



CORPORATE KNIGHTS INC.

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PRESS RELEASE

Leading companies report on how their lobby groups line up with Paris Agreement

TORONTO, December 13, 2023 -- In the wake of COP28 that called for a transition away from fossil fuels for the first time the oil and gas lobby is out in full force to assert their interests. More than [2,456](#) people affiliated with oil and gas industries were granted access to the COP28 climate negotiations — a bigger group than any national delegation with the exception of Brazil.

Even though companies signed up for bold climate action (those with science-based targets or that had committed to set targets) now make up more than a third of ([34%](#)) of the global economy by market capitalization compared to just [5%](#) for oil and gas companies, an [InfluenceMap analysis](#) of the corporate attendee list of COP28 has revealed that nine in 10 large businesses present are either lobbying against progressive climate-related policy shifts or disengaged with green policy entirely.

“The disconnect between where companies stand on climate and their lobbying is the mother of all corporate governance failures,” says Toby Heaps, CEO of Corporate Knights, which acts as secretariat for the [Action Declaration on Climate Policy Engagement](#) (launched at COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh). “Now that businesses who want to move forward on climate action outnumber those that want to block the way by a factor of 7:1, there is no good reason why the voice of business should not be the voice for speeding up climate action.”

Against this backdrop, some of the world’s leading companies that are signatories to the declaration are following through on their commitment to bring the powerful voice of business and their influential lobby groups in line with bold climate action as set out in the Paris Agreement.

The first step — and a requirement for all 57 Action Declaration signatories — is to shine a light on the lobbying activities of their major industry associations indicating where their climate advocacy aligns with or falls short with respect to the Paris Agreement.

The Corporate Knights/Global 100 Council Action Declaration on Climate Policy Engagement aims to accelerate the global decarbonization movement by ensuring that current and future industry leaders’ climate policy engagements align with the Paris Agreement. All signatories commit to monitor and publicly disclose climate policy alignment for their companies and their major industry/trade associations.

About Corporate Knights

[Corporate Knights Inc.](#) is an independent media and research B Corp. Its media division publishes the award-winning sustainable-economy magazine *Corporate Knights*, circulated in *The Globe and Mail*, *The Washington Post* and *The Wall Street Journal*. Its research division produces sustainability rankings, research reports and financial product ratings based on corporate sustainability performance. Learn more at corporateknights.com.

About the Global 100 Council

Since 2005, the Corporate Knights [Global 100 Most Sustainable Corporations](#) in the World ranking has set out to transparently benchmark, and raise the bar on, what it means to be a sustainable corporation. The annual Global 100 Executive Roundtable, traditionally held in Davos during the World Economic Forum, brings together the Global 100 Council (which includes past and present Global 100 executives and leaders from sustainable finance together with policymakers) to focus attention on financial and policy levers to accelerate the low-carbon economy.

Statements and Background Material from Action Declaration Signatories

Hakan Bulgurlu, chief executive officer, Arçelik

"Arçelik believes in the profound importance of transparency and accountability in our commitment to sustainability. Regularly monitoring and openly disclosing our trade association memberships, along with evaluating their policy engagements for alignment with the Paris Agreement, exemplifies our dedication to responsible and environmentally conscious business practices."

<https://www.arcelikglobal.com/en/sustainability/in-touch-with-our-planet/combating-the-climate-crisis/>

<https://www.arcelikglobal.com/media/7282/global-sectoral-relations-management-and-ngo-membership-policy.pdf>

<https://www.arcelikglobal.com/media/7377/arc-elik-globals-review-into-its-industry-association-memberships-report.pdf>

Dr. Azad Moopen, founder and chairman, Aster DM Healthcare

"In the era of climate challenge, our responsibility is to forge the path towards sustainability, leaving a legacy of environmental resilience for the next generation. As an organization, Aster's commitment to sustainable and responsible practices, aligned with the collective ambition of reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, has been ingrained into our operations for years. We have incorporated 10 of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals into our ESG policy, along with forging partnerships and collaborations which drive the integration of sustainable solutions into our business practices. By embracing the Action Declaration, we have moved purposefully forward towards a cleaner, more resilient world. We strongly believe that a united and collaborative effort among stakeholders can catalyze climate action, propelling our global community towards a future where environmental responsibility is not just rhetoric but a way of life."

https://www.asterdmhealthcare.com/fileadmin/user_upload/TouploadESGReportFY23.pdf

Sherman Kwek, Group CEO, City Developments Limited

"As we approach a climate tipping point, the world must accelerate action to address climate change and cap global warming to 1.5°C by 2030. Decarbonization efforts need to be redoubled this decade and the 'blue' component (our oceans) of the 'green' transition towards a low-carbon economy cannot be overlooked. Poverty, biodiversity decline and climate change cannot be tackled in isolation. No region, country or individual is spared from the impact of this global climate emergency.

“City Developments Limited (CDL) is proud to be a signatory of the Action Declaration on Climate Policy Engagement launched at COP27 by Corporate Knights and the Global 100 Council alongside 57 of the world’s largest corporations. Through this declaration, CDL reaffirmed our commitment towards supporting climate action aligned with the Paris Agreement while working with our stakeholders, including industry partners, trade associations and policymakers, to effect faster change. In 2021, CDL became Southeast Asia’s first real estate conglomerate to sign the WorldGBC Net Zero Carbon Buildings Commitment — a global pledge to achieve net zero operational carbon by 2030. CDL will continue our long-standing commitment, running together with diverse stakeholders along our value chain in the global race to zero.”

Commerzbank

<https://www.commerzbank.de/ms/documents/en/combined-separate-non-financial-report-2022.pdf>

Christophe Beck, chairman and CEO, Ecolab

“Global progress to address climate change is not moving fast enough. We need more corporate action to close the say-do gap, and this declaration is building critical momentum as business works to enhance business outcomes, maximize returns and meet the promise of the Paris Agreement.”

<https://www.ecolab.com/corporate-responsibility/sustainability-reporting-resources>

Eduardo Sattamini, CEO, ENGIE Brasil Energia

“At ENGIE, accelerating the energy transition to a carbon-neutral world is at the heart of our purpose. Therefore, supporting this movement reinforces our commitment to go further in our actions aligned with the Paris Agreement and to involve different stakeholders to advance their decarbonization journeys. Furthermore, monitoring and publicizing initiatives and goals related to climate change is also a way of motivating our clients and peers to be allies in building a fairer and truly sustainable society.”

<https://www.engie.com.br/uploads/2023/08/230821-Institutional-Presentation-2Q23.pdf>

https://www.engie.com.br/uploads/2023/06/Engie_RS-2022_EN.pdf

Joost Farwerck, CEO and chairman, KPN

“We are in the middle of the energy transition to a fossil-free future. This also means that we have to make long-term commitments to using sustainable sources for our energy. We will continue to reduce our energy consumption even in the phase of upward pressure from data volume growth. We believe that a sustainable business is a better business, and we are truly committed to creating long-term sustainable value for all our stakeholders.”

<https://annualreport2022.kpn/>

Brendan Foley, president and CEO, McCormick & Company

“As a global citizen, McCormick & Company proudly supports Corporate Knights in championing the Action Declaration for Climate Policy Engagement. Our commitment to the declaration is underscored by our belief in purpose-led performance and our work to do what’s right for people, communities and the planet. We know that addressing urgent climate change challenges requires collective commitment and bold action, and together with like-minded organizations, we aim to drive meaningful change, advocate for responsible climate policies and pave the way for a resilient and low-carbon economy for generations to come.”

https://mccormick.widen.net/s/dh2kf9rcld/2022-plp-report_final

Mads Nipper, CEO, Ørsted

“We believe there is a need for more transparency around climate-related advocacy to help clear the path towards faster deployment of renewable energy, and we see it as our responsibility to help build best practices to create that transparency. We want all memberships in industry associations and their positions on key matters — whether for or against a faster green transition — out in the open. We urge other companies to also report transparently on their memberships.”

https://orstedcdn.azureedge.net/-/media/www/docs/corp/com/sustainability/orsted_climate-advocacy-report_september-2023.pdf?rev=d5752750122f408a899c199ebae13779&hash=E19C33799859C3651FB560E3DEBA546F

Sabrina de Branco, Global VP of Sustainability, Paper Excellence

"For Paper Excellence, we believe in leveraging natural processes and products to decarbonize value chains within our influence. That's why we fully support the Action Declaration, ensuring our climate policy engagement is strongly aligned with the Paris agreement. With the integration of recently acquired businesses into our group, we've established a global sustainability department, complete with a dedicated leadership team focused on our global carbon strategy. Aside from our climate positive advocacy, we have been walking the talk and have been investing in significant projects that result in substantial annual emissions reductions. In addition, we have embarked on the development of a holistic Global Sustainability Strategy. We are confident that our forthcoming strategy will place even greater emphasis on addressing climate-related issues, solidifying our commitment to a sustainable future."

Melanie Kwok, assistant general manager (Sustainability), Sino Land Company Limited

“Climate resilience has been one of the global hot topics in recent years with scientific data showing temperatures of Planet Earth steadily on the rise and at the same time concerted efforts, solutions and calls to action such as Business Ambition for 1.5°C and commitment to net zero carbon. Sino Land has further explicated our efforts on identifying, assessing and managing climate-related risks and opportunities in Sino Land’s first standalone Climate Action Report, elucidating comprehensive climate-related risks assessment results of over 170 of the Group’s properties in Hong Kong. As we strive to achieve net zero carbon in our effort to tackle climate change, reducing energy consumption, adopting renewable and cleaner energy sources and improving operational efficiencies are central to our operations.”

<https://web-media.sino.com/20a53f0a-15c8-0029-b8df-e495023b403f/af90a237-bd05-4b3d-aa83-be5b683f6e06/Sino%20Land%20Company%20Limited%20Sustainability%20Report%202023%20%28English%29.pdf>

Veronica Lai, chief Corporate and Sustainability officer, StarHub

“StarHub is proud to be a signatory of the Action Declaration on Climate Policy Engagement driven by Corporate Knights and Global 100 Council. We affirm our commitment to build a more sustainable tomorrow, not only by reducing the carbon footprint in our operations but also offering Green Tech solutions to help our customers optimize their energy use. These initiatives are truly meaningful for StarHub as we align and implement towards our SBTi verified emissions reduction targets for 2030 and 2050.”

https://ir.starhub.com/misc/ar2022_report/Sustainability.pdf