 **Canadian Worker Cooperative Federation**

 **Fédération Canadienne des Coopératives de Travail**

**Canadian Worker Cooperative Federation Statement on UN Climate Change Negotiations**

July 16, 2015

From November 30 to December 11, 2015, the nations of the world will come together in Paris, France to negotiate a global treaty on climate change. The Canadian Worker Co-operative Federation (CWCF) is an organisation representing worker co-operatives across Canada, and Principle 7 of the Co-operative Principles states that “Co-operatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies approved by their members”. Climate change unequivocally threatens not only sustainable development, but the survival of millions of people around the world through undermining food security, extreme weather events, sea level rise, ocean acidification and other impacts. CWCF is therefore mandated on behalf of our members to advocate for meaningful action on climate change according to the co-operative values of **self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity** and**solidarity.** In so doing, CWCF joins a diverse and growing movement within society described in the backgrounder.

To this end, CWCF calls for an agreement in Paris that includes the following elements:

**Commitment to 100% renewable future by 2050**: In order to stabilise the climate at safe levels as called for by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the world needs to transition away from fossil fuels to renewable energy by 2050[[1]](#footnote-1). This also means that more than 2/3 of all present commercially viable fossil fuel reserves will need to stay in the ground[[2]](#footnote-2).

**Mutual support:** Mechanisms need to be established in order to share capital, knowledge and technology between all parties to minimise uptake due to legal barriers such as intellectual property.

**Equity and self-responsibility:** The level of responsibility for reducing emissions and therefore national targets need to be commensurate with the financial resources and historical responsibility of each nation.

**Fair compensation:** CWCF recognises that the current levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere are a consequence of the historical activities of the industrialised developed nations. Industrialised countries therefore have a responsibility to provide finances and technologies to support the transition away from fossil fuels in southern countries and to adapt to a changing climate.

**The common good**: Policies and mechanisms must advance the common good over private goods, undermining global and national inequality, strengthening civil society, democratic structures and the social economy.

**Openness and transparency:** All countries must report on their targets and progress openly and transparently to ensure accountability for their efforts.

In order to advance these principles, CWCF will:

* Write to the co-chairs of the co-operative Caucus requesting that all parties commit to advancing a climate change agreement based on the principles above;
* Encourage members to write to their elected officials with a similar request; and
* Work with CICOPA, the international worker cooperative association, on a joint statement for the Americas and internationally in support of a meaningful agreement in Paris.

Backgrounder: Who supports climate action

*Compiled by European Climate Foundation with additions by CWCF*

Scientists

* **97% or more of actively publishing climate scientists** [agree](http://climate.nasa.gov/scientific-consensus/) thatclimate-warming trends over the past century are very likely due to human activities. So do over 197 top [scientific organizations](http://opr.ca.gov/s_listoforganizations.php) from around the world, including [NASA](http://climate.nasa.gov), [NOAA](http://www.noaa.gov/climate.html), the [Royal Society of Canada](http://www.scj.go.jp/ja/info/kohyo/pdf/kohyo-21-s1.pdf), the [Royal Society of the United Kingdom](https://royalsociety.org/policy/projects/climate-evidence-causes/), the French [Académie des Sciences](http://www.scj.go.jp/ja/info/kohyo/pdf/kohyo-21-s1.pdf), the [Science Council of Japan](http://www.scj.go.jp/ja/info/kohyo/pdf/kohyo-21-s1.pdf), the [Chinese Academy of Sciences](http://www.scj.go.jp/ja/info/kohyo/pdf/kohyo-21-s1.pdf), the [African Academy of Sciences](http://www.interacademies.net/file.aspx?id=4825), the [Russian Academy of Sciences](http://www.scj.go.jp/ja/info/kohyo/pdf/kohyo-21-s1.pdf) and the [World Meteorological Organisation](https://www.wmo.int/pages/themes/climate/index_en.php).
* **2013-14: The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** - the UN’s climate science body which every five to seven years produces a summary of the consensus among climate scientists - [said](http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-24292615) in their latest Fifth Assessment Report that scientists are 95% certain that humans are the dominant cause of global warming since the 1950s.
* **02.02.15: WMO** [announced](https://www.wmo.int/media/?q=content/warming-trend-continues-2014) 2014 was the hottest year on record and that 14 of the 15 hottest years on record occurred since 2000.
* **03.07.15: over 30 Nobel Laureates working in science** made a [declaration](http://sciencecalling.com/2015/07/03/climate-change-declaration/) in support of climate action. The scientists compared the threat of climate change to the threat posed by nuclear arms nearly 60 years ago.

The People

The people already being hit hardest by climate change:

