

The world's largest banks continue to finance fossil fuels at levels that are fundamentally incompatible with a safe climate, choosing profits over a livable future. The Banking on Climate Chaos report shows the financing provided by the top global banks to the fossil fuel industry, analyzing loans, bonds, and equity issues.

The 2023 report finds that fossil fuel financing from the world's **60** largest banks has reached USD **\$5.5** trillion in the seven years since the adoption of the Paris Agreement, with \$669 billion in fossil fuel financing in 2022 alone. Fossil fuel financing plateaued in 2020, rebounded in 2021, and leveled out again in 2022 owing to unusual geopolitical and economic conditions, at a time of increasing climate-caused damages, displacement, and deaths around the world.

To have a chance at avoiding unacceptable harm to millions of people alive today and countless generations to come, fossil fuel expansion must stop, and use of fossil fuels across all sectors must decline rapidly.² Yet while **49** of the **60** banks featured in this report have committed to "net zero" climate targets, these promises net nothing. Upon a closer look, these banks still pour

billions into the companies expanding fossil fuels and fail to issue policies that would phase out this financing that is incompatible with necessary climate action. Banks remain powerful enablers of continued expansion and climate chaos.

Inflation, fears of oil and gas shortages, and higher interest rates meant that many fossil fuel companies paid off their debt instead of borrowing from banks this year. Fossil fuel companies used the war in Ukraine to profit at the expense of affordable energy and a just, equitable transition. Fossil fuel income topped \$4 trillion.3

In a year of astronomical fossil fuel profits - when a few big-ticket borrowers like ExxonMobil and Shell did not borrow at all - banks still showered other fossil fuel companies with \$669 billion of financing. Ultimately, the volatility in energy and capital markets in 2022 is yet another sign that the dependence on fossil fuels is unsustainable, both for the climate and the economy. Now is the time to urgently invest in a much-needed just energy transition, and to stop financing our continued march into global chaos and devastation.

"Fossil fuels are a dead end – for our planet, for humanity,and yes, for economies.







