

RELX and the FOSSIL FUEL ENERGY ORDER

*The Growing Global Health and Human Rights Implications of
Business Practices at the World's Largest Science Publisher*

TIMELINE

- ▶ 15 years ago, scientists warned that expansion of fossil fuel assets is a danger to the health and stability of the planet.
- ▶ Since then, RELX products and services have continued to support global fossil fuel expansion efforts.
- ▶ These actions are inconsistent with climate goals with which RELX associates itself, as well as RELX pledges that require performing human rights due diligence.

NOTE: Reed Elsevier was formed in 1993 when Reed International and Elsevier merged. It rebranded as RELX in 2015, with divisions that include LexisNexis, RX, and ICIS.

In the following timeline, BLUE sections include positive claims and pledges, as well as the advocacy efforts of various stakeholders; ORANGE sections represent RELX's negative impacts, fossil fuel expansion efforts, misinformation, and activities that appear to contradict RELX's sustainability and ethics claims.

Information is grouped by year but is not strictly chronological.

SCIENTIST REBELLION
2026



United Nations
Global Compact

"Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation."

"Companies should take proactive, ongoing steps to understand how existing and proposed activities may cause or contribute to human rights impacts."



Who Cares Wins

Connecting Financial Markets
to a Changing World

2004: A UNGC report coins the investment term 'ESG.' Businesses like RELX embrace it and name a "Head of ESG." Within 20 years ESG is described as "marketing gobbledygook" that "is actively misleading people" and creating a "dangerous distraction" from regulation that would fit the scale of problems such as climate change.

RELX TIMELINE

2003

Reed Elsevier [joins](#) the UN Global Compact. The UNGC [supports](#) a "precautionary approach to environmental challenges" in which a lack of scientific certainty is no reason to postpone measures to prevent environmental degradation if there are "threats of serious or irreversible damage." UNGC also [declares](#) that "businesses have minimum responsibilities to meet to respect human rights. They must act with due diligence to avoid infringing the rights of others, which includes addressing any negative human rights impacts related to their business." [Principle One](#) states: "Companies should take proactive, ongoing steps to understand how existing and proposed activities may cause or contribute to human rights impacts."

2005

Due to its arms trade shows, an [article](#) in The Lancet calls out the company's violation of UNGC guidelines, which aim to prevent "human rights abuse." Scientists for Global Responsibility make this same [observation](#). The Lancet's editors and International Advisory Board simultaneously [call](#) for the company "to divest itself of all business interests" that threaten human "health and well-being."

2005

Reed Elsevier [indicates](#) it considers that this business activity "adheres to the highest standards of scrutiny" and complies with the United Nations Global Compact. Emphasizing humanitarian roles undertaken by armed forces, the company asserts it is meeting the "highest ethical standards," but does not address concerns about cluster bombs and human rights.

2006

Reed Elsevier [reports](#) to the UNGC that it's embedded "support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights" in its Code of Ethics.

2007

Reed Elsevier [defends](#) the shows as accounting for less than 1 percent of revenue and serving "reputable companies," some of which produce "torture equipment" that's illegal to sell in the E.U. After a 3 year campaign, The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust divests from Reed Elsevier upon observing it's "rapidly expanding" services to companies that are "deeply unethical and irredeemably corrupt."

2008

The company [exits](#) from the weapons exhibitions sector (but continues to serve weapons manufacturers in other ways).

The United Nations Human Rights Council unanimously approves a [framework](#) for business and human rights that calls on companies to "take proactive steps to understand how existing and proposed activities may affect

human rights." The United Nations Human Rights Council adopts [Resolution 7/23](#), in which the UN explicitly recognizes that climate change "has implications for the full enjoyment of human rights."

James Hanson [observes](#) the "requirements to halt carbon dioxide growth follow from the size of fossil carbon reservoirs," but fossil interests are inhibiting a prompt move to carbon-free energy. Reed Elsevier continues to [report](#) that it supports "a precautionary approach to environmental challenges," is "limiting any negative consequences" on the environment, and that "UNGC environmental principles are incorporated in [its] Code of Ethics and Business Conduct." RELX also claims its negative impact on the environment is "principally through the use of energy and paper, the use of print and production technologies and the recycling of waste."

2009

Reed Elsevier [promotes](#) how its R&D product [Knovel](#) is used by BP for addressing challenges in oil sands pipelines. Reed Elsevier donates [millions](#) to U.S. politicians as one of 23 members of the private enterprise board of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC); ALEC votes to [adopt](#) a model bill opposing federal regulation of hydraulic fracturing, deemed to be "environmentally safe."

2010

At the AGM, an investor [asks](#) if "Reed Elsevier take[s] environmental aspects into account when taking decisions related to expanding the business." He is told "Reed Elsevier does take these things seriously when expanding. And if you would like to, Marcia Balisciano, who is responsible for all of this within the organization, is here today and you would be very welcome to talk to her after the meeting."

2010

Elsevier launches Geofacets, a workflow solution "requested by geoscientists working in resource exploration" (Webinar: Introduction to the Geofacets-SEPM Millenium Edition) who are "looking for [new opportunities](#) across the globe." ALEC [introduces](#) the "Eminent Domain Authority for Federal Lands Act," which would authorize state governments to open protected wilderness areas for "[greater oil, gas, and coal exploration](#)."

