

# [***-ConocoPhillips shareholders vote down stricter emissions goals***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:65DX-DT01-F0K1-N24B-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Body**

A shareholder proposal that would have required ConocoPhillips to set carbon ***emissions*** goals in compliance with the Paris Agreement on climate change failed, receiving 39% of shareholder votes May 10.

The proposal, sponsored by Dutch climate group Follow This, received fewer votes at this year's ConocoPhillips annual meeting than the 58% majority a milder proposal received in a poll in 2021. Global oil and natural gas prices have risen dramatically in 2022, partly due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24 and related trade sanctions.

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The 2022 ConocoPhillips ***emissions*** proposal called for the company to align itself with the Paris climate agreement, which has a target of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees C, and to set specific goals to be net-zero in carbon ***emissions*** by 2050 across Scopes 1, 2 and 3.

Last year's proposal by Follow This called for the company to set ***emissions*** reduction targets. ConocoPhillips set targets following the 2021 vote for Scope 1 ***emissions***, which are ***emissions*** from its own operations, and Scope 2 ***emissions***, which are ***emissions*** linked to the purchase of electricity, heat and cooling, but the company did not set Scope 3 targets. Scope 3 covers ***emissions*** from the use or consumption of a company's products and other indirect ***emissions*** from the company's value chain.

Follow This blamed the lower vote for the recent proposal on its specific nature, which moved the goal line from a general ***emissions*** reduction to Paris-compliant goals. The activists also said the oil company's investor base may have fewer climate-conscious shareholders because of disinvestment and said Conoco may have succeeded in convincing shareholders that exploration and production companies, or EPs, should not be subject to Scope 3 ***emissions*** goals.

The companies that make up the upstream U.S. oil and gas industry are almost unanimous in their stance that regulatory and fiscal moves are critical to lowering carbon ***emissions***. The sector endorses a carbon tax to make consumers pay for their carbon ***emissions***, not the manufacturer.

In contrast, almost all European and Canadian producers have pledged to achieve net-zero ***emissions*** across all scopes by 2050.

'A significant 39% of shareholders urges ConocoPhillips to set meaningful targets for all ***emissions***,' Follow This founder Mark van Baal said in a statement. 'Without a target to decrease the ***emissions*** of its products (Scope 3) Conoco is further from Paris-alignment than any oil major, except [Exxon Mobil Corp.].'

'While we recognize many stockholders are concerned about Scope 3 end-use ***emissions***, the vote supports our view that setting a Scope 3 target is not the right solution for an EP company with transition-oriented portfolio and production,' ConocoPhillips spokesperson Dennis Nuss said in an email.

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