

Group 3 Kit: Civic Action - Stopping the Climate Pollution

"Climate Leaders Don't Build Pipelines" - 350 Canada

The oil and gas sector is responsible for around 30% of emissions in Canada, and the oilsands are the quickest growing source of emissions. If Canada has any hope of reaching the existing Paris Agreement climate targets, oil and gas emissions must decrease. This means we cannot build additional oil sands extraction sites and projects, or the energy infrastructure to support those projects (e.g. pipelines).

In BC, Liquefied Gas is extracted by blasting chemicals, water and pressure into rocks; this gas is then used as fuel. However, the extraction process releases methane gas, a greenhouse gas that is 34x greater than carbon over 100 years. Right now, tens of thousands of unconventional gas wells leak methane into the atmosphere and are not capped.

Oil and gas activities are propelled by subsidies to oil and gas companies, in the form of tax breaks, direct support, low royalty rates, subsidized wages and job training, etc. BC is the second-highest province when it comes to fossil fuel subsidies - in just two years, the NDP government has doubled fossil fuel subsidies to \$1 billion, mostly via royalty credits for gas wells.

Canada spends \$3.3 billion on fossil fuel subsidies - this money can go into supporting retraining for workers, installing solar panels and other renewable energy/energy efficiency infrastructure, etc. Canada's 5 large banks also provide financing for pipelines, oilsands extraction projects, and other fossil fuel projects - for instance, TD Bank has financed \$135b worth of projects since 2015.

Kevin Taft, guest writer for Macleans magazine wrote in an op-ed that the oil and gas industry has disproportionately been shaping Canada's climate policy for the past twenty years at least, and delaying us from transitioning to a decarbonized economy.

This group will focus on efforts to advocate for the halt to oil and gas expansion, especially in BC.

What to Read Before Catalyze for Climate:

1. EK Background Primer: Transmountain Pipeline Expansion: <https://www.theearthkeepers.org/kinder-morgan/backgrounder>
2. Fracking: What is Fracking in Canada: <https://thenarwhal.ca/what-is-fracking-in-canada/>
3. Op-ed: The deep-oil state in Canada: <https://www.macleans.ca/opinion/is-there-a-deep-state-in-albertas-oil-industry/>
4. The Big Banks' Green Gafflegab: <https://thetyee.ca/Analysis/2020/11/25/Big-Banks-Bafflegab/>

Actions you can take before Catalyze for Climate:

1. Support existing EDF campaigns to end fossil fuel subsidies:
<https://environmentaldefence.ca/report/the-elephant-in-the-room-canadas-fossil-fuel-subsidies/>
2. Sign onto letter calling for a climate accountability act
<https://ecojustice.ca/canada-needs-climate-accountability-act/>
3. Sign onto 350 Canada's letter to the government to strengthen the current federal net-zero emissions legislation: https://act.350.org/letter/c-12-response/?akid=135600.4447624.UnptVU&rd=1&t=6&utm_medium=email&utm_source=actionkit