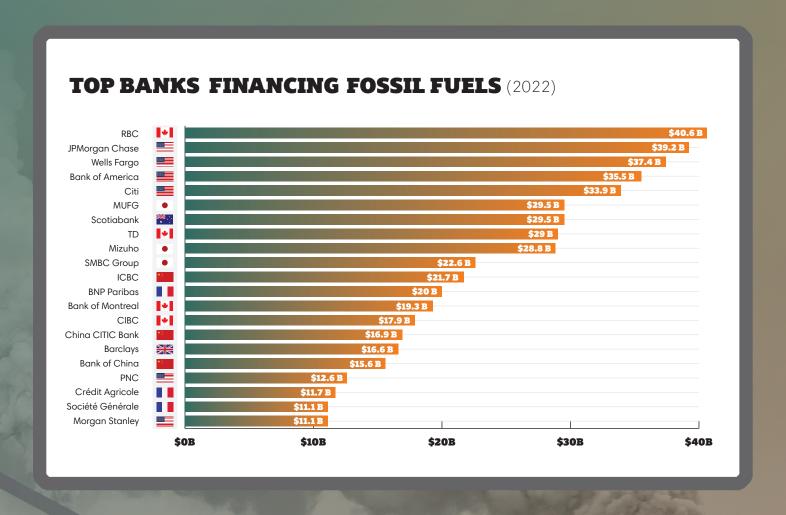




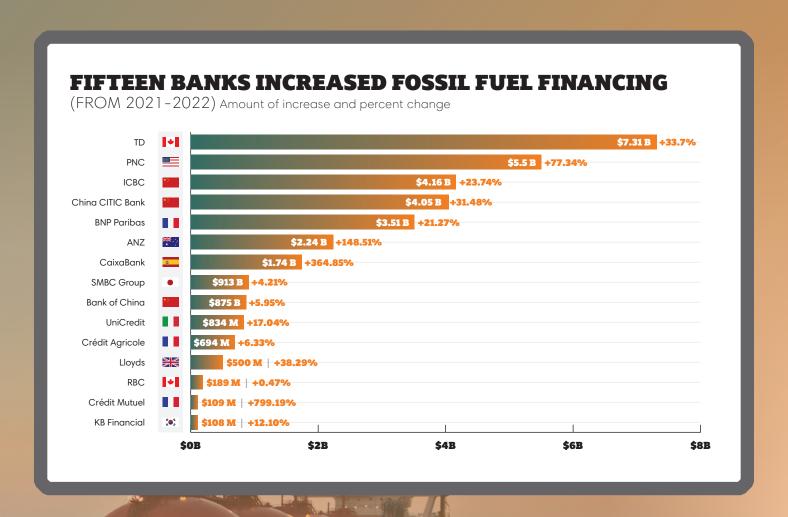


FOSSIL FUEL FINANCE TRENDS

For the first year since 2019 when we began reporting on financing for all fossil fuels, a Canadian bank, Royal Bank of Canada (RBC), ranks #1 as the worst financier of fossil fuels. RBC provided fossil fuel companies \$41 billion in 2022, an increase over its 2021 financing, making for a total of \$252.5 billion since 2016. JPMorgan Chase continues to be the worst bank overall since the Paris Agreement. It financed \$39 billion to the industry in 2022, marking a total of \$434 billion since 2016. Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group (MUFG) ranks as the worst of the Asian banks, financing \$30 billion in 2022, and French bank BNP Paribas is the worst in Europe, financing \$20 billion.



A handful of banks based in the United States, Canada, and Japan continue to dominate financing to the fossil fuel industry. In absolute numbers, U.S. banks remain the most significant global financier of the industry. However, **RBC** and other Canadian banks, as well as European and Japanese banks, have risen in the rankings this year.



In addition to reporting on financing for all fossil fuels, *Banking on Climate Chaos 2023* also assesses bank financing for top companies expanding fossil fuels and active in several spotlight fossil fuel sectors. Details on our findings are below:



Expansion: The 60 banks profiled in this report funneled \$150 billion in 2022 into the top 100 companies expanding fossil fuels, including TC Energy, TotalEnergies, Venture Global, ConocoPhillips, and Saudi Aramco. Of the 60 banks in scope, 49 have committed to net zero emissions. Our data calls those commitments into question, since these 49 banks provided 81% of the financing to the 100 top expanders in 2022.



Tar sands oil: The top tar sands companies received **\$21** billion in financing in 2022, led by the biggest Canadian banks, who provided **89%** of those funds. **TD**, **RBC**, and **Bank of Montreal** top the list.



Arctic oil and gas: Chinese banks ICBC,
Agricultural Bank of China, and China Construction
Bank led financing for Arctic oil and gas, which totaled
\$2.9 billion for the top companies in this sector in 2022.
Though fewer banks financed it in 2022 than in previous years, 26 banks are still financing Arctic oil and gas, including U.S. banks JPMorgan Chase, Citi, and Bank of America.



Amazon oil and gas: Spanish bank **Santander** leads financing for companies extracting in the Amazon biome, followed closely by U.S. bank **Citi**. Financing totaled **\$769** million in 2022.



Offshore oil and gas: French banks BNP Paribas and Crédit Agricole, and Japanese bank SMBC Group top the list of worst financiers of offshore oil and gas for 2022. Financing totaled \$34.2 billion in 2022.



Fracked oil and gas: Finance for the top 30 fracking companies totaled \$67 billion in 2022, which is an 8% increase over the financing reported in 2021 for the top fracking companies. This increase is especially disturbing given the extreme methane emissions from fracking. RBC and JPMorgan Chase are the top financiers of fracked oil and gas in 2022.



Liquefied natural gas (LNG): The top bankers of liquefied "natural" gas (LNG) in 2022 were Mizuho, Morgan Stanley, JPMorgan Chase, ING, Citi, Goldman Sachs, and SMBC Group. Overall finance for the top 30 LNG companies increased by nearly 50% from \$15 billion in 2021 to \$23 billion in 2022. Every project that reached a final investment decision in 2022 adds to the overshoot of the IEA's Net Zero by 2050 scenario.



