methanol Facility (2021)

- Threat:** The Kalama Methanol Refinery, proposed by Northwest Innovation Works, was designed to be one of the world's largest gas-to-methanol plants, situated on the banks of the Columbia River in Washington. It threatened to consume up to 320 million cubic feet of fracked gas every single day and massive amounts of local water, all to export methanol to Asia for manufacturing plastics. Beyond the risk of toxic spills in the vital Columbia



**Source:** [https://kboo.fm/sites/default/files/styles/default\\_lead\\_1x/public/images/lead/station\\_content/crick\\_rappaport\\_2017\\_kalama\\_103.jpg?itok=puEIA8Yp](https://kboo.fm/sites/default/files/styles/default_lead_1x/public/images/lead/station_content/crick_rappaport_2017_kalama_103.jpg?itok=puEIA8Yp) (Accessed March 30, 2026)

River estuary and the endangerment of local salmon runs, the facility threatened to become one of the state's largest carbon polluters, locking in decades of upstream fracking and downstream plastic pollution.

- **Frontline-Led Victory:** Following massive public pushback regarding shoreline impacts and greenhouse gas emissions, the Washington Department of Ecology denied the shoreline permit for what would have been one of the world's largest fossil-fuel-to-methanol refineries. Grassroots organizers forced the state to conduct a comprehensive lifecycle analysis of the plant's emissions, which exposed that the facility would drastically undermine the state's statutory climate goals, sealing its defeat.
- **Impact:** A landmark victory for climate accountability, clean water, and the fight against global plastic pollution. Defeating the massive refinery prevented up to 4.6 million metric tons of annual greenhouse gas emissions and protected the Columbia River ecosystem from dangerous industrial expansion. Crucially, the victory established a vital regulatory precedent by successfully demanding that state agencies calculate and consider the full "lifecycle" emissions of a project—from the initial extraction of the fracked gas to its final end-use overseas—creating a rigorous standard to evaluate and block future fossil fuel infrastructure.

## 10. Cancellation of the Tallgrass Plaquemines Liquids Terminal (2021/2022)

- **Threat:** The Plaquemines Liquids Terminal (PLT) was a massive \$2.5 billion crude oil export facility proposed by Tallgrass Energy, slated for construction on the west bank of the Mississippi River. The project threatened to release hundreds of thousands of tons of greenhouse gases and toxic pollutants like benzene into the surrounding air, while also posing a severe risk to coastal resilience by potentially interfering with the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion (a crucial wetland restoration project). Most egregiously, developers planned to build the sprawling tank farm directly atop the historic St. Rosalie Plantation site, threatening to bulldoze and desecrate the unmarked graves of enslaved people whose descendants live in the adjacent, historically Black community of Ironton.
- **Frontline-Led Victory:** Community members in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, successfully fought off a \$2 billion proposed crude oil export terminal that threatened local ecosystems and coastal resilience. The turning point came when organizers and researchers documented that the proposed site was situated directly on top of the historic Black community of Ironton and included the unmarked graves of enslaved people, sparking intense ethical and legal pushbacks that halted the project. (*Read more via Greater New Orleans Interfaith Climate Coalition*)



**Source:** <https://www.desmog.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/2B2A0339-Edit-1024x661.jpg> (Accessed March 30, 2026)

- **Impact:** A profound victory for environmental justice, cultural preservation, and climate action. By forcing the cancellation of the terminal, the community saved sacred burial grounds from industrial desecration and protected the heritage of Ironton’s founders. The defeat prevented a massive new source of toxic air pollution in a region already heavily burdened by fossil fuel infrastructure, halted the export of millions of barrels of crude oil, and safeguarded vital coastal restoration efforts essential to Louisiana’s survival against rising seas and severe storms.

## 11. The “LNG Pause” Impacting CP2 (2024)

- **Threat:** The massive, proposed buildout of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) export terminals along the Gulf Coast—epitomized by the sprawling CP2 project in Cameron Parish, Louisiana—threatened to unleash an unprecedented global climate bomb. If built, this wave of mega-facilities would lock in decades of greenhouse gas emissions, carrying a carbon footprint larger than all remaining U.S. coal plants combined. Locally, the terminals threatened to dredge up vital coastal wetlands essential for hurricane protection and overwhelm already burdened environmental justice communities with severe toxic air pollution, including benzene and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Economically, exporting vast quantities of gas threatened to drive up domestic energy costs for American households.



**Source:** <https://hiphopcaucus.org/press/hip-hop-caucus-applauds-the-biden-administration-pause-to-lng-exports-that-will-halt-planet-killing-fossil-fuel-developments/> (Accessed March 30, 2026)

- **Frontline-Led Victory:** In a major national victory, relentless pressure from Gulf Coast frontline communities and national climate activists pushed the Biden-Harris Administration to announce a pause on approvals for new liquefied natural gas (LNG) export terminals. Organizers traveled to Washington D.C., threatened massive sit-ins, and highlighted how these facilities drive up domestic energy prices while poisoning local communities, successfully stalling massive proposed mega-projects like CP2 in Louisiana.
- **Impact:** A watershed moment for global climate action and environmental justice. The historic pause halted the momentum of the largest planned fossil fuel expansion on earth, temporarily averting billions of metric tons of potential carbon emissions. Crucially, it provided immediate relief to Gulf Coast “sacrifice zones” by freezing the permitting of heavily polluting infrastructure. It set a monumental precedent by forcing the federal government to finally update its public interest determinations to explicitly account for climate change, domestic energy burdens, and the disproportionate health impacts on frontline communities before rubber-stamping any future fossil fuel exports.