* **02.10.14: Hundreds of activists, including some of the people most vulnerable to climate change,** [began](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/10/02/us-foundation-climatechange-philippines-idUSKCN0HR1JI20141002) a 38-day, 1,000 kilometre journey to the area hit by Typhoon Haiyan in the name of climate action.
* **15.08.14: The Prime Minister of the Pacific island of Tuvalu, Enele Sopoaga,** [likened](http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-08-15/an-tuvalu-president-is-climate-change-27like-a-weapon-of-mass-/5672696) climate change to a ‘weapon of mass destruction’.
* **16.03.15: A Peruvian farmer** [announced](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/mar/16/peruvian-farmer-demands-climate-compensation-from-german-company) plans to sue German utility RWE - a big emitter of greenhouse gases - for its role in causing the climate change which could destroy his house.
* **16.03.15: The President of the South Pacific island of Vanuatu** [blamed](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/mar/16/vanuatus-president-blames-climate-change-for-extreme-weather) climate change for a cyclone that killed 24 people.
* **20.04.15: Marshall Islands** [called](http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/8560b48e-e754-11e4-a01c-00144feab7de.html) for curbs on maritime carbon emissions. A month later, the Marshall Islands, the world’s third largest ship register, announced it may stop [registering oil rigs](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/may/13/marshall-islands-may-stop-registering-oil-rigs-in-future-says-foreign-minister).
* **07.05.15: The Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) - a coalition of 20 countries particularly vulnerable to climate change -** have [urged](http://www.rtcc.org/2015/05/04/rethink-2c-climate-goal-urge-worlds-most-vulnerable/) the UN’s climate change body to lower the ceiling by which the world can warm from 2 degrees to 1.5 degrees compared to pre-industrial levels. A series of three reports warned about the difference an extra 0.5 degrees in terms of human rights violations, displacement and GDP.
* **22.05.15: 95% of Brazilians** [think](https://secured-static.greenpeace.org/brasil/Global/brasil/image/2015/Maio/datafolha%20clima.pdf) that climate change is already affecting Brazil.
* **26.05.15: Two indigenous tribes in Australia, the Wangan and Jangalingou people**, [rejected](http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-03-26/wangan-jagalingou-people-say-no-to-16-billion-carmichael-mine-q/6349252) the proposed $16 billion AUD Carmichael coal mine in Queensland and began a world tour of financial institutions to call for an end to investments in dirty fuels.
* **04.06.15: The Prime Minister of Fiji, Voreqe Bainimarama,** [called](http://www.fbc.com.fj/fiji/30088/pm-calls-for-concerted-pacific-effort-at-cop21-summit) for binding cuts in carbon emissions and a concerted Pacific effort at COP21.
* **05.06.15: Kofi Annan and the Africa Progress Panel** released a [report](http://allafrica.com/stories/201506050001.html) calling on Africa to play a leading role in the global clean energy transition and arguing that the only way the continent can alleviate energy poverty is to tap its huge clean energy potential.
* **08.06.15: In the Philippines, Greenpeace Southeast Asia, the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement and other local NGOs** demanded that the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines open a critical investigation into the big carbon polluters for human rights violations that have or will result from the impact of climate change.

Emergency service workers:

* **November 2009: 25 firefighters, paramedics, police, military and emergency services workers** [spent](http://www.safeclimateaustralia.org/run-for-a-safe-climate/) nearly a month running 6,000 kilometres across Australia to voice their concerns on climate change to various communities. Australian firefighters have set up the [Australian Firefighters Climate Alliance](http://www.ausfca.org.au) to provide leadership to the firefighting community on climate issues. A 2013 report [found](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/dec/09/firefighter-numbers-will-need-to-double-by-2030-climate-council) that Australian fire services will need to double their number of firefighters by 2030 due to climate change.
* **February 2015: Veteran Colorado firefighters** [expressed](http://www.9news.com/story/news/local/2015/04/28/climate-change-factor-in-wildfire-intensity/26543457/) concern about the increased intensity of fires due to climate change in a documentary.

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/may/13/marshall-islands-may-stop-registering-oil-rigs-in-future-says-foreign-minister>

Public:

* **2013-present: Thousands of people** have [agreed](http://fastfortheclimate.org/en/heroes/) to fast for the climate on the first of each month until sufficient climate action is taken.
* **21.09.14: Nearly 400,000 people** joined the [People’s Climate March](http://www.foxnews.com/science/2014/09/21/new-york-climate-march-attracts-over-310000-people/) in New York, while 40,000 people marched in [London](http://www.campaigncc.org/climatemarchlondon). On the same day there were [2,500 events](http://www.campaigncc.org/climatemarchlondon) in 166 countries.
* **10.12.14: over 15,000 people marched in Lima** [demanding](https://globalvoicesonline.org/2014/12/15/photos-largest-climate-march-in-latin-american-history-floods-limas-streets/) a just solution to climate change. The gathering was the largest Latin American climate march to date.
* **2015: 210,000 people have signed up to The Guardian’s** [**#Keepitintheground**](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/ng-interactive/2015/may/27/keepitintheground-supporters-wellcome-trust-gates-foundation?CMP=ema-60) **campaign** calling on the Gates Foundation and the Wellcome Trust to divest from fossil fuels.

## 13-14.02.15: During Global Divestment Day, 450 separate events in 60 different countries were [organised](http://gofossilfree.org/wrap-up/) to call on investors to divest from fossil fuels.

## 07.03.15: over 20,000 people [took to the UK streets](http://www.timetoact2015.org/http%3A//www.timetoact2015.org/) in the run-up to the May general election to demand bold action on climate change.

* **11.04.15: 25,000 people** [**marched**](http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/quebec-city-climate-change-march-draws-25-000-people-1.3029493) **in Quebec** to support climate action.
* **27.04.15:** **6,000 people** [formed](http://tcktcktck.org/2015/04/thousands-join-hands-in-germany-to-call-for-an-end-of-coal/) a 7.5km-long human chain in Germany’s Rheinland as part of the largest anti-coal protest the region has ever seen.
* **07.06.15: Almost 80% of people worldwide** are very concerned about the effects of climate change according to a public consultation according to the [World Wide Views on Climate and Energy initiative](http://www.wort.lu/en/international/world-wide-views-on-climate-and-energy-global-citizens-very-concerned-about-climate-55744d3f0c88b46a8ce5ac71), the widest global effort yet to gauge citizens' views on climate change .
* **08.06.15: Nine out of ten people in nine countries (both developed and developing) representing half of global GDP** [want](http://www.ituc-csi.org/world-s-citizens-ahead-of-leaders)to see leaders take action to protect the international community from climate change impacts, according to a report from the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC). While almost two-thirds of the developed world want action, the figure is far higher in the developing world at 80 per cent. The two countries with the loudest calls for immediate action were the heavily populated island nations of Indonesia (90 per cent) and the Philippines (88 per cent). Even in the UK (58 per cent) and the US (55 per cent), the majority are demanding action.
* **17.06.15: 9,000 UK constituents** [met](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/jun/17/thousands-join-mass-climate-change-lobby-outside-uk-parliament) outside the Houses of Parliament to lobby around 250 MPs to take stronger action on climate change.
* **06.07.15: More than 10,000 people (including environmentalists, labour unions, First Nations, anti-poverty and faith groups, health workers and immigration rights activists**) [demonstrated](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/true-north/2015/jul/06/historic-toronto-climate-march-calls-for-new-economic-vision?utm_medium=twitter&utm_source=dlvr.it) for ‘jobs, justice and climate action’ in Toronto.

