

## Civil Society Letter on Oil and Gas Decarbonization Accelerator

# QUOTE SHEET

### **Lorne Stockman, Research Director at Oil Change International**

“[Oil Change International research](#) shows that over half of the fossil fuels in currently active fields and mines must stay in the ground to limit global temperature rise to internationally agreed upon limits. Oil & gas companies knowingly block, delay, and undermine efforts to address their impact on the planet, and continually use their profits to invest in new fossil fuel extraction over renewables. The COP28 Presidency must do everything possible to ensure governments urgently put in place policies for a fast, full, fair, and funded fossil fuel phaseout. Anything less puts the world on a path to climate catastrophe.”

### **Gabrielle Levy, Associate Director of Methane Communications at Climate Nexus**

“It’s important to require companies to clean up operations and reduce methane pollution as much and as quickly as possible in order to protect the health and safety of communities. Still, we can’t lose sight of the larger reality: Cutting emissions simply isn’t enough. We must eliminate most oil and gas production in the next 25 years.”

### **David Tong, Global Industry Campaign Manager at Oil Change International**

“Voluntary pledges like these are a smokescreen the oil and gas industry uses to conceal that they’re actively working against global climate action. The so-called Oil and Gas Decarbonization Accelerator, a new voluntary initiative spearheaded by the COP28 presidency, is full of misleading promises that ignore 80-90% of the climate pollution caused by fossil fuel companies. The COP28 presidency must not be under the illusion that vague and voluntary company commitments to address operational emissions are substitutes for phasing out all fossil fuels. While cutting methane is an important step, the science says we must stop new exploration and extraction projects immediately. The best way to cut fossil fuel pollution is to cut oil and gas production. That is what COP28 must deliver.”

### **Katrin Ganswindt, Head of Finance Research at Urgewald**

“Urgewald’s latest update of the [Global Oil & Gas Exit List](#) demonstrates that the industry remains on an expansion course. Over 1,600 companies around the world will seemingly stop at nothing in their pursuit of profit at the expense of people and planet. The COP28 Presidency must clearly see that this industry will never transition voluntarily. Without an unequivocal and rapid fossil fuel phase-out, the chance for a 1.5°C world will be irredeemably lost.”

### **Tom BK Goldtooth, Executive Director, Indigenous Environmental Network**

“Indigenous Peoples from the South and North see the reality of the devastation of a changing climate causing death and destruction in our homelands with the contradictions of the expansion of fossil fuel mining, production and webs of pipelines and ocean tankers all resulting in

compounding acts of aggression and violence against the sacredness of Mother Earth and our women and children. The era of fossil fuel colonialism must stop now. Voluntary efforts are insufficient and a distraction for a rapid just transition for a binding global phaseout of fossil fuels and all extraction and production at source.”

**Cansin Leylim Ilgaz, Associate Director of Global Campaigns at 350.org**

“We don’t have time to waste with more pledges and initiatives with fancy names. In order to shift the billions of dollars going to fossil fuels to renewable energy, and achieve an ambitious renewable energy target globally, we need a fast, fair, and equitable fossil fuel phase out that does not rely on dangerous distractions. COP28 must ensure we take the steps to ensure our collective future is one of shared prosperity by massively scaling up public finance for a just transition.”

**Bill McKibben at Third Act**

“This isn’t hard. If your company digs stuff up and burns it, you’re the problem. It’s time to wind down your business. Past time.”

**Hannah Dewhurst, head of campaigns at Positive Money UK**

"Scores of studies have shown us that voluntary pledges don't work; companies miss targets with no consequences, then sign onto the next pledge with the same indifference to its contents.

"A legally-binding phase out of fossil fuels and the financing for them, with penalties for failing to comply, is the only way to stop COP28 from becoming yet another exercise in greenwashing."