## 12. RISE St. James: The Ongoing Battle Against Formosa Plastics (2022–Present)

- Threat:** In Louisiana’s “Cancer Alley,” the Taiwanese chemical giant Formosa Plastics planned a \$9.4 billion, 2,400-acre petrochemical complex in St. James Parish that would double toxic emissions in the predominantly Black community. If built, it would be one of the largest plastics facilities in the world, threatening to emit upwards of 13 million tons of greenhouse gases annually, release known carcinogens like ethylene oxide, and desecrate the unmarked graves of enslaved people located on the site.



**Source:** <https://lailluminator.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/RISESt-James-1536x1024.jpg> (Accessed March 30, 2026)

- Frontline-Led Victory (Ongoing):** Founded by Sharon Lavigne, the faith-based grassroots organization RISE St. James, partnering with Earthjustice, successfully sued the state. In a landmark 2022 ruling, a state judge vacated Formosa’s air permits, citing environmental racism and the failure to consider the cumulative health impacts on the Black community. While an appeals court reinstated the permits in 2024, the initial victory stalled the project for years. RISE St. James continues to fight, now leveraging updated federal soot standards, new EPA reviews, and pushing the Army Corps of Engineers for prolonged environmental reviews to block the facility permanently.
- Impact:** A profoundly significant, ongoing triumph for environmental justice, public health, and human rights. By relentlessly stalling this \$9.4 billion mega-project, the frontline coalition has thus far averted the emission of millions of tons of greenhouse gases and protected a historically Black community from a devastating influx of cancer-causing air pollution. Furthermore, the resistance successfully protected ancestral lands and sacred burial sites from industrial destruction. Crucially, the campaign’s landmark legal victories have set powerful national precedents, forcing state and federal regulators to finally confront environmental racism and rigorously evaluate the “cumulative impacts” of overlapping industrial pollution.

### 13. Black Women for Wellness & SCOPE LA: Banning Urban Oil Drilling (2024)

- The Threat:** Neighborhoods in South Los Angeles are heavily burdened by active urban oil wells, exposing Black residents to severe reproductive and respiratory hazards right next to their homes and schools.
- The Grassroots Victory:** Black-led organizations framed climate action as a non-negotiable extension of reproductive justice. When oil companies successfully sued to overturn a hard-won 2022 Los Angeles city ordinance banning new wells, the organizers didn't stop. They took the fight to the state level. Thanks to years of "toxic tours," persistent lobbying, and coalition building by STAND-L.A., an environmental justice coalition, the Los Angeles City Council and County Board of Supervisors voted to ban new oil and gas wells.
- The Impact:** Frontline advocacy culminated in the passage of California State Law AB 3233, which explicitly shielded local governments from industry lawsuits and permanently codified the right of cities to restrict or ban oil drilling to protect public health. The ordinance established a framework to phase out existing wells, providing critical relief to low-income communities of color who have suffered from asthma, nosebleeds, and other health issues caused by neighborhood drilling.



**Source:** <https://i0.wp.com/capitalnews.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/2k0Vfw2X2MQu-6JqpqZcY3FMemk.jpeg?w=750&ssl=1>  
(Accessed March 30, 2026)

### 14. Union Hill vs. The Atlantic Coast Pipeline (Virginia, 2021)

- The Threat:** Dominion and Duke Energy attempted to build the 600-mile Atlantic Coast Pipeline, planning to place a massive, highly polluting gas compressor station directly in Union Hill, Virginia—a historic, unincorporated Black community founded by formerly enslaved people after the Civil War.
- The Grassroots Victory:** Residents and organizers, forming groups like Friends of Buckingham, fought a relentless six-year battle. When the developers tried to use flawed demographic data to claim the area was "majority white" to bypass environmental justice reviews, the community proved otherwise in court. The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals tossed the state's air permit, explicitly criticizing the failure to assess the disproportionate health impacts on the local African American population.
- The Impact:** Faced with insurmountable legal defeats driven by local frontline, Black-led pressure, the developers officially canceled the entire \$8 billion pipeline project.



**Source:** <https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/default/files/uploads-wysiwig/Web%20Richmond%20Rally%20WB.jpg>  
(Accessed March 30, 2026)

### 15. St. Croix vs. The Limetree Bay Refinery (U.S. Virgin Islands, 2021)

- The Threat:** In early 2021, the massive Limetree Bay oil refinery was rushed back into operation under a fast-tracked permit. Almost immediately, the facility began showering the predominantly Black and Brown communities downwind with toxic sulfur dioxide gas and actual droplets of oil, contaminating homes, farms, and drinking water cisterns.
- The Grassroots Victory:** Local organizers, including the St. Croix Environmental Association, rapidly mobilized to document the catastrophic health impacts and filed emergency appeals. Their relentless advocacy forced the EPA to take unprecedented action: utilizing emergency powers under the Clean Air Act to order an immediate, indefinite shutdown of the refinery.
- The Impact:** The EPA subsequently withdrew the facility's plantwide air permit entirely, explicitly citing "environmental justice concerns." The refinery's owners were forced into bankruptcy, halting a massive, generational pollution source.