2011

The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights ([UNGP](#)) are adopted. Businesses are guided to "seek to prevent or mitigate adverse human rights impacts that are directly linked to their operations, products or services by their business relationships, even if they have not contributed to those impacts...Questions of complicity may arise when a business enterprise contributes to, or is seen as contributing to, adverse human rights impacts caused by other parties."

At the [AGM](#), shareholders are "informed that Reed Elsevier [is] setting a good example of sustainable business practice," but an investor expresses concern that the CEO's presentation didn't mention "climatic concerns." Mr



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

"Climate change poses an immediate and far-reaching threat to people and communities around the world and has implications for the full enjoyment of human rights"

Resolution 7/23 (2008)

Elsevier News
@ElsevierNews

Elsevier launches Geofacets to help geoscientists in the oil and gas industry identify hydrocarbon resources <http://ow.ly/2Drja>

11:44 AM · Sep 13, 2010



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Businesses must “seek to prevent or mitigate adverse human rights impacts that are directly linked to their operations, products or services by their business relationships, even if they have not contributed to those impacts.”

U.N. Guiding Principles on
Business & Human Rights

Academic Journals and Corporate Interests: Reed Elsevier and ALEC

“Many scientists who have published in Elsevier-owned journals would be surprised to know that profits from those journals are used to promote denial of climate change and block action against global warming.”

PSC/CUNY (2012)

By 2025, RELX would reveal in a court filing that it considers its pledges to merely be forward-looking “aspirational statements about sustainability.”

Erik Engstrom emphasizes the business aim is “to improve the outcomes for professional customers” but that “corporate responsibility [is] very important to Reed Elsevier.” He notes the company does have targets, but that “corporate responsibility [is] much bigger than that.” Another investor encourages the company to improve messaging so “sustainable investors would remain interested in Reed Elsevier.” Attendees are told the company has come a long way in “contribut[ing] positively to the sustainability and social responsibility agenda” and “that the businesses the Company was in was essentially in many places supporting sustainability.” The CEO emphasizes that it’s a market leader in “publishing on alternative energy” while maintaining sustainability is “part of how Reed Elsevier runs its business.”

Scientists [warn](#) that most of the world’s fossil fuel reserves cannot be burned without causing catastrophic global heating.

2011

The company [promotes](#) how the research it publishes helps to advance oil and gas exploration. Elsevier has “over 60 journals...used by geoscientists in the industry on a daily basis.” (Elsevier oil and gas [webinar](#), How to Make a New Venture Project More Successful, July 13, 2011). [Elsevier](#) and the [Geological Society of London](#) pledge to “deliver significant advantage to companies focused on upstream oil and gas exploration.” Reed Exhibitions (RX) [adds](#) an oil and gas expo “to [support](#) the continuing growth of Brazil’s oil and gas industry.” Reed Elsevier continues to [partner](#) with [ExxonMobil](#), Koch Industries, and others on the ALEC private enterprise board, which generates draft legislation that targets U.S. agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and is “regularly passed into law.” The Center for Media and Democracy [reports](#) that “the greenhouse gas emissions and catastrophic climate crisis that has already begun could not have a better lobbyist than ALEC members.” ALEC holds a [session](#) at its annual meeting titled “Warming Up to Climate Change: The Many Benefits of Increased Atmospheric CO2.”

2012

Leaders at the AGM are [asked](#) about awareness of amendments of the OECD Guidelines “consistent with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and if so, whether this had any concrete consequences for Reed Elsevier’s policy.” The company Chairman states Reed Elsevier is a “committed supporter of human rights and had been a signatory of the UN Global Compact for a long time,” but he is not familiar with the amendments of the OECD guidelines “and that Reed Elsevier’s CSR team could certainly engage on this matter.”

Company division LexisNexis issues a [reminder](#) that biodiversity is threatened by “our addiction to fossil fuels.”

2012

The company maintains its [position](#) as “a leading member of ALEC,” as “profits from [its] journals are used to **promote denial of climate change and block action against global warming.**” (Increased scrutiny leads to its exit from the group.) Ron Mobed, a petroleum engineer by training, becomes

CEO of Elsevier. In his previous role he [developed](#) "integrated data and tools for finding and producing oil and gas." Elsevier promotes Knovel for aiding E&P professionals using new technologies to move into "[deeper waters](#)" and for serving a "[fossil fuel resurgence](#)." Elsevier [partners](#) with Society for Sedimentary Geology (SEPM) "to solve some of the most critical problems posed in oil and gas exploration." LexisNexis promotes legal and business-related [resources](#) covering oil, gas, and coal exploration and production. A company expo spreads the fear that 'flicking the switch' from coal to renewable energy would "[risk global depression](#)."

2013

Elsevier positions itself "as the [leading book publisher](#) for the oil and gas industry" and [launches](#) the Journal of Unconventional Oil and Gas Resources to support "field development of unconventional resources."

2013

The company [informs](#) investors it's "very pleased with the way that the sustainability agenda had become embedded in the company."

