

Oil And Gas Companies Boast About Combatting Climate Change While Racking Up Environmental Violations, Collaborating With Other Polluters, And Rushing To Get New Leases Before The Biden Administration Begins

Former Enron Subsidiary EOG Resources Openly Acknowledges Human's Role In Climate Change, Yet They Still Violated Permitting Laws, Barred Their Shareholders From Setting Emission Targets, And Bragged About Their Large Lease Inventory

EOG Resources Has Acknowledged That Human Activity Contributes To Climate Change And That All Would Benefit From Cutting Emissions. "EOG supports efforts to understand and address the contribution of human activities to global climate change through the application of sound scientific research and analysis. In addition, the company believes that the reduction of air emissions throughout its operations is both in the best interests of the environment and a prudent business practice. A safety and environmental update that includes climate change issues is presented to the EOG Board of Directors annually." [SEC, EOG Resources Shareholder Proposal Letter, [12/20/17](#)]

- **However, EOG Resources' 2019 Sustainability Report Primarily Mentions Climate Changes' Potential Risks To Business.** [EOG Resources, 2019 Sustainability Report, accessed [12/08/20](#)]
- **EOG Resources Successfully Petitioned The SEC To Allow Them To Veto A Proposed Vote To Set A Target To Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions.** "Trillium proposed a resolution calling on EOG to set a target to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. EOG complained to the SEC in late December that the proposal would micromanage the company, calling it a "rigid, time-bound" target, and asked to omit it from consideration. Responding in late February, the SEC agreed and took a veiled shot at shareholders, implying they don't know enough to set company policy." [Axios, [04/02/18](#)]

EOG Resources, Formerly Enron, Is One of The Largest Oil Companies In The US. "EOG Resources, Inc. (NYSE:EOG) is one of the largest crude oil and natural gas exploration and production companies in the United States with proved reserves in the United States, Trinidad and China." [EOG Resources, accessed [06/10/20](#)]

- **EOG Is Formerly A Subsidiary Of Enron.** "Enron Oil & Gas Co. and Enron Corp. split up for good this week. The exploration and production arm of the giant energy and energy services company is now an independent company after the two completed a share exchange. Enron exchanged 62.27 million shares of EOG stock for EOG's China and India operations. And EOG contributed \$600 million in cash to one of its subsidiaries that will remain with Enron." [Houston Business Journal, [08/22/19](#)]

EOG CEO Bill Thomas Implied Joe Biden's Victory Would Be The Worst-Case Scenario. "EOG Resources will be "fine," even if the worst-case political outcome should occur and a new US presidential administration wins the November election and implements measures that

restrict oil and gas development, EOG's top executive said Sept. 9." [S&P Global, [09/09/20](#)]

- **Thomas Went On To Brag About The Company's Eight Plus Years Of Drilling Inventory.** "If Joe Biden, whose statements have suggested he may cancel all new drilling permits for federal lands, wins the presidency from current President Donald Trump, EOG will still be "fine," because it has eight-plus years of drilling inventory on non-federal lands, company CEO Bill Thomas said in webcast remarks during the online Barclays CEO-Power Conference, although he did not mention either candidate by name." [S&P Global, [09/09/20](#)]

EOG Resources Got A Royalty Reduction To 0.5% On A Lease In Wyoming.

- **EOG Received A Royalty Reduction To 0.5% On A 120-Acre Public Lands Lease In Wyoming.** [WYW 140806, accessed [06/10/20](#)]

EOG Was Assessed \$477,000 In Penalties Under The Clean Air Act For Failing To Obtain Permits Before Construction Of Stationary Sources. "THIS AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT AND CONSENT AGREEMENT IS ISSUED TO EOG RESOURCES FOR CONSTRUCTING MAJOR STATIONARY SOURCES WITHOUT FIRST OBTAINING A PSD PERMIT. THESE SOURCES ARE LOCATED WITHIN THE EXTERIOR BOUNDARIES OF THE FORT BERTHOLD RESERVATION." [EPA Civil Enforcement Case 08-2011-0163, [06/09/12](#)]