Young people:

* **Since 1999: children and young people** have [participated](https://unfccc.int/cc_inet/cc_inet/youth_portal/items/6578.php) in the UN climate negotiations process since the fifth Conference of the Parties in Bonn in 1999.
* The Youth Climate Movement (YOUNGO) or International Youth Climate Movement (IYCM) is an international network of youth organisations united against climate change.
* **2009: the 350.org international day of climate action gave young people across the world a chance to show their support for climate action: 10,000 Ethiopian school children** [planted](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kyle-cassidy/the-youth-climate-movemen_b_360517.html) trees as part of the International Day of Climate Action in Addis Ababa, hundreds of schoolchildren in India [spelled](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kyle-cassidy/the-youth-climate-movemen_b_360517.html) out ‘350’ (referring to the maximum acceptable parts-per-million concentration of carbon dioxide in the air) with their bodies, and Afghanistan witnessed its first climate change-related grassroots-mobilizing event as youth groups met the country’s Minister of Environment.
* **04.06.2015: The UK Youth Climate Coalition** [sent](http://ukycc.org/a-letter-to-david-cameron/) a letter to British Prime Minister David Cameron urging him to push for an ambitious long-term decarbonisation goal at that weekend’s G7 Summit.

Parents:

* [**Parental organisations**](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dominique-browning/8-parent-organizations-un_b_5445953.html)such as iMatter, Climate Parents, Mothers Out Front, The Mothers Project, ClimateMama, MomsRising, Communitopia, Groovy Green Livin’ and Moms Clean Air Force

The elderly:

* [**Groups of elderly people**](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ellen-moyer-phd/elders-take-action-on-climate-change-_b_7309578.html)such as Elders Climate Action, Gray is Green, Elder Activists, 100 Grannies, FiftyOverFifty.org, Stay Cool for Grandkids, Grandparents Climate Action and the Norwegian Grandparents Climate Change Campaign.

Popular figures:

* **23.09.14: Leonardo di Caprio, actor and UN Messenger of Peace** [speaks](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/sep/23/leonarodo-dicaprio-un-climate-change-speech-new-york) at the UN Climate Summit in New York on the reality of climate change and the need for a price on carbon emissions and an end to fossil fuel subsidies. The UN Climate Summit was organised by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who has [described](http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/jan/12/last-generation-tackle-climate-change-un-international-community) our generation as the last that can fight climate change. Both Leonardo di Caprio and Ban Ki-moon [marched](http://mashable.com/2014/09/21/celebrities-peoples-climate-march/) in the People’s Climate March, along with actors Mark Ruffalo, Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Kevin Bacon, the actress Kyra Sedgwick, musician Pete Yarrow and former Vice President of the United States Al Gore.
* **01.01.15: Naturalist and TV presenter David Attenborough** [described](http://www.express.co.uk/news/nature/549682/David-Attenborough-climate-change-evidence-overhwhelming) climate change as a ‘very major, serious problem facing humanity’. Attenborough [reiterated](http://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2015/jun/25/sir-david-attenborough-and-barack-obama-face-to-face-in-tv-interview) his support for climate action in an interview with US President Barack Obama in June 2015.
* **14.01.15: Celebrities including Matt Damon, Bill Gates, Jody Williams, Malala Yousafzai, Bono, Desmond Tutu, Richard Branson, the entrepreneur Mo Ibrahim, the actor Aamir Khan and Queen Rania of Jordan** are [part of](http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2015/jan/14/action-2015-poverty-climate-change-united-nations-summits) the action/2015 campaign which aims to combat poverty and climate change.
* **11.02.15: Actors Stephen Fry and David Harewood, actress Emilia Fox and comedian Meera Syal** [highlight](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/earth/environment/climatechange/11404074/Show-the-love-Stephen-Fry-and-Meera-Syal-join-stars-highlighting-climate-change-challenges.html) the challenges posed by climate change in a short film.
* **26.05.15: Prince Charles**, founder of a whole [series](http://www.princeofwales.gov.uk/features/sustainability) of sustainability and climate programmes, [reaffirmed](http://www.rtcc.org/2015/02/26/prince-charles-mocks-climate-sceptics-in-royal-society-speech/) that the climate science is clear and calls on countries to adopt an ambitious emissions cutting treaty.
* **06.06.15: While promoting his new film in Australia, Arnold Schwarzenegger** - the Hollywood movie star and former Governor of California who passed the first emissions trading scheme in the US - [called](http://www.theguardian.com/film/2015/jun/06/arnold-schwarzenegger-tells-australia-cutting-emissions-is-good-economics) on all countries to lift their game when tackling climate change and rubbished the idea that environmental protection damages the economy.