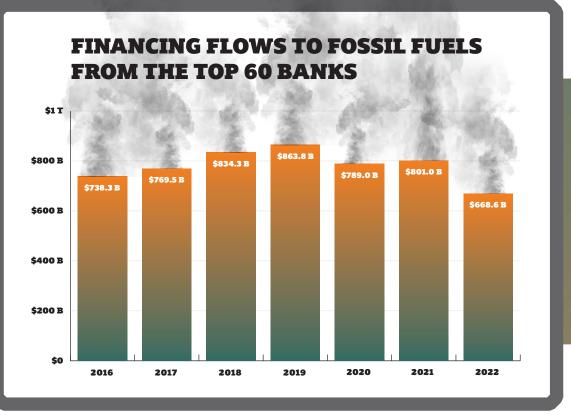
Coal mining: Of the \$13 billion in financing that went to the world's 30 largest coal mining companies, 87% was provided by banks located in China, led by China CITIC Bank, China Everbright Bank, and Industrial Bank. While financing to coal companies has declined overall since 2016, Canadian and United States banks modestly increased financing to these companies between 2021 and 2022.

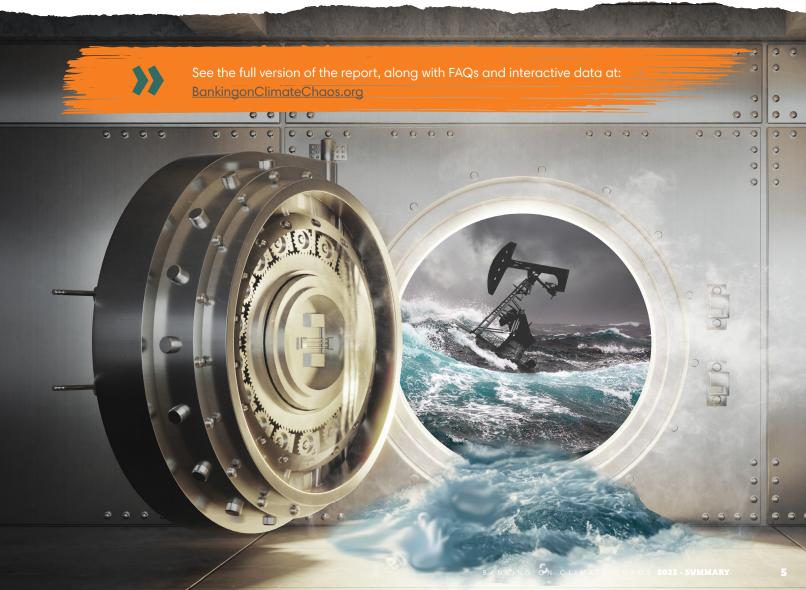


Coal power: Of the financing to the world's top
30 companies in coal power, 97% was provided
by Chinese banks. These companies, which have
plans to expand coal power capacity, received \$29
billion from the profiled banks in 2022. Only 20 banks
participated in coal power financing in 2022, down
from 28 in 2021.



Full data sets – including fossil fuel finance data, policy scores, and stories from the frontlines – are available for download at: BankingonClimateChaos.org







Climate-fueled disasters exacted a devastating toll across the world again in 2022, from record flooding in Pakistan to blazing heat waves and devastating droughts all along the Northern hemisphere from California to China.⁴ At the very same time, fossil fuel companies made record profits and banks continued financing fossil fuel expansion.⁵

The world's preeminent energy and climate experts have drawn a clear line in the sand: Any new fossil fuel development after 2021 risks our ability to keep global warming below 1.5°C.6 Potential emissions from fossil fuels already in production or under construction — the wells already drilled or being drilled, the mines already dug — already take the world well past 2°C of global warming.