**Source:** <https://stcroixsource.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2021/06/LimetreeSurvey-scaled-e1623979095246-696x419.jpg> (Accessed March 30, 2026)

### 16. Defeat of Big Oil's Referendum on Setback Laws (2024)

- Threat:** Neighborhood oil and gas drilling in California—often located mere feet from homes, schools, daycares, and hospitals—exposed nearly 3 million residents, disproportionately low-income communities and communities of color, to severe environmental health hazards. This proximity to active extraction sites threatened to saturate neighborhoods with toxic air pollutants like benzene, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and fine particulate matter, leading to skyrocketing rates of asthma, cardiovascular disease, adverse birth outcomes, and elevated cancer risks, while actively accelerating the climate crisis.
- Frontline-Led Victory:** Frontline communities in California successfully organized to defend Senate Bill 1137, which created a 3,200-foot health and safety buffer zone between toxic oil drilling sites and homes, schools, and hospitals. The fossil fuel industry spent over \$60 million to qualify a ballot referendum to overturn the law. In response, grassroots groups launched the "Campaign for a Safe and Healthy California," applying so much



**Source:** [https://www.cbecal.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/IMG\\_1439-aspect-ratio-800-450.webp](https://www.cbecal.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/IMG_1439-aspect-ratio-800-450.webp) (Accessed March 30, 2026)

public and political pressure that the industry shockingly withdrew their referendum from the ballot, allowing the setback law to stand.

- **Impact:** A historic, hard-fought triumph for environmental justice and public health. By successfully defending the 3,200-foot buffer zone, the frontline coalition legally protected millions of vulnerable Californians from the devastating, generational health impacts of neighborhood oil drilling. The victory halted the approval of new toxic wells near sensitive community areas, paving the way for the gradual phase-out of urban extraction statewide. Crucially, it proved that highly organized, grassroots environmental justice campaigns can successfully out-organize and defeat the massive financial lobbying power of Big Oil.

### 17. Retirement of the AES Redondo Beach Gas Plant (2023)

- **Threat:** Coastal gas-fired “peaker” plants—aging facilities designed to fire up quickly only during periods of peak electricity demand—posed severe, ongoing threats to public health and marine environments. Utilizing outdated “once-through cooling” (OTC) systems, these plants sucked in billions of gallons of ocean water daily, trapping and killing massive amounts of local marine life. Situated in densely populated coastal zones, they exposed surrounding neighborhoods to sudden, concentrated spikes of toxic nitrogen oxides (NOx) and fine particulate matter (PM2.5) when operating. Furthermore, their massive industrial footprint occupied prime shoreline real estate, physically blocking community access to the coast and actively hindering the state’s transition to a clean energy grid.
- **Frontline-Led Victory:** After over a decade of community organizing against fossil fuel infrastructure operating in densely populated coastal areas, local activists secured the final retirement of the Redondo Beach gas-fired “peaker” plant. The community successfully argued that the plant was an unnecessary, polluting eyesore that hindered coastal access and continually fought off industry attempts to secure emergency extensions from the state water board.
- **Impact:** A vital victory for coastal restoration, clean air, and the transition toward a fully renewable grid. Forcing the final retirement of this heavily polluting coastal peaker plant permanently eliminated sudden influxes of toxic air pollution in surrounding neighborhoods and stopped the destructive impacts of once-through cooling on local marine ecosystems. Crucially, defeating the utility’s continuous requests for emergency extensions proved that communities do not have to sacrifice their health and coastal access for grid reliability, accelerating the state’s urgent mandate to replace aging fossil-fuel infrastructure with utility-scale battery storage and clean energy alternatives.



**Source:** <https://www.dailybreeze.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/TDB-L-AES-0101-7-2.jpg?w=868> (Accessed March 30, 2026)

## GLOBAL: International Victories by Frontline Communities in Global South Nations

### The Bille and Ogale Communities: Piercing Shell's Corporate Veil (UK/Nigeria, 2025)

- Threat:** Decades of unaddressed oil spills by Shell's subsidiary in the Niger Delta poisoned the land and waterways of the Bille and Ogale communities.
- Frontline-Led Victory:** After fighting through years of jurisdictional red tape, Afro-descendant leadership from the Bille and Ogale communities in Ogoniland, who have suffered decades of ecological devastation, won a historic 2025 ruling in the UK High Court ensuring that Shell's parent company in London will stand trial for the environmental devastation in Nigeria, rejecting the company's attempt to use local statutes of limitations to escape justice. In a massive victory in June 2025, the UK High Court ruled that Shell and its former Nigerian subsidiary can be held legally responsible for legacy oil pollution, and the case will proceed to a full trial in 2027. The judge explicitly rejected Shell's attempts to escape liability by blaming third-party "sabotage" or citing local statutes of limitations. The court ruled that failing to clean up old spills constitutes an "ongoing breach," meaning Shell cannot run out the clock on the damage it caused.
- Impact:** The ruling established that failing to clean up old spills constitutes an "ongoing breach" of duty. This prevents multinational corporations from using complex subsidiary structures or running out the clock to escape liability for ecological devastation in the Global South.



**Source:** <https://morningstaronline.co.uk/sites/default/files/styles/desktop/public/10ecoprotest.jpg.webp?itok=hbX9j5ad> (Accessed March 30, 2026)

### 2. Uganda & Tanzania: The #StopEACOP Coalition Halting Expansion via Duty of Vigilance

- Threat:** The construction of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) by TotalEnergies, which has driven land grabs and human rights abuses, coupled with severe state repression and the imprisonment of local advocates protesting the pipeline in Uganda and Tanzania.
- Frontline-Led Victory:** A relentless grassroots network—comprising the #StopEACOP coalition, Justice



**Source:** [https://www.banktrack.org/thumbimage.php?image=dar\\_action\\_7\\_crop.jpeg&width=800&cropratio=16:9](https://www.banktrack.org/thumbimage.php?image=dar_action_7_crop.jpeg&width=800&cropratio=16:9) (Accessed March 30, 2026)

Movement Uganda, AFIEGO, youth, and farmers—refused to back down after an East African regional court dismissed their case on a technicality in late 2025. Despite facing severe state repression, they took the fight directly to the corporation’s home turf. In February 2026, alongside French NGOs, these frontline communities opened a landmark climate trial in France under the country’s “Duty of Vigilance” law. This is the first major trial asking a court to legally compel an oil major to halt fossil fuel expansion and answer for human rights abuses along a pipeline route.

