

September 2, 2021

Concerning ESG Goals at Wells Fargo:

The impacts of the climate crisis are becoming more clear with every "unprecedented" wildfire, record-breaking heatwave, massive hurricane, devastating flood, or historic drought. We are writing to urge you to do whatever is in your power to rise to the ethical demands that this moment calls for. According to Rainforest Action Network's "Banking on Climate Chaos report from 2021 (1), **Wells Fargo still ranks #1 worldwide among private banks in fracked oil & gas financing.**

You have also **continued to fund Enbridge** corporation for the **disastrous Line 3 tar-sands pipeline** extension project -- a violation of Indigenous treaty rights, as well as a carbon disaster that will transport petroleum with the green house gas **equivalent of putting 58 million additional fossil-fuel vehicles on the roads.**

Increasingly detailed science on the risks of methane -- a greenhouse gas with 84x higher warming impact vs CO2 over the 20 year span -- should make it clear that **fracking is unsafe for the planet.** This year's IPCC report highlighted the increasing risk we face due to rising methane concentrations, and leaks from the natural gas supply chain are a significant contributor (2).

This year we have also seen new **guidance from the IPCC** that has been called a "**code red for humanity**" by **UN Secretary General António Guterres**, and a special report by no less than the International Energy Agency wrote "**No new oil and natural gas fields are needed in the net zero pathway**" (3). In the lead up to the crucial UN COP 26 conference in Glasgow this November, there is an **urgent call for business and government to step up their pledges to help secure a speedy transition to a future free from fossil fuels.**

We ask that **Wells Fargo Bank:**

- Stops engaging in bond underwriting or lending to Enbridge for fossil fuel pipelines, in particular the egregious "sustainability" financing that touts small improvements in Enbridge's scope 1 and 2 emissions -- while ignoring the scope 3 emissions that have orders of magnitude more impact. How can financing transport of one of the dirtiest forms of energy known on the planet be called "sustainable" in good faith?
- Make a public commitment as a company in the lead up to COP 26 to increase your fossil-finance ESG commitments across your entire investment portfolio, using a Paris-aligned framework like SBTi or similar (4).
- Engage an independent tracking system to measure Wells Fargo Bank's total carbon footprint

on an ongoing basis, including transparent reporting to the public. Since banking is inherently a low-carbon business, this tracking system should account for the entire carbon impact across the supply chain -- including things like scope 3 emissions. If Wells Fargo can show improvements on metrics that account for the full impacts of your portfolio, you would be demonstrating irrefutable climate leadership.

- Make public commitments to end all new financing of horizontal fracturing oil and gas ("fracking") projects across your entire financing portfolio.
- In short: to take a leadership role in the momentous changes we are undergoing as a society in response to our developing knowledge of the risks of fossil fuels, and the potential rewards of transitioning our economy and energy sector as quickly as possible to a renewable future.

We are grassroots organizations dedicated to demanding government, media and business tell the truth about the severity of the climate and ecological crisis, to take immediate action to achieve a sustainable zero-carbon economy within the decade, and doing so with care to uplift frontline black, indigenous and other communities of color that have borne the brunt of health and environmental damages from fossil fuel extraction for many decades.

Signed,

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References:

- (1) <https://www.ran.org/bankingonclimatechaos2021/>
- (2) <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/08/190814090610.htm>
- (3) <https://www.iea.org/news/pathway-to-critical-and-formidable-goal-of-net-zero-emissions-by-2050-is-narrow-but-brings-huge-benefits>
- (4) <https://sciencebasedtargets.org/sectors/financial-institutions>