"With every additional increment of global warming, changes in extremes continue to become larger. Continued global warming is projected to further intensify the global water cycle, including its variability, global monsoon precipitation, and very wet and very dry weather and climate events and

 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, ARG Synthesis Report, March 2023

PHOTOS: VPC Travel Photo / Alamy Stock Photo; Duncan Selby / Alamy Stock Photo; Parilov / shutterstock

The clear conclusion is that the world cannot afford any fossil fuel expansion: no new oil and gas fields, no new coal mines, no new or expanded oil and gas pipelines, no new LNG terminals, no new coal-fired power plants. Once an oil, gas, or coal resource is developed, or a piece of fossil infrastructure is built, there is a very strong incentive to fully extract it or run it to the end of its economic life. New investments now risk locking in decades of climate-warming emissions or becoming stranded assets. Any bank supporting any company that is expanding fossil fuels is driving climate chaos.

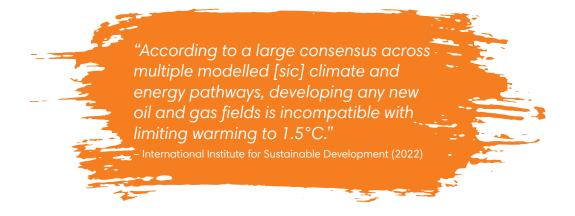
"Projected CO2 emissions from existing fossil fuel infrastructure without additional abatement would exceed the remaining carbon budget for 1.5°C."

- IPCC, AR6 Synthesis Report: Climate Change 2023



Despite clear and dire warnings from climate experts, the world's biggest banks – including RBC, JPMorgan Chase, Citi, Bank of America, Scotiabank, MUFG, and Mizuho, among others – continue to pour billions of dollars into fossil fuel expansion. In 2022, the world's largest 60 banks provided \$150 billion in financing to the world's top 100 companies leading the expansion of oil, gas, and coal. This included \$10.1 billion to TotalEnergies, \$12.8 billion to TC Energy, \$8.4 billion to ConocoPhillips, and \$8.8 billion to Saudi Aramco, four of the world's most aggressive fossil fuel expanders.

Banks have yet to make detailed, time-bound, public commitments to phase out financing for new fossil fuels, even though expansion now is fundamentally incompatible with limiting global temperature rise to less than 1.5° C. Throughout 2022, banks touted their net zero commitments and their 2030 emissions targets, but there are serious loopholes and inconsistencies in these targets, which are fully explained in the policy section of this report (see p. 22).9 Forty-nine of the 60 banks profiled in this report have made net zero commitments, with most of them doing so before 2022. This report reveals a troubling gap between their commitments and their real financing activities in the fossil fuel sector. These 49 banks with net zero commitments financed \$122 billion to the top 100 companies expanding fossil fuels in 2022.





The most significant fossil fuel expansion in 2022 is in Liquified Natural Gas (LNG), also known as "methane" gas. The Russian invasion of Ukraine that began in February 2022 created deep pressure on global energy markets to rapidly replace Russian oil and gas. In the name of "energy security," industry, governments and banks fast-tracked LNG import and export terminals and their financing in North America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia. Developers pushed these projects forward even as current events laid bare the risks of depending on a volatile global market for fossil gas imports.

LNG is not the transition fuel it is championed to be. It is methane-intensive, carbon-intensive, and harmful to people and nature.

Ultimately, LNG is an obstacle to the renewable energy transition. The LNG terminals proposed throughout North America, Africa, and Asia would lock the world collectively into 20-30 more years of new fossil fuels.

But fossil fuel companies have convinced governments and banks that it is worth the gamble. In 2022, the world's top banks provided \$23 billion in financing specifically for that year's top 30 LNG companies.



LIQUEFIED "NATURAL" GAS is created

by super-cooling methane gas to around -160°C, at which point it condenses into a liquid. Liquefaction, which reduces the gas's volume for shipping, happens at LNG export terminals situated on the coast or on offshore floating terminals. From there, tanker ships carry the liquefied gas to its destination. At an LNG import terminal, it is regasified — or turned back into a gas form — and piped to power plants, where it is burned for energy.

TOP METHANE GAS CLIENTS 2022:

Venture Global
Cheniere Energy Inc.
Sempra Energy
JERA Co Inc.
New Fortress Energy Inc.