People of faith

* **Over 80 religious institutions and local chapters of religious institutions** have [announced](http://gofossilfree.org/commitments/) substantial divestments from fossil fuels.

#### Several prominent religious figures - including Olav Fykse Tveit, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches; Nilton Giese, General Secretary of the Latin American Council of Churches; Ebrahim Saidy, a Muslim cleric from Gambia and Norway; Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury; Bishop Susan Johnson of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada; Martin Junge, General Secretary of the Lutheran World Foundation; Sister Jayanti Kirpalani, Brahma Kumaris; Marc Stenger, Bishop of Troyes - have joined thousands of others and pledged to fast once a month as part of the [Fast for the Climate](http://fastfortheclimate.org/en/) campaign.

* **21-22.09.14: Thirty religious leaders** gathered in New York for the Interfaith Summit on Climate Change and released a [statement](http://interfaithclimate.org/the-statement/) ‘acknowledging the overwhelming scientific evidence that climate change is human-induced and that, without global and inclusive action towards mitigation and unless fully addressing its fundamental causes, its impacts will continue to grow in intensity and frequency.’
* **22.09.14: The Dalai Lama** came out a day before the New York Climate Summit, [warned](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/23/science/forecasts-hopes-and-fears-about-climate-change.html?_r=0) about the dangers of climate change and exclaimed ‘We can do this’ in relation to climate action.
* **10.12.14: Prominent Catholic Bishops:** at COP20[called](http://www.cidse.org/articles/content/articles/climate-justice/cop20-lima/catholic-bishops-statement-in-lima-on-the-road-to-paris.html) for an ambitious deal at COP20 based on the moral and ethical imperative of climate action. They also pledged to live in an environmentally friendly.
* **01.05.15: The Church of England** [divested](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/apr/30/church-of-england-ends-investments-in-heavily-polluting-fossil-fuels) 12 million GBP from tar sands oil and thermal coal.
* **01.05.15: The Methodist Church** - the UK’s fourth largest Christian church - [announced](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/may/01/methodists-new-climate-policy-signals-move-away-from-dirtiest-fossil-fuels) it could rule out future investments in the dirtiest fossil fuels.
* **16.06.15: UK Christians** [consider](http://www.christiantoday.com/article/uk.christians.big.worry.for.the.future.is.climate.change.poll.shows/56378.htm) climate change and the environment as the biggest problems facing the world over the next 10 years, according to a poll.
* **17.06.15: Representatives from the Christian, Muslim, Jewish and Sikh religions including Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby** [signed](http://home.bt.com/news/uk-news/faith-leaders-urge-climate-deal-11363987138641) the Lambeth Declaration calling for urgent action on climate change and pledging to fast and pray for the success of the COP21 negotiations and urge their communities to recognise the need to move to a low-carbon economy. The declaration also noted that climate change hits the poorest hardest.
* **18.06.15: The Pope** released an [Encyclical](http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/672de57c-edd0-11e4-90d2-00144feab7de.html#axzz3YdDU6DhK) on the moral imperative for sustainable development and action to protect the world’s poorest and most vulnerable to climate change. His Encyclical will be welcomed by Catholics and non-Catholics all over the world, including in the form of a big celebratory [march](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TdMc23WL3sQyYxXFX_1M90AMHTAaebvGCmBVlZ6TmOY/edit) in Rome on 28th June, various [pilgrimages](http://peoplespilgrimage.org/) (including the People’s Pilgrimage [launched](https://franciscanaction.org/article/press-release-six-month-global-people%C2%B4s-pilgrimage-launched) by Yeb Sano on June 7th and various European [pilgrimages](http://www.klimapilgern.de/international)) towards Paris to coincide with COP21, and also interfaith vigils and prayer meetings throughout 2015 and especially in September when the Pope speaks to US Congress and the UNGA. A Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM) [petition](http://catholicclimatemovement.global/) (endorsed by the Pope) for a 1.5C-degree target has also attracted widespread support.
* **23.06.15: The Lutheran World Federation (LWF)** has [announced](http://www.ekklesia.co.uk/node/21822) that it shall be the policy of the LWF not to invest in fossil fuels. The LWF has also called on its 148 member church bodies in 79 countries to join it.
* **28.06.15: Several thousand Catholics, Protestants, Buddhists, Hindus, Jews and Muslims** [marched](http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/06/28/us-pope-climatechange-idUSKCN0P813920150628) through Rome to the Vatican on Sunday to demand action on climate change and thank Pope Francis for his encyclical on the environment.

Trade Unions

* **18.05.15: The International Trade Union Congress (ITUC), which represents 168 million workers in 155 countries,** has [called](http://www.ituc-csi.org/climate-deal-on-the-line-as) for political commitments for a just transition to a low-carbon economy to protect existing jobs and organise new quality jobs in the emerging green economy. According to the ITUC, strong climate action could create [48 million new jobs in 12 countries](http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/ituc_green_jobs_summary_en_final.pdf).