2014

An [investor](#) tells leaders at the AGM that "although the United Nations Global Compact was important, more could be addressed in the human rights area," referencing the UN Declaration of Human Rights and OECD Guidelines. Regarding human rights audits, she notes that she "could not find any report or details on the outcomes or the action taken by the Company." The company insists it's "keeping up to date [on human rights], and also challenging itself to do everything that could be done...Reed Elsevier [is] very active on the human rights area." The company notes that "Reed Elsevier's audits included questions that explicitly dealt with the adherence to human rights" including "environmental business practices."

2014

Geofacets works to [accelerate](#) fossil fuel exploration. In "helping solve the exploration puzzle in upstream oil and gas," Elsevier claims that "exploration has never been more seamless." ([Video](#)) Elsevier sees [a long future](#) ahead for developing North Sea oil and gas. A new coal shiploader "[capable](#) of loading at 8250 tonnes per hour" is [promoted](#) by a company expo as "great news for the region" and [coal mine expansion](#) noted for its promotion of jobs growth. Elsevier [promotes](#) the idea that the Keystone pipeline will have "little climate impact"—despite the oil industry-influenced report referenced being labeled "[a sham](#)"—while also [promoting materials](#) serving hydrocarbon expansion.

2015

The Paris Agreement calls for limiting temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels to prevent serious and irreversible damage. Scientists [declare](#) that to keep global temperature rise below 2°C, a third of known oil reserves, half of gas, and 80% of coal have to stay in the ground; The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) states that businesses must "be accountable for their climate impacts and participate



Home > News > Gulf Publishing Company sells oil, gas books business to Elsevier

Gulf Publishing Company sells oil, gas books business to Elsevier

8/8/2013 12:00:00 AM



Oil, Gas & Petroleum
@gulfpublish

Big hurdle cleared: U.S. report on [#Keystone](#) indicates little climate impact - [ow.ly/tayTq](#)

9:03 AM · Feb 1, 2014

Leave fossil fuels buried to prevent climate change, study urges

New research is first to identify which reserves must not be burned to keep global temperature rise under 2C, including over 90% of US and Australian coal and almost all Canadian tar sands

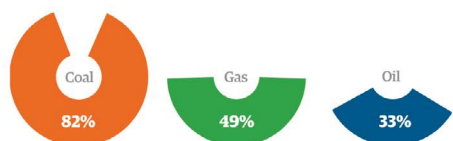
● George Monbiot: Why leaving fossil fuels in the ground is good for everyone



Unburnable fossil fuels

Known, extractable coal, oil and gas reserves that must not be burnt in order to prevent dangerous climate change of more than 2C

Global reserves
Per cent that cannot be burned



Elsevier News
@ElsevierNews

Elsevier Announces Six New Oil, Gas and Pipeline Engineering Books at Offshore Technology Conference bit.ly/1VDZlxj

5:09 AM · Apr 28, 2016

ELSEVIER SciTech Connect

No Fracking Clue!



An Elsevier website mocks climate activists as "muddle-headed arts graduates and click-tivists" and that "those who oppose fracking seem willing to believe any propaganda." While acknowledging it will "cause climate change," fracking is framed as "logically defensible."

responsibly in climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts with full respect for human rights."

The Keep it in the Ground Act is [introduced](#) in the US Senate; it would prohibit the digging or drilling for fossil fuels on federal land or waters to align federal energy policies with U.S. climate goals. Richard Horton, the editor-in-chief of Elsevier's flagship journal The Lancet, signs a divestment [letter](#) concerned with "reducing global fossil fuel production," stating that "it is wrong to profit from an industry whose core business threatens human and planetary health."

At the annual general meeting, RELX shareholders are [assured](#) of "its alignment with the UN Global Compact," that "in many ways Reed Elsevier already operated according to circular economy principles...[and] that the biggest [environmental] contribution Reed Elsevier could make was through science, through its journals and what was published." A company [report](#) touts Elsevier's sustainability research, boasting that "sustainability is deeply embedded within Elsevier." The company [acknowledges](#) "climate change is an important issue" and [asserts](#) it "agree[s] with scientific opinion that we must reduce the total quantity of absolute greenhouse gases in the atmosphere."

2015

RELX [serves](#) "leading companies in natural resource exploration around the world to support and justify business decisions, assess risk in drilling and development activities, and increase exploration team productivity." Elsevier [partners](#) with Wiley to include 100,000 maps from 26 journals in Geofacets, providing content "invaluable to exploration geoscientists operating all over the world." AGU [members](#) gain free access to the product. The Director for Product Management at Geofacets [promotes](#) expediting exploration—and then [shares](#) a map that shows where sea level rise will drown American cities. RELX division LexisNexis [offers](#) due diligence solutions for oil and gas to remove barriers to opening operations in emerging markets. A RELX mining expo [promotes](#) an [article](#) celebrating record breaking coal exports in Newcastle and noting "coal export industry has also been booming in Queensland"—where RELX hosts another mining expo. Elsevier [promotes](#) "the benefits of #shale development," as [concerns mount](#) over [methane](#) emissions from fracking. Elsevier [suggests](#) the Permian Basin in Texas for companies in search of hydrocarbon E&P opportunities. Highlighting a Shell oil [discovery](#) and upcoming drilling operations in [Mexico](#), Elsevier promotes a gold rush for Mexican oil and gas as also being a "[data rush](#)" that the company can help fuel. Elsevier [launches](#) Geofacets Mexico, providing competitive edge to Mexico's oil and gas block bidders. A RELX service for engineers helps guide customers in drilling techniques and [pipeline construction](#).

