

# PEOPLE OVER POLLUTERS DECLARATION



## IT COULD NOT BE CLEARER: OUR ENERGY AND POLITICAL SYSTEMS HAVE FAILED US.

Whilst Shell, BP, TotalEnergies, Chevron and ExxonMobil made almost €200 billion in profits, millions have been left to pay the price through skyrocketing bills.

It is no coincidence that the same industry - profiteering at our expense - has poured vast amounts of money into influencing our decision makers.

For decades, they have promoted climate denial, pushed for false solutions to delay and divert climate action and advised against market intervention. And yet, politicians continue to ignore fossil fuel companies' clear, vested interests and welcome them **as advisors, not arsonists.**

Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the fossil fuel industry has enjoyed unprecedented access to decision making, taking a lead in Europe's energy crisis response whilst scaling back on climate commitments.

New Fossil Free Politics research shows **oil companies actively lobbied and weakened social measures, including windfall taxes,** at national and EU level that would have helped millions during the energy crisis. They also pushed for further fossil gas and oil lock-ins for decades to come.

Further fossil fueled influence includes:

- » Over **200 meetings** between EU Commission senior staff and fossil fuel lobbyists the year after the invasion. **That's one every working day.**
- » **The creation of the EU Energy Platform Industry Advisory Group at the behest of Big Energy CEOs,** set-up to advise the Commission on new sources of non-Russian gas and new fossil fuel infrastructure in the EU. This ad-hoc body now risks being made permanent.

There is an extremely dangerous myth that experience in the fossil fuel industry equates to expertise in the energy transition. This is disingenuous at best.

These companies position themselves as the solution to, rather than the cause and beneficiary of, the polycrisis we face: but **their track record shows otherwise.** In addition to climate breakdown, the fossil fuel industry is responsible for human rights violations, the displacement of indigenous nations, land grabbing and the vast and unequal burden of pollution on marginalised communities across the world. **Yet politicians still entrust them with our future.**

**We need real solutions, without vested interests,** to be heard. It's time to overhaul our political system to ensure our decision makers work for the public good, not private corporations. The first step is to remove the polluter's grip on our politics.

We call for:

## POLLUTERS OUT

1. **A Conflict of Interest framework** to restrict undue influence of the fossil fuel lobby over climate and energy policy-making across EU institutions, **similar to the firewall measure on the tobacco industry.**
2. **An immediate end to the EU Energy Platform Industry Advisory Group.**
3. Access for fossil fuel companies to EU institutions to be revoked, starting with the **removal of their European Parliament lobbying badges.**
4. **A public hearing in the European Parliament to hold fossil fuel CEOs** to account for their role in fuelling and profiting from the energy and cost of living crises.

We call on European decision makers to hear & act on the solutions from trade unions, anti-poverty networks, social justice, climate groups and others who have the most resilient and innovative solutions which put people and the planet before profit.

## FROM PRIVATE GREED TO PUBLIC NEED:

1. **Advisory groups beyond corporate control.** Commission advisory groups should be free from corporate control, especially those tackling the energy and cost of living crisis or the energy transition. EU decision-making should instead centre the voices of groups representing the public interest, such as trade unions, NGOs, energy poverty groups and others.

## MAKE THEM PAY:

2. **Beyond windfall taxes.** Fossil fuel companies' need to be held financially accountable for their impact on people and the planet. Windfall taxes are an important first step, but stronger and deeper measures are needed to stop Big Energy profiteering, such as a permanent 'polluter pays' tax.
3. **End fossil fuel subsidies.** An end to public subsidies of fossil fuels, redirecting them towards climate and social justice programmes, is another crucial way to cut emissions and open much needed public financing opportunities for real solutions.