BANK FOSSIL FUEL POLICIES: 2022 TRENDS

Our analysis of fossil fuel financing policies and net zero commitments by all **60** banks shows that despite their net zero language, banks' policies could be doing more to align with global climate commitments. Of the **60** banks that are profiled in this report, **59** do not have policies robust enough to meet the goal of keeping global warming below 1.5°C. Some banks strengthened their policies, but few are sufficient to meet the challenge of the moment.

According to analysis conducted by Reclaim Finance for this report, 2022 was a slow year for new fossil fuel financing policies. A handful of banks adopted policies to exclude financing for new oil and gas development projects, though these are not as ambitious as is needed. Only two banks adopted coal developer exclusion criteria for their existing clients, and one added criteria for new clients only. No other bank adopted a new policy or improved an existing one targeting coal expansion companies. Though **ambitious exclusion policies** remain the most important tool for climate and human rights protections, few banks have them.

For detailed policy scores, see the policy trackers developed by Reclaim Finance at BankingonClimateChaos.org/policy2023

Bank policies contain loopholes that leave them exposed to climate risk. For example, underwriting bonds and equities accounted for 36% of all fossil fuel financing last year, though many major banks exclude these activities from their fossil fuel commitments, especially their net-zero targets. Bank policies also include loopholes based on sector, region, or project.

A real-world example of banks' weak policies is their financing for ConocoPhillips, which is expanding through the recently-approved Willow oil-drilling project in the Arctic, among other projects. 13 In 2022, ConocoPhillips received financing for general corporate purposes from a syndicate including 12 banks profiled in this report - Bank of America, Barclays, Citi, Credit Suisse, HSBC, JPMorgan Chase, Mizuho, MUFG, RBC, SMBC Group, TD, and Wells Fargo. While 39 of the top 60 banks have some type of Arctic exclusion policy applicable to projects, this exclusion did not preclude financing for ConocoPhillips' Willow project, since the company sought financing for general corporate purposes rather than for a specific project. ConocoPhillips also holds a 30% non-controlling interest in Sempra's proposed Port Arthur LNG export facility, which reached a final investment decision in March 2023.14 Financing designated for "general corporate purposes" enables ConocoPhillips to pursue these and other destructive projects. Very few banks have exclusion policies that apply to expansion of LNG or other midstream infrastructure.

In 2021, France's **La Banque Postale** committed to end financing for all companies expanding oil and gas, and to exit the sector completely by 2030. Consistent with this robust policy, **La Banque Postale** shows no financing for 2022 in this report. Until the remaining 59 banks in this report also enact policies to exclude financing for fossil fuel expansion, any commitments to net zero emissions are nothing more than greenwash.

Thirteen banks still have no fossil fuel exclusion policy strong enough to merit any points in our evaluation. This includes eleven out of the thirteen Chinese banks in scope, **State Bank of India**, and **U.S. Bancorp**.





Banking on Climate Chaos 2023 highlights the hundreds of billions of dollars that flow to the fossil fuel companies systematically polluting the planet. These financing numbers can seem quite abstract. But the impacts are anything but abstract for the millions of people who live on the frontlines of the extraction, processing, and transportation of fossil fuels. This report spotlights the fights of communities opposing fossil fuels on the ground and includes their voices to make clear that bank financing for fossil fuels concretely impacts the everyday lives of people worldwide. Communities living with the impacts of fossil fuel exploitation have been calling out the disastrous consequences of fossil fuels for their livelihoods and for the planet and are leading the way towards a just transition.

Communities across the world are rising to this moment, from Mozambique, where families have been displaced by massive fossil extraction and export facilities, to the Philippines, where fragile ecosystems have been destroyed by oil spills and are threatened with new LNG terminals. In the United States, the massive buildout of LNG export terminals in the Gulf South violates the land rights of Indigenous Peoples and threatens the health, livelihoods, and environment of communities who have fought environmental racism for decades.