Economists

* **30.10.13: Analysts Maplecroft** [warned](http://maplecroft.com/portfolio/new-analysis/2013/10/30/31-global-economic-output-forecast-face-high-or-extreme-climate-change-risks-2025-maplecroft-risk-atlas/) that 31% of global economic output, worth $44 trillion, is likely to face ‘high’ or ‘extreme’ risks as soon as 2025 due to global warming.
* **2014: The International Energy Agency** released a [report](http://www.iea.org/publications/freepublications/publication/the-way-forward.html) entitled ‘The Way Forward’ which called on governments to seize the benefits of immediate action to bend the global emissions curve and found that to 2020, bridging 80% of the gap to an optimal 2-degree path would come at no extra cost to GDP.
* **6-7.05.14: A ministerial statement from a meeting of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** [described](http://www.oecd.org/mcm/MCM-2014-Statement-Climate-Change.pdf) climate change as ‘a major urgent challenge and a potentially irreversible threat to the achievement of our goal of “Resilient Economies and Inclusive Societies”, requiring a decisive, consistent and coherent response. In October 2013, the **Secretary General of the OECD, Angel Gurria**, [called](http://www.oecd.org/about/secretary-general/The-climate-challenge-achieving-zero-emissions.htm) on governments to put a price on carbon emissions and abolish subsidies for fossil fuels. The OECD’s work on climate change is [focusing](http://www.oecd.org/env/cc/) on ‘how to move countries to a low-carbon and climate resilient pathway, and how to improve the effectiveness of the global climate regime’.
* **16.09.14: The New Climate Economy report - written by the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate whose members include Lord Nicholas Stern (IG Patel Professor of Economics and Government at LSE), Maria van der Hoeven (Executive Director of the IEA), Zhu Levin (former President and CEO of China International Capital Corporation), Takehiko Nakao (President of the Asian Development Bank), Caio Koch-Weser (Vice Chairman of the Deutsche Bank Group), Michel M. Liès (CEO of the Swiss Re Group), Angel Gurria (Secretary-General of the OECD), Naina Lal Kidwai (Chairman, India and Director, HSBC Asia Pacific), Suma Chakrabarti (President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development) and former President of Mexico Felipe Calderon -** [argued](http://newclimateeconomy.net/content/press-release-economic-growth-and-action-climate-change-can-now-be-achieved-together-finds) that the choice between economic growth and climate action was a false dilemma and demonstrated that the amount of investment required in low-carbon infrastructure over the next 15 years is only marginally higher than the amount that will be invested in infrastructure anyway.

Business

* [**105 major companies**](http://www.wemeanbusinesscoalition.org/take-action) have made commitments to a We Mean Business campaign for climate action.
* **2014:** Businesses’ increasing support for clean energy was [demonstrated](http://about.bnef.com/press-releases/rebound-clean-energy-investment-2014-beats-expectations/) in 2014 as global clean energy investment rose 16% on 2013 figures to $310 billion.
* **December 2014: The Non-State Actor Zone for Climate Action (NAZCA)** [portal](http://climateaction.unfccc.int) was launched to showcase commitments to climate action by companies, cities, subnational regions, and investors to address climate change. It lists 2,763 commitments to action, including 1,156 actions from 660 companies.
* **02.12.14: Over 200 businesses - including Nike, IKEA, Mars, Nestlé, Starbucks and Unilever -** sent a [letter](http://www.ceres.org/press/press-releases/nestle-jll-novelis-inc.-and-levi-strauss-co-join-223-companies-in-supporting-epa2019s-clean-power-plan) to the White House in support of the US Environmental Protection Agency’s Clean Power Plan which would cut carbon emissions from power plants.
* **05.02.15: Twelve business leaders - including airline magnate Richard Branson; François-Henri Pinault, CEO and Chairman of Kering; telecoms billionaire Mo Ibrahim; co-founder of The Huffington Post Ariana Huffington; Chairman Emeritus of the Tata Group Ratan Tata; Professor Muhammad Yunus, Chairman of Yunus Centre; Kathy Calvin, President and CEO of the United Nations Foundation; Mary Robinson, Secretary of The Elders and President of the Mary Robinson Foundation for Climate Justice; and Unilever CEO Paul Polman -** [called](http://www.rtcc.org/2015/02/05/business-leaders-call-for-net-zero-emissions-by-2050/) for countries to aim for zero net emissions by 2050.
* **21.05.15: 25 worldwide business networks representing over 6.5 million companies** from more than 130 countries [pledged](http://www.businessclimatesummit.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Business-Climate-Summit-Press-release.pdf) to lead the global transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy at the Business and Climate Summit in Paris.
* **01.06.15: The heads of Europe’s largest oil and gas companies** [joined together](http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-06-01/europe-s-largest-oil-producers-make-joint-call-on-climate-action) to call for governments to agree to carbon pricing at the UN climate conference in Paris in December.
* **04.06.15: Swedish furniture giant IKEA** [announced](http://www.bbc.com/news/business-33009509) it would spend €600 million on setting up its stores to generate renewable energy and €400 million on helping poor countries adapt to climate change between now and 2020.

*Utilities:*

* **30.10.14: Swedish utility Vattenfall** [said](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/oct/30/swedish-energy-company-vattenfall-plans-to-sell-its-german-coal-operations) it planned to sell off its German lignite operations because they are incompatible with the company’s climate change goals.
* **01.12.14: Germany’s top utility E.ON** [announced](http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2014-12-01/eon-split-to-fortify-german-green-energy-transformation) it would split itself in two, spinning off power plants to allow it to focus on renewables and power grids.
* **18.03.15: Enel** - Europe’s second largest utility in terms of installed capacity - [announced](http://www.businessgreen.com/bg/news/2400218/enel-to-phase-out-coal-investments-and-lead-climate-charge) it would phase out coal investments and switch to green investments.

