

WHY SHOULD THE ISLANDS TRUST SUE BIG OIL?

(WITH OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENTS)

19 June 2024

Andrew Gage,
West Coast Environmental Law



Photo by David O., used under CC Licence



Photos: Julia Kidder (Ashcroft),



Tracy Calogheros (Iowna Island),

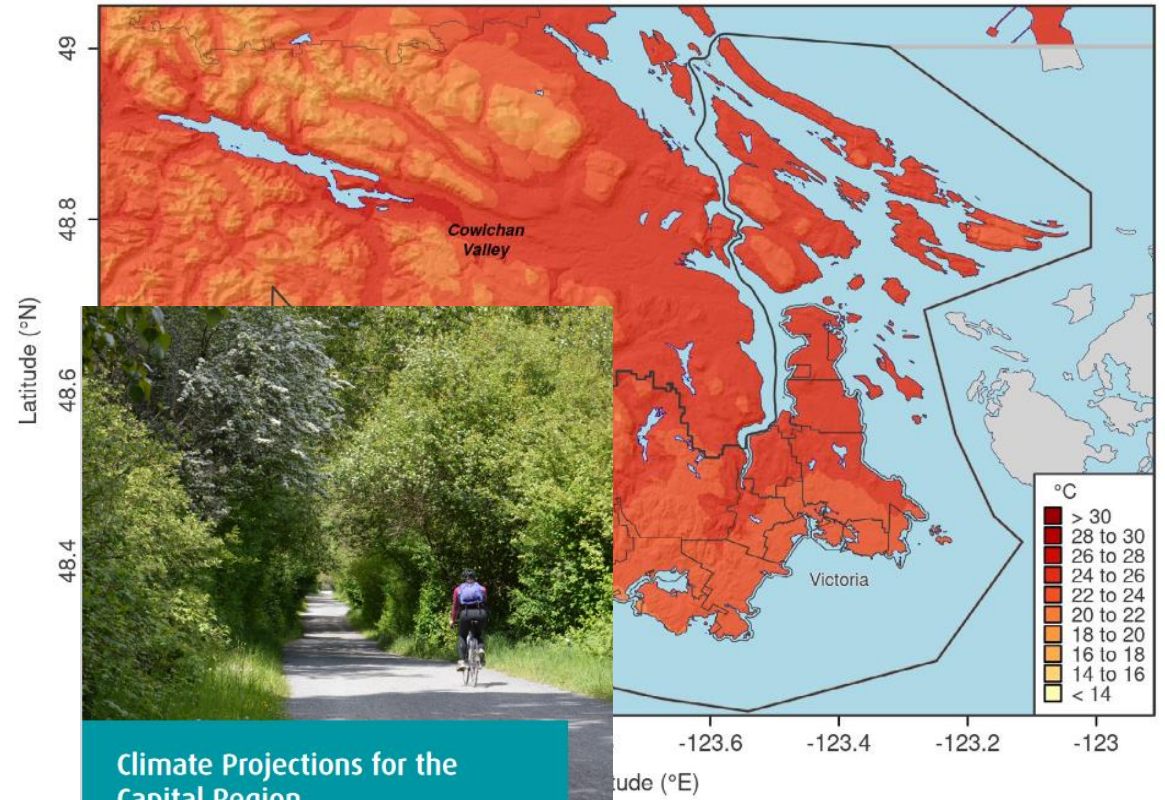


Province of BC (Abbotsford)



Damage in the form of a washout and erosion caused by heavy rains at the junction of Roland Road and Isabella Point Road at 3 p.m. on Nov. 15.

Summer Average Daytime High Temperature
 Projection: 2050s (SSP585)



Climate Projections for the
 Capital Region
 2024

high temperature in the 2050s.



