

Universal Declaration Against Petroleum

Preamble

We, the people of Earth, united by our shared dependence upon one living planet, declare that the time has come to bring the Petroleum Age to a just and peaceful end.

For more than a century, petroleum has powered extraordinary technological progress, transformed transportation, expanded commerce, and reshaped civilization. It has enabled remarkable achievements in medicine, agriculture, communications, and industry. Yet history teaches that every transformative technology eventually reveals its limitations. What once served humanity can, when its costs become overwhelming, begin to threaten humanity itself.

Today those costs are undeniable.

The continued extraction, transportation, refinement, and combustion of petroleum destabilize the Earth's climate, pollute the atmosphere and oceans, degrade forests and rivers, endanger countless species, and burden communities with environmental and health consequences that extend across generations. Oil spills scar coastlines. Air pollution damages lungs and hearts. Greenhouse gas emissions alter weather patterns, intensify disasters, and place increasing strain upon societies throughout the world.

No civilization can claim wisdom while knowingly undermining the environmental systems upon which all civilization depends.

This declaration is not a condemnation of those who built the modern world using petroleum. Every generation acts within the knowledge and possibilities available to it. The engineers, workers, scientists, entrepreneurs, and families who relied upon petroleum contributed to humanity's development according to the understanding of their time.

Our responsibility is different.

We possess increasing scientific knowledge, expanding technological capability, and growing awareness of the consequences of continued dependence upon petroleum. Knowledge creates responsibility. To understand preventable harm and refuse to act is to accept its continuation.

Therefore, we proclaim this Universal Declaration Against Petroleum—not as an instrument of punishment, but as a declaration of principle; not as an expression of hostility toward any nation or people, but as an affirmation of our collective duty to future generations.

We declare that humanity possesses both the capacity and the obligation to build a civilization whose prosperity no longer depends upon petroleum.

Article 1 — The Right to a Living Planet

Every human being is born with an equal claim to a planet capable of sustaining life.

Clean air, safe water, healthy soils, thriving ecosystems, and a stable climate are not luxuries reserved for the fortunate. They are the ecological foundations upon which every other human right depends.

No economic activity should knowingly destroy these foundations.

Article 2 — Responsibility to Future Generations

The Earth is not inherited solely by those who are alive today.

Every generation holds the planet in trust for those yet unborn.

No generation possesses the moral authority to exhaust irreplaceable natural systems while leaving future generations diminished opportunities, increased risks, and irreversible environmental damage.

Stewardship shall prevail over exploitation.

Article 3 — Recognition of Petroleum's Harm

Petroleum has contributed significantly to human development.

It has also become a principal source of pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, environmental degradation, geopolitical instability, and economic vulnerability.

Recognizing these realities does not deny history.

It acknowledges present responsibility.

Humanity must now direct its ingenuity toward cleaner and more sustainable foundations.

Article 4 — The Principle of Transition

The end of petroleum shall be pursued deliberately, peacefully, and with determination.

The transition must be guided by scientific evidence, democratic participation, technological innovation, and respect for human dignity.

Urgency and justice must advance together.

Article 5 — A Just Transition

No worker shall become an enemy of environmental progress.

The mechanics, engineers, refinery operators, geologists, truck drivers, offshore crews, and countless others whose labor has sustained society deserve gratitude rather than abandonment.

Communities dependent upon petroleum industries shall receive investment, education, retraining, and economic opportunity.

Justice demands that the costs of transition never fall disproportionately upon those who possess the least power to bear them.

Article 6 — Energy as a Public Good

Reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy is essential to human flourishing.

Ending dependence upon petroleum shall never become an excuse for energy poverty.

Governments, industries, and institutions should promote abundant renewable energy, resilient infrastructure, energy efficiency, and technological innovation that expand access while reducing environmental harm.

Article 7 — Protection of Nature

Forests, wetlands, rivers, coral reefs, grasslands, glaciers, deserts, mountains, and oceans possess immense ecological value beyond their commercial usefulness.

Their preservation serves humanity by sustaining biodiversity, regulating climate, supporting food systems, and enriching human life.

Environmental protection shall become a central measure of responsible governance.

Article 8 — Scientific Integrity

Scientific inquiry shall remain free, transparent, and independent.

Public policy concerning petroleum should be informed by the best available evidence rather than misinformation, suppression, or political convenience.

