

The Sky's Limit: No New Fossil Fuel Development

An open letter to world leaders:

One year ago in Paris, the world came together to finalize a new agreement to address the climate crisis. Together, countries committed to “[h]olding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change.”¹

Now, the Paris Agreement has entered into force and the time has come to fulfill the commitments made within it.

Climate impacts are already here today, as seen in the melting of the Arctic, coral bleaching in the Pacific, droughts in Africa, stronger and more frequent hurricanes and typhoons in our oceans, and new challenges day by day the world over. The commitment to pursue efforts to limit global warming to 1.5°C was an important new goal, especially for vulnerable countries and communities who are already bearing the brunt of these ever-growing impacts of the climate crisis. But with this necessary ambition comes responsibility and challenge.

Analysis has now shown that the carbon embedded in existing fossil fuel production, if allowed to run its course, would take us beyond the globally agreed goals of limiting warming to well below 2°C and pursuing efforts to limit to 1.5°C.²

The global carbon budgets associated with either temperature limit will be exhausted with current fossil fuel projects, and in fact some currently-operating fossil fuel projects will need to be retired early in order to have appropriately high chances of staying below even the 2°C limit, let alone 1.5°C.

With this new understanding, the challenge has never been clearer. To live up to the goals set forth by the Paris Agreement and to safeguard our climate for this and future generations, fossil fuel production must enter a managed decline immediately, and renewable energy must be advanced to swiftly take its place in the context of a just transition.

Therefore, we, as over 400 civil society organizations from more than 60 countries, representing tens of millions around the world, call on world leaders to put an immediate halt to new fossil fuel development and pursue a just transition to renewable energy with a managed decline of the fossil fuel industry.

¹ The Paris Agreement: http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9485.php

² See report here: <http://priceofoil.org/2016/09/22/the-skys-limit-report/>

We can do this. With a managed decline to wind down fossil fuel production that ensures a smooth and just transition to a safer energy economy, we can protect workers, protect communities, bring energy access to the poor, and ramp up renewable energy as quickly as we put an end to fossil fuels.

Since rich countries have a greater historic responsibility to act, they should provide support to poorer countries to help expand non-carbon energy and drive economic development as part of their fair share of global action, with a focus on meeting the urgent priority of providing universal access to energy. The good news is that renewable energy can -- as it must -- fill in the gap and power a clean energy future.

The world can either start now in pursuing a managed decline of the fossil fuel industry and a just transition to renewable energy, or it can delay action and bring about economic upheaval and climate chaos. The choice is clear.

The first step in this effort is a simple one: Stop digging. No additional fossil fuel development, no exploration for new fossil fuels, no expansion of fossil fuel projects. We need to keep fossil fuels in the ground.

Signed,

Individuals

Darren Aronofsky, director
Nnimmo Bassey, Health of
Mother Earth Foundation
Naomi Klein, author/activist
Bill McKibben, author/activist
Ed Norton, actor/activist
Mark Ruffalo, actor/activist
Susan Sarandon, actor/activist
Yeb Sano, Greenpeace SEA
Shailene Woodley, actor/activist

International

350.org
ACT Alliance
Asia Pacific Forum on Women,
Law and Development
(APWLD)
Change Partnership
Christian Aid
Climate Action Network (CAN) -
Europe
Climates
Coopération Internationale pour
le Développement et la
Solidarité (CIDSE)

Food & Water Watch
Global Catholic Climate
Movement
Greenpeace International
Oil Change International
Pachamama Alliance
SEE Change Net
The Lutheran World Federation
Transport & Environment

Argentina

Aclimatando

Armenia

NGO EcoTeam

Australia

Australian Women's Health
Network
Australian Youth Climate
Coalition
Beyond Zero Emissions
Centre for Climate Safety
Citizens' Climate Lobby -
Australia
Climate Action Hobart

Climate Action Monaro
Climate and Health Alliance
Climate Change Action Network
CORENA - Citizens Own
Renewable Energy Network
Australia
Long Future Foundation
North Queensland Conservation
Council
The Wilderness Society
Climate Change
Balmain-Rozelle