Islands Trust

Islands Trust Expenses

SUE
BIG OIL

Island Planning

Conservancy

Programs

Mapping & Resources

What's Happening

About Us

I WANT TO... ▾

PROGRAMS OVERVIEW »

» Advocacy

» Application Sponsorship

» Climate Change

» Ecosystem Inventories

» Forest Protection

» Wildfires

» Freshwater Sustainability

» Heritage Preservation

» History and Heritage
Conservation Grants in Aid

» Housing Affordability

» Islands 2050

» Marine Shorelines

» Natural Area Protection Tax
Exemption Program (NAPTEP)

» Stewardship Awards

» Stewardship Education

» Support for Coordination
Groups

» Trend Monitoring

Cost of Mitigation

The Denman Island community is aware that avoiding the worst impacts of climate change will require significant expenditures by the Islands Trust, the CVRD and the residents of the island. As a rural community, there is a small population base to pay for major climate impacts. DCA does not have funds help these at-risk ecosystems adapt to climate change, and funding may be required from ITC (which ultimately comes from the IT) to prevent the worst climate impacts.

Funding needs may include:

- Fire prevention strategies including fire monitor contractors, temporary infrastructure to prohibit entry into high-risk areas, signage, community educational/informational outreach.
- Fire rapid response equipment at forested sites, may include cisterns.
- Ecological monitoring to observe and respond to alterations caused by climate change.
- Restoration of areas affected by climate change (vegetation restoration, securing wetlands).

- Denman Island Conservancy, October 17, 2023



Which companies caused global warming?

A new paper shows which companies extracted the carbon-based fuels that have caused climate change.

- 👉 [Hover and click to explore](#)
- 📄 [Read the news story](#)