## POWER TO THE PEOPLE:

4. **A right to affordable, clean energy for all.** Energy is a human right, not a privilege. Delivering the right to affordable, clean energy for all starts with banning disconnections across Europe.
5. **Reform the broken energy system.** Our energy system serves corporate profit, not people. In the longer term, an essential service such as energy should not be left in the hands of corporate interests. Energy democracy solutions such as **public ownership** allow for planning a just and fair transition towards affordable, clean energy for workers and vulnerable households. The energy market must also be reformed in the interest of people rather than Big Energy profits, which includes **ending speculation.**

## NO TRANSITION WITHOUT JUSTICE:

6. **Workers at the heart of a just energy transition.** Workers should be at the heart of the transition and the response to the ongoing social and energy crises and their livelihoods protected through the transition. Beyond measures such as decent, green job creation, workforce planning and an equitable minimum wage; workers should be invited to reimagine and participate in the creation of an energy system beyond liberalised markets.
7. **No austerity in the name of transition.** The cost of the affordable, clean energy transition should be borne by energy corporations, not by poor households through austerity measures to balance government spending.
8. **A global transition or no transition.** The transition will not happen if it is only in Europe or the global North, and it must not come at the cost of the global South. A just global transition needs to account for centuries of extraction in the global south through structural and systemic reparations, such as debt cancellation from the EU, paying climate debt and the transfer of technology.

**IT'S TIME  
TO KICK  
POLLUTERS OUT  
OF OUR POLITICS  
AND ALLOW  
PEOPLE'S  
SOLUTIONS IN.**



## DECLARATION COORDINATED BY

the [Fossil Free Politics coalition](#), including Friends of the Earth Europe, Greenpeace EU, Corporate Europe Observatory, Food & Water Action Europe and Global Witness.

## SIGNERS:

European Anti Poverty Network	Women's International League for Peace and Freedom UK	International Society of Doctors for Environment	Wales and Northern Ireland
Indigenous Environmental Network	Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Spain	Sherpa	European Anti Poverty Network DE
WeMove Europe	Climáximo	New Forest Friends of the earth	Movement for Advancing Understanding of Sustainability And Mutuality
Global Justice Now	Amis de la Terre France / Friends of the Earth France	Stay Grounded	North American Climate, Conservation and Environment
350.org	Za Zemiata - Friends of the Earth Bulgaria	Eco-union	Texas Campaign for the Environment
Re-Set CZ	Xarxa per la sobirania energètica	Skiftet	Roskilde University
Fossil Free Parliament UK	National Society of Conservationists - Friends of the Earth Hungary	Climate Action Leicestershire	Grandparent Climate Action Durham
Friends of the Earth International	Ecosistemas	Climate Justice Coalition. North East hub.	Divest Brent
Indigenous Peoples Rights International	Collectif BreakFree	Xnet	Mothers Rise Up
Climate Action Network Europe	Natural Justice	Tottenham & Wood Green Friends of the Earth	FOCUS Slovenia
Transnational Institute	Lipensko pro zivot	Windermere Food Growing Group	PowerShift
Fondation Abbé Piere	Reacción Climática	Alton Climate Action & Network	Friends of the Earth Belgium
European Environmental Bureau	Friends of the Earth Ireland	Cumbria Divest	
FNV trade union NL	Ecologistas en Acción	Derbyshire Pensioners Action Group	
CEE Bankwatch Network	Università di Ferrara	Environmental Investigation Agency	
WeSmellGas	Fundación Renovables	Extinction Rebellion	
Fuel Poverty Action	Friends of Earth Spain	Fracking Free Clare	
Aliança contra la Pobresa Energètica	Observatori del Deute en la Globalització	WomanHealth Philippines	
Associació Internacional d'Enginyeria sense Fronteres	Réseau québécois pour une mondialisation inclusive	New Brunswick Anti-Shale Gas Alliance	
Limity jsme my	Green Liberty	Womxn From The Mountain	
ReCommon IT	Friends of the Earth Malta	George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication	
ASEED NL	Gastivists	South Yorkshire Fossil Free!	
Grandmothers Act to Save the Planet	Not Here Not Anywhere	Diálogo 2000 - Jubileo Sur Argentina	
European Anti-Poverty Network NL	Friends of the Earth Scotland	Estonian Green Movement -Friends of the Earth Estonia	
Don't Gas Africa	GLOBAL 2000 - Friends of the Earth Austria	Friday for the Future GOMA	
Alliance against Energy Poverty Italy	Save the Pine Bush	University of Helsinki	
Tipping Point UK	Australian Religious Response to Climate Change	Co.lectivo Arterra	
Both ENDS	ATTAC France	Global Women's Strike	
Earth Action Inc.	ATTAC Austria	Friends of the Earth England,	
Eco Action Families			