2016

RELX tells [investors](#) it's "won a number of awards in the sustainability area."

2016

As Elsevier [highlights](#) "billions of barrels of newly-discovered shale #oil" in Texas, the Company declares that "oil and gas companies need to invest

\$250 billion per year in exploration, and drill approximately 670,000 wells [by 2020]" that will require "a sustainable commitment to investing." (R&D Solutions [PDF](#)) Elsevier notes that [Mexico](#) is now offering its first deep-water oil exploration blocks to bidders; Geobiology Mexico promotes an Elsevier [webinar](#) on using Geofacets. A RELX mining expo finds that an "Australia coal rush [will] boost economic [growth](#)," generate "[ongoing jobs](#)," and is "[needed](#) to keep lights on." An Elsevier R&D Solutions [case study](#) says that for "helping experts dig deeper and discover more...there's no better partner." The company [markets](#) its oil and gas books as serving the "increased need to locate unconventional resources," covering "full development cycle of unconventional resources, from exploration through production." At the Offshore Technology Conference, Elsevier promotes [new books](#) addressing "the increased need to locate unconventional resources such as heavy oil and shale" and other "examples of how Elsevier is enabling science to drive innovation." RELX's PAC continues to [support](#) climate-denial politicians in U.S. elections. An Elsevier [website](#) dismisses climate advocates as "want[ing] us to leave all fossil fuels in the ground." It continues: "Will fracked gas cause climate change? Sure it will...[but] by bringing jobs and other benefits, why not frack for gas?"

2017

RELX launches the SDG Resource Centre, [supporting](#) "efforts to advance this vital global agenda." Elsevier [amplifies](#) a "call for removing fossil fuels & petrol products from chemical production" and [promotes](#) a [resource](#) that acknowledges "expanding [energy] supply with fossil fuel-based energy sources could endanger the delivery of [SDG] Goal 13 [Climate Action]." Elsevier [observes](#) the U.S. "Exit from the Paris Agreement Disregards Science and Endangers Global Environment." As it [promotes](#) its contributions "to keeping global average climate warming to below two degrees Celsius," RELX is [listed](#) in the Global 100 Most Sustainable Corporations. RELX signs the [We Are Still In Declaration](#), aiming to "continue to support climate action to meet the Paris Agreement [...and] remain actively engaged with the international community as part of the global effort to hold warming to well below 2°C and to accelerate the transition to a clean energy economy."

2017

LexisNexis [observes](#) the birthday of oil tycoon J. Paul Getty and repeatedly [promotes](#) "[helpful](#)" advice in an [article](#) that calls for oil and gas to push back on "the 'no more fossil fuels' movement" by using fear-based messaging—holding that the real story of the Dakota Access Pipeline was the "polluting encampment" of people protesting "the safest pipeline to be designed in history." As Elsevier [demeans](#) protesters as having "no fracking clue," it highlights a new [Alaska oil boom](#), fueled by new discoveries, innovations in drilling, seismic imaging and data processing, and Trump's promotion of oil and gas expansion; the [article](#) emphasizes that a modern military is inconceivable without oil, with the website offering readers a free chapter on "Exploration Techniques" from Shale Gas: Exploration and Environmental and Economic Impacts. Other company publications promote hydrocarbon [exploration](#), [reservoir analysis](#), and identifying [sweet-spots](#), as Elsevier [col-laborates](#) with the Bureau of Economic Geology to help "oil and gas compa-

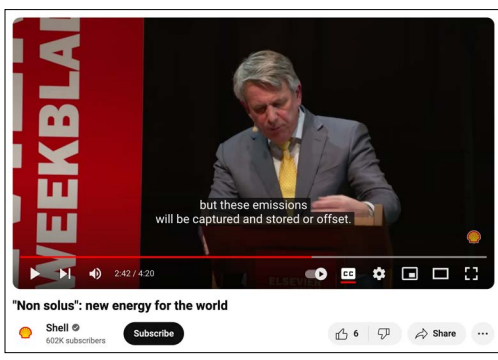
PR Newswire

Elsevier and the Bureau of Economic Geology Collaborate to Help Oil and Gas Companies Uncover New Insights in Texas and the Gulf Coast

NEWS PROVIDED BY
Elsevier →
Jun 28, 2017, 06:21 ET



LexisNexis promotes the idea that oil and gas should "learn from Trump" by using fear-based messaging to fight climate activists. (2017)



Shell's CEO at a 2018 Elsevier event: "Our goals should also be attainable, with enough ambition to keep global warming below 2 degrees Celsius." At the time Shell was already facing lawsuits for being misaligned with that goal.

nies uncover insights potentially leading to the discovery of economically viable hydrocarbons." As "exploration continues for new sources of oil and natural gas," and with U.S. President Trump expected to issue an executive order to promote oil and gas E&P in the Arctic and Atlantic, Elsevier [emphasizes](#) that "shale oil and gas can be produced sustainably." A RELX mining expo [frames](#) a partner's new coal project as a boost for jobs. Elsevier's R&D Solutions portfolio of tools "integrate data, analytics and technology capabilities to help oil & gas businesses reduce E&P costs and boost operational efficiency." (R&D Solutions for Oil and Gas [PDF](#)) Elsevier [promotes](#) services that enable companies "to find new oil and gas discoveries with increasingly greater precision and confidence." Regarding "negative impact on customer use of its products and services," investors are informed "it was quite difficult to measure how [its] customers behaved... RELX focused its efforts [on its own activities] rather than trying to measure what exactly the customers did with the products, which was quite difficult." ([RELX AGM](#)).