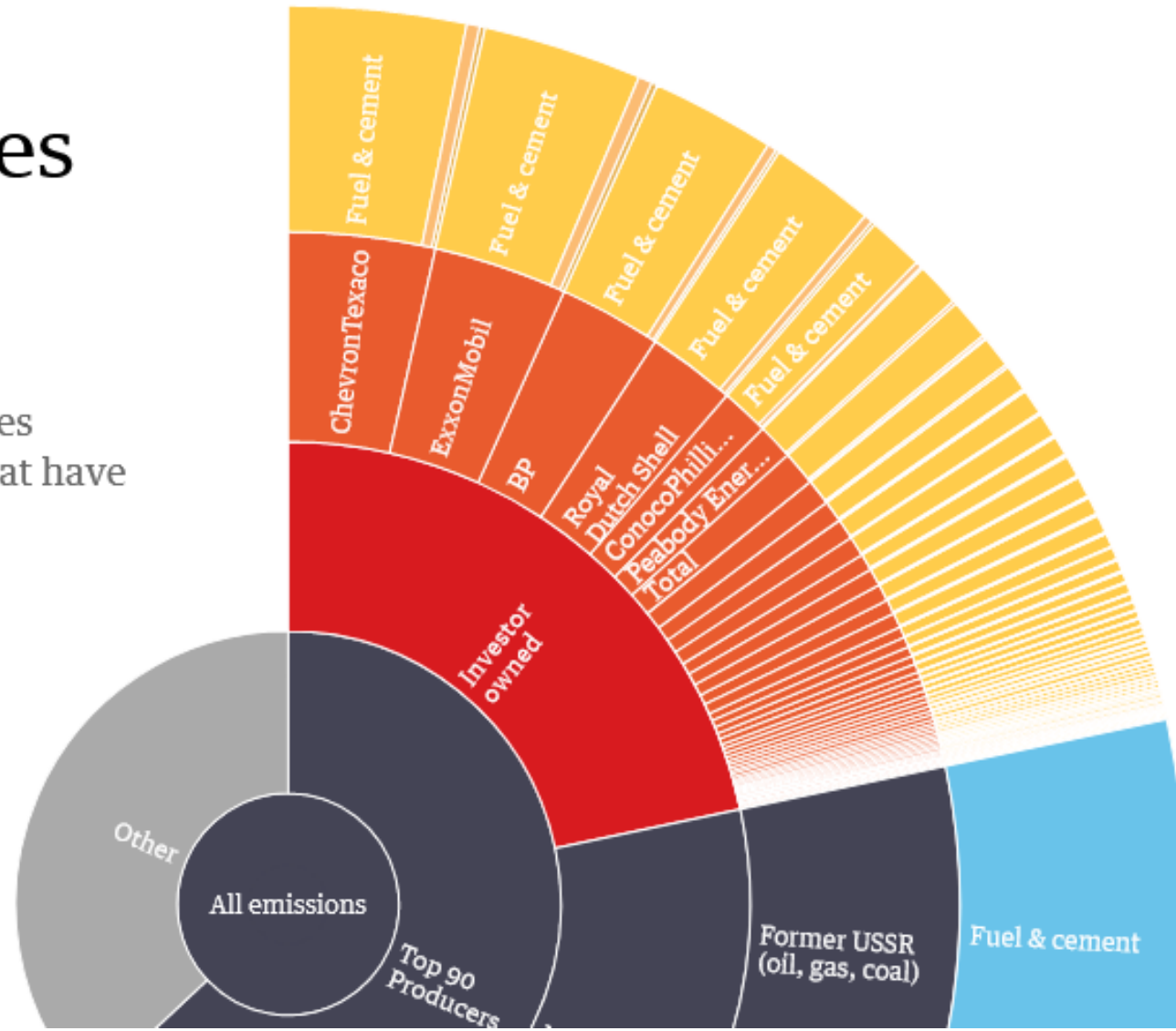


Image from The Guardian, 2013

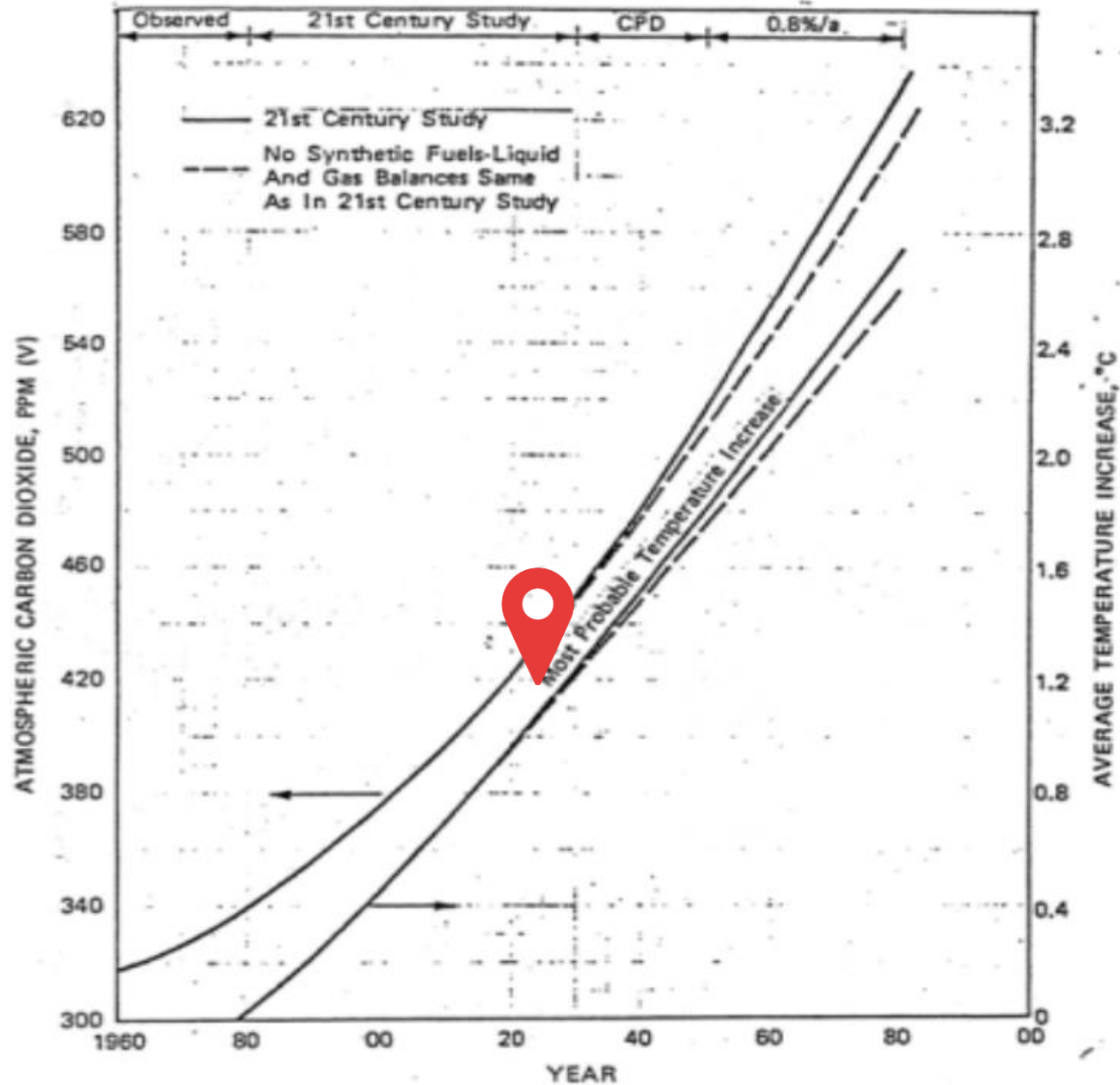


“Whenever you burn conventional fuel, you create carbon dioxide... [contributing to] a greenhouse effect ... [A] temperature rise corresponding to a 10 per cent increase in carbon dioxide will be sufficient to melt the icecap and submerge New York. All the coastal cities would be covered”

