

spotlight

2021 Issue 2

Greenhouse gas emissions

EU commission accused of 'cheating'
net-zero emissions accounting

BP sets net-zero goal by 2050
Microsoft, Starbucks, Nike set goal
to achieve net zero emissions by
2050

Carbon Capture Is Critical To Net-Zero Goals

NET-ZERO EMISSIONS

Oil and gas giant Shell targets 'net zero'
emissions by 2050

'Net Zero Initiative' by 2050

Qantas to double flight offsets as part of net-zero
2050 commitment

Shaping the broader narrative about the climate crisis is
critical to our climate campaign. That's why we're partnering
with climate justice allies from around the world to expose
the myth of net-zero pledges. Image credit: What Next?

Theresa May commits to net zero U
carbon emissions by 2050

Revealing Big Polluters' deadly distractions

How we're advancing bold solutions to address the climate crisis

**"The climate crisis calls
for meaningful plans
that radically reduce
emissions to real zero."**

SRIRAM MADHUSOODANAN | U.S. CLIMATE
CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR

Learn more!

Read our explainer on how net-zero
disguises climate inaction:
[CorporateAccountability.org/
NotZeroExplained](https://CorporateAccountability.org/NotZeroExplained)

Support this work:

[CorporateAccountability.org/
Spotlight](https://CorporateAccountability.org/Spotlight)

From devastating hurricanes making
landfall in Honduras and Nicaragua
to super typhoons in the Philippines
and raging wildfires sweeping through
Australia and California, 2020 saw an
increase in climate-related disasters.
And the facts are clear: To avoid the
worst effects of the climate crisis, we
need bold action now.

Rejoining the Paris Agreement is not
enough. That's why we're focusing on
calling out industry-backed schemes like
the growing global push for net-zero
emissions targets that disguise climate
inaction instead of addressing the crisis.

In the last several months, we've
partnered with climate justice allies
from around the world to expose the
myth of net-zero pledges. Together,

we've released reports detailing how
a majority of polluting governments
and corporations use these targets to
evade responsibility for the climate crisis
while continuing to scale up fossil fuel
extraction, burning, and emissions.

As the world's largest historical emitter,
the U.S. has an obligation to do more to
address the climate crisis. True climate
leadership means rejecting industry
schemes to address climate change and
committing to meaningful emissions
reductions that bring us closer to nearly
zero—or real zero—within the decade.

It's time to start repairing the harm
caused by decades of U.S. inaction and
obstruction on climate policy. Find out
more about the truth behind net-zero
by reading our reports today.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Working toward a world of accountability

Dear friend,

Lately, I've been thinking about what it might look like when we achieve our mission. What would a world look like where corporations are accountable to people and not the other way around?

In such a world, I imagine communities would have the power and resources to ensure everyone has equitable access to clean, safe water, and other essential public services. Corporations would not be able to run pipelines through lands that are sacred to Indigenous people. People's needs and the well-being of the planet would be the first considerations in any law or policy—not corporate profits.

And in such a world, if corporations did harm, they would face severe consequences. If they went against the will of the people, if their actions poisoned the water and devastated the natural world, if they exploited working people and harmed those who use their products—they would be forced to pay, make amends to the communities they've harmed, and not be allowed to continue those abuses. They would have to fundamentally change the way they operate or shutter their doors.

That's the world we're working toward together. And I see glimpses of it right now, like in the campaign to hold Big Polluters liable for their role in knowingly fueling the climate crisis. This campaign provides a pathway to hold Big Polluters accountable and secure justice for millions of people across the globe. The beautiful thing is, through this campaign, we are centering the values in which we want to root our ideal world, including accountability, integrity, and respect for all life. Can you imagine what our world would look like if those principles guided society?

There are so many movements right now working toward that world—from movements for reparations and racial justice, to transformative justice, to corporate accountability. This knowledge and this vision give me great hope. Thank you for being part of this work—I'm honored to be in partnership with you.



Onward,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Patti Lynn".

Patti Lynn
Executive Director

Exposing and isolating a deadly industry

We're calling out Big Tobacco's dangerous PR schemes

"Together we're calling out the ways Big Tobacco peddles junk science, sows dissent, and spreads misinformation."

MICHÉL LEGENDRE | ASSOCIATE CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR

Since its founding in 2017, the Foundation for a Smoke-Free World (FSFW) has been rightfully denounced as an industry front group serving the interests of Philip Morris International (PMI).

And earlier this year, it came under scrutiny again, thanks to a lawsuit filed by a former employee, who alleges what we've long uncovered: that the foundation is "doing the bidding" of PMI and furthering its goal of "creating a new generation" of tobacco and nicotine users.

This is the latest chapter in PMI's attempts to establish FSFW as an unbiased entity. Thanks to our and our partners' campaigning, and along with your support, the foundation has had difficulty distributing its funding, creating partnerships with reputable institutions, and publishing in scientific journals without controversy.

You are defeating Big Tobacco's attempts to position itself as anything other than a deadly industry. And together, we'll continue exposing PMI and all its front groups so that it cannot keep profiting from death and addiction.

Q&A

Member spotlight: Robert Godes



Robert is an innovative technical designer and electrical engineer who has been inventing, developing, and providing creative technology-based solutions for diverse organizations for over 30 years.

As the founder of your own business that focuses on energy, how do you see your role in creating social change?

Carbon-based power is currently a zero sum game. If you burn it, I can't burn it—and at the same time, the entire planet suffers from the burning of fossil fuels. We've seen how oil and gas exploration has led to the climate crisis, and how people everywhere are living through the consequences right now.

The technology that I'm developing means that energy will no longer be a zero sum game. My hope is that our technology will be completely accessible to everyone.

Which of our campaigns resonate most with you and why?

To me, all of Corporate Accountability's campaigns are interrelated. The tobacco industry is the poster child of corporate corruption that profits from the destruction of public health—and we see how other industries have taken their tactics to drive environmental degradation that affect all of us. I see how the agriculture industry exacerbates problems relating to water and climate, and vice versa.

Unfortunately, all of these reckless operations are made legal by the purchase of politicians in D.C., who are beholden to their largest donors, which are almost

always corporations or corporate executives. Over the years, political power has also slowly become concentrated in the hands of a very few people. It's time we restore this power to people and communities.

How does Corporate Accountability's mission align with your values?

I am extremely passionate about public health through the lens of the environment. I also believe very strongly in the values of education and the diffusion of power. Corporate Accountability's focus on building grassroots power and prioritizing community control over precious resources such as access to clean water aligns very nicely with the things I think are important.

Advancing water justice for millions of people across the country

How you can build support for the WATER Act in Congress

“Water justice means building robust infrastructure and investing in public water for all.”

ALISSA WEINMAN | ASSOCIATE CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR

This past February, Representative Brenda Lawrence and Representative Ro Khanna, together with Senator Bernie Sanders, reintroduced federal legislation that would transform America's water infrastructure and help ensure affordable, safe, and clean public water for everyone in the country.

We've uplifted the WATER Act alongside our allies since its initial introduction in 2016. And thanks to our collective organizing, support for the bill from both communities and members of Congress has only grown.

To date, more than 70 additional members of Congress and over 500 faith, labor, and environmental groups across the U.S. have shared their support for the act. And as we grapple with decades of federal neglect of water infrastructure amid the converging crises of the COVID-19 pandemic and an economic recession, its reintroduction is more necessary now than ever before.

Add your name to the growing number of people calling for public water solutions and urge your member of Congress to support the WATER Act today.



No one deserves to live without clean, safe water—it's time to invest in U.S. infrastructure. Photo credit: Food & Water Watch

Take action!

Sign the petition:
[CorporateAccountability.org/SupportWATERAct](https://www.corporateaccountability.org/SupportWATERAct)

Keeping the pressure on Big Soda

You helped compel Coca-Cola to terminate its membership with powerful, shady industry group



Coca-Cola's decision to discontinue its ILSI membership follows the moves of other major food and beverage corporations, including Mars Inc. and Nestlé.

"We'll keep this momentum going to ensure that corporations can no longer use front groups to influence public health and nutrition policy around the world."

JOHN STEWART | DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

For decades, food and beverage corporations have influenced nutrition and public health policy through the International Life Sciences Institute (ILSI). From shaping public school cafeteria menus in the U.S. to delaying an initiative to post warning labels on unhealthy packaged foods in India, ILSI is one of the main channels that dozens of corporations use to wield their power in food policy circles.

But now, thanks to your action and the incredible organizing of partners and advocates around the world, that's about to change: Coca-Cola, one of ILSI's most prominent supporters, has officially terminated its membership as of January 2021.

ILSI has long provided the cover that Big Food and Beverage need to conceal the truth of the devastating consequences their products have on people's health, either

by funding and producing junk science or by getting its executives appointed to critical public policy platforms. This makes Coca-Cola's announcement even more noteworthy—and it would not have been possible without you.

Last spring, more than 70,000 people and 40 organizations demanded that corporations stop funding ILSI. We took your demands to the executives of major players like Coca-Cola and PepsiCo, along with our scathing exposé on ILSI. And this year, we'll be advancing these demands again at shareholders' meetings to pressure other corporations who have yet to cut ties with ILSI to do so as well.

You're helping to secure vital victories in the global campaign to expose the underhanded tactics corporations have time and again systemically used to stall progress on sound commonsense policies.

Plan for a legacy gift

Sustain our campaigns to protect human rights, people's lives, and the planet.

Contact Marcia Whitehead, Managing Director, at 617.695.2525.

Visit our website at CorporateAccountability.org/LegacyGiving

Send in the enclosed envelope.

Why legacy giving?

By leaving a legacy gift to Corporate Accountability, you can feel confident that your values and commitment to social change will carry on and you provide the organization with a secure source of income. That helps us be more fearless and strategic in our work to challenge corporate power.

Thank you for your partnership!



"I wholeheartedly believe in the mission of reining in corporate power because in order to survive, we need systemic change. That's why I'm proud to be a longtime supporter of Corporate Accountability."

FRED STRICKHOUSER | LEGACY AND MONTHLY DONOR



CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY

10 Milk Street, Suite 610 • Boston, MA 02108
617.695.2525 • CorporateAccountability.org



Corporate Accountability is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible as provided by law. Federal tax ID number: 41-1322686.