2018

A RELX (LexisNexis) [publication](#) observes that "misleading investors on climate change-related risks poses serious legal risks to companies and their directors."

With it [estimated](#) that there's only 10 more years of emissions in the carbon budget at the current rate and the "[main obstacle](#) to compliance with any reasonable warming target [being] the abundance of fossil fuels," scientists call for a [fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty](#) to keep warming below 1.5°C. RELX [reports](#) its A rating in CDP's Climate Change programme, as Elsevier [markets](#) a research [paper](#), noting that "#FossilFuel extraction is linked to significant abuse of human rights across the globe."

2018

While [publishing materials](#) that enhance oil and gas exploration and extraction, Elsevier [amplifies](#) a call for the UK to "[substantially](#)" increase oil drilling through technology and collaboration. Elsevier [collaborates](#) with the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) to improve productivity for global oil and gas exploration teams. Elsevier adds [content](#) from the Indonesian Petroleum Association (IPA) to Geofacets "to minimise exploration risk associated with upstream oil and gas research in the region." Geofacets [offers](#) exploration teams "access to 90 percent of the relevant unstructured published data and information used in the industry." As Shell faces multiple [climate lawsuits](#) pertaining to misalignment with the Paris Agreement, Elsevier invites its CEO to the first annual Elsevier Economics Lecture, where he [promotes](#) Shell as being "in step with society's drive to align with the Paris Agreement." He claims that "in Canada, Shell has shown that CCS [carbon capture and storage] works." Like other CCS projects, that [project](#) would emit far more CO₂ than it captures. A RELX energy expo helps [mislead](#) stakeholders into believing that Shell is "transforming." Elsevier [joins](#) ExxonMobil, TotalEnergies, Saudi Aramco and others in sponsoring Geo2018, a Middle East geosciences conference and exhibition. LexisNexis [seeks](#) to "thwart threats and conquer the legal challenges involved with the exploration, production and sale of energy," with resources pertaining to hydrocarbon exploration and hydraulic fracturing.

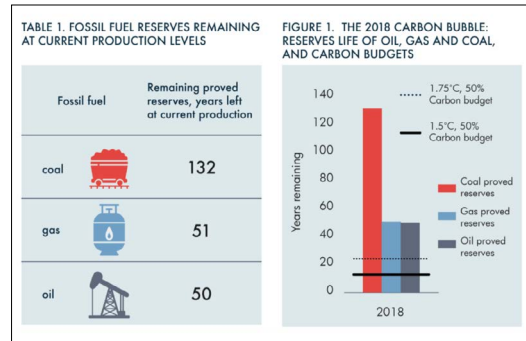
2019

A RELX [report](#) provided to shareholders and the US government boasts that RELX is benefitting from "the increasingly rigorous and objective ways in which [ESG] is being measured, monitored and indexed. In 2019 RELX was ranked second in the S&P Global 1200 for ESG performance by CSRHub, and sixth in the newly launched Responsibility 100 index of FTSE 100 companies measured against the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals. In 2019 RELX retained its AAA ESG rating with MSCI for the fourth consecutive year, and in January 2020 a Sustainalytics ESG report put RELX in the top one percent of over 12,000 companies covered." RELX [promotes](#) its status on CDP's A List of companies providing leadership on "environmental transparency and performance on climate change." RELX leadership [touts](#) its reputation as a good investment for ESG and sustainability-minded investors. Green Century Funds [reports](#) to its shareholders and the U.S. government on its family of mutual funds for "responsible investors [who] do not want to support the most environmentally reckless industries on the planet," giving investors "the peace of mind to know that they're only supporting corporate leaders in the effort to address the climate crisis." Its MSCI International Index Fund holds over 34,000 shares of RELX stock.

The Production Gap [report](#) indicates the world is "on track to produce far more fossil fuels in 2030 than would be compatible with a 2°C pathway." Elsevier [notes](#) that "fossil fuels increasingly offer a poor return on energy investment," [promotes](#) the fact that "health is a basic human right," and that climate change is a [threat](#) to this right. Elsevier sponsors a [conference](#) focusing on "pressing topics in climate justice advocacy." The conference Chair and Director of the Centre for Climate Justice [observes](#) that "we cannot place our faith in future technologies to fix this problem." RELX states that "we believe the Paris Climate Agreement is our best hope for avoiding dangerous climate change...We support global efforts to mitigate climate change through the rapid reduction of greenhouse gas emissions." ([RELX Climate Change Statement](#)). A new RELX policy says it's "committed to the protection of the environment, through the prevention of pollution [and to] minimising its contribution to climate change, in line with the scale of action deemed necessary by science." ([RELX Global Environment Policy](#))

2019

Elsevier [promotes](#) its content on ScienceDirect as being able to "help researchers and engineers drill further." Elsevier [markets](#) one of its publications as a "[go-to source](#)" for oil and gas professionals, helping them "to drive the oil and gas market into deeper drilling depths." Elsevier explains that it "enables entire exploration and development teams to gain a deeper understanding of petroleum systems and reservoir properties" (Elsevier Oil and Gas [PDF](#)) and it "helps oil and gas companies prioritize opportunities" ([Journals List](#)) and "increase productivity." ([Oil and gas going green](#) white paper) RELX sponsors an [award](#) given to LyondellBasell CEO Bob Pattel, described as "at the forefront of the global chemical industry's flagship initiative to solve the problem of plastic waste in our environment" and a leader in the Alliance to End Plastic Waste; LyondellBasell actually "[fights restrictions on plastic](#)" and faces accusations of "[greenwashing](#)" that would prove [correct](#).