– Dr. Edward Teller, 1959, Speaking to the American Petroleum Institute

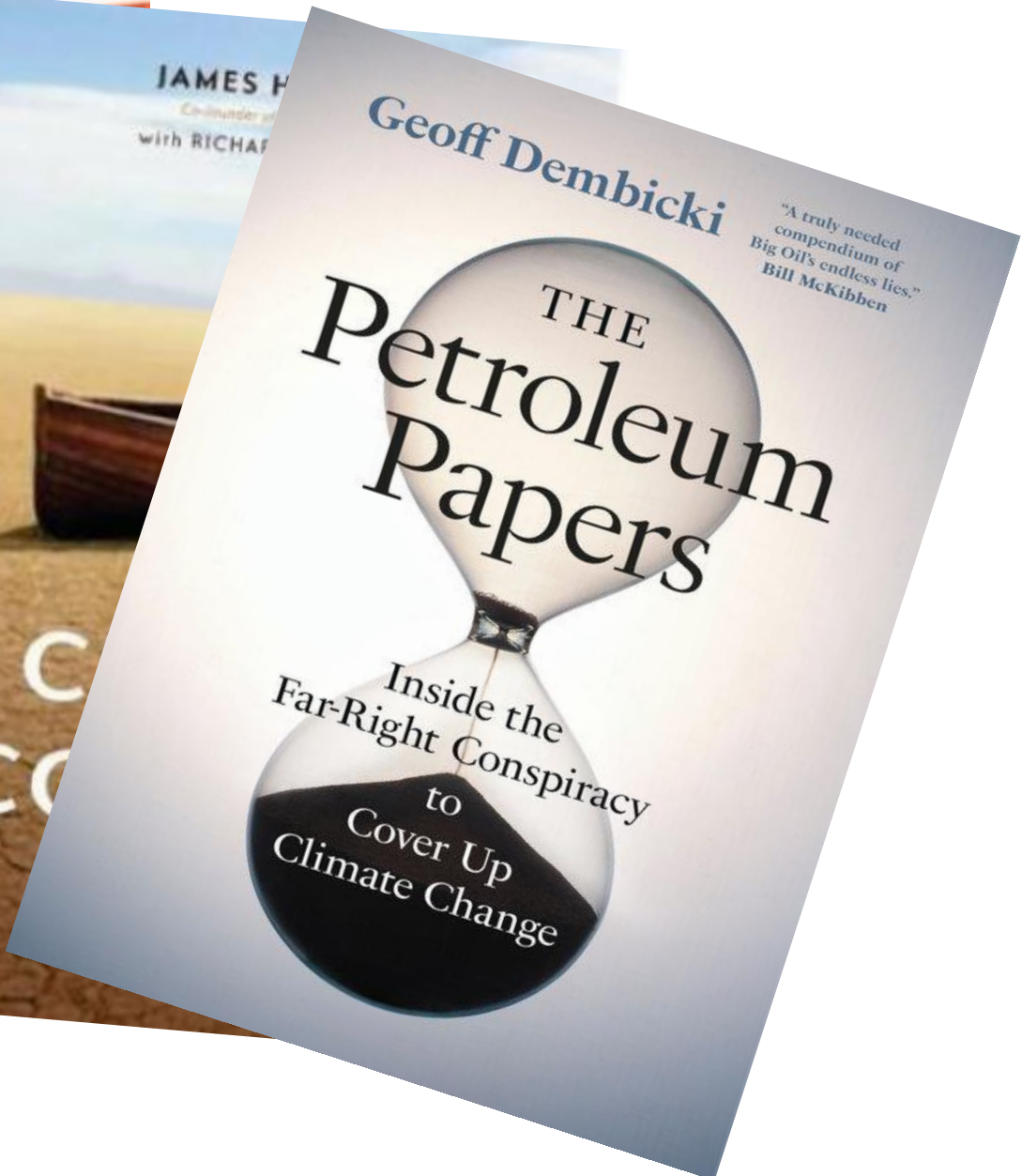
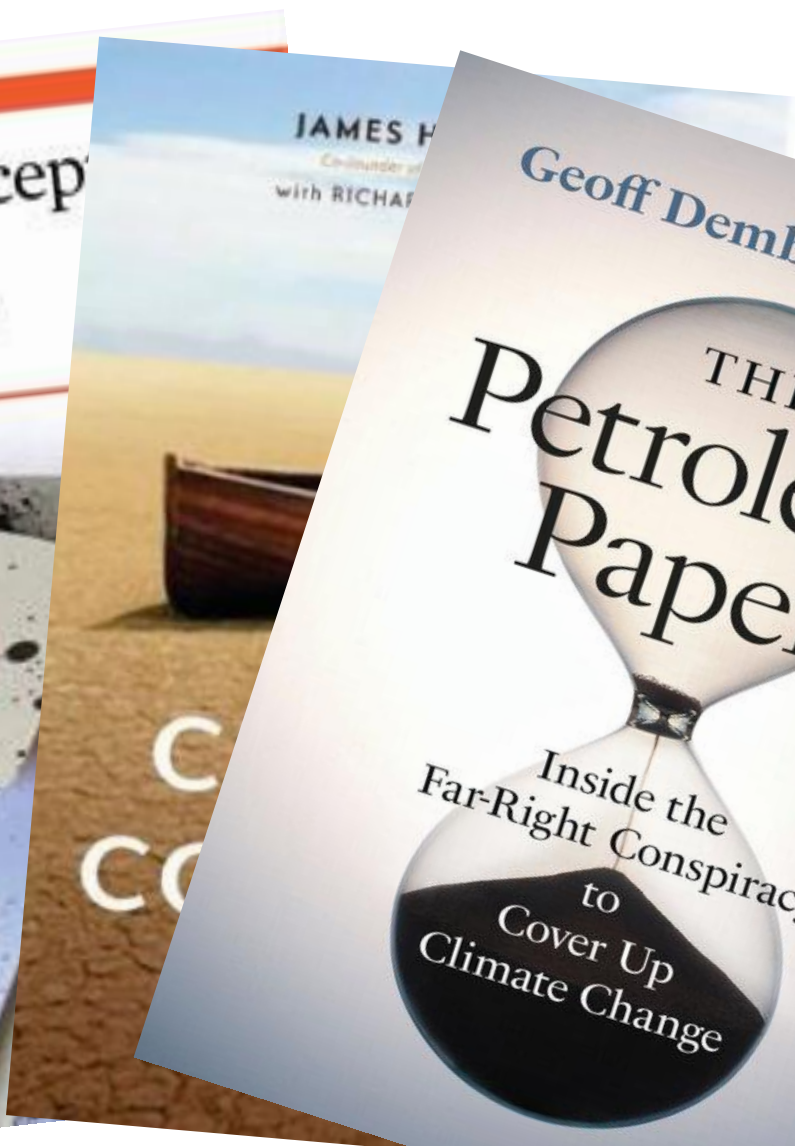