- **Impact:** This landmark trial creates a powerful precedent by utilizing domestic corporate accountability laws in the Global North to enforce human rights and environmental protections in the Global South. It provides a strategic blueprint for challenging neocolonial extraction projects directly at their financial and operational sources.

### 3. Guyana: Grassroots Women Defeating ExxonMobil

- **Threat:** ExxonMobil failed to account for downstream carbon dioxide pollution.

- **Frontline-Led Victory:** Guyanese grassroots citizens, including Wintress Morris and Joy Marcus, environmentalists such as Sherlina Nageer of the Greenheart Movement, and Indigenous leaders from the Association of Amerindian Peoples are fiercely resisting the corporate capture of their nation and the lack of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) regarding carbon credits and drilling. In March 2025, Wintress Morris and Joy Marcus won a historic High Court case against the nation’s Environmental Protection Agency. The judge ruled that the EPA must force ExxonMobil to include Scope 3 emissions (the total downstream carbon dioxide pollution created when the extracted oil is burned) in the Environmental Impact Assessments for its massive offshore Hammerhead project. As Joy Marcus stated after the victory: *“We are ordinary grassroots women. We brought this case. We changed the law.”*



**Source:** <https://guyanaoilandgaschange.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/com6.jpeg>  
(Accessed March 30, 2026)

- **Impact:** This shatters the industry tactic of hiding the true climate impact of extraction projects and empowers citizens to hold state regulatory agencies accountable for corporate favoritism.

#### 4. Prosecuting Corporate Complicity in Mozambique (Cabo Delgado)

- Threat:** TotalEnergies provided logistical and financial support to the Mozambican State Security Forces to protect its LNG megaproject, fully knowing those forces were committing severe human rights violations against the local Afro-descendant population.
- Frontline-Led Victory:** Local Mozambican civil society groups, such as Justiça Ambiental (Friends of the Earth Mozambique), are leading the charge against the violent militarization of their land and the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Afro-descendant residents. In November 2025, a groundbreaking criminal complaint was filed in France against TotalEnergies for complicity in war crimes, torture, and enforced disappearances in the Cabo Delgado region. The complaint utilizes internal documents to allege that the company continued to fund and support Mozambican state security forces despite knowing those forces were committing severe human rights violations against the local population to secure the gas project.
- Impact:** Moving beyond civil liability for environmental damage, this strategy leverages international criminal law to hold fossil fuel executives directly accountable for the violent militarization and human rights abuses that often accompany resource extraction.



**Source:** [https://gogel.org/sites/default/files/2024-11/Afungi\\_Protest\\_Nov2024\\_04\\_Cr\\_Justic%CC%A7a\\_Ambiental\\_LR.jpg](https://gogel.org/sites/default/files/2024-11/Afungi_Protest_Nov2024_04_Cr_Justic%CC%A7a_Ambiental_LR.jpg) (Accessed March 30, 2026)

#### 5. South America: Asserting Indigenous Sovereignty (Ecuador & Argentina)

- Threat:** Multinational fracking operations in the Vaca Muerta megaproject resulted in severe landscape fragmentation and water contamination.
- Frontline-Led Victory:** Mapuche communities in Argentina (Vaca Muerta) and Indigenous federations in the Ecuadorian Amazon fought back. In Argentina, Mapuche leaders and environmental lawyers successfully sued the government throughout 2024 and 2025 to force the release of seismic data and formally challenge the state's failure to consult Indigenous communities before authorizing fracking expansion. In Ecuador, the global solidarity movement surrounding the Chevron case continues to expose the company's retaliatory SLAPP (Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation) suit tactics, keeping international pressure on corporate legal bullying.



**Source:** <https://opsur.org.ar/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/WhatsApp-Image-2023-08-17-at-20.14.49-7-1600x1024.jpeg> (Accessed March 30, 2026)

Furthermore, they launched formal legal challenges regarding the state's failure to adhere to the mandate of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) before authorizing extraction on traditional territories.

- **Impact:** This reinforces the legal necessity of FPIC and equips frontline communities with the environmental data required to mount further health and ecological damage claims.

## 6. Sustaining the Wild Coast: Halting Shell's Seismic Blasting in South Africa (2022–2024)

- **Threat:** Shell planned to conduct destructive seismic air-gun testing for offshore oil and gas along South Africa's incredibly biodiverse Eastern Cape (the Wild Coast), threatening the marine ecosystem and the livelihoods of local Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities.
- **Frontline-Led Victory:** Indigenous activists and educators, notably Nonhle Mbuthuma and Sinegugu Zukulu, organized their communities and took Shell to court. In September 2022, the Makhanda High Court rescinded Shell's exploration rights. The court issued a groundbreaking ruling that Shell had failed to meaningfully consult the community and, crucially, that the government had failed to consider the Mpondo people's cultural and spiritual connection to the ocean.
- **Impact:** The Supreme Court of Appeal upheld that the rights were granted unlawfully in 2024, sending the final battle to the Constitutional Court in late 2025. It stands as a monumental legal precedent recognizing Indigenous spiritual rights over corporate extraction.



