### About this Tracker

(Page last updated on 03/12/23)

Understanding how supply-side fossil fuel policies develop and evolve across countries and regions, and the actors that are creating momentum behind them, is critical to ensure a timely and effective transition away from our fossil fuel economy to avoid disastrous levels of global heating. The objective of the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Tracker is to identify, gather, filter, categorise, and visualise supply-side policies on a global scale, while also providing granular insight within each country on the actors involved in furthering supply-side policies. By exploring both the global supply-side landscape, and the specific contexts within each country, we hope to accelerate efforts to endorse the [Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty](https://fossilfueltreaty.org/).

Studying supply-side policies has become increasingly difficult, particularly given the increasing volume of potentially relevant data available, the validity of existing methods handling large volumes of data, and comprehensiveness of assessing ongoing developments over time and across varied terrains. These challenges mean that we have taken a broad and collaborative approach to gathering and using the data for the Tracker, engaging with researchers, campaigners, lobbyists and activists to create an open, safe and productive space for international climate collaboration and knowledge exchange.

For guidance on how to use the Tracker and get the most from it, please refer to ‘How to’ menu.

*Categorisation of supply-side policies*

The number and types of supply-side policies in the Tracker are by no means extensive, as there are other policies and initiatives that would constitute as supply-side, including taxes on the importation of fossil fuels and blockades. However, to ensure that we begin this project by building the most robust and representative basis for tracking supply-side policies, and capture the variety of actors and contextual dynamics present, we have decided to focus on three broad categories of supply-side policies:

* **Moratoria, Bans & Limits:** These policies include any policy at a national, regional or local level that actively seeks to legally prohibit, ban or limit the extraction and production of oil, gas and coal. Examples include the [fracking ban in the Republic of Ireland](https://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/oireachtas/ireland-joins-france-germany-and-bulgaria-in-banning-fracking-1.3137095) introduced in 2017 or the government of [New Zealand refusing to grant new permit licenses for oil exploration](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/apr/12/new-zealand-bans-all-new-offshore-oil-exploration-as-part-of-carbon-neutral-future). This category of supply-side policies includes both the introduction of legislation prohibiting the extraction and production of fossil fuels and the omission of granting new permits and licenses for exploration and extraction. Our methodological approach to capturing these dynamics is evolving.
* **Subsidy Reductions:** These policies include legislation and political pledges that seek to remove or phase-out government subsidies for fossil fuels. Unfortunately, there is no agreed international definition for subsidy reductions due to the disparities in the methods used to calculate them and the specific context of the country the policies cover. The policies can cover all specific fossil fuels, such as oil and gas, as well as specific types of fuels, like liquified gas that is often used for heating and cooking. At the moment, the tracker gathers both consumer subsidies (for example, a tax reduction on fuel for vehicles) and producer subsidies (for example, a tax break given to oil companies) to provide the most comprehensive overview of this area of climate policy.
* **Divestments:** The policies and pledges include all initiatives that attempt to exert social, political, and economic pressure on the fossil fuel industry through the institutional and organisational divestment of assets including stocks, bonds, pensions and other financial instruments from companies involved in the extraction, production and sale of fossil fuels. Our data gathers divestment policies from all organisations and institutions in society, no matter how big or small, and includes everything from pledges made by City Councils to those made by local Faith-Based organisations.

It is worth stressing that the Tracker is an ongoing project and we are constantly adapting and developing our methodology to include as many supply-side policies, from as many contexts, as possible.

*Scope of methods*

This Tracker uses modern Data Science techniques, such as web-scraping and Natural Language Processing (Artificial Neural Network) to automatically track, gather, check, and map relevant policies globally and allows for a tracking of fossil-fuel policy developments. Other data gathering methods used for the Tracker include crowd-sourcing through campaign, activist and academic networks, which can be found here, and primary research conducted by the international Tracker team. We also have ongoing collaborations with institutions and organisations active in this space, including the Grantham Institute on Climate Change, the Environment at the London School of Economics, as well as with Nicolas Gaulin and Philippe LeBillon.