**Joachim Roth, Climate Policy Lead at World Benchmarking Alliance**

“Any initiative like the Global Decarbonization Accelerator must bring real value-added compared to already existing initiatives. As it stands, it does not. In particular, it does not address the majority of emissions expected from oil and gas companies, namely scope 3 emissions. WBA’s 2023 oil and gas benchmark shows how to align with a 1.5C scenario in a credible way. This includes setting scope 3 emission targets, investing a significantly higher share of Capex in renewables, pursuing low-carbon business models and importantly, declining production rapidly by the end of this decade.”

**Julia Levin, Associate Director, National Climate at Environmental Defence Canada**

"When it comes to oil and gas companies, voluntary pledges are meaningless. Oil and gas executives are doing everything in their power to extend the life of a dying industry. These climate villains are only concerned about how much money they can make for their shareholders. Government action is needed to hold these companies accountable for the damage they are causing."

**Josh Eisenfeld, Campaign and Communications Manager - Corporate Accountability at Earthworks**

"The voluntary commitments proposed by the world’s largest polluters make no mention of reducing the production of fossil fuels—the single most important step we can take to impact

methane pollution and stave off the worst effects of climate change. The U.N, the IEA and others have emphasized the path forward needs to include a rapid decline of fossil fuels and a reduction of emissions during that decline. We must hold these corporations accountable to that."

**Pascoe Sabido, Researcher and Campaigner at Corporate Europe Observatory**

"It's like Groundhog Day, another COP, another voluntary alliance for the oil and gas industry to make us think they're doing something about climate change. But everyone sees the emperor has no clothes on. Staying below 1.5 degrees means no new drilling, not making it a bit cleaner. These talks need to agree an ambitious, equitable phase-out of fossil fuels, but that won't happen while lobbyists from that same industry are involved in the negotiations, pushing their voluntary distractions."

**Gerry Arances, Executive Director at Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development (CEED)**

"We have no use for a COP 28 that treats meeting the goal as an optional matter. Science is clear: we have a rapidly closing window to cut down global fossil fuel use, and this is a do or die matter for climate vulnerable peoples. What COP 28 needs to produce are binding actions to end the age of coal, gas, and oil, and to make a just and rapid transition to 100% renewable energy happen. Settling for more voluntary pledges that obscure the path to 1.5°C simply does not make the cut."

**RL Miller, political director at Climate Hawks Vote**

"Expectations for this COP28, hosted by a petrostate and its chief oil executive, are low. But this 'Global Decarbonization Alliance' represents a new low...like scum floating around the bottom of an oil barrel."

**Kjell Kühne, Director at Leave it in the Ground Initiative (LINGO)**

"Ending fossil fuel addiction is what we need - and everyone along the supply chain needs to work together. Real leadership is needed to address the scope 3 challenge. COP28 needs to deliver progress on that front."

**Ellie Cohen, CEO at The Climate Center**

"Fossil fuel corporations have fought to obstruct climate action for decades. It's because of their delay and denial that we've run out of time for voluntary pledges. The latest science tells us there is no alternative — we either initiate a managed decline of the oil, gas, and coal industries today or pay the price in lives and dollars for years to come."

**Adrian Martinez Blanco, Director at La Ruta del Clima**

"The stabilization of emissions is three decades past due. At this point, we have the right to demand an immediate phase-out of all fossil fuels. The technology and the economic resources are there. Frontline communities can't be forced to endure the irresponsibility of the fossil fuel industry nor the neglect of States to protect our Human Rights."

**Allan Moskowitz CFP, CEO at Transformative Wealth Management**

"It's high time the oil and gas industry come clean and stop impeding, worsening and preventing progress on climate change with it's dirty shenanigans and empty promises. We want to see real action, not just empty promises, disingenuous pledges, and outright lies."

**Augusto Duran, Coordinador regional para el Tratado sobre Combustibles Fósiles, Movimiento Ciudadano frente al Cambio Climático**

"The dependence on fossil fuels in the current development model has not only brought us to the brink of a climate catastrophe. In the Peruvian case, more than 50 years of oil exploitation have meant dispossession of indigenous territories and local communities, degradation of ecosystems and impacts on the way of life, health, economy and food of the population. It remains for us to fight for a just and popular energy transition, which implies an abandonment of fossil fuels but does not impact the territories, especially those where the critical minerals for the transition are extracted, and which deepens democracy and respect for human rights."