GROWTH OF ATMOSPHERIC CO₂ AND AVERAGE GLOBAL TEMPERATURE INCREASE AS A FUNCTION OF TIME



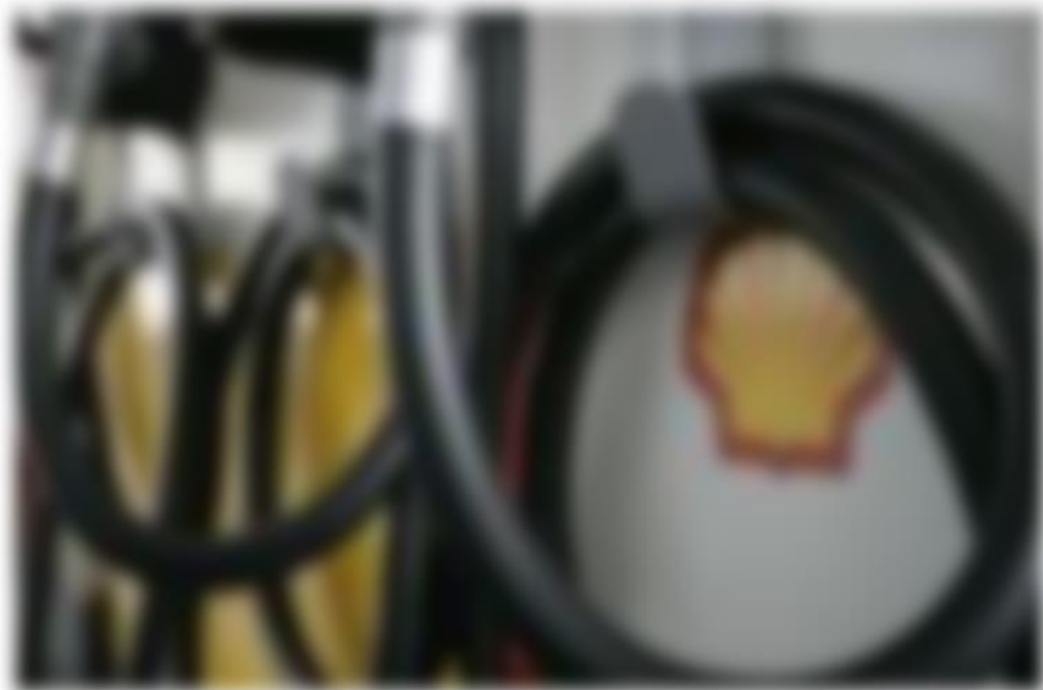
Exxon
Mobil 1982





Shell Hits the Brakes on Growing Renewables Unit After Record 2022 Profit

- Company aims to focus investments to boost shareholder value
- Low-carbon energy spending has grown as Shell aims to cut C



Photographer: Dimas Ardian/Bloomberg

World's top fossil-fuel bosses deride efforts to move away from oil and gas

Executives at Texas summit claim clean-energy transition is failing and say world should 'abandon the fantasy' of fossil-fuel phaseout



Cre: Amin Nasser, Saudi Aramco president and chief executive, speaks in Houston, Texas on 18 March 2024. Photograph: Mark Felix/AFP/Getty Images

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S&P 500

Nasdaq

S&P/TSI

S&P/BM

BRAZIL



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Three Decades of Climate Mitigation: Why Haven't We Bent the Global Emissions Curve?

Annual Review of Environment and Resources

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“We call on our local governments to:

- take urgent action to reduce our fossil fuel use and protect us from future heat waves, wildfires, flooding and other climate impacts;
- set aside at least \$1 per person towards a community fund to sue Big Oil;
- join with other local governments to file a class action lawsuit to recover a fair share of our climate costs;
- work to build equitable, sustainable systems for transportation, housing and food that put people and the planet before corporate profits; and
- cooperate with Indigenous peoples in





puts climate risks onto industry balance sheets



Fossil fuel
producers

Everyone – including fossil fuel companies - pays their fair share of climate costs

