

A FRAMEWORK FOR A FAIR AND FAST GLOBAL ENERGY TRANSITION

Current international climate agreements primarily focus on emissions reductions and make no mention of fossil fuels. What is required is an international framework with binding commitments that constrain fossil fuel production globally to sit alongside the Paris Agreement and complement existing pledges to cut emissions, reverse biodiversity loss and curtail pollution.

The international framework required to align efforts to achieve the SDGs with ending the era of fossil fuels could take the form of a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, which has garnered support in cities around the world and amongst leading parliamentarians, scientists, academics and faith leaders. The Treaty would take a three-pronged approach to the root cause of the climate crisis:

- 1. Non-proliferation.** End new exploration and production by issuing a worldwide moratorium on the extraction of new fossil fuel reserves.
- 2. Equitable Phase Down.** Commit countries to phase down production in existing projects, in line with equity and the 1.5°C global temperature goal.
- 3. Accelerate a Fair Transition.** Provide finance and technological assistance to aid those most dependent on fossil fuel production to climate change to diversify their economies and move away from fossil fuels, scale up access to renewable energy and ensure a just transition for all.

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Summary Flyer

FUELLING FAILURE



How oil, gas and coal are driving climate change and sabotaging the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals

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fossilfueltreaty.org










Full report and references available at:
fossilfueltreaty.org/fuelling-failure



SDGs AND FOSSIL FUELS: SUMMARY OF IMPACTS

Fossil fuels undermine all 17 SDGs. As the primary driver of climate change and air pollution, and a major contributor to biodiversity loss, fossil fuels have a detrimental impact on all the SDGs. The direct impacts of the exploration, extraction, refining, transportation and combustion of fossil fuels also impact every SDG.

| SDG | Fossil fuel impact | SDG | Fossil fuel impact |
|---|---|---|---|
| SDG 1. No Poverty  | Fossil fuels are the primary driver of climate change, which is set to push 122 million more people into extreme poverty by 2030. Globally, governments spend three times more money on fuel subsidies than the annual amount needed to eradicate poverty. | SDG 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure  | Fossil fuel companies are expected to spend \$527 billion on new fossil gas exploration and \$405 billion on oil exploration by 2030. This will lock economies into emissions for decades at a time when they need to decrease urgently. |
| SDG 2. Zero Hunger  | Increases in global temperatures, shifting rainfall patterns, extreme weather events, and elevated surface carbon dioxide concentrations from burning fossil fuels will reduce the yields of key crops and push millions into food insecurity. Fossil fuel production and offset schemes pull vast amounts of land away from agricultural uses. | SDG 10. Reduced Inequality  | Fossil fuel pollution disproportionately impacts poorer and more vulnerable communities, while fossil fuel subsidies benefit the richest members of society the most. The risk of stranded assets could further entrench global wealth inequalities. |
| SDG 3. Good Health and Wellbeing  | Roughly 8.7 million people died prematurely due to fossil fuel pollution every year between 2012 and 2018. The worsening climate crisis, driven by fossil fuels, is linked with increases in disease, infant mortality and displacement, with devastating impacts on health and wellbeing. | SDG 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities  | Fossil fuel pollution is making urban life a health hazard, with 98 percent of cities with populations over 100,000 in low- and middle-income countries exceeding WHO guidelines for particulate matter. As the climate crisis accelerates, many cities will suffer due to sea-level rise and extreme heat. |
| SDG 4. Quality Education  | Children born in 2020 are expected to experience between two and seven times as many extreme weather events as someone born in 1960, disrupting their education and future prospects. Fossil fuel exporting states are vulnerable to fluctuating prices and often underfund the provision of education. | SDG 12. Responsible Consumption & Production  | Humanity is not shifting away from fossil fuels quickly enough, with the global "material footprint" increasing by 70 percent between 2000 and 2017. In 2020, global fossil fuel subsidies reached \$5.9 trillion—equivalent to \$11 million per minute. |
| SDG 5. Gender Equality  | Climate change exacerbates existing gender inequalities, particularly during natural disasters and extreme weather events. Women disproportionately bear the health and social burdens of fossil fuel processes, such as gas flaring. | SDG 13. Climate Action  | Fossil fuel firms are actively undermining climate action through lobbying, donating to politicians and political parties and funding misinformation. Despite all their promises and pledges, fossil fuel firms are not driving the energy transition, they are subverting it. |

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| SDG 6. Clean Water and Sanitation  | Fossil fuel production and the waste it generates are proven to contaminate water supplies, which can lead to increased outbreaks of disease and illness. Broader climate impacts, like rising temperatures and flash flooding, have been shown to increase water insecurity and disease outbreaks. | SDG 14. Life Below Water  | Fossil fuels are fundamentally altering the chemistry of the oceans, with acidification and extreme heat stress threatening marine life and ecosystems. Fossil fuel production processes are proven to disrupt key feeding and breeding areas, which can have huge implications for global populations of marine species. |
| SDG 7. Affordable and Clean Energy  | 770 million people are estimated to remain without access to cheap, reliable electricity, of whom 570 million live in least developed countries (LDCs). While the cost of providing universal energy access would only cost \$41 billion annually, total fossil fuel subsidies came to \$5.9 trillion in 2021. | SDG 15. Life on Land  | The extraction, transportation and combustion of fossil fuels drives the fragmentation of habitats, contaminates the water and feeding grounds wildlife populations rely on and, when these infrastructures fail, ecosystems can face total annihilation. |
| SDG 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth  | 1.2 billion jobs directly rely on a healthy environment, which is being undermined by fossil fuelled-climate change. By 2030, heat stress alone could lead to the loss of over 2% of total working hours worldwide every year. It is estimated that a green economy transition will lead to a net gain of approximately 18 million jobs. | SDG 16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions  | Oil and fossil gas are associated with higher levels of conflict and lower levels of democracy. Despite its invasion of Ukraine, Russia is expected to receive \$321 billion from energy sales by the end of 2022. |
| | | SDG 17. Partnerships for the Goals  | Fossil fuel firms do not play by the rules, avoiding tax, enjoying tax exemptions and suing governments pursuing ambitious climate action. In 2019-2020, 62 fossil fuel companies paid zero tax in Australia despite receiving revenues of \$81.4 billion. |