**B. Arrindell, Director at Damascus Citizens for Sustainability**

"None of these solutions are instant - so NOW! is the moment to move forward not backward if there is to be a future with anything like the blessings we have had."

**Ralph Kisberg, energy policy consultant at Responsible Decarbonization Alliance (RDA)**

"Avoiding lengthy legal fights with operators responsible for the 30% of oil and gas production that does not come from national enterprises is key to achieving a timely and just phase-down. A plan to reasonably and incrementally tax those operators out of profitability from fossil fuel enterprises should be instituted. As the transition ramps up, investing increased tax revenues in energy efficiency, decarbonization equipment, technologies, and infrastructure will serve all. Tax revenues could also provide for loss and damage funds. Simultaneous phase-down of national operations that do not voluntarily comply may require carefully designed boycotts and economic isolation."

**Barbara W. Bandom, M, Steering Committee member at Concerned Health Professionals of Pennsylvania**

"Extraction of fossil fuels from Pennsylvania, USA, has contributed greatly to global warming. Abandoned wells continue to release methane. New drilling to produce gas must stop immediately. Our resources must turn to plugging old wells and to producing more energy from solar, wind, & water flow and providing means to conserve energy. This will reduce the future health harms from fracking and reduce our contribution to accelerated global warming."

**Barry Coates, Founder and CEO at Mindful Money**

"There has been a long history of failed pledges and greenwashing by fossil fuel companies and their investors, dating back to the signing of the Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1992. Now it is time for governments to step up. No more empty promises. We need a clear and enforceable transition plan."

**Cath Wallace, Climate spokesperson at Environment and Conservation Organisations of New Zealand (ECO)**

"It is essential that we all move away from burning fossil fuels and other greenhouse gases. Vested interests must back off and put the future of people and the planet first. Climate damage is already very serious. Procrastination and greenwash has no place in COP28."

**David Gibson, Staff Coordinator at Peace, Justice, Sustainability NOW!**

"We at Peace, Justice, Sustainability NOW! recognize how all things are connected. We know that the oil and gas industry is the main driver of the climate emergency. That the US military is the largest institutionalized emitter and drives the emergency by keep oil and gas trade open is also true. Until this industry ends, and US policy changes, we cannot hope to meet climate mitigation goals. We need a fair, fast, funded transition to protect everyone."

**David Kyler, Executive Director at Center for a Sustainable Coast**

"Mandatory and accountable actions for reducing heat-trapping emissions are essential to the collaborative global effort required to curb the destructive impacts of burning fossil fuels. We urge leaders to adopt a plan of action on the climate crisis that meets these rigorous standards."

**Don Nonini, Co-Facilitator at Third Act North Carolina**

"After 27 years of COP distractions by oil companies' smoke and mirrors, we all know deceptive promises when we hear them from the fossil fuel industry. Where there's smoke, there's global burning at its source. We need to reject the idea of "voluntary compliance" in the industry for the lie it is, and demand that compulsory legal restrictions on fossil-fuel extraction immediately be put into place in all countries around the world."

**Elaine Cimino, Director at Common Ground Rising**

"COP 28 demands genuine solutions, recognizing that addressing ground contamination extends beyond initial steps like well shutdowns and emissions monitoring. Oil fields, marked by radioactive contamination and unaddressed spills, contribute to the spread of pollutants affecting local communities. Despite challenges, increased data accessibility empowers communities to monitor emissions, urging regulators to integrate this information into new air permits for informed decision-making. Opposition against environmental initiatives may persist, but compliance with the rule of law is inevitable for those profiting at the expense of community health and environmental well-being."

**Erick Otieno Owuor, Executive Coordinator at Kamukunji Paralegal Trust (KAPLET)**

"If you destroy nature, nature will destroy you too."

**Erik Schlenker-Goodrich, Executive Director at Western Environmental Law Center**

"Meaningful global commitments to equitably and rapidly phase out fossil fuels can open new doors to a thriving, resilient future for all. They are the true test of climate leadership in the 21st Century."