*Insurance companies:*

* **1973: German reinsurance giant Munich Re** first [warned](http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/rob-magazine/an-industry-that-has-woken-up-to-climate-change-no-deniers-at-global-resinsurance-giant/article15635331/?page=all) about climate change in 1973 when it noticed the increased frequency of floods.
* **21.04.15: A coalition of some of the world’s biggest insurance companies (including Allianz, Liberty Mutual, SwissRe and USAA)** [called](http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2015/04/21/3649244/insurance-climate-change-disaster-relief/) on the US government to spend more on pre-disaster mitigation and infrastructure protection to reduce post-disaster clean-up costs.
* **22.05.15: Axa** has [said](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/may/22/axa-divest-high-risk-coal-funds-due-threat-climate-change) it will remove around €500m (£355m) of coal investments from its portfolio
* **14.09.14: The International Cooperative and Mutual Insurance Federation** (ICMIF), representing the mutual insurance sector with a collective USD 8 trillion of assets under management, announced it [will double](https://www.icmif.org/news/insurance-industry-double-its-climate-smart-investment-end-2015) its climate-smart investments - from $42 billion to $84 billion by end of 2015.

Financial institutions

* **Since September 2014, over 50 banks and investors** have [signed](http://montrealpledge.org) the Montréal Carbon Pledge, committing to measure and publicly disclose the carbon footprint of their investment portfolios on an annual basis.
* **Over 30 foundations** have [announced](http://gofossilfree.org/commitments/) substantial divestments from fossil fuels, including the Ben & Jerry’s Foundation, the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, the Educational Foundation of America.
* **23.09.14: The Rockefeller Brothers Fund**, which controls about $860m in assets, [divested](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-29310475) from fossil fuels and said it would switch investments to clean energy. The Fund is part of the [Global Divest-Invest](http://divestinvest.org/individual/) initiative, a coalition of 650 individuals and 180 institutions [pledging](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-29310475) to divest more than $50bn in fossil fuel assets.

### 24.10.14: An alliance of 70 major investors with a collective $3 trillion (£1.85 trillion) of assets - including the Scottish Widows Investment Partnership, the California State Teachers’ Retirement System (CalSTRS) and Pax World Management - [called](http://blueandgreentomorrow.com/2013/10/24/investors-worth-3tn-put-pressure-on-fossil-fuels-industry-to-rethink-future/) on the world’s largest fossil fuels firms to explain how their business models square with the need for dramatic carbon reduction.

* **27.10.14: The Bank of England** [wrote](http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/dedd1954-5bad-11e4-a674-00144feab7de.html#axzz3bE8DdkQr) to dozens of insurance companies to assess the risk that climate change poses to their solvency and earnings. In December 2014, the Bank[committed](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.carbontracker.org%2Fnews%2Fbank-of-englands-momentous-move-on-climate-change%2F&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNG6DJlRrUJWNT8HtJiDVR9Bmyu1BQ) to monitor the financial risk of unburnable carbon. In April 2015, The Bank of England [warned](http://europe.newsweek.com/bank-england-warns-fossil-fuel-investment-risk-311265) investors of the "live risk" of climate change policy to the insurance sector.
* **09.04.15: Three French banks - Société Générale, BNP Paribas and Crédit Agricole -** [confirmed](http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/galilee-basin-three-more-banks-rule-out-financing-coal-projects-20150408-1mgvu0.html) they would not fund nine controversial Australian coal mining projects that would contribute hugely to climate change and put the Great Barrier Reef in further danger. They added their names to an impressive list of financial giants to rule out funding the projects, including Deutsche Bank, HSBC, Citibank and Morgan Stanley.
* **16.04.15:** [**Voting**](http://www.theguardian.com/business/2015/apr/16/bp-promises-more-transparency-on-climate-issues) **at the BP Annual General Meeting, 98 per cent of BP shareholders** gave the green light to a resolution calling for the company to be more open about its impact on climate change.
* **01.05.15: Vancity Credit Union’s mutual fund** [divests from fossil fuel](http://www.vancouversun.com/business/Vancity%2Bmutual%2Bfund%2Bdrops%2Bfossil%2Bfuel%2Bcompanies/11015140/story.html) investments.
* **05.05.15: Three Danish pension funds** representing academics, civil engineers and architects[voted](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/may/05/members-of-three-danish-pension-funds-vote-to-divest-from-fossil-fuels) to divest from fossil fuels.
* **11.05.15: The World Bank** [stated](http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/05/11/climate-change-energy-idUSL5N0Y23IV20150511) that countries around the world can move their economies onto a path that cuts net emissions of climate-changing gases to zero at an affordable cost but that they should start now.
* **18.05.15: The International Monetary Fund (IMF)** [says](http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/7c6512a6-fd27-11e4-b072-00144feabdc0.html#axzz3bE8DdkQr)governments around the world will subsidise the cost of oil, gas and coal to the tune of $5.3tn in 2015, fuelling pollution and climate change as they misallocate the equivalent of what is spent globally on public health. Both the World Bank and IMF have frequently [stressed](http://www.rtcc.org/2013/10/08/world-bank-and-imf-we-must-think-about-climate-change-every-day/) the importance of a global climate deal and non-state action.
* **19.05.15: Investors** have launched an online [platform](http://investorsonclimatechange.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Investor-platform_media-release.pdf) (the [Investor Platform for Climate Actions](http://investorsonclimatechange.org)) to identify and record the wide range of actions on climate change being undertaken by the global investor community.
* **20.05.15: French bank Crédit Agricole,** the world's [eighth-largest bank](http://www.ca-cib.com/group-overview/credit-agricole-cib-in-a-click.htm) in total assets and Europe's fourth-largest bank by Tier one equity**,** [said](http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/05/20/credit-agricole-coal-idUSL5N0YB4NO20150520) it would no longer finance coal mining or miners
* **26.05.15: CEOs from around the world managing funds worth more than $12 trillion:** Ahead of a meeting of G7 Finance Ministers in Dresden, Germany, 120 investor CEOs from around the world managing funds worth more than $12 trillionwrote an [open letter](http://www.iigcc.org/publications/publication/open-letter-to-finance-ministers-in-the-group-of-seven-g-7) to finance ministers urging them to support the inclusion of a long-term emissions reduction goal in the international climate agreement due to be sealed in Paris in December. US public pension giants [Calpers and Calstrs](http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/48ce29a6-02e9-11e5-8333-00144feabdc0.html) were among the signatories.
* **05.06.15: Norwegian Oil Fund:** Norway's parliament formally [agreed](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/jun/05/norways-pension-fund-to-divest-8bn-from-coal-a-new-analysis-shows) to sell off the Norwegian Oil Fund’s investments in companies earning more than 30% of their revenues from coal or producing more than 30% of their electricity from coal. The $900bn sovereign wealth fund - the world’s biggest - will now divest US$8 billion of coal investments.
* **24.06.15: The Asian Development Bank** released a [report](http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/06/24/world/asia/ap-as-asia-climate-change.html) stating ‘In one country after another, climate change frequently threatens to offset decades of gains in poverty reduction’

