

Barclays targeted by climate groups in campaign against fossil fuel finance this Valentine's Day

Richard Curtis' Make My Money Matter and other leading NGOs join forces to say #BreakUpWithBarclays and demand an end to the bank's financing of fossil fuel expansion

- **Fossil Free London, Money Rebellion, SOS-UK, Switch It Green, Fossil Banks No Thanks** and **Make My Money Matter** call on public to support #BreakUpWithBarclays – a new initiative targeting Barclays for its ongoing financing of fossil fuel expansion.
- NGOs will work with the public, charities, businesses and universities to mount pressure on Barclays to do better – or to switch to a bank that does not finance fossil fuel expansion.
- Between 2016 and 2021, Barclay's funnelled **\$48.3 billion** towards the top 50 oil and gas expanders* – making it one of Europe's worst offenders for fossil fuel finance – and has fallen behind its peers **HSBC** and **Lloyds** who recently stopped finance for new oil and gas projects.
- Customers and the general public alike can sign an ominous Valentine's card to the Barclays CEO [here](#) or visit [switchit.green](#) to find a bank which does not finance fossil fuel expansion, writing a break up letter to the dirty bank they are leaving behind while they are at it,

XXth February, London – Make My Money Matter, a climate finance campaign founded by Richard Curtis, is joining forces with a coalition of NGOs to encourage the public to #BreakUpWithBarclays and put an end to its fossil fuel expansion finance this Valentine's Day. Ignoring climate science and their customers' wishes, the bank continues to funnel billions towards fossil fuel expansion projects that are incompatible with tackling climate change every year.

Between 2016 and 2021, Barclays financed the top 50 oil and gas expanders to the tune of \$48.3 billion – despite clear guidance from the International Energy Agency that we cannot open anymore oil and gas fields if we want to limit climate change to 1.5 degrees. The bank is also lagging behind its peers on the UK high street – with even HSBC, another major culprit for expansion finance, recently stopping financing new oil and gas fields.

The powerful coalition of NGOs, ranging from student-led organisations to seasoned climate campaigners will carry out the following actions:

- **Make My Money Matter** invites the public to sign an ominous Valentine's card to the CEO of Barclays asking him to break up with fossil fuel expansion, delivered in person to the Barclays' offices.
- **Money Rebellion** targets ten major charities calling on them to switch away from Barclays to a bank that doesn't finance fossil fuel expansion.

- [Switch It Green](#)'s 'Bank Switching Platform' shows alternative green banks, and helps Barclays customers send a Breakup Letter before supporting them to switch to green banking
- [SOS-UK](#) targets universities to challenge their relationship with Barclays.
- [Fossil Free London](#) holds a 'Bad Romance' flashmob in London Barclays branch to draw attention to their need to end their relationship with fossil fuel corporations.
- [Fossil Banks No Thanks](#), [Defund Climate Chaos](#), [Extinction Rebellion Scotland](#) and [Biofuelwatch](#) will hold a creative rally outside the Scottish Barclays HQ in Glasgow

Find out how Barclays are progressing in relation to their peers on climate action below.

	Finance towards 50 oil & gas expanders* (2016 – 2021)	Publicly committed to stop direct finance for new oil, coal and gas expansion
HSBC	\$59.1 billion	
Barclays	\$48.3 billion	
Santander	\$23.4 billion	
Lloyds	\$5.9 billion	
NatWest	\$4.4 billion	

**Findings taken from ShareAction's Oil & Gas Expansion Report

Individuals who would like to sign Make My Money Matter's Valentine's card to the CEO of Barclays can do so [here](#) or visit [switchit.green](#) to find a bank which does not finance fossil fuel expansion. You can also find more information about each campaign in the links below.

Tony Burdon, CEO at Make My Money Matter commented:

"The first time I joined a demonstration, aged 17, was to call on Barclays to stop financing the apartheid regime in South Africa. It's now financing a climate catastrophe. They knew what they were financing was wrong then, and they – and their customers - know what they are financing is wrong now. We're asking them to stop financing fossil fuel expansion because we need to reduce emissions, not increase them, if we are to avert this crisis."

Joanna Warrington, Organiser at Fossil Free London said:

"Barclays is well-known for having been behind bad business. Their money has funded crimes from apartheid to arms. And at a time at which we are all teetering on the edge of a nightmare - climate collapse - they are funding huge amounts of tar sands, fracking, new oil - arsonist fossil fuels."

"The executives at Barclays know the devastation they are causing; they know the extent of the lives they are risking. It is grotesque. In love with life, we demand this financing stops."