**Source:** [https://www.moneyweb.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/2021-12-05T133447Z\\_1922806119\\_RC2A8R935F75\\_RTRMADP\\_3\\_SAFRICA-SHELL-1-555x335.jpg](https://www.moneyweb.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/2021-12-05T133447Z_1922806119_RC2A8R935F75_RTRMADP_3_SAFRICA-SHELL-1-555x335.jpg) (Accessed March 30, 2026)

## 7. The "Deadly Air" Constitutional Victory (South Africa, 2022–2025)

- **Threat:** The Mpumalanga Highveld in South Africa is heavily industrialized by Eskom's coal-fired power stations and Sasol's oil refineries, making it one of the worst air pollution hotspots on the planet. For years, the predominantly Black, socio-economically marginalized residents were subjected to severe respiratory illnesses and premature death while the government dragged its feet on enforcement.



**Source:** <https://groundwork.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Deadly-Air-Protest-PTA-High-Court-May-2021.jpg> (Accessed March 30, 2026)

- **Frontline-Led Victory:** Led by groundWork and the Vukani Environmental Justice Movement in Action (VEM), frontline communities took the South African government to court. In a watershed 2022 High Court ruling, which was triumphantly upheld by the Supreme Court of Appeal in April 2025, the courts declared that the toxic air in the Highveld was a direct violation of the residents' constitutional right to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being.
- **Impact:** The ruling shattered government complacency, legally compelling the state to enforce strict air quality management plans and penalize major corporate polluters who had previously operated with total impunity. It established that the constitutional right to healthy air can be achieved sooner than many perceive.

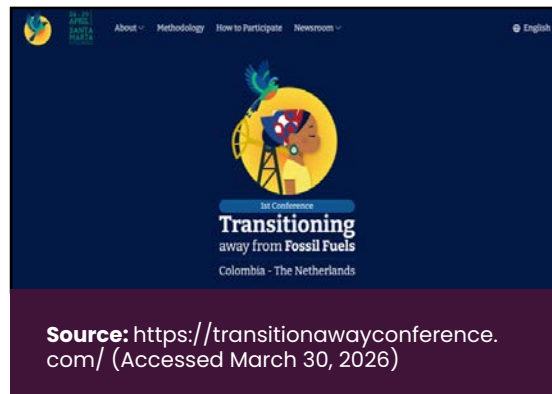
## 8. First International Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels (2026)

- **Threat:** The latest UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP30) – aka Conference of Polluters/Profiteers – ended without any mention of fossil fuels. This outcome failed to align with the objectives of the Paris Agreement or with the recent Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice, which confirmed that States have a legal obligation to protect the climate, including by addressing fossil fuel production, licensing and subsidies. *(Please see the section on “Global Foolery” for more details on why this happened at COP30.)*
- **Frontline-Led Action:** In response, the Governments of Colombia and the Netherlands announced they would co-host the First International Conference on the Transition Away from Fossil Fuels. This landmark convening will take place at the end of April in the port city of Santa Marta, Colombia, which plays a significant role in coal exports. In a statement from the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative (led by South African human rights and climate justice activist, Kumi Naidoo), this conference will “serve as a strategic space for dialogue among a broad range of stakeholders – including government representatives, experts, rural and Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant communities, civil society, climate advocates, industry leaders, and academia – to explore viable, fair, and equitable pathways for transitioning to sustainable, diversified, and accessible energy.” Pacific nations have committed to convening a subsequent meeting in the region to advance the outcomes.



**Source:** <https://www.stampoutpolarity.org/live2025/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Treaty-cop30-1.webp>  
(Accessed March 30, 2026)

- **Impact:** The conference – as an emerging alternative to COPs – will advance international cooperation on transitioning away from fossil fuel extraction in line with the Belem Declaration on the Just Transition Away from Fossil Fuels. (Twenty-four countries have signed the Belem Declaration: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Cambodia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Fiji, Finland, Ireland, Jamaica, Kenya, Luxembourg, the Marshall Islands, Mexico, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Nepal, the Netherlands, Panama, Spain, Slovenia, Vanuatu, and Tuvalu.) The convening in Santa Marta aims to facilitate a planned, just, and sustainable phase-out of fossil fuels and address the need for a structural shift in our socioeconomic model.



# Moving from Awareness to Accountability: Dismantling the Playbook

The fossil fuel industry has long relied on a sophisticated, well-funded playbook to manufacture consent and extend its extractive lifecycle. As detailed in *Fossil Fueled Foolery 3.0*, these tactics have evolved from blatant climate denial into insidious forms of co-optation, greenwashing, and the aggressive peddling of false solutions. By exploiting systemic economic inequities, the industry deliberately targets Black, Indigenous, and frontline communities, using strategic philanthropy, tokenization, and deceptive public relations (PR) to buy silence and fracture community solidarity.

We have exposed the dark money pipelines, the regulatory capture, and the cynical manipulation of civil rights narratives used to justify continued pollution in our backyards. But exposing foolery is only the first step.

True environmental and climate justice requires structural dismantling of this machinery. We must transition from defensive struggles against individual pipelines and polluting facilities to a proactive strategy that revokes the industry's social license and political cover. The transition away from an extractive economy cannot be managed by the very corporations that created the crisis.

The resistance is already rising!!

Multiple revolts in the past five years have halted corporate greed in its tracks!!

To protect our communities and advance genuine, regenerative solutions, every sector of society must commit to stringent, uncompromising standards of engagement. The following action steps provide a comprehensive roadmap for frontline communities, the media, government, watchdog groups, and philanthropy to not only resist these manipulative tactics but to actively starve the fossil fuel industry of the complicity it needs to survive.