Health experts

* **14.05.2009: University College London and the Lancet Commission** [released](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/news/news-articles/0905/09051501) a report identifying climate change as the biggest global health threat of the 21st century. **25.06.14: The British Medical Association (BMA)**, the representative body of doctors in the UK, [voted](http://www.medact.org/news/uk-doctors-vote-end-investments-fossil-fuel-industry/) to divest from fossil fuels.
* **02.09.14: A joint statement signed by Professor Tim Flannery, Professor Fiona Stanley, the Climate Council of Australia and Dr Liz Hanna of the Climate and Health Alliance representing 27 health organisations** highlighted the significant adverse health effects of coal in Australia and called for a transition away from fossil fuels.
* **19.09.14: at a global conference convened by the World Health Organisation (WHO), around 400 delegates** including senior government officials, leading scientists and development partners [agreed](http://www.who.int/mediacentre/commentaries/climate-change/en/) unanimously that climate change poses “unacceptable risks” to global public health.
* **04.02.15: A group of NGOs - Climate and Health Council, Center for Sustainable Healthcare, Medact, Medsin and Healthy Planet UK -** [urged](http://www.unhealthyinvestments.uk/uploads/1/3/1/5/13150249/unhealthy_investments.pdf) health organisations to end investment in the 200 largest publicly-listed fossil fuel companies over a period of 5 years.
* **07.04.15: The Obama administration** [announced](https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/04/07/fact-sheet-administration-announces-actions-protect-communities-impacts-) actions to protect communities from the health impacts of climate change.
* **27.05.15: The World Health Organisation (WHO)** [passed](http://www.unep.org/newscentre/Default.aspx?DocumentID=26816&ArticleID=35060) a resolution linking the causes of air pollution (which kills [7 million](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/mar/25/air-pollution-kills-7m-people-a-year) people annually) and climate change (which kills [400,000](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2012/sep/26/climate-change-damaging-global-economy) people annually), and reaffirming WHO’s commitment to actions on climate-related health issues.
* **23.06.15: The Lancet Commission, a collaboration between Chinese and European academics,** released a [report](http://www.carbonbrief.org/blog/2015/06/tackling-climate-change-will-reap-benefits-for-human-health/?utm_source=Daily+Carbon+Briefing&utm_campaign=7576732aeb-cb_daily&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_876aab4fd7-7576732aeb-303440317) concluding that tackling climate change could be the biggest global health opportunity of the 21st century, or could reverse the progress made over the last 50 years if we choose not to act.
* **26.06.15: Dr Fiona Godlee, editor-in-chief of the BMJ; Dr Peter Carter, chief executive, Royal College of Nursing; Professor Maureen Baker, chairwoman, Royal College of GPs; Dr Clifford Mann, president, Royal College of Emergency Medicine; Professor Ann Millar, president, British Thoracic Society; and Professor John R Ashton, president, Faculty of Public Health** signed a [letter](http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/letters/article4479983.ece) to The Times restating the health and climate risks of burning coal and calling on UK politicians to commit to ending coal use within the next decade.

The military

* **09.03.13: Navy Admiral Samuel J. Locklear III, former Commander of the US Pacific Command,** [said](http://www.bostonglobe.com/news/nation/2013/03/09/admiral-samuel-locklear-commander-pacific-forces-warns-that-climate-change-top-threat/BHdPVCLrWEMxRe9IXJZcHL/story.html) significant upheaval related to the warming planet ‘is probably the most likely thing that is going to happen . . . that will cripple the security environment, probably more likely than the other scenarios we all often talk about.’
* **14.05.14: 16 retired American three- and four-star generals and admirals who compose the CNA Corporation’s Military Advisory Board (MAB)** [blamed](http://www.nbcnews.com/news/weather/four-star-warning-generals-dub-climate-change-security-risk-n104751) a climate change for, in part, aggravating tensions among some nations.
* **June 2014: the Global Military Advisory Council on Climate Change (GMACCC)** [released](http://gmaccc.org/ipcc-ar5-climate-change-implications-defence/) a summary of the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report’s implications for defence: ‘Climate change poses an increasing threat to peace and security in the world’
* **13.10.14: The 2014 Department of Defense Climate Change Adaptation Roadmap (CCAR)** was released, outlining the US Department of Defense’s steps for preparing for and addressing climate change-related risks. The CCAR recognizes that climate change may contribute to stresses that can enable terrorist activity. Less than a day after the report’s release a number of retired high-ranking military personnel also came out [describing](http://climateandsecurity.org/2014/10/13/military-leaders-agree-with-pentagon-climate-change-an-immediate-risk-to-national-security/) climate change as an ‘immediate risk to national security’.
* **21.05.15: Barack Obama**, President of the country with the world’s largest military, [emphasized](http://www.skynews.com.au/news/world/nthamerica/2015/05/21/us-names-climate-change-a-top-security-issue.html) that climate change is a major threat to US security.
* **22.06.15:** A **Centre for Policy Development** report [warns](http://www.thechronicle.com.au/news/chris-calcinoapn-newsdeskembargoed-until-monday-ju/2681100/) Australia faces a major national security threat if defence and security policies do not urgently start addressing climate change.