Carbon Tracker diagram (2019).

RELX Group is honored to be one of the leading companies earning a position on @CDP's Climate Change A List – spearheading corporate action on climate change. [bit.ly/Scores2018](#)

#CDPAList #ActOnClimate #ClimateChange @RELXGroupCR

7:30 AM · Jan 22, 2019

RELX promotes its leadership in environmental transparency and performance on climate change.

Elsevier Energy
@ElsevierEnergy

Renewable Energy research argues that a 100% renewable energy system for Europe is economically competitive, technologically feasible, and consistent with targets of the Paris Agreement. Read the article: [bit.ly/2ETwnM6](#) #RenewableEnergy #ParisAgreement #Sustainability

8:30 AM · Jun 5, 2019

LexisNexis Legal & Professional
@LexisNexis

Click here [bit.ly/2VXhX7z](#) to read this Lexis Practice Advisor practice note on secured transactions in the context of #oil and #gas financings. This practice note is also appropriate for counsel to #coal and other mineral extraction enterprises.

LexisNexis markets a product that serves the financing of new hydrocarbon exploration and development projects around the world.

"We should be building more [coal plants]...We should be expanding exploration for oil and gas."

Senator Tom Cotton, United States
Financially supported by RELX's Political Action Committee (REPAC)



richard horton
@richardhorton1

Follow

A question. If you discovered that your organisation had a Political Action Committee that gave money to US Congressional politicians who were anti-science, climate sceptics, and supporters of US disengagement from WHO, what would you do? And how disappointed would you be?

1:21 PM - 18 Aug 2020

The Editor-in-Chief of the Lancet condemns his employer's support for climate skeptic U.S. politicians: "I can't defend it." RELX's PAC would go on to financially back the re-election of Donald Trump, who'd vowed to hydrocarbon production.

As RELX promotes oil majors as going "[green](#)," LexisNexis [markets](#) its [guidance](#) on transactions for new oil, gas, and coal projects, and [promotes](#) its [guidance](#) on constructing new natural gas facilities and/or pipeline infrastructure projects.

2020

The RELX SDG Resource Center [platform](#), advocating "for better action to reach these goals," [promotes](#) an [article](#) that states "banning new oil, coal, and natural gas projects" is one of "the most effective ways to stop future greenhouse gas emissions." The article [cites](#) the need for the largest oil majors to cut the amount of oil and gas they produce every day by 35% to meet the 1.5°C goal. With climate "the most critical problem facing humanity," the UNGC's principles are a "[moral compass](#)" for the company. RELX signs a [letter](#) calling on the UK government to ensure pandemic recovery uses the SDGs to inform actions putting "the health and wellbeing of current and future generations first."

RELX's Corporate Responsibility Head [says](#) the SDG's are an opportunity to "ingratiate yourself with the investors and analysts who are prioritizing ESG and a link to the SDGs...that is something that investors will be looking at." The S&P Dow Jones Indices adds [RELX](#) to its preeminent Dow Jones Sustainability Indices. [RELX](#) is the 3rd largest holding of Bernstein's ResponsibleUS Equities (ReUSE), a "climate-conscious" investment portfolio that "selects companies committed to reducing the impact of fossil fuels" and "whose business models enable a lower-carbon future." Wealthify Ltd. includes RELX in its [Ethical Investment Plans](#), with the observations that "RELX provides the insight and knowledge that drives humanity forward in a responsible and sustainable way" and that, according to its Global Head of Corporate Responsibility, it acts "with the highest ethical standards."

The United Nations explicitly [states](#) that "implementation of the [Paris] Agreement is essential for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals." RELX [promotes](#) it's "setting a science-based target in line with a 1.5° future" and doing its part "to meet the Paris Agreement." Committed to [backing](#) "the global intention to limit climate change to well below 2°C," RELX states it will "implement science-based targets on climate and drive actions that are consistent with a 1.5-degree pathway to achieve net-zero." ([Climate Pact](#))

At an Elsevier-wide Town Hall, an employee observes that the Company claims it's "ensuring that no function is conflicting with company sustainability commitments and objectives" and asks if the "REPAC political action is being audited and reformed to ensure alignment with the UNGC initiative, the SDG's, and other RELX commitments." The answer, given by Elsevier's Managing Director of STM Journals (and an internal climate board member) is no.

2020

An Elsevier fossil fuel E&P [webinar](#) explains that the company is good at helping partners and customers "find things that weren't found before."