**Fran Witt, Campaign Manager at Recourse**

“What will be our legacy for future generations after COP28? This is our opportunity to prevent catastrophic climate change. COP28 must deliver an Energy Package that rapidly phases out the extraction and consumption of all fossil fuels and instead supports a just and sustainable renewable energy transition.”

**Gary Cook, Global Climate Policy Director at Stand.earth**

“Carbon capture and storage does no more to address climate change than cigarette filters do to prevent lung cancer. This is a false solution being promoted by the oil and gas industry to enable the continued production and burning of fossil fuels. The only solution is for governments to manage a phase down of the production and consumption of fossil fuels. We have no time to waste on another round of greenwashing by big oil.”

**Gloria Hsu, Executive Manager at Mom Loves Taiwan Association**

“No fussy statements, phase-out Fossils!”

**Hailey Campbell, Co-Executive Director at Care About Climate**

Behind every increase in fossil fuel use are communities, lives, and cultures lost. We cannot continue to sacrifice human life and the environment for economic gains.

**Heidi Dhivya Berthoud, President at Virginia Community Rights Network**

“This is not just a climate problem - its a democracy problem. Hegemonic corporate interests propelled by the profit motive with no liability or responsibility for the welfare of our planet are the primary corrupting forces driving the climate crisis.”

**Irene Leech, President at Virginia Citizens Consumer Council**

"It is critical that we seriously address the carbon issue and that we avoid tactics that don't help and aren't enforceable."

**Isabel Studer, President at Sostenibilidad Global**

“For many countries, such as Mexico, the end of the fossil fuel era will mean energy security, if proper finance and technology transfer take place.”

**James Collis, Chairperson at Citizens' Climate Europe**

“Pollution sources need to pay increasing prices, this gives governments options, including rebating citizens with the money to incentivise and accelerate the transition.”

**James Hiatt, Director at For a Better Bayou**

"Real decarbonization demands concrete actions, not just voluntary pledges that echo hollow in the face of our escalating climate crisis. We must transition from the extractive dependency on fossil fuels to sustainable solutions with urgency and commitment. It's not just about reducing emissions; it's about fundamentally reshaping our relationship with the planet. Every delay, every half-measure, is a step away from the future we owe to ourselves and generations to come."

**Jean'ne Blackwell, Director at SLO Clean Water**

"Nature Rules and the rule is OIL and Water DO NOT mix. Mix the water with man-made chemicals that change the structure of water and then emit those foreign, alien chemicals into the air and water giving us no choice but to breathe and drink inhospitable foreign matter, that changes the whole natural order of Nature's tried and true prolific, abundant living process. We have invented a million and one ways to kill and destroy life but not one solitary way to bring something back to life. So, until we can create something better than nature's life sustaining pure air and water for our prosperity and well-being, we have no right or permission to defy the Natural Law. And it is a fact that if we do not do the right thing and honor and respect, praise and glorify our Benefactor's gifts She has the power to terminate the counter-productive relationship and She doesn't need anyone's permission. When She gets fed up with our careless disregard towards Her and all Her miraculous creations, She will show us who is in charge. She has feelings and knows without a doubt when something is not working and no longer serves as a benefit to Her Master Plan of joy, abundance, cooperation and boundless energy. How do I know how She feels? I know because I am a living, breathing part of Her creation. I can feel, smell, taste the changes in the air, water and everything around me as do all living beings, plants, animals, birds, butterflies, rivers, streams, oceans, air, soil, trees and bees. Nature Rules and She cannot be bought. All the money in the world does not have the power to change Her innate, supernatural state of being for a lush, rich, beneficial existence. When one of Her creations, in the case of humans, acts in willful disregard and upsets Her profound Balance of Power to a point of no return, then, Beware. She is prepared to and will on behalf of preserving and protecting Her creations, remove the offending ingrate to restore the order and balance that is the Natural Law. Can we prevent man-made disasters? Yes, by doing the right thing of practicing the global, omnipresent fundamental religion of treating nature and each other like we would like to be treated. Are natural disasters survivable? Yes, of course. Nature has given us everything we need to thrive and prosper. If we work with nature and act out of love and trust, She has all the answers and prosperity and abundance will be our natural inherent legacy. Nature does not want to be saved. It wants to be loved. That is how we save it."