Universities

* **Over** [**30 universities and colleges**](http://gofossilfree.org/commitments/)have announced substantial divestments from fossil fuels: College of the Atlantic, Foothill-De Anza Community College Foundation, [University of Glasgow](http://www.gla.ac.uk/news/archiveofnews/2014/october/headline_364008_en.html), University of Bedfordshire, Green Mountain College, Hampshire College, Naropa University, Peralta Community College District, Pitzer College, Prescott College, San Francisco State University Foundation, [Stanford University](http://news.stanford.edu/news/2014/may/divest-coal-trustees-050714.html), Sterling College, Unity College, University of Dayton, Humboldt State University, Victoria University (Wellington, NZ), Chico State University, College of Marshall Islands, Goddard College, Chalmers University of Technology, California Institute of the Arts, University Of Maine System, The New School, Pacific School of Religion, Brevard College, Syracuse University (New York, USA), [SOAS - University of London](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/apr/24/soas-becomes-first-london-university-to-divest-from-fossil-fuels),, University of Washington, University of Hawaii, Adler University.
* **07.04.15: A group of 2,000 poverty and development researchers** [described](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/apr/07/top-academics-ask-worlds-universities-to-divest-from-fossil-fuels) university investments in fossil fuels as ‘neither tenable nor ethical’ and called on universities to divest.
* **18.05.15: Oxford University** [ruled out](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/may/18/oxford-university-rules-out-investing-in-coal-and-tar-sands) investing in coal and tar sands.
* **26.05.15: The University of Edinburgh** has [announced](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/may/26/university-edinburgh-divest-fossil-fuel-student-protestors) that it intends to fully divest from three of the world’s biggest fossil fuel producers.

Cities and regions

* **Over** [**40 cities**](http://gofossilfree.org/commitments/) have announced substantial divestments from fossil fuels: Seattle, WA; San Francisco, CA; Portland, OR; Eugene, OR; Berkeley, CA; Richmond, CA; Santa Monica, CA; Boulder, CO; Santa Fe, NM; Madison, WI; Bayfield, WI; State College, PA; Ithaca, NY; Truro, MA; Provincetown, MA; Providence, RI; Cambridge, MA; Northampton, MA; Ann Arbor, MI; Boxtel, the Netherlands; New London, CT; Amherst, MA; Sudbury, MA; Concord, MA; Framingham, MA; Dunedin, New Zealand; Oakland, California; Örebro, Sweden; Oxford, United Kingdom; Eugene, OR; City of Brisbane, CA; City of Moreland, Melbourne, Australia; City of Fremantle, Western Australia, Australia; Ashland, OR; Marrickville, Sydney, Australia; Belfast, Maine; Shire of Goomalling, Western Australia; Palo Alto, CA; Leichhardt, Sydney, Australia; Great Barrington, MA, USA; Lismore, NSW, Australia; Minneapolis, MN, USA.

## The C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group (C40) is a [network](http://www.c40.org) of the world’s megacities committed to addressing climate change. Its 75 affiliated cities account for 25% of global GDP and 1 in 12 people worldwide, and have pledged 8,068 actions to combat climate change.

* **December 2014: The Non-State Actor Zone for Climate Action (NAZCA)** [portal](http://climateaction.unfccc.int) was launched by the UNFCCC to showcase commitments to climate action by companies, cities, subnational regions, and investors to address climate change. It lists 2,763 commitments to action, including 1,036 actions from 402 cities and 158 actions from regions.
* **29.01.15: China** [placed](http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/669c44d2-a780-11e4-8e78-00144feab7de.html#axzz3QC8mpUK6) a moratorium on new coal mines in its eastern regions to reduce both a supply glut and air pollution.
* **13.04.15: Ontario** [announced](http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/04/13/us-climatechange-canada-idUSKBN0N41X220150413) it will join a cap-and-trade market set up by Quebec and California to reduce carbon emissions and slow the pace of climate change.
* **05.05.15: The Hawaiian parliament** has [voted](http://www.staradvertiser.com/news/breaking/20150505_Legislature_sets_goal_of_100_renewables_by_2045.html?id=302686631) in favour of setting a goal of generating 100% of the state’s power from renewables by 2045.
* **04.06.15:** **California** lawmakers [passed](http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/jun/04/california-passes-ambitious-laws-on-emissions-and-energy-efficiency) 12 environmental and energy bills setting high goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and petroleum use, and creating new standards for energy efficiency. Earlier on 29th April, California Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. issued an executive order to establish a California greenhouse gas reduction target of 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 California is currently experiencing a record-breaking drought which is estimated to have [cost](http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/drought-takes-2-7-billion-toll-on-california-agriculture/) the state’s economy $2.7 billion due to agricultural losses.
1. N. Höhne *et al*., *Feasibility of GHG emissions phase-out by mid-century*(Ecofys 2013), available online:

http://www.ecofys.com/files/files/ecofys-2013-feasibility-ghg-phase-out-2050.pdf  [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Carbon in energy reserves and energy infrastructure; pp. 259ff, in: World Energy Outlook 2012, International Energy Agency,  Paris 2012 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)