Austria

"System Change, not Climate
Change!"
Finance & Trade Watch

Bangladesh

Gender and Water Alliance
Bangladesh
Krisoker Sor (Farmers' Voice)

Belgium

11.11.11
Carbon market watch

Climate Express
Corporate Europe Observatory
FairFin
Food & Water Europe
Health and Environment
Alliance
Health Care Without Harm
Europe
Inter-Environnement Wallonie
Youth Council of the
French-Speaking Community
of Belgium

Bolivia

Instituto de Capacitación para el
Desarrollo (INCADE)
Red nacional de organizaciones
sociales
Reacción Climática
TvEducativa para el desarrollo
económico en el norte
amazónico de Bolivia

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Center for Environment
SEE Change Net Foundation

Brasil

Abong - Brazilian Association of
NGOs
Ação Franciscana de Ecologia e
Solidariedade - AFES
Associação Alternativa Terrazul
Conferência da Família
Franciscana do Brasil
Engajamundo
FÓRUM MUDANÇAS
CLIMÁTICAS E JUSTIÇA
SOCIAL
Instituto Paulo Freire - Brasil
Sinfrajupe: Serviço
Inter-Franciscano de Justiça,
Paz e Ecologia
Vida Brasil

Canada

350 Ottawa
Alternatives

Association québécoise de lutte
contre la pollution
atmosphérique (AQLPA)
Canadian Youth Climate
Coalition
Citizens' Climate Lobby Canada
Climate Action Network Canada
-Réseau action climat Canada
Ecology Action Centre
Équiterre
Sierra Club BC
Wilderness Committee

Colombia

Yes to Life No to Mining Latin
America

Côte d'Ivoire

SYNPA-MSU (Attac-Côte
d'Ivoire)

Czechia

International Young
Naturefriends
Pratele prirody z. S.

Democratic Republic of Congo

Action Paysanne Contre la Faim
Conseil Regional des
Organisations non
Gouvernementales de
Développement du Kasai
Oriental

Denmark

350 Climate Movement of
Denmark

El Salvador

CESTA Amigos de la Tierra

Finland

EKOenergy
Kepa - The Finnish NGO
Platform
The Finnish Nature League
(Luonto-Liitto)

France

4D

Adéquations
AITEC
Alofa Tuvalu
Alternatiba
ANV-COP21
APEL57
Attac France
CCFD-Terre Solidaire
Climate Action Network France
Coalition Climat 21 Collectif
Hautes-Pyrénées
Coeur de Forêt
Collectif Causse Méjean - Gaz
de schiste NON !
Collectif citoyen de Pézenas,
Castelnau de Guers et
environs
Collectif du Céressou
Collectif IDF Non aux pétroles et
gaz de schiste et de couche
Collectif non gds Campagnan St
Pargoire
Collectif Stop gaz de schiste
Florac
CRID
CSIA-Nitassinan
Enercoop Nord-Pas de Calais -
Picardie
ENERGIES 2050
Fondation Danielle Mitterrand
France Libertés
Fondation Nicolas Hulot pour la
nature et l'homme
I4CE - Institute for Climate
Economics
Immigration Développement
Démocratie
Institut Veblen
La Confédération Paysanne
Parti de Gauche
Planet Roller
Réseau Euromed France
Réseau Foi & Justice Afrique
Europe antenne France
Sciences Citoyennes
The Shift Project
TaCa (Agir pour le Climat)
Terre et Liberté pour Arauco
Union syndicale Solidaires

Urgenci International
Community Supported
Agriculture Network
Virage énergie Nord-Pas de
Calais

Gabon
Attac Gabon

The Gambia
Worldview

Germany
Abgefrackt Bündnis Weidener
Becken gegen Fracking
Action Group "Haende weg von
Schwedeneck", Northern
Germany

AK Fracking BS
Andy Gheorghiu Consulting
BI lebenswertes Korbach e.V.
BI WAA NAA BI gegen atomare
Anlagen
Weiden-Neustadt/WN
Brot für die Welt/ Bread for the
World

Divest Aachen
Divest Uni Kassel
Energiewende ER(H)langen
e.V.