Climate change hits the frontlines first and worst. People living on the frontlines of climate chaos are predominantly Indigenous Peoples, Black and Brown communities, low-wage workers, or smallholder farmers, often living in poverty. Sometimes, as in the cases of Nigeria and the U.S. Gulf Coast – both featured here – the same people living with worsening hurricanes, stronger storm surges, rising sea levels, and the lasting effects of racial injustice and inequality are also living closest to the epicenter of the massive, dirty, health-harming fossil fuel industry. For a just future, people must follow the lead of those who are the most directly affected by fossil fuel extraction and the harmful pollution it produces.

In a special essay featured in the full report, the Indigenous Environmental Network argues that climate change mitigation consists almost entirely of market mechanisms and false solutions that do not produce real emissions reductions, but do threaten Indigenous sovereignty and territories. The essay calls for climate change mitigation that centers people and keeps fossil fuels in the ground.



See an interactive map highlighting frontline stories at:

BankingonClimateChaos.org

Indigenous Peoples should lead present and future climate change negotiations in order to center Indigenous Peoples' rights and sovereignty. We hold an estimated 80% of what remains of the Earth's land-based biodiversity in our lands and traditional territories. Without Indigenous Peoples protecting and maintaining ecosystems, climate change would have already caused widespread planetary collapse. Indigenous Peoples hold sacred connections to Mother Earth and Father Sky, who maintain the balance of life on this planet.

"After 50 years of oil 'development,' the majority of the destruction is in our territories. It is our territories that are being destroyed...In all phases of extraction – from the moment concessions are signed, through exploration and extraction, our rights to consultation and consent have been violated."

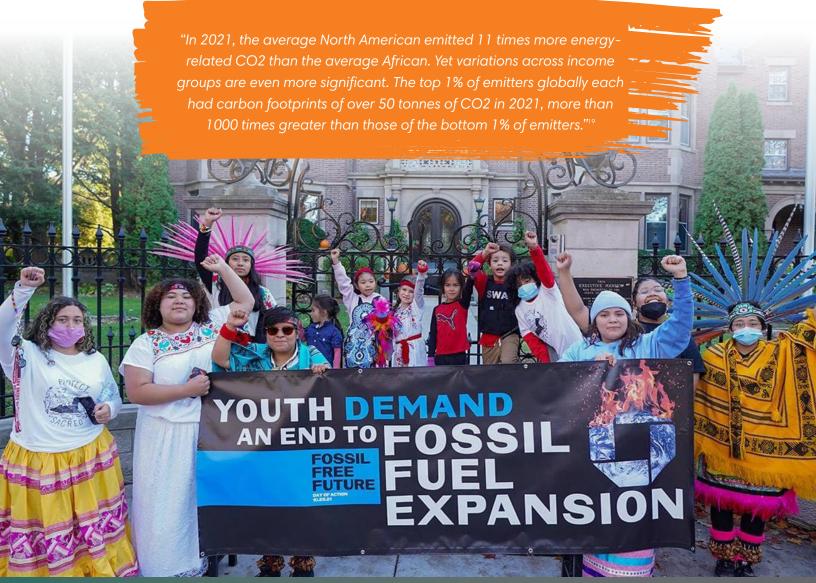
- Leonidas Iza, president of the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador (CONAIE)

JUST TRANSITION

The necessary global phaseout of fossil fuels must be equitable and just. Communities that have done the least to contribute to the climate crisis are the ones hardest hit by climate disaster. Poor and working people, those in the Global South, Indigenous Peoples, and colonized peoples are, in many cases, also bearing the costs of transitioning to a renewable energy economy. In 2022, while fossil fuel companies raked in massive profits, high fossil fuel prices hit people hard, especially in emerging economies. ¹⁶ Meanwhile, globally, consumption of goods and services by the wealthiest nations and individuals contributes disproportionately to emissions, especially from energy use. ¹⁷ The current situation is neither equitable nor just.

The wealthiest have the highest cumulative emissions – and also the greatest capacity to take action in rapidly decarbonizing their activities. They have an obligation to make the most ambitious emission reductions and invest in a just transition. Relimate-related adaptation and loss and damages in vulnerable countries must be paid by those who are using the most energy and have made the most profit from the current system. They must commit to immediately halting new fossil fuel production and phasing out existing production in order to align themselves with 1.5°C pathways.