An Elsevier [presentation](#) covers the use Geofacets to address challenges in hydrocarbon exploration. Elsevier [promotes](#) a partnership with BHP that enables it to rapidly respond to new E&P opportunities. LexisNexis provides practical [guidance](#) for those engaged in oil and gas E&P. One division (ICIS) sponsors an [award](#) given to Saudi Aramco's CEO, who expresses his hope for a post-COVID recovery in oil exploration and development investment. RELX's [PAC](#) supports Mitch McConnell, Roy Blunt, James Lankford, Steve Daines, Marsha Blackburn, Tom Cotton, and other U.S. politicians who block climate action, with some denying that global warming exists. Fielding internal concerns about RELX's support for such politicians, REPAC representatives decline to speak to questions of company policy compliance, instead focusing on positive aspects of the company, such as a matching donation program and allowing employees to use 2 paid days per year to volunteer. Regarding ICE contracts, the ACLU [observes](#) RELX is negligent of its human rights obligations. Activity such as the above remains [absent](#) from annual RELX Corporate Responsibility reports.

The same year Shell spends \$10 million lobbying [against](#) low carbon transportation, a RELX expo features Shell as its "[low carbon transport sponsor](#)." Elsevier [claims](#) "Oil & Gas customers are gaining increasing value from ScienceDirect, with unlimited access to an ever-expanding library of interdisciplinary content across a wide range of subject areas." Elsevier's Managing Director of Journals—responding to internal concerns about the Company "speeding the expansion of new oil and gas exploration"—declares that "with our Elsevier program management around Climate we hope to exceed the Paris Agreement goals – including our tier 3 emissions. Think of major contributing factors such as paper and travel – if the rest of the world does that too, we make a real impact."

2021

The IPCC and IEA [conclude](#) new fossil fuel developments are incompatible with global net zero and Paris 1.5°C warming goals.

The UN Human Rights Council adopts [resolution 48/13](#), recognizing "the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment." The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights [states](#) that the "climate change directly and indirectly interferes with the enjoyment of all human rights," and that it's the duty of businesses, under the UNGP, to discontinue "activities with potentially adverse climate change-related human rights impacts." RELX signs a [letter](#) indicating support for the idea that **"corporate responsibility for human rights and the environment is a duty and not a voluntary matter."**

RX makes a Net Zero Carbon Events [pledge](#), assuring its exhibitions will be "in line with the Paris Agreement's requirement to reduce global GHG emissions by 50% by 2030." Elsevier [joins](#) the Climate Change Knowledge Cooperative and, as a member of the [Publishers Association](#), Elsevier signs the "[Publishing Declares](#)" pledge to "join the global climate effort to limit warming to 1.5°C," "safeguard our planet for future generations," and "drive positive climate action wherever [it] can." Signatories set 1.5°C as "the

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Oil and Gas: Exploration and Production Agreements

A Lexis Practice Advisor[®] Practice Note by Ira L. Herman, Blank Rome LLP


Elsevier for Engineering R&D
@EngineeringRnD

@Equinor, @Shell and @Total have decided to invest in the Northern Lights project which is vital to reach the global climate goals of the Paris Agreement. Learn more here: bit.ly/2Uv5cPH
[#sustainabledevelopment](#)



10:03 AM · Jun 10, 2020

Elsevier promotes a project of Equinor, Shell and Total as being "vital to reach the global climate goals of the Paris Agreement." CCS is "[magical thinking](#)" promoted by the industry to justify fossil fuel expansion and the project's [reality](#) is that "the carbon injected would amount to less than one tenth of 1 percent of Europe's annual CO₂ emissions from fossil fuels in 2021."

**Beyond projects already
committed as of 2021,
there are no new
oil-and-gas fields
approved for development
in our pathway.**

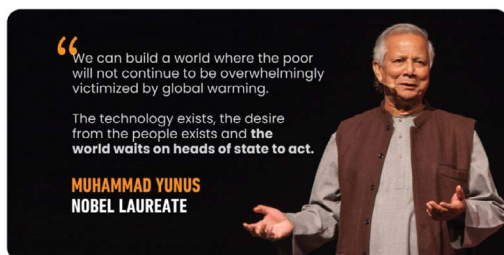
IEA Net Zero Report (2021)

Elsevier Energy research in the news: Exclusive coverage in today's
@guardian on how oil firm bosses' pay 'incentivises them to undermine
climate action' [theguardian.com/environment/20...](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/apr/15/oil-firm-bosses-pay-incentivises-them-to-undermine-climate-action)

@SussexGlobal @SussexUni

10:56 AM · Apr 15, 2021

"Fossil fuels are the greatest contributor to climate change. Allowing the
continued expansion of the industry is unconscionable. That's why I
joined 100 other Nobel Laureates in signing this @fossilfueltreaty letter
fossilfueltreaty.org/nobel-letter"



4:53 AM · Apr 22, 2021

2021: Muhammad Yunus, a Nobel Laureate firmly opposed to fossil fuel expansion, is a Keynote Speaker at RELX's SDG Inspiration Day.