*Data sources*

The data presented here is based on the Fossil-Fuel Non-Proliferation Database which semi-automatically searches the internet to identify existing climate change supply-side policies. We also rely on data from the [Global Fossil Fuel Divestment Commitments Database (managed by Stand.Earth)](http://www.divestmentdatabase.org/), [CAIT Climate Data Explorer,](http://cait.wri.org/historical/Country%20GHG%20Emissions) [ourworldindata.org](https://ourworldindata.org/fossil-fuels), [Carbon Brief,](https://www.carbonbrief.org/analysis-which-countries-are-historically-responsible-for-climate-change) [Go Fossil Free](https://gofossilfree.org/divestment/commitments/), [The Fossil Fuel Registry](https://gofossilfree.org/divestment/commitments/), [BP Statistical Review of World Energy](https://www.bp.com/en/global/corporate/energy-economics/statistical-review-of-world-energy.html), [Shift Data Project](https://www.theshiftdataportal.org/energy), and reference other available data sources such as the “[Fossil Fuel Supply Cuts Database](https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14693062.2020.1725409)“ beside others. The data used in this Tracker is updated from various sources on a rolling basis.

The source code for the Tracker app is available to download via Github. Contact information can be found at the bottom of the About page. Several resources proved invaluable when building this app, including:

• [A tutorial by Peter Solymos on containerizing and deploying a Shiny app](https://hub.analythium.io/)

• [The nCov\_tracker by Dr Edward Parker and Quentin Leclerc](https://github.com/eparker12/nCoV_tracker)

• [A tutorial by Florianne Verkroost on building interactive maps](https://rviews.rstudio.com/2019/10/09/building-interactive-world-maps-in-shiny/)

• [Pedro Silva](http://www.pedrocsilva.com/) and Alexandros Kouretsis (Appsilon) for the styling of the app

*Scope of documents*

In order to track as many supply-side policies as possible, the Tracker team has analysed a variety of documents and sources. These vary from direct government legislation, to media coverage of announcements and organisational announcements. Where there is doubt over the sourcing, we have attempted to gather a variety of weblinks in order to verify the policy. When the source is reputable, such as from an academic journal or an established international organisation like the International Energy Agency, we have only drawn on one source. We have sought to archive all weblinks where possible but, due to the nature of the internet, some sources may temporarily go dead as we find additional and alternative sources for each policy.

### Background of the Tracker

The Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Tracker is the first of a broader effort to help everyone track and monitor the implementation of just transition plans and fossil fuel phase-out policies on the ground. The Tracker has been developed in partnership with the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative and the University of Sussex.

### Background of the Treaty Initiative

The [Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty](https://fossilfueltreaty.org/) is a coalition of civil society organisations, research institutions, grassroot activists and other partners around the world, working to influence policy making and investment decisions from local to global level, and lay the foundation for a coordinated, rapid and equitable global phase out of fossil fuels. In the context of the urgent need to decarbonise our economy to prevent catastrophic climate change and the fossil fuel industry’s plans to extract far more fossil fuels than we can safely burn, the goal of the coalition is to foster a global equitable transition away from fossil fuels by spurring international cooperation to end new development, phase out existing production, and develop plans to support workers, communities and countries dependent on fossil fuels to create secure and healthy livelihoods.

Our work is organised around three core areas:

**Campaign strategy**: to support movements around the world in holding governments and corporations to account and joining in call for a treaty;

**Diplomatic engagement strategy**: to support movements around the world in holding governments and corporations to account and joining in call for a treaty;

**Research strategy:** to build an evidence base for this work.

More information on our work is available [Fossil Fuel Treaty.](https://fossilfueltreaty.org/research) An article discussing our campaign was published in [Le Monde Diplomatique](https://mondediplo.com/outsidein/fossil-fuel-disarmament).

An article discussing the idea of a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty and defining core concepts is published in the Journal [Climate Policy](https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14693062.2019.1636759).

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