PHOTOS: Jes Azner / Getty Images; Green Photograpy LLC / International Indigenous Youth Council (IIYC) / Fossil Free Future





Banks must align their financing with 1.5°C-aligned pathways and enable a fair and just transition. To do so, the organizations authoring this report demand that banks:



Prohibit all finance for fossil fuel expansion immediately.

Banks must end lending and underwriting for any company expanding fossil fuels. This exclusion must include project finance and general corporate finance for any company with expansion plans, regardless of the scope of the expansion project. This is the most urgent step for banks to take to strengthen their climate policies.



Adopt absolute financed emissions reduction targets.

These targets must be aligned with a rigorous 1.5°C scenario, including ambitious absolute targets for 2025 and 2030, culminating in zero emissions by 2050 at the latest. The most recent IPCC report emphasizes that an even faster transition is needed, especially for those with the highest cumulative emissions and greatest resources.²¹ Targets should be based on actual, absolute emission reductions, and not on the use of carbon offsets or false solutions such as Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS).



Demand robust transition plans for all existing fossil fuel clients.

Banks must require all of their clients with any fossil fuel exposure to publish robust plans to zero out fossil fuel activity on a 1.5°C-aligned timeline. Banks should withdraw financing for clients who fail to align their activities with a credible 1.5°C pathway.



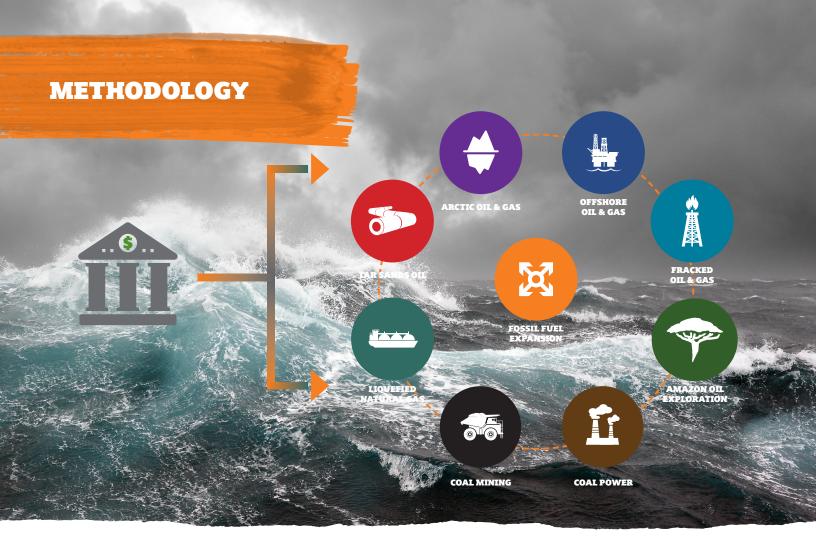
Protect Indigenous Peoples' and human rights.

Banks must ensure that their clients respect human rights, and specifically guarantee Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) for Indigenous Peoples as defined by the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. They must establish zero-tolerance policies and due diligence mechanisms to prevent violence towards Indigenous Peoples and frontline communities, as well as human rights and forest defenders in all sectors. Financing decisions must respect frontline communities' right to a healthy environment, to a just livelihood, and to compensation for the loss and damages sustained as a result of climate change.



Scale up financing for a just and fair transition.

Financing for renewable energy and other low-carbon solutions must increase rapidly, and banks should work to lower barriers to financing for such projects. Plans for a just phaseout of fossil fuel financing must take into account the social costs of transition by supporting local economic diversification and, with workers and communities, co-creating a new, people-centered energy system.



This analysis covers the world's 60 biggest relevant banks by assets, according to the S&P Global Market Intelligence ranking from April 2022.²² Banks with little-to-no league credit for economy-wide financing were deemed irrelevant to this analysis and were not included. We assessed each bank's involvement in relevant corporate lending and underwriting transactions from 2016 through 2022 (in U.S. dollars).