*N.B.* Because the author and organization is based in the United States, the belly of the extractive economy beast, these recommendations are largely focused on U.S. action. The Chisholm Legacy Project's two other [publications on climate finance](#) lift ways that Global South nations are already organizing against the extractive economy by building alternatives, as well as ways that the United States political system and multilateral governance bodies need to shift and/or get out of the way to make space for Global South national and frontline community local self-determination.

## Frontline Communities

For those of us living on the frontlines of the climate crisis, self-determination is our greatest defense; we must build resilient, autonomous networks that are impervious to industry co-optation.

- **Establish Autonomous Resource Hubs:** Build and sustain independent community networks to reduce reliance on extractive funding, ensuring local leadership remains uncompromised by industry money or utility grants.
- **Codify Rules of Engagement:** Develop and adopt strict, community-wide principles for engaging with fossil fuel developers and utility companies to prevent the targeted co-optation of local leaders and organizations.
- **Define and Reject False Solutions:** Utilize community-based participatory action research to clearly delineate between real solutions (e.g., community-owned solar, energy efficiency) and industry-pushed false solutions (e.g., carbon capture and storage, biomass, or “renewable” natural gas) that perpetuate harm in sacrifice zones.
- **Campaign Finance Reform:** Lead the movement in legislating ejecting money from politics.

## Media

Journalists and media outlets must move beyond the harmful illusion of ‘neutrality’ and commit to exposing the industry’s strategic deception rather than simply repeating its public relations talking points.

- **Eradicate “Both-Sidesism” in Climate Coverage:** Stop presenting industry PR and front-group talking points as equal to peer-reviewed science or the lived realities of impacted communities. Call out greenwashing and manipulative tactics directly.
- **Center Frontline Expertise:** Frame frontline community members not merely as victims of pollution, but as the primary experts, innovators, and architects of climate justice solutions.
- **Investigate the Financial Web:** Dedicate investigative resources to tracing and exposing the dark money pipelines between fossil fuel conglomerates, PR firms, and the funding used to pacify civil rights and community organizations.

## Federal, State, and Local Government

Elected officials and regulatory agencies must stop acting as rubber stamps for extractive energy monopolies and begin institutionalizing binding protections that prioritize community health over corporate profits.

- **Institutionalize Cumulative Impact Assessments:** Mandate that all levels of government require rigorous cumulative health and environmental impact assessments before approving any new or expanded infrastructure in historically overburdened communities.
- **Prohibit Ratepayer-Funded Lobbying:** State governments must strictly prohibit utility companies from using ratepayer funds for political lobbying, trade association dues, or deceptive PR campaigns that undermine local climate action.
- **Legislate the Rejection of False Solutions:** Federal and state climate action plans must explicitly exclude public subsidies for fossil fuel infrastructure extensions (like hydrogen or carbon capture) and instead prioritize direct emissions reductions and localized clean energy deployment.

## Watchdog Groups

Transparency and accountability organizations are essential to pulling back the curtain and must focus their resources on exposing the dark money pipelines and revolving doors that keep the fossil fuel machinery running. Please keep doing what you do....

- **Trace and Expose Dark Money:** Relentlessly track the financial flows from the fossil fuel industry to local front groups and co-opted community organizations, making this data transparent and easily accessible to the public.
- **Monitor Regulatory Capture:** Focus heavily on the capture of Public Utility Commissions (PUCs), local zoning boards, and state environmental agencies, exposing the revolving door between industry lobbyists and regulators.
- **Arm Communities with Localized Data:** Create user-friendly, localized databases for frontline communities to track polluter violations, specific lobbying efforts, and political donations down to the zip code or precinct level.
- **Partner with Narrative Shift Experts and Influencers:** Translate complex investigative data into compelling, accessible, and culturally relevant stories by teaming up with communicators, artists, and trusted digital influencers. Ensure that hard-hitting research on fossil fuel corruption doesn't languish in dense reports but is instead weaponized to directly counter industry greenwashing, disrupt their public relations machinery, and mobilize public outrage on a mass scale.

## Philanthropy

The philanthropic sector must radically shift its resource distribution, abandoning restrictive, project-based grantmaking in favor of deep, unrestricted investments in grassroots, Black, Indigenous, and frontline-led solutions.

- **Acknowledge the Moment and Increase Endowment Spend:** Treat the climate crisis as the existential emergency it is by moving far beyond the legally mandated 5% payout minimum. Philanthropic institutions must actively spend down their endowments or drastically increase annual distributions, recognizing that hoarding wealth for perpetuity is a profound contradiction when frontline communities need immediate, massive infusions of capital to fight for a livable future today.
- **Shift to Trust-Based, Unrestricted Funding:** Move immediately from rigid, project-based grants to unrestricted, multi-year operating support for frontline, Black, and Indigenous-led climate justice organizations.
- **Divest and Reinvest:** Completely divest organizational endowments from fossil fuels and intentionally reinvest those funds directly into community-owned, regenerative economic models.
- **Fund the “Defense”:** Allocate robust funding for legal defense, physical and digital security, and strategic communications to protect frontline activists who are routinely targeted, sued, or criminalized for resisting fossil fuel infrastructure.
- **Support Transnational Frontline Movements:** Resource cross-border solidarity by intentionally funding the connective tissue, including coalition building, shared strategy, and knowledge exchange, which unites localized struggles into a cohesive global force. Philanthropy must break down geographic funding silos and invest heavily in interconnected networks that share resources and tactics. This means increasing support to coordinated international models ensuring frontline groups have the sustained capacity to mount collaborative resistance against multinational fossil fuel interests.

## Academia

Institutions of research and medicine must draw a hard ethical line against industry influence, refusing to lend their credibility to polluters while actively leveraging their institutional power to validate the lived realities of overburdened communities.