**Karen LaMantia, Author and Managing Editor, Earth Neighborhood Productions**

"This is no time for half-measures. A plan that is internationally enforced by consumer boycotts on trade with nations which do not adhere to the phase down, is needed and should be monitored and coordinated, internationally. Our lives depend on these changes where replacement of fossil fuels is coupled with green energy technology in all parts of the world."

**Katherine Lund, Founding member at 350 Montreal**

"The world needs legally binding legislation to bring down GHG emissions, not further smoke and mirrors from the fossil fuel industry."

**Katie Ruth, Executive Director at Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light**

"Our collective future does not depend on fossil fuels. The climate crisis is a crisis not just of science and leadership, but morals. Who are we as humans, how do we live in right relationship with each other and the planet, and what kind of world do we want to live in? These are the

questions that inspire us to take strong action. We have a moral obligation to the wellbeing of our neighbors and earth. The time to phase out fossil fuels via a just transition is now.”

**Larry Decker, Chair of the First Parish in Framingham Climate Action Team at Climate Action Team of First Parish Framingham, MA**

“A comprehensive package of greenhouse gas reductions that is legally binding is the only way to avert a future climate that is out of control.”

**Lorna Powell, Organiser at Mothers Rise Up**

“Our children need real solutions to the climate crisis we face from the COP Presidency. They do not need more greenwashing and distraction tactics from the oil and gas industry. Using the COP summit for yet more PR posturing betrays our next generations as well as those already living through the destruction caused by climate change. We need our politicians to act boldly, and the oil and gas industry to act for the moral good, not just their profits.”

**Lucy von Sturmer, Founder at Creatives for Climate**

"We can't expect the industry to self-regulate or to act in the interests of people and planet over profit. Voluntary commitments run the risk of greenwashing and are a dangerous distraction from real action."

**Mariel Nanasi, Executive Director at New Energy Economy**

“We know its hard to resist the fossil fuel soaked monied corporations that seek to destroy the planet but this is our only choice. With thoughts of your grandchildren in mind, you must enact real solutions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions quickly and meaningfully with associated strict penalties that are enforced. Voluntary corporate compliance with huge loopholes is just more hogwash and will fail to protect humans and nature. Exhibit true leadership by enacting strong and fair international carbon reduction standards instead of playing political games.”

**Matt Leonard, Director at Oil and Gas Action Network**

"For decades, oil and gas companies lied to the world - denying climate change and their role in it. And most recently, they have shifted their rhetoric to express public concern for climate change while continuing to pollute and profit. This industry has shown it cannot be trusted - the foxes cannot be trusted to guard the hen house. We have to phase out oil and gas - starting now."

**Micah Parkin, Executive Director at 350 Colorado**

"The US mountain west is already suffering from worsening drought, wildfires, extreme temperatures, impacts to important sectors like agriculture and tourism, and disasters that are already costing Colorado about \$1billion per year. Others around the world are and will continue to suffer even worse. We call on our leaders to take appropriate action toward enforceable limits on greenhouse gas emissions as the only path to keep global temperature rise below 1.5C and prevent the worst at this critical time period."

**Mik Aidt, Director at Centre for Climate Safety**



“For decades, truth and science has been up against power, profits and lies. And governments are unwilling to take action unless enough people demand it. So as a result, the world has now entered uncharted territory, moving closer each day to bringing multiple dangerous tipping points. Yet media fails to educate the public on the danger and on the actions that need to be taken in all sectors of society, among these first of all: a fast and steady reduction of emissions by phasing out fossil fuels. This is the problem in a nutshell. This is why we have a climate emergency. Whether we can secure a safe future for life on our planet, including for our own children, will depend on whether we manage to end our collective addiction to fossil fuels in time.”