While Oxy's CEO Boasts About Collaboration With The Biden Administration On Permitting And Stepping Back From Oil And Gas Development, The Company Has Rushed To Stockpile Drilling Permits

Oxy Has Stated It Is Committed To Protecting The Environment. "We are committed to conducting our business in a manner that safeguards our employees, protects the environment, benefits neighboring communities and strengthens local economies." [Oxy, Sustainability, accessed [12/08/20](#)]

Oxy Is A Member Of the OGCI, A Group Of Oil And Gas CEOs "Taking Practical Action On Climate Change." "Occidental is an active member of the OGCI, a voluntary CEO-led initiative by major international oil, gas and energy companies taking practical actions on climate change." [OXY, Climate Report 2020, accessed [12/08/20](#)]

Oxy Has Boasted Plans to Back Away From Oil And Gas Development. "Houston-based Occidental Petroleum Corp. is expecting to slowly back away in the coming years from its primary oil and natural gas developments to zero in on ways to manage carbon emissions, according to CEO Vicki Hollub." [Natural Gas Intelligence, [12/07/20](#)]

Oxy's CEO Vicki Hollub Spoke Favorably About Potential Collaboration With The Biden Administration. "'With President-elect Biden I do believe we have the opportunity to collaborate with him," she said. "They want to have a climate story. I believe that our climate story and what we want to do could match very well with what they're trying to accomplish. I believe that, at least on one point, we're going to be aligned and we can collaborate, and we can

hopefully make things happen.”” [Natural Gas Intelligence, [12/07/20](#)]

- **Hollub Highlighting Permits As A Key Area For Potential Collaboration.** “I know they'll want more regulation, a deeper focus on ... where the permits are, what the safety [issues are] and the impact on the environment, Hollub said. "This is an opportunity for us to be collaborative.”” [S&P Global, [11/10/20](#)]

Vicki Hollub Stated She Has No Problem With Increased Regulation On The Oil And Gas Industry. “On other issues, we want to be there with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Bureau of Land Management as they will almost certainly introduce more regulation on the industry. We don't have a problem with that because a lot of what's been recommended in the past we're doing anyway.” [Natural Gas Intelligence, [12/07/20](#)]

Kaiser Francis Oil CEO And Joe Biden Donor George Kaiser's Own Institute Set Aggressive Targets To Reduce Oil Use And Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Yet Kaiser Francis Oil Has Rushed To Grab More Oil And Gas Permits

Kaiser Francis Oil CEO George Kaiser Donated To The Biden Presidential Campaign, However Biden Returned The Donation. “The Biden campaign previously returned a donation from billionaire George Kaiser, who owns a stake in the oil-and-gas company he inherited from his father, Kaiser-Francis Oil.” [Forbes, [08/07/20](#)]

George Kaiser Founded The Nonprofit National Energy Policy Institute And Has Presented Plans To Cut Oil Usage In The United States. “Kaiser, after four years of searching, thinks he's found the answer. In 2008 he founded the nonprofit National Energy Policy Institute, run by former Alaska Governor, Tony Knowles, as an offshoot of his George Kaiser Family Foundation. He scoured the country for nonpartisan, independent researchers, and settled on Washington, D.C. think-tank Resources For the Future. [...] And what Kaiser thinks he has now is a solution that could cut 25% off America's 20 million bpd oil diet and also bring a substantial reduction in air pollution, all with relatively modest effect on the consumer.” [Forbes, [09/21/11](#)]

- **NEPI Has Produced A Report With “An Aggressive Target” To Mitigate Climate Change And Reduce Oil Use And Greenhouse Gas Emissions.** “NEPI has crafted a report that quantifies an aggressive target by 2035 to reduce oil use and greenhouse gas emissions. It shows how a set of five policies can achieve these goals at a surprisingly low cost and will enhance our national security, create a healthier environment, and take a significant step toward mitigating climate change.” [NEPI, [04/24/13](#)]

Chesapeake Energy's Acknowledgement Of Climate Change Hasn't Stopped Them From Getting Nearly \$14M In Environmental Fines And 67 Coronavirus Lease Suspensions

Chesapeake Energy Published A Climate-Related Risk Analysis That Mentioned “Increasing Concern About Climate Change.” “The global energy system is experiencing transformational change, driven by both a need for accessible, affordable energy and an increasing concern about climate change.” [Chesapeake Energy, Climate-Related Risk Analysis, accessed [12/08/20](#)]

Chesapeake Energy, An Oil And Gas Producer, Filed For Bankruptcy On June 28, 2020.

