



PUBLISH WHAT
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Positioning Publish What You Pay on the energy transition

This document was adopted unanimously by the PWYP Global Council on 21 April 2021

Climate action is urgent. As the world warms at an unprecedented pace, governments and companies need to act to rapidly phase out fossil fuel production in line with the scientific consensus to not exceed 1.5°C of warming.

The transition to a low carbon economy has already begun to reshape the extractives industries. Recent announcements from companies and governments have set energy transition as the direction of travel and this is backstopped by clear expectations from investors and international financial institutions.

The shock, disruption and subsequent health care crisis brought on by COVID-19 has accelerated and complicated this already transformative moment for the extractives industries. Lower oil demand with declining prices and mining supply chain disruptions caused by COVID-19 provide a taste of what is to come as the climate crisis takes hold.

The transition to low carbon energy necessary to tackle the climate crisis can contribute towards a resilient post-pandemic recovery, secure sustainable development, improve air quality and biodiversity, and benefit citizens. However, without a concerted and organized effort by civil society, the energy transition risks being both inadequate and unfair, undermining economic benefits and livelihoods, and weakening citizen participation in the management of their natural resources.

Why Publish What You Pay?

As the worldwide campaign for open and accountable extractive industries, it is critical for PWYP to respond to the massive change that will happen to the oil, gas and mining sectors over the next decade and beyond. We also want to contribute to accelerating progress toward the goals of the Paris Agreement.

The majority of our movement works for the benefit of the citizens and communities who will be hit hardest by the climate crisis. These same constituencies could also suffer greatly if the energy transition does not properly consider the communities of resource-rich countries.

PWYP is in a prime and unique position to advocate for a people-centred energy transition that responds robustly to the climate emergency. PWYP members have the expertise, experience and connections to drive ambitious change in the oil, gas and mining sectors. . And, as a worldwide movement of over 1000 members, we are well positioned to secure new global norms rooted in national advocacy.

PWYP will work to ensure an enabling environment for a just transition by continuing to centre the leadership and lived realities of women and frontline communities, fighting for the



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right of civil society to operate effectively without reprisals, and ensuring that decision making processes are not captured by vested corporate interests.

What these positions are for

These positions are a north star for PWYP to help us all pull in the same direction on the climate crisis and energy transition. Some coalitions and members will feel able to take a strong public position to support these positions, others may only engage intermittently or not at all.

These positions are designed to provide the direction we need to have a coherent voice but allow flexibility for coalitions to refine their position for their specific context. Crucially, we have kept them broad and directional, as opposed to narrow and prescriptive, on purpose. Further and more detailed public positioning will happen through the development of targeted advocacy and campaigns which will be designed in partnership with PWYP members.

Endorsement of these positions gives the PWYP International Secretariat the mandate and guidance to seek funds to support energy transition work, and design programmes, advocacy and campaigns efforts that respond to these positions.

Global PWYP Positions: A people-centered transition to a low carbon economy

1. PWYP believes that a **managed decline of fossil fuel production is necessary** to tackle the climate crisis and to create long-term prosperity. This means rapidly phasing-out fossil fuel production around the world, with historically high emitters acting fastest and financing the global energy transition.
2. PWYP demands an **economically fair and socially just transition to a low carbon economy** that addresses the needs of every community, worker and country that depend on the fossil fuel industry. PWYP supports policies and fiscal regimes that promote economic diversification, access to clean energy, technology transfer, and decent work in a decarbonised economy.
3. PWYP advocates for the **disclosure of information** that enables investors, policymakers and citizens to understand and address the significant financial risks of the energy transition for companies and countries dependent on extracting, producing and using coal, oil and natural gas.¹
4. PWYP calls for **transformative governance of transition minerals**² so that these resources truly benefit citizens and do not perpetuate existing global inequality.. Citizen participation, community consent, and strong governance safeguards must be in place to avoid corruption and mismanagement of the increasing revenues to be

¹ For example, information that helps identify diminishing revenues, [unburnable carbon](#) or stranded assets; and other [climate related financial risk disclosure](#).

² E.g. copper, cobalt, lithium aluminum, chromium, manganese, molybdenum, and nickel are required for a range of low-carbon technologies, making them critical elements for realising a low-carbon future.



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generated by the sector. The rights of communities and the environment must be respected and protected in the extraction of minerals.

Background and consultation

These positions are the result of a year long consultative process led by PWYP coalitions. This consisted of six webinars, 64 survey responses and more than 300 different inputs. Draft positions were presented to the Global Council in October 2020 and the Secretariat was asked to refine them further.

Further reading

- [Letter from PWYP Global Council to EITI Board on the energy transition](#)
- [More information on the PWYP consultation that led to these positions](#)