**Mike Nickerson, Executive Director at 7th Generation Initiative**

“A successful future depends on acknowledging the evidence.”

**Sandy Emerson, Research Team member at Fossil Free California**

“Even before COP28 is truly underway, its fossil-friendly agenda is calling for an "orderly phase-down" of "unabated fossil fuels". These weak weasel-words give Big Oil a free pass to continue polluting, so long as there's increased spending on renewables coupled with unrealistic reliance on unproven "carbon capture" technologies. The climate system is verging on collapse: the world needs a fast, fair, and verifiable phasing OUT of fossil fuel production and consumption, not more empty promises from fossil fuel producers.”

**Nick Beglinger, CEO at Cleantech21 Foundation**

“The voluntary aspect of saving the planet is obvious, especially in the eyes of future generations. To get where we need to, fast enough, there must be clear rules for all and everyone to follow. First and foremost, this includes a price on GHG emissions. #now”

**Pablo Montaña, Executive director at Conexiones Climáticas**

“Mexico has just experienced the impacts of Hurricane Otis, one of the most powerful extreme weather events in its territory, resulting in irreparable damages and loss of human lives. Continuing with promises, coalitions, and alliances to preserve crisis conditions is sacrificing populations and territories for the benefit of a few. This alliance is a false climate solution, and as such, we denounce it.”

**Peter J. Arsenault, FAIA, Director at GreeningUSA**

“In light of scientific evidence that our current dependence on fossil fuels is not sustainable, communities, including those represented at COP 28, must take steps to rapidly replace energy generated from fossil fuels (coal, oil, gas) with renewable, nonpolluting alternatives such as solar, wind, geothermal, hydropower, and biomass. This conversion is worthy of significant support at all scale levels including larger energy utility companies, smaller local systems, or individual energy users. We further support all efforts that strive to make innovative, non-polluting methods for energy production widely available and affordable to all citizens.”

**Roishetta Ozane, Founder/Director at Vessel Project of Louisiana**

“Communities along the Gulf Coast of Louisiana burdened by fossil fuel production and pollution are disproportionately affected by the climate crisis. The devastating impact of hurricanes, sea-level rise, and extreme weather events pose a significant threat to our livelihoods and well-being. Transitioning to renewable energy sources and phasing out fossil fuels would not only mitigate the climate crisis but also alleviate the environmental and health burdens faced by our communities. It is crucial for COP28 to prioritize equitable solutions that address these specific concerns and support a just transition for these affected regions.”

**Roseanna Sacco, President of Preserve Monroe**

“May we all embrace the Wise Use of Energy as a vehicle for Peace.”

**Sandy Steubing, Manager at Buy Local, Grow Local**

“Shame!”

**Soumya Dutta, Trustee at MAUSAM (Movement for Advancing Understanding of Sustainability And Mutuality)**

"Many critical Earth systems are on the verge of collapse, unless we completely and quickly phase out All Fossil Fuels. Act on that decisively , Not on useless 'voluntary pledges'.

**Tamela Trussell, Founder at Move Past Plastic**

“The fiscal and planetary costs will be catastrophic if we continue to invest in the fossil fuel and petrochemical industries. We the people, can't afford to become poorer in health and our bank accounts while making the fossil fuel and petrochemical industries executives wealthy.”

**Tania Abdul, Executive Director at Breathe**

“It is far past time for partial measures. The global human population requires you to do what may seem impossible now. Be true leaders and stop hedging your bets that the extreme destabilization we face won't also destroy your fortresses.”

**J. Todd Fernandez, Esq., Executive Director at Climate Crisis Policy & The Earth Bill Network**

"This crisis necessitates binding international mandates on countries to eliminate greenhouse gas pollution on a fixed timeline, like we managed ozone pollution. The international advocacy conversation needs to get specific about model national laws to mandate the transition, including laws to require utility companies to transition to 100% renewable energy by 2030."

**David Kraft, Director at Nuclear Energy Information Service (NEIS)**

We have the technology to become carbon free AND nuclear free by 2040, and we need to. This certification scam just delays that inevitability, and fosters continued climate disruption.