maximum global warming level [it] will contribute to achieving." Elsevier's Senior Vice President and Academic Ambassador [states](#) that one of the best ways it can contribute to climate action is "through what we publish." RELX's Head of Corporate Responsibility [stresses](#) the need to "address some of the most critical challenges of our time, including climate change," company adherence to the UNGC environmental & human rights principles, and [promotes](#) the need "to wean ourselves off fossil fuel." RELX [markets](#) a book chapter that [calls](#) for "the urgent need to replace fossil fuels," [highlights](#) an [article](#) that concludes "the fossil fuel industry is...undermin[ing] climate litigation, regulation, and activism," [promotes](#) another that finds oil major leaders are incentivized to undermine climate action, and [amplifies](#) another that [indicates](#), "to keep global warming well-below 2°C, fossil fuels need to dramatically decline." Elsevier [promotes](#) a research paper that reveals how oil firm CEO pay incentivises them to undermine climate action. The keynote speaker at RELX's SDG Inspiration Day [declares](#) that "fossil fuels are the greatest contributor to climate change. Allowing the continued expansion of the industry is unconscionable." Over 200 [health journals](#), including [The Lancet](#), declare missing the 1.5°C target risks "catastrophic harm to health that will be impossible to reverse" and call for fossil fuel divestment.

RELX's founding head of ESG [promotes](#) it as being "about data that makes a difference" and "using [its] products and services to advocate for climate action." [Claiming](#) that it's "one of the most sustainable businesses in the world," RELX achieves Morningstar's [lowest](#) ESG risk rating of its top-yielding assets and reports its [positive](#) ESG ratings to the U.S. government. An Eiris Foundation [guide](#) for "funds that are exclusively available to charity investors" who seek "outcomes such as the Sustainable Development Goals" and investment decisions that "promote public benefit" features RELX as a top 10 holding in 11 funds. This includes 2 funds provided by RELX's largest institutional shareholder, BlackRock. 8 of the 11 funds seek to avoid environmental and human rights infringements, including Epworth Climate Stewardship Fund for Charities, which screens against "all companies that extract or refine fossil fuels, [and] **those companies that have a material involvement in supplying them with goods or services.**" Two of these funds are [offered](#) to church trusts and "grounded in the advice produced by the Church of England's Ethical Investment Advisory Group." This group [prioritizes](#) "investing for a renewed and sustainable world" with investments that "reflect the Church's teaching and values on a range of issues, including climate change, human rights, responsible technology and extractive industries." The former chief officer for sustainable investing at BlackRock—RELX's largest shareholder—[observes](#) that **ESG is "marketing gobbledygook" that "is actively misleading people"** and creating a "dangerous distraction" from regulation that would fit the scale of problems such as climate change.

A LexisNexis Practical Guidance [publication](#) observes that "the IEA [net zero roadmap] needs no new investments in coal, oil or gas supply beyond projects already committed to as of this year...Companies that use old IEA scenarios without addressing this...run the risk of being seen as outdated by their investors and potentially by regulators as well...More than one company is likely to get caught having a litigation or lobbying strategy that clearly

conflicts with its public ESG disclosures." A group of employees submit nearly 20 questions to RELX's REPAC through Human Resources; some questions address how its lobbying approach contradicts the Company's stated policies and values given its support for politicians obstructing climate action. In a subsequent meeting, PAC board members decline to answer any of these questions and instead focus on recruiting new PAC members and donations from those who are in attendance.

As noted in a subsequent legal [filing](#), an April 2021 employee ethics complaint and accompanying report ([Exhibit A](#)) observes, despite its statements and policies, the company is engaged in facilitating a massive increase in fossil fuels, sometimes in collaboration with companies accused of various environmental and human rights crimes. The company is informed that avoiding the harms associated with 1.5°C overshoot requires "ceasing investments in new fields, stopping production of new reserves, and starting the phase-out of some existing production," but that Elsevier is a driver for accelerating discoveries and exploration prospects. RELX fails to provide the reporter with a knowledgeable and independent investigator per Company guidelines and on [July 14](#) the Managing Director and Senior Vice President of Cell Press and The Lancet introduces a previously unenforced communications restriction on the reporting employee; it prohibits the sharing of Elsevier's fossil fuel industry [marketing materials](#), as well as paywalled climate and fossil fuel [papers](#), without the permission of the Managing Director and RELX's Global Head of Corporate Responsibility Márcia Balisciano. Various marketing materials are subsequently removed and websites altered. The subsequent legal filing notes RELX's ethics investigation was a "sham" and the manager's action "a disguised threat." A Cell Press editor-in-chief would call it "[intimidation](#)."

In several meetings with RELX Corporate Responsibility, employees express disappointment in the deflection of the discourse and repeat the desire to see RELX remove its deceptive claims.

The editor-in-chief of The Lancet steps down from Elsevier's "internal climate board," later calling it "a corporate greenwashing initiative," and adding: "I still don't see how RELX can claim to be a supporter of climate action while engaging financially and politically with anti-science advocates." ([2022 report](#)) Corporate Responsibility representatives provide "[no clarity](#) about how much larger the projected loss of life would need to be in order for RELX to cease activities with negative impacts"

After a series of employee meetings, a new report is drafted that again includes input from and a sustainability journal editor. The group of employees report to the company that it's acting contrary to its environmental and human rights claims and [commitments](#). Including editors at premium journals, the employees note the company can't serve the interests of fossil fuel majors while also claiming to be responding to the climate emergency "at the scale deemed necessary by science." They also point to UNGP [guidelines](#), which include the need to discontinue "activities with potentially adverse climate change-related human rights impacts." ([Exhibit B](#)) Despite