Energy Watch Group
Fossil Free Cologne
Fossil Free Deutschland
Fossil Free Essen
Fossil Free Freiburg
Fossil Free Goettingen

Fossil Free München
Fossil Free Oldenburg
Fossil Free Stuttgart

Germanwatch
GenderCC – Women for Climate
Justice

Urgewald
WissenLeben e.V.
Fossil Free Berlin

Ghana
Abibiman Foundation
Religious Bodies Network on
Climate Change

Oilwatch Ghana
150
Hungary
Clean Air Action Group

Iceland
Iceland Nature Conservation
Association

India
Bhoomi Network
Human Rights Forum
Paryavaran Mitra
The POP Movement

Ireland
Cork Climate Action
Ennis Transition Towns
Environmental Pillar
FIS NUA
Fracking Free Clare
Keep Ireland Fracking Free
People's Climate Ireland
ShamrockSpring
Trocaire

Italy
Focsiv
Legambiente

Kenya
TLC4Environment

Latvia
Friends of the Earth Latvia

Malaysia
Malaysian Youth Delegation

Marshall Islands
Jo-Jikun

Mexico
Climate Strike
ECOMUNIDADES, Red
Ecologista Autónoma de la
Cuenca de México
Freshwater Action Network
Mexico

Mongolia
Mongolia-Israeli Science
Agency
Mongolian National Council of
Scientists

Montenegro
NGO Green Home

Morocco
Ass - Chabab El Borj
Association Bab marrakech
Association Chabab El Borj
Association du Gharb pour la
Protection de l'Environnement
Association Eau et Energie pour
Tous

Association Femmes Pour
L'égalité et la Démocratie
Association L'avenir Pour le
Développement-Commune
OULED SELMANE-PR SAFI
Association Mayadine Pour le
Développement et
l'Environnement

Association of Rupestral
Heritage of Southern Morocco
Association Oualidia New Green
Wave (ONGW)

Association Youth Ennahda for
Development &
Communication in Boujdour
Association Amal pour
developpement;culture et sport
Touissit

Club Marocain pour
l'environnement et le
développement (Ahfir)

Forum des Alternatives Maroc
Moroccan Association of
Character Education

Réseau associatif khnifiss
Union des associations rurales
de la commune d'OULED
SELMANE-SAFI

Youth Society Renaissance
Neighborhood Development
and Communication in
Boujdour

شبكة خليج الداخلة للعمل الجمعي والتنمية

Association Mars Social
Association éveil de la jeunesse

Nepal

Campaign for Climate Justice
Nepal
Digo Bikas Institute

Netherlands

Amsterdam Fossilvrij
BankTrack
Both ENDS
Concerned Citizens Against
Climate Change
Den Haag Fossilvrij
Fossilvrij NL
Growing Air Foundation
Utrecht Climate Neutral
WECF International

New Zealand

350 Aotearoa
New Zealand Public Service
Association (NZPSA)
P3 Foundation

Niger

l'Association Nigérienne des
Scouts de l'Environnement

Nigeria

Centre for Human Rights and
Climate Change Research
Health of Mother Earth
Foundation (HOMEF)
Kebetkache Women
Development & Resource
Centre
Labour, Health and Human
Rights Development Centre
Peace Point Action (PPA)
Women Initiative on Climate
Change

Norway

Naturvernforbundet, Friends of
the Earth Norway

Pakistan

Umeedenoo citizen community
board

Peru

Movimiento Ciudadano frente al
Cambio Climático - MOCICC
TierrActiva Peru

Philippines

Amianan Salakniban (Defend
the North)
Center for Energy, Ecology, and
Development (CEED)
IBON International
Institute for Climate and
Sustainable Cities
Philippine Movement for Climate
Justice

Poland

ClientEarth Prawnicy dla Ziemi
Fundacja "Rozwój TAK -
Odkrywki NIE"
Koalicja Klimatyczna (The
Climate Coalition)

Portugal

Plataforma Algarve Livre de
Petróleo
Preservar Aljezur
StoPetroleo Vila do Bispo
Tavira em Transição
ZERO – Association for the
Sustainability of the Earth
System

