

# 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.”<sup>1</sup>

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.<sup>2</sup>

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.***

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<sup>1</sup> The Paris Agreement: [http://unfccc.int/paris\\_agreement/items/9485.php](http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9485.php)

<sup>2</sup> 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 nacioanl de organizaciones  
sociales  
Reacción Climática  
TvEducativa para el desarrollo  
economico en el norte  
amazonico 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  
Developpement 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