Knowledge belongs to humanity.

Truth strengthens freedom.

Article 9 — Innovation

Human creativity is our greatest renewable resource.

The same ingenuity that discovered petroleum can create the technologies that succeed it.

Investment in clean energy, sustainable materials, efficient transportation, carbon reduction, ecological restoration, and scientific research shall be regarded as investments in civilization itself.

Article 10 — International Cooperation

The atmosphere recognizes no borders.

Neither climate change nor pollution can be solved by one nation acting alone.

All nations share both responsibility and opportunity.

International cooperation shall replace competition wherever the protection of the planet requires collective action.

Article 11 — Economic Renewal

Prosperity need not depend upon environmental destruction.

The economies of the future shall reward efficiency, circular production, renewable resources, ecological restoration, durable design, and long-term resilience.

Economic success shall increasingly be measured not only by production, but by human well-being and environmental health.

Article 12 — Corporate Responsibility

Enterprises possess extraordinary power to shape the future.

With that power comes responsibility.

Businesses should pursue innovation, transparency, environmental stewardship, and ethical governance.

Long-term value shall be measured not solely by quarterly profit but by enduring contributions to society and the natural world.

Article 13 — Education

Every child deserves an education that includes ecological literacy.

Understanding Earth's natural systems is essential for responsible citizenship.

Education shall cultivate curiosity, critical thinking, scientific understanding, and respect for the interconnectedness of life.

Article 14 — Restoration

Humanity shall not merely reduce harm.

Where ecosystems have been degraded through petroleum extraction, transportation, or use, efforts should be made to restore landscapes, rehabilitate habitats, improve water quality, and support the recovery of biodiversity wherever feasible.

Restoration is an act of hope.

Article 15 — Peace

Competition for petroleum resources has, in many places and at many times, intensified political tensions and conflict.

A world less dependent upon petroleum can become a world with greater opportunities for cooperation, stability, and shared prosperity.

Energy independence founded upon sustainable resources strengthens peace.

Article 16 — Shared Humanity

The transition away from petroleum shall not divide humanity into victors and losers.

Every nation possesses unique circumstances.

Every society faces different challenges.

Mutual respect, fairness, and cooperation shall guide global progress.

No people should be left behind.

Article 17 — Democratic Participation

The future of energy belongs to all people.

Communities should participate meaningfully in decisions affecting their environment, health, and economic future.

Transparent governance strengthens public trust and improves long-term outcomes.

Article 18 — Hope

Hope is not passive optimism.

Hope is disciplined action informed by knowledge and sustained by courage.

The greatest transformations in history have occurred when ordinary people chose to believe that a better future could be built.

The transition beyond petroleum shall be one such transformation.

Final Declaration

We stand at a defining moment in human history.

The question before us is not whether change will come.

Change is inevitable.

The question is whether humanity will guide that change with wisdom or be driven by crisis.

The Petroleum Age was born from remarkable ingenuity. Its achievements belong to history. Its lessons belong to the future.

We now possess the opportunity to inaugurate a new era—one defined not by the extraction of finite resources, but by the renewal of living systems; not by pollution, but by stewardship; not by dependence, but by resilience; not by short-term gain, but by enduring prosperity.

This declaration calls upon governments to legislate with foresight, upon scientists to continue expanding knowledge, upon educators to cultivate informed citizens, upon businesses to innovate responsibly, upon communities to lead locally, and upon individuals to recognize that meaningful change begins with countless daily choices.

We reject the false belief that environmental responsibility and human progress stand in opposition. The highest form of progress is that which preserves the conditions that make progress possible.

We affirm that prosperity and sustainability can advance together, that justice and innovation are partners rather than rivals, and that the health of humanity is inseparable from the health of the Earth.

Let this declaration be remembered not as a document of despair, but as a declaration of confidence in humanity's capacity to adapt, cooperate, and create.

Let future generations say that when the consequences of petroleum became unmistakable, humanity did not surrender to division or delay.

Instead, we chose responsibility over complacency, stewardship over exploitation, courage over convenience, and hope over resignation.

With humility before nature, with gratitude for those who came before us, and with unwavering commitment to those who will come after us, we proclaim this Universal Declaration Against Petroleum and invite all peoples and nations to join in building a future powered not by the depletion of the Earth, but by the limitless potential of human wisdom, cooperation, and imagination.