- **Reject Industry Funding:** Academic and scientific institutions must implement strict conflict-of-interest policies that ban the acceptance of fossil fuel funding for climate, energy, and environmental research to prevent the publication of biased, industry-serving studies.
- **Democratize Data:** Partner with frontline communities for data collection, ensuring that research serves the community's direct advocacy needs rather than simply extracting their experiences for academic prestige. Communities must lead on these partnerships.

## Healthcare Professionals

The power and responsibility of the healthcare worker must extend beyond the health care facility into addressing the system that foments and perpetuates illness. It is incumbent upon medical professions to utilize their unique perspective of observation and their knowledge of what causes illness to address systemic drivers of disease.

- **Testify on Health Impacts:** Treat proximity to fossil fuel infrastructure as a critical social determinant of health. Medical professionals must use their institutional authority to publicly testify against infrastructure permits based on localized impacts on maternal health, respiratory illnesses, and extreme heat vulnerabilities.

### **Beyond Foolery: The Mandate for Liberation**

Exposing foolery is our baseline. Ending the extractive economy is our mandate. Just Transition is the vision. We are actively dismantling the fossil fuel industry's orchestrated harm machinery piece by piece. We are choking off their capital, revoking their social license, and shattering their deceptive narratives. In so doing, we are reclaiming the power they have extracted from our communities. By seizing the reins from the architects of our crises, we are advancing a profound, systemic transformation led entirely by the frontlines. The resistance must unify around a demand is non-negotiable: A world rooted in justice and collective liberation. Our vision of a Just Transition must become the new world order. The era of fossil fueled foolery ends with us.



# APPENDIX

## U.S. Domestic Watchdog/Alternatives Resources

### Track Misinformation and PR Tactics

- **DeSmog:** This is one of the premier investigative organizations dedicated to clearing the PR pollution that clouds climate science. They maintain an extensive, well-researched database of individuals and organizations involved in climate denial and delay, making it an excellent resource for tracking industry talking points and front groups.
- **Energy and Policy Institute (EPI):** EPI specifically exposes the attacks on renewable energy and counters misinformation by the fossil fuel and utility industries. They are highly effective at tracking how utility companies use ratepayer money to fund lobbying and dark-money campaigns that prolong fossil fuel dependence.
- **Center for Media and Democracy (CMD):** Through their *SourceWatch* platform, CMD tracks corporate spin and the front groups funded by fossil fuel interests. They are particularly good at exposing the funding streams behind seemingly grassroots “astroturf” organizations.

### Track Financial and Political Influence

- **InfluenceMap:** This organization provides rigorous, data-driven analysis of how corporations and industry associations are lobbying against climate policy. They score companies based on their real-world climate lobbying versus their public statements, exposing the “say one thing, do another” greenwashing tactics.
- **Oil Change International (OCI):** OCI focuses heavily on exposing the true economic costs of fossil fuels. They are a leading watchdog on fossil fuel subsidies, tracking the exact flow of government and private finance into the industry and analyzing the data to support a managed decline of fossil fuel extraction.
- **OpenSecrets:** While not exclusively focused on fossil fuels, their database is the gold standard for tracking money in U.S. politics. You can use their tools to trace campaign contributions and lobbying expenditures directly from oil, gas, and coal companies to specific politicians and PACs.
- **PowerLines:** PowerLines focuses on modernizing the utility regulatory system to accelerate the transition to affordable, reliable, and clean energy. By engaging state Public Utility Commissions (PUCs) and advocating for consumer and community interests, they work to hold utilities accountable and shift the grid away from fossil fuels.
- **Institute for Local Self Reliance (ILSR):** ILSR provides extensive, ongoing coverage of how utility monopolies use ratepayer-funded war chests to hire lobbyists and crush distributed generation of solar.

### Advance Legal Accountability, Human Rights, and Environmental Justice

- **Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL):** CIEL uses international law to hold the industry accountable. They have done groundbreaking investigative work—such as the “Smoke and Fumes” report—uncovering internal industry documents that prove fossil fuel companies knew about the catastrophic risks of climate change decades ago.
- **Corporate Accountability:** This group campaigns to stop transnational corporations from devastating democracy, equity, and the environment. Their climate campaign specifically targets fossil fuel giants, working to kick big polluters out of international climate policy spaces (like the UN COP negotiations) and holding them liable for damages to frontline communities.
- **Global Witness:** They investigate the economic networks behind environmental destruction and human rights abuses. Their reporting frequently exposes the links between the fossil fuel industry, political corruption, and violence against environmental land defenders, offering a crucial global perspective on industry practices.
- **Earthjustice:** Earthjustice wields the power of the law to defend frontline communities and block the expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure. Through strategic litigation, they consistently defeat oil and gas projects in court while mandating the adoption of clean, renewable energy alternatives.
- **The Equation Campaign:** The Equation Campaign is a philanthropic initiative dedicated to halting fossil fuel expansion by directly funding the frontline and BIPOC-led communities fighting it. They provide rapid response grants and strategic resources for legal, media, and grassroots campaigns to stop oil and gas infrastructure at the source.
- **Women’s Earth and Climate Action Network (WECAN):** The Women’s Earth and Climate Action Network mobilizes the leadership of global grassroots and frontline women to systematically dismantle the financial pillars of the extractive economy. By aggressively targeting big transnational banks and asset managers, WECAN exposes how these institutions bankroll environmental racism and demands total divestment from fossil fuel projects. Their campaigns force the financial sector to stop underwriting climate chaos and instead resource a feminist, frontline-led Just Transition.
- **Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN):** The Indigenous Environmental Network grounds the fight against the extractive economy in Indigenous sovereignty, traditional ecological knowledge, and the unyielding defense of Mother Earth. They lead the charge in physically halting fossil fuel infrastructure while simultaneously exposing and dismantling the industry’s greenwashed “false solutions,” such as carbon trading, offsets, and geoengineering. IEN champions an Indigenous Just Transition, ensuring that the path away from fossil fuels is not co-opted by corporate profiteers and is fundamentally rooted in decolonization, treaty rights, and regenerative economies.