“Chesapeake Energy Corp (CHK.N) filed for Chapter 11 on Sunday, becoming the largest U.S. oil and gas producer to seek bankruptcy protection in recent years as it bowed to heavy debts and the impact of the coronavirus outbreak on energy markets.” [Reuters, [06/28/20](#)]

Chesapeake Exploration Received 67 Lease Suspensions In Wyoming. [BLM LR2000, accessed [05/15/20](#)]

- **Chesapeake Exploration Is A Subsidiary Of Chesapeake Energy.** [SEC, accessed [05/18/20](#)]

Chesapeake Energy Has Been Assessed \$13,889,964 For 14 Environmental Violations Since 2000. [Violation Tracker, accessed [05/18/20](#)]

Devon Energy Claimed It Would Continue To Produce Oil And Gas In A Safe, Environmentally Responsible And Ethical Way Despite Continuing To Get Shale Drilling Permits.

Devon Energy Said It Would Have Enough Shale Drilling On Federal Lands To Cover Oil And Gas Production Through 2024. “Devon Energy will soon have enough permits for shale drilling on federal lands to cover its oil and gas production plans in the Permian's Delaware Basin through 2024, CEO David Hager said Oct. 30. That will protect the Oklahoma City-based company's expected output from potential US fossil fuel policy changes if Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden is elected, Hager said during a conference call with analysts to discuss Devon's financial results for the July-September quarter.” [S&P Global, [10/30/20](#)]

- **Devon Energy's Chief Executive David Hager Said Trump Was “The Right Man At The Right Time To Balance All The Priorities.”** “US oil executives at the meeting largely praised Trump as television cameras rolled... Devon Energy chief executive David Hager said Trump was the "right man at the right time to balance all the priorities.” [Argus Media, [04/03/20](#)]

In October 2020, Devon Energy Released Its 2020 Sustainability Report That Would Discuss Its Efforts And Performance Regarding Its Work On Environmental Issues. “Devon Energy Corp. (NYSE: DVN) today released its 2020 Sustainability Report which highlights the company's performance and efforts related to emissions and flaring reductions, environment preservation, pandemic and crisis management, employee empowerment and community investment.” [Devon Energy Press Release, [10/12/20](#)]

- **The 2020 Sustainability Report Only Mentions “Climate Change” In Its Forward-Looking Statement Section.** [Devon Energy 2020 Sustainability Report, accessed [12/08/20](#)]

In Its Climate Change Subsite, Devon Energy Claims It “Will Continue To Produce The Oil And Gas The World Needs In A Safe, Environmentally Responsible And Ethical Way.” [Devon Energy Climate Change, accessed [12/08/20](#)]

Devon Also Received A \$105 Million Tax Benefit Through The Cares Act. “The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act”) became law on March 27, 2020. The CARES Act allows net operating losses generated in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017 and before January 1, 2021 to be carried back five years to offset taxable income and generate a refund. Devon intends to carry net operating losses generated in 2019 and 2020 back to 2014 and 2015, respectively. As a result, Devon recorded a \$96 million income tax benefit in Q1 2020, and expects to record an additional \$9 million income tax benefit by the end of the year.” [Devon Energy 10-Q, [05/06/20](#)]

Devon Also Received Royalty Relief From The Bureau Of Land Management For Two Of Its Leases In Wyoming For 8,059 Acres. [BLM LR2000, accessed [05/15/20](#)]

Cabot Oil & Gas Said It Would Cut Back On Natural Gas Drilling, Yet Has Been Sued By Pennsylvania For Polluting Drinking Water And Failing To Remediate The Situation.