Transaction data were sourced from Bloomberg Finance L.P. (where the credited value of a transaction is split among leading banks), and IJGlobal. Each transaction was weighted based on the proportion of the borrower or issuer's operations devoted to the sector in question.

- » For the league tables measuring financing for all fossil fuels (approximately 2,000 group-level companies that are either independent or parent company totalling 3,210 companies when including relevant subsidiaries), and the top fossil fuel expanders (100 companies), transactions were adjusted based on each company's fossil fuel-based assets, revenue, or operating income.
- » For sector financing (30 top companies in each subsector), each transaction was weighted based on the proportion of the borrower or issuer's operations devoted to the subsector in question.

All deals marked as green bonds or loans were removed from the dataset. Banks are given an opportunity to review and comment on the full transaction list during a thorough pre-publication engagement process.

Policy assessments are derived from the Oil & Gas Policy Tracker, and the Coal Policy Tool, both published by Reclaim Finance. All policy assessments are as of April 12, 2023.



For a full explanation of methodology and scope, breakdowns of each bank's policy assessment, lists of fossil fuel companies included, and frequently asked questions, visit: BankingonClimateChaos.org.

ENDNOTES

- 1 For all figures in this summary version, unless otherwise cited, see the full version of Banking on Climate Chaos 2023 for details, along with a data portal to explore relevant datasets: https://www.bankingonclimatechaos.org/.
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- 7 Rainforest Action Network, "Wall Street's Dirtiest Secret: How Fossil Fuel Expansion Depends on Big Bank Finance," November 2022.
- 8 Carbon Tracker Initiative, <u>Unburnable Carbon: Ten Years On</u>, June 2022.
- 9 On net zero commitments, see additional reports: Sierra Club, "<u>Leaders Or Laggards? Analyzing US banks' net-zero commitments</u>," November 2022; Banktrack, "<u>Tracking the Net Zero Banking Alliance</u>," accessed March 27, 2023; Reclaim Finance, "<u>Throwing Fuel on the Fire: GFANZ Financing of Fossil Fuel Expansion</u>," January 17, 2023.
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- 12 "<u>Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)</u>," U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Fossil Energy & Carbon Management, accessed August 2022.
- 13 Ella Nilsen, "The Willow Project Has Been Approved. Here's What to Know About the Controversial Oil-Drilling Venture," CNN, March 14, 2023.
- 14 "Sempra Reaches Final Investment Decision on Port Arthur LNG Plant's Phase J," Reuters, March 20, 2023, sec. Energy.
- 15 Anna Fleck, "Infographic: Indigenous Communities Protect 80% Of All Biodiversity," Statista Infographics, July 19, 2022.
- 16 International Energy Agency, "Fossil Fuels Consumption Subsidies 2022," March 2023,; International Energy Agency, "World Energy Outlook 2022," October 2022, , p. 189; Diana Hernández, "Sacrifice Along the Energy Continuum: A Call for Energy Justice," Environmental Justice 8, no. 4 (August 2015): 151–56.
- 17 Laura Cozzi, Olivia Chen, and Hyeji Kim, "<u>The World's Top 1% of Emitters</u>
 <u>Produce Over 1000 Times More Co2 Than the Bottom 1% Analysis</u>," IEA, February
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- 18 Dan Calverley and Kevin Anderson, "Phaseout Pathways for Fossil Fuel Production Within Paris-Compliant Carbon Budgets," March 22, 2022, Tyndall Center, The University of Manchester, . The Tyndall Center report argues that "For the wealthiest group of 'producer nations', with the highest capacity to achieve a 'just transition', output of oil and gas needs to be cut by 74% by 2030, with complete phase out by 2034," p. 6. See also "A Fair Shares Phase Out of Fossil Fuels: A Civil Society Equity Review on an Equitable Global Phase Out of Fossil Fuels," November 2021.
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- 20 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), <u>AR6 Synthesis Report:</u> <u>Climate Change 2023</u>, March 2023.
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