Communities
pay the
costs of
change



SUE BIG OIL is legally possible

Photo from MillieuDefensie



SUE
BIG OIL



**SUE
BIG OIL** is financially
manageable



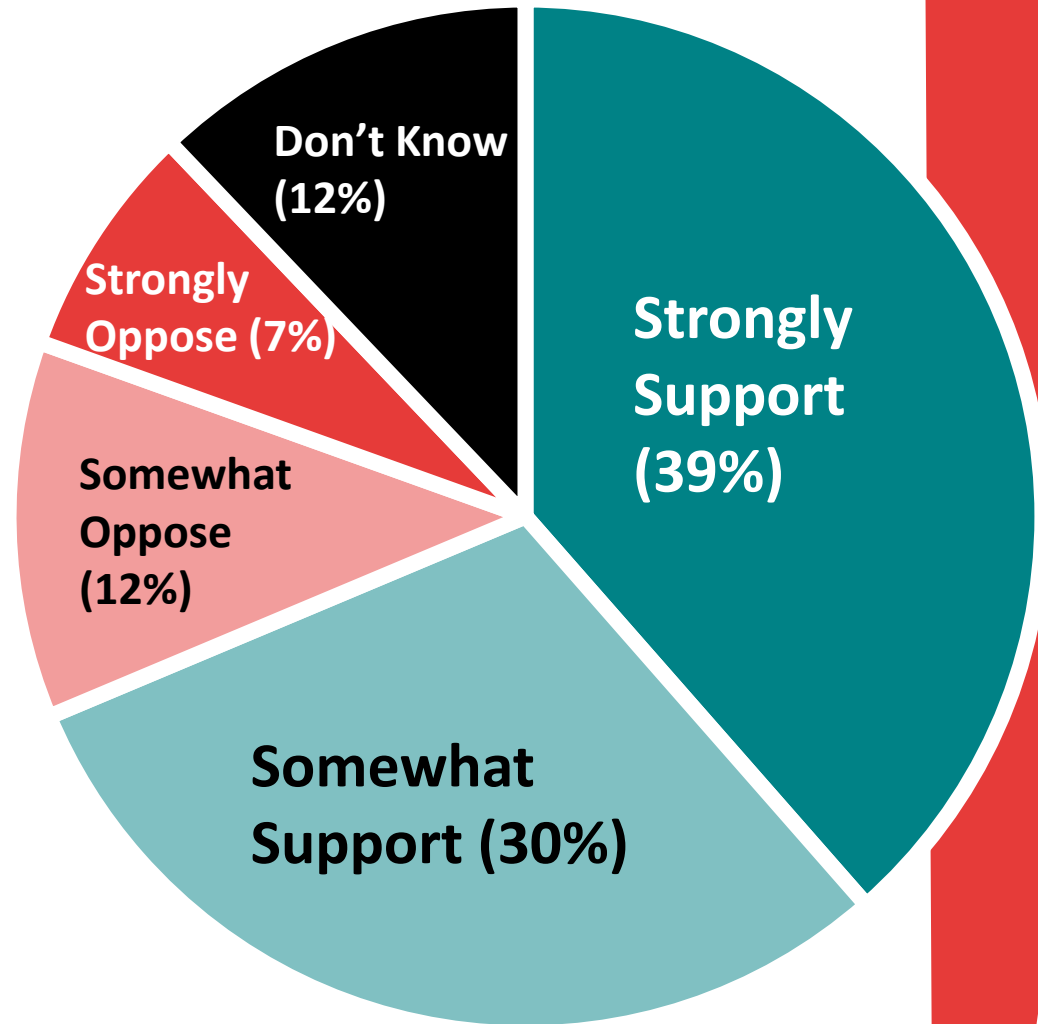
**SUE
BIG OIL**



SUE BIG OIL is Popular

“Some people say that instead of local communities and taxpayers paying all of the increasing costs of climate change, local governments in BC should work together to sue the world’s most polluting oil companies to make them pay for a share of these costs. Do you support or oppose this idea?”

(Stratcom, 2022)



benefits our communities

- Early on judge confirms that there is a winnable case.
- Changes in investor, fossil fuel company behaviour.
- Needed resource for our communities.
- Fossil fuel companies, investors and governments record climate costs as a liability, making better business decisions.



Gibsons commits to the Sue Big Oil campaign

Town to work with other local governments in B.C. to file a class action lawsuit to recover costs from global fossil fuel companies.