Puerto Rico

Earth Day Puerto Rico

Scotland

Radical Independence
Campaign East Kilbride

Serbia

One Degree Serbia

Slovenia

Focus Association for
Sustainable Development

South Africa

WoMin Alliance
Jubilee South Africa

Spain

Amigos de la Tierra (FoE Spain)
Asociación de Cultura Popular
"Alborada"
Bizi! (Basque region)
DIAGONAL Newspaper
Ecologistas en Acción
Guadalajara
Ecologistas en Acción
Ecologistas en Acción de
Asturias
Ecologistas en Acción Palencia
ELA (Basque Region)
InspirAction

Swaziland

Foundation for Socio-Economic
Justice

Sweden

Fossil Free Uppsala University
Fossil Free Sweden

Switzerland

Alliance Sud
IntLawyers
Klimaatelier
Noé21
Swiss Youth for Climate

Tanzania

CAN Tanzania
Mazingira Network - Tanzania
(MANET)

Togo

Women Environmental
Programme Togo

Tunisie

Forum Tunisien pour les Droits
Economiques et Sociaux
UGTT (Union Générale
Tunisienne du Travail)

Turkey

350Ankara.org
Earth Association
Ecology Collective Association
TEMA Foundation

Uganda

Climate Action Network Uganda
Ecological Christian
Organisation (ECO).
NAPE Oil Watch Uganda
National Association for
Women's Action in
Development

United Kingdom

Coal Action Network
Fossil Free Islington
Frack Free Wales
Friends of the Earth (England,
Wales & Northern Ireland)
Healthy Planet UK
LDC News Service
No Fracking NB
REAF
Roseacre Awareness Group
Track 0
UK Youth Climate Coalition

United States

350 Bellingham
350 Brooklyn
350 Central Virginia
350 Conejo / San Fernando
Valley
350 Corvallis
350 CT
350 DC
350 Idaho
350 Kishwaukee
350 Louisiana - New Orleans
350 Maine
350 MoCo
350 NYC
350 PDX
350 Pittsburgh
350 Salem OR
350 Sandpoint
350 South Florida
350 Triangle

350VT
Alaska Wilderness League
Amazon Watch
Appalachian Voices
Bronx Climate Justice North
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Environmental Health
Center for International
Environmental Law
Center for Radical Honesty
Chesapeake Climate Action
Network
Climate Action Now (Western
Massachusetts)
Climate Compassion
The Climate Justice Project
Climate Law & Policy Project
ClimateMama
Colorado Rising
Columbus Community Bill of
Rights
Columbus Community Bill of
Rights
Cooperation Jackson
Earth Action
Earth Care
Earthworks
EcoEquity
Environment America
Fairbanks Climate Action
Coalition
Forest City 350 and Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America
Forest City 350
Fort Valley Voices for Action
(FVVA)
Fossil Free California
Grassroots Global Justice
Alliance
Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Greenbelt Climate Action
Network
Greenpeace USA
Health Care Without Harm US
HUMAN NATURE Theater
Company
Idle No More SF Bay
Institute for Policy Studies
(Climate Policy Program)
Iowa 350

Justice and Witness Ministries
of the United Church of Christ
Kent on Climate
Labor Network For Sustainability
Lansing 350
Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation
Liology Institute
Living Rivers
Montana Environmental
Information Center
Movement Rights
NEOGAP Network for Oil and
Gas Accountability and
Protection
North Country Veterans for
Peace
Northeast Organic Farming
Association Interstate Council
Northern Alaska Environmental
Center
Oil Change USA
Operation HomeCare
Organic Consumers Association
Oxy 350 for Climate Action
Popular Resistance
Power Shift Network
Radical Arts and Healing
Collective
Rainforest Action Network
Renewable Communities
Alliance
ReThink Energy Florida
Rootskeeper
Safe Climate Campaign
San Antonio 350
Science & Environmental Health
Network
Seeds for the Sol
Solar Farm Education
Steps Coalition
Students for a Just and Stable
Future
SustainUS
The Canary Coalition
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
of Corvallis
U.S. Climate Plan
Up To Us
Waterkeeper Alliance
WildEarth Guardians

Women's Earth and Climate
Action Network, International
(WECAN)
Young Voices for the Planet

Vietnam
CHANGE

Zimbabwe
Centre for Natural Resource
Governance
Zimbabwe Human Rights
Association