- **Climate Justice Alliance (CJA):** The Climate Justice Alliance unites frontline, community-based organizations to transition local economies away from extractive, fossil-fuel dependence from the ground up. By vigorously campaigning against the fossil fuel industry's toxic infrastructure and insidious false solutions, CJA ensures that Black, Indigenous, and working-class communities are the undeniable architects of the Just Transition. Their collective organizing starves the fossil fuel machinery of its power while birthing the regenerative framework necessary for true environmental and economic liberation.
- **Grassroots Global Justice (GGJ):** Grassroots Global Justice unites working-class communities of color in the U.S. with global social movements to mount a coordinated, transnational defense against the extractive economy. By aggressively challenging the colonial drivers of climate change and exposing corporate false solutions, they build the political power necessary to force a Just Transition. Their work bridges local resistance with international solidarity to dismantle fossil fuel hegemony and birth a regenerative, feminist economy.
- **National Black Environmental Justice Network (NBEJN):** NBEJN has undertaken a four-point strategy to combat environmental racism that focuses on: 1) Safe and healthy communities; 2) Sustainable development, climate justice, and clean production; 3) Civil rights and equal protection laws and policies; 4) International human rights protection.
- **NAACP:** The NAACP's vast membership is comprised of the very communities on the frontlines of fossil fueled foolery. In 2026, they released a playbook for frontline communities to stop dirty data centers. The report outlines critical recommendations to ensure AI data centers are developed responsibly, equitably, and without causing environmental harm to Black, Brown, and low-income communities as well as community benefit agreement resources for data center buildouts.
- **Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA):** PACJA is one of Africa's leading coalitions working on climate and energy justice. It consists of over 2,000 organizations from 54 African countries and advocates for pro-poor, people-centered climate policies. PACJA engages at both national and international levels, including participating in the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) negotiations, pushing for climate financing mechanisms that favor vulnerable communities.
- **Taproot Earth:** Taproot advances policies that shift the balance of power away from the extractive fossil fuel industry and toward the responsible energy stewardship of frontline communities. In 2023, Taproot issued an Energy Policy Playbook with the goal of ending the era of fossil fuels and supplanting it with a future of energy democracy and justice.
- **The Black Hive at the Movement for Black Lives (M4BL):** M4BL is a national network of more than 150 leaders and organizations creating a broad political home for Black people to learn, organize and take action. The Black Hive is M4BL's climate collective of Black CEJ experts who assess how climate change and ecological destruction impact Black communities in the U.S. and across the Global Black Diaspora. They organize for cleaner, better, and safer futures for Black lives. The Black Hive called on the UN COP30 to deliver a full, fair, and funded phase-out of fossil fuels by 2030.

- **The Fossil Fuel Treaty Initiative:** The Fossil Fuel Treaty Initiative is an alliance of nation-states and civil society working to secure a global just transition from coal, oil and gas. The Initiative is spurring international cooperation to end new development of fossil fuels, phase out existing production within the agreed climate limit of 1.5°C and develop plans to support workers, communities and countries dependent on fossil fuels to create secure and healthy livelihoods.

### Engage Academic and Research-Based Analysis

- **Climate Investigations Center:** They monitor the individuals, corporations, trade associations, and political groups working to delay the implementation of climate policy. They frequently publish deep-dive investigations into trade associations like the American Petroleum Institute (API).
- **Union of Concerned Scientists:** The Union of Concerned Scientists employs rigorous, independent research to expose fossil fuel industry disinformation and combat climate change. They advocate for science-based policies that accelerate the equitable deployment of clean energy and hold corporate polluters accountable.

### Build the Alternative

- **Grassroots International:** Grassroots International actively subverts the extractive forces driving the climate crisis by redirecting capital and solidarity directly to frontline movements in the Global South. Through trust-based solidarity philanthropy, they resource the localized resistance of Indigenous peoples, small farmers, and women who are physically blocking fossil fuel exploitation and land theft. By backing community-owned agroecology and regenerative models, they empower the very populations doing the necessary, on-the-ground work to dismantle systemic environmental racism and build a Just Transition.
- **New Economy Coalition:** The New Economy Coalition is a network of organizations working to build a solidarity economy that structurally shifts power and resources away from fossil fuel corporations. They champion systemic alternatives that prioritize community ownership, ecological sustainability, and a truly just transition to clean energy.
- **SHINE Collab:** SHINE resources women-led community organisations and enterprises by providing resources for renewable energy access, improving livelihoods, wellbeing, and climate resilience. We scale successful pilot initiatives across Africa, and the Global South through radical collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and strong partnerships. By amplifying stories and evidence, we advocate for increased funding and policy changes to promote a people-centered, inclusive Just Energy Transition.
- **The Chisholm Legacy Project: Policies for the People Database:** This database serves as a comprehensive policy exchange featuring federal, state, and local legislation designed to advance Black liberation, Just Transition, and regenerative economies. It actively equips frontline communities with the legislative tools and models needed to dismantle extractive fossil fuel systems and implement equitable, community-led clean energy solutions.

# End Notes

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