Connie Jordison
Mar 10, 2023 12:50 PM



Representatives of Sunshine Coast Sue Big Oil outside of Gibsons town hall (left to right) Ardith Beynon; George Smith; Penny Brown; Suzanne Senger; Lee Ann Johnson; Anthony Paré; Ben Cecil; Jef Keignley; Dawn Allen; Alaya Boisvert; and Linda Hoehstetter. | submitted photo

GOLDSTREAM NEWS GAZETTE

View Royal votes to support lawsuit against global oil companies

Led by the Sue Big Oil campaign, the initiative is seeking municipal support

Justin Samanski-Langille
Jun 7, 2023 3:50 PM



News / Local News

Port Moody votes to support class-action lawsuit against fossil fuel companies

Seven B.C. municipalities and 40 organizations now support West Coast Environmental Law's campaign to sue oil companies for climate costs.

ffany Crawford

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18 Comments



NELSON STAR

Slocan council votes to join proposed lawsuit against 'Big Oil'

Class action seeks compensation for costs of climate change damage

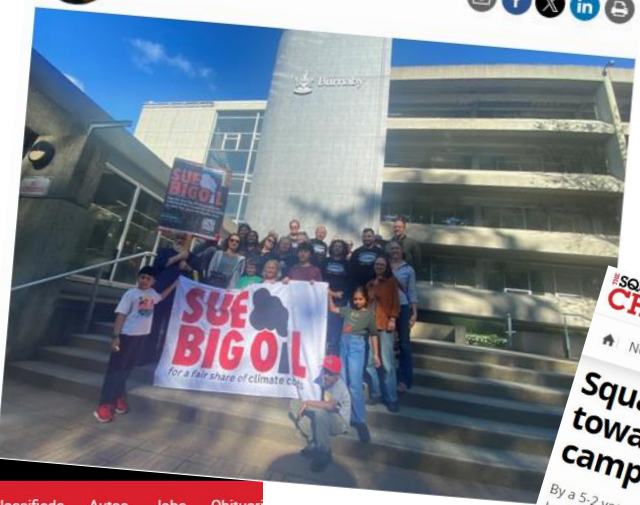
Bill Metcalfe
Mar 5, 2024 9:02 AM



Burnaby joins Sue Big Oil campaign, would commit \$1 for every resident

"I think it's very prudent; it makes sense," said a local Burnaby mom advocating for the campaign.

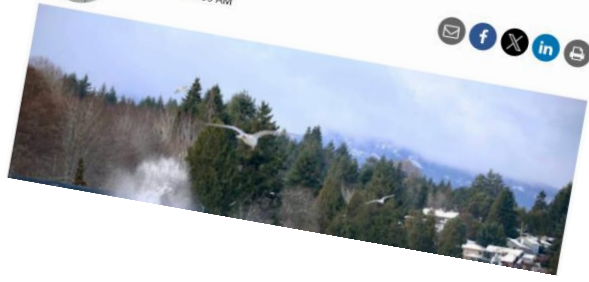
Lauren Vanderdeen
May 13, 2024 5:30 PM



Qualicum Beach commits to class-action lawsuit against fossil fuel companies

Council voted 4-1 but is contingent town acquiring legal opinion

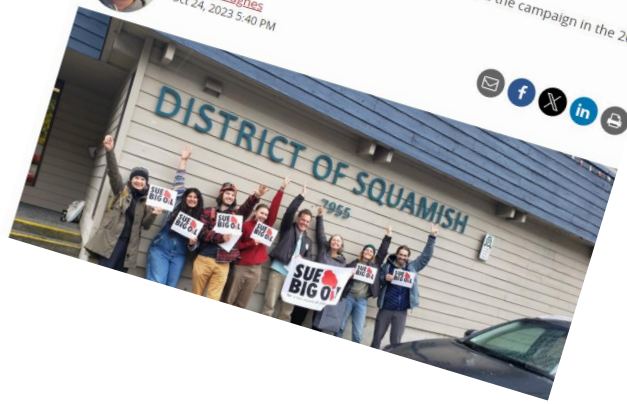
Michael Briones
Feb 10, 2024 1:30 AM



Squamish council takes a step toward joining the Sue Big Oil campaign

By a 5-2 vote, pledges \$1 per resident or about \$25,000 toward the campaign in the 2025 budget.

Andrew Hughes
Oct 24, 2023 5:40 PM



What Sue Big Oil wants from the Islands Trust

- \$0.50 per resident pledged;
- A call to the Regional Districts to contribute the other \$0.50; and
- A pledge to work with other local governments to work towards a class action lawsuit.



www.suebigoil.ca

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**SUE
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WEST COAST
Environmental Law