In February 2020, Cabot Oil & Gas Said It Would “Cut Way Back” On Natural Gas Drilling For 2020. “Cabot Oil & Gas Corp., one of the most profitable oil and gas companies in the Appalachian basin, said Tuesday it’s planning to cut way back on natural gas drilling in 2020 as it seeks to maximize cash flow and minimize risk to super-low natural gas prices — and held out the possibility that a further drop in prices could spell even more cuts.” [Pittsburgh Business Times, [02/04/20](#)]

- **Cabot Had Increased Their Permitting Activity Over December 2020 Levels.** “Among the state's largest five producers, who account for 64% of the state's gas production, only northeast operators Cabot Oil & Gas Corp. and Chesapeake Energy Corp. increased their permitting activity over December 2018 levels.” [SNL Gas Week, 01/20/20]

In June 2020, Cabot Was Charged With 15 Counts Of Violating Pennsylvania’s Clean Streams Law. “More than a decade after a water well exploded in the rural Northeast Pennsylvania town of Dimock, setting off a series of events that would plunge the town into the international spotlight, Pennsylvania has filed criminal charges against the company they say caused that explosion. Attorney General Josh Shapiro announced 15 criminal counts against the Houston-based Cabot Oil and Gas, including nine felonies, after recommendations from a grand jury. The charges stem from violations of the state’s Clean Streams law, as well as illegal industrial discharges. The grand jury report says the company’s ‘long-term indifference’ to the damage it caused warrants penalties that rise beyond technical violations.” [StateImpact, Pennsylvania, [06/15/20](#)]

- **The Grand Jury Found That Cabot Had Failed To Acknowledge And Correct Water Pollution For Many Years, With Some Gas Wells Remaining In Place For More Than A Decade.** “‘We find that, over a period of many years, and despite mounting evidence, Cabot Oil Gas failed to acknowledge and correct conduct that polluted Pennsylvania water through stray gas migration,’ reads the grand jury presentment. ‘Indeed, some of these gas wells have been in place for more than a decade, yet Cabot has only recently taken steps to remediate them.’” [StateImpact, Pennsylvania, [06/15/20](#)]

- **Cabot Countersued An Activist Who Had Sued The Company For Contaminating His And His Neighbors' Drinking Water.** "This court battle between Cabot and [Ray] Kemble has been going on for quite some time now. This decision by a judge in Susquehanna County means Ray Kemble has until late March to get another attorney and then have to answer questions for attorneys in this lawsuit. Kemble originally sued Cabot, claiming the company contaminated his and others' drinking water in Dimock. Then the two parties settled. Now, Cabot is countersuing and claims Kemble is a paid activist and is in violation of the settlement agreement." [WNEP, [02/04/29](#)]

Cabot's External Director Of Affairs Found Then-Presidential Nominee Joe Biden's Comments About Transitioning Away From Oil And Gas "Concerning." "[Cabot Director Of External Affairs George] Stark, like others in the industry, said he found Mr. Biden's comments concerning, but stopped short of criticizing the former vice president harshly. 'The opportunity will be there for a greener dialogue that has to take place regarding this whole notion of a transition,' he said." [New York Times, [10/23/20](#)]

Phillip Anschutz Has Been Known To Donate Tens Of Thousands Of Dollars To Support Groups That Debunk Climate Change, While His Company Anschutz Exploration Has Sued To Overturn A Ban On Fracking.

Phillip Anschutz Has Donated Tens Of Thousands Of Dollars To Candidates Who Pledge To Rollback Rulemaking As Well As Funding Groups That Focus On Debunking Climate Science. "[Phillip] Anschutz donates tens of thousands of dollars each political cycle to candidates who pledge to roll back federal rulemaking and shrink government. And he has funded groups that try to debunk global-warming science." [Pacific Standard, [06/14/17](#)]

- **Anschutz Has Been A Guest Of Billionaires David And Charles Koch, Who Have Lobbied For Reducing Regulations For The Oil & Gas Industry And Against Science On Global Warming.** "Anschutz has been a guest at the twice-a-year political gatherings of David and Charles Koch, the secretive anti-government oil billionaires. He has contributed to Americans for Prosperity, backed by the Koch brothers, which lobbies against global-warming science and for reducing regulation of the oil and gas industry." [Observer, [01/06/17](#)]

Anschutz Exploration Corporation Filed A Suit In New York To Overturn A Ban On Fracking. "Anschutz Exploration Corporation recently filed suit in upstate New York to overturn a ban on 'fracking' – a controversial practice in which chemical-laced water and sand are injected into the ground to extract natural gas." [Observer, [01/06/17](#)]

Anschutz Exploration Also Received Royalty Relief For 17 Leases In Wyoming For At Least 6,104 Acres. [BLM LR2000, accessed [05/15/20](#)]

XTO Energy Is A Subsidiary Of Exxon Mobil, Which Has Known Of The Existence Of Climate Change For At Least 40 Years But Only Publicly Admitting It In 2014.

XTO Energy, A Subsidiary Of Exxon Mobil, Filed For 15 Drilling Permits In January 2020.

“The oil major Exxon Mobil is not planning to give up its status as the top driller in Texas. The company’s shale arm, XTO Energy, filed for 15 drilling permits with the Railroad Commission to develop 15 horizontal wells in the Permian Basin. Located on the company’s Davidson Unit 2 lease in Upton County, the oil wells target the Spraberry field to a total depth of 10,850. Exxon Mobil was the top driller in Texas after filing for 659 drilling permits in 2019. Early in the new year, the permit filings show Exxon Mobil plans to keep that title.” [Houston Chronicle, [01/27/20](#)]

- **XTO Also Filed A Request To Suspend Cleanup Operations For Up To A Year.** “Some oil and gas operators have requested changes to their permits in order to suspend operations, due in large part to extremely low prices that are making production uneconomic...XTO Energy, a subsidiary of ExxonMobil, submitted an application in Pennsylvania to suspend cleanup at a well site for up to a year, citing safety issues for its employees.” [Grist, [04/28/20](#)]
- **XTO Also Signed A “Long-Term Deal” To Have Its Gas Production Serviced.** “Outrigger Energy II intends to build the pipeline from the eastern part of the county near Tioga to the western edge of the county near the North Dakota-Montana border. The company has inked a long-term deal with oil drilling firm and ExxonMobil subsidiary XTO Energy to service its gas production in the county, according to a news release.” [Grand Forks Herald, [01/07/20](#)]

Exxon Mobil Acknowledged Climate Change For The First Time In 2014. “In a departure from recent antagonism to climate change science and its effects on its business, Exxon Mobil (NYSE:XOM) released a report late Monday publicly acknowledging the phenomenon for the first time.” [International Business Times, [04/01/14](#)]

- **Exxon Mobil Had Been Warned About Climate Change For At Least 40 Years.** The fossil fuel industry has known about the role of its products in global warming for 60 years. Exxon’s own scientists warned their managers 40 years ago of ‘potentially catastrophic events’. Yet rather than alerting the public or taking action, these companies have spent the past few decades pouring millions of dollars into disinformation campaigns designed to delay action.” [Guardian, [10/23/19](#)]
- **Exxon Mobil Donated \$7.2 Million Dollars To Bodies That Denied The Risks Of Climate Change Between 2003 And 2007.** “Drexel University emeritus professor Bob Brulle studied the funding for the climate change "counter movement". He identified 91 institutions which he says either denied or downplayed the risks of climate change, including the Cato Institute and the now-defunct George C Marshall Institute. He found that between 2003 and 2007, ExxonMobil gave \$7.2m (£5.6m) to such bodies, while between 2008 and 2010, the American Petroleum Institute trade body (API) donated just under \$4m (£3m).” [BBC, [09/19/20](#)]

XTO Also Received Royalty Relief For 1 Lease In Wyoming For At Least 120 Acres. [BLM LR2000, accessed [05/15/20](#)]