Natasha Ion, Climate Campaigner at BankTrack said:

"Barclays is financing companies carrying out some of the most destructive fossil fuel projects worldwide. Barclays' relationship with the Adani Group, such as a loan of USD\$ 250 million it co-financed to the company in 2022, is not a good look for the bank. Adani has been accused of fraud, corruption allegations and human rights abuses.

"What's more, it's responsible for deeply destructive projects like the planned Adani Godda thermal power project, which has already displaced Indigenous communities and is predicted to cause adverse health impacts and significant emissions. We're acting today to expose Barclays' relationship with Adani and push the bank to cut ties with the group.

Sophie Cowen, CEO at Switch It Green commented:

"Customers are being conned by Barclays into thinking their money is safe - what is safe about an institution that invests billions into fossil fuel expansion projects that are blowing our chances of a liveable future?"

Barclays customers need to be aware of the destructive projects being done behind their backs, so they can finally break up with their lying bank and find the one! On the Switch It Green platform this Valentine's season, Barclays customers will be able to write a Breakup Letter to their fossil-fuel funding bank and choose a new green bank to spend their life with - a bank that has their, and the planet's, best interests at heart."

Nat Gorodnitski, Campaign Manager at SOS-UK said:

"Barclays is Europe's top fossil fuel funding bank and has no place in our education system while it continues to contribute to climate catastrophe and support destructive projects. The bank's activities are in direct contradiction of the critical research and values of our universities, yet they continue to have deep ties with those same institutions - this hypocrisy must stop. The fossil fuel industry is a dying one that offers no future for our students, either in careers or for the planet itself.

Breaking the Bank, SOS-UK's campaign supporting students to end fossil fuel funding, calls on universities to terminate their relationships with Barclays, from recruitment to banking to research, to put pressure on Barclays to stop its fossil fuel funding."

Money Rebellion commented:

"An important part of Barclays' financing is totally compromising the work done by a lot of charities. Barclays are financing companies that are still violating human rights, destroying the environment, and fueling the climate emergency. What is the point of working hard to make children's lives better while working with a bank that continues to give money to companies destroying those very kid's future. This needs to change.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

*Findings taken from ShareAction's [Oil & Gas Expansion Report](#)

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About Make My Money Matter

Make My Money Matter is a people-powered campaign founded by acclaimed filmmaker and activist Richard Curtis. The campaign group aims to give savers more voice and choice over their money so that their pension, investments, and bank align with their values and work to build a better world.

Make My Money Matter calls on the Big Five UK high street banks to take the following steps:

1. Stop directly financing new fossil fuel expansion activity.
2. Put existing clients on notice that they must stop their expansion plans or face financing consequences.
3. End relationships with those clients who do not stop fossil fuel expansion.

Make My Money Matter calls on the UK pension sector:

1. UK pension schemes to commit to robust net zero and report regularly on their progress in alignment with limiting global warming to below 1.5C.
2. UK pension schemes to commit to tackle deforestation.
3. Individuals to ask their providers and employers to make sure that their money is in line with their values and not causing harm to people and planet.
4. For UK Government to make net zero mandatory for all pension schemes.

Find out more at www.makemymoneymatter.co.uk

About Fossil Banks No Thanks

Fossil Banks No Thanks is Dutch NGO BankTrack's campaign calling on banks globally to end their financing for fossil fuel expansion immediately, and phase out their existing fossil financing. **BankTrack** is the international tracking, campaigning and NGO support organisation focused on banks and the activities they finance.

About Fossil Free London

Fossil Free London is a grassroots climate group campaigning for a London beyond fossil fuels, imagining a cleaner, greener city for residents, and for people worldwide who are experiencing the loss and damage of climate crises made in London.

About SOS-UK

SOS-UK is a charity leading on addressing issues at the intersection of education and sustainability. Breaking the Bank is our campaign supporting students in disrupting the relationship between educational institutions and banks, with a focus on recruitment and a goal of ending funding for fossil fuels.

About Switch It Green

Switch It Green harnesses the power of individual action taken en masse to force policy change for good in the financial sector. Their new Bank Switching Platform shows users if their bank funds fossil fuels, shows green alternatives to switch to, and gives users 6 simple actions to harness the power of their switch, to maximise every individual's climate impact.

About Money Rebellion

Money Rebellion is a group of activists, economists, financial experts, bankers and others, who, through direct action, campaigning, and sharing expertise, seek to expose the root causes of our climate emergency: the financial systems dependent on endless growth, and the greedy and powerful who continue to profit from the status quo. With our knowledge and passion we carefully target those responsible, and work to

MM Make My
WM Money Matter



Switch It



BANKTRACK

highlight alternative models and systems that can safeguard the future for us all. As activists we target the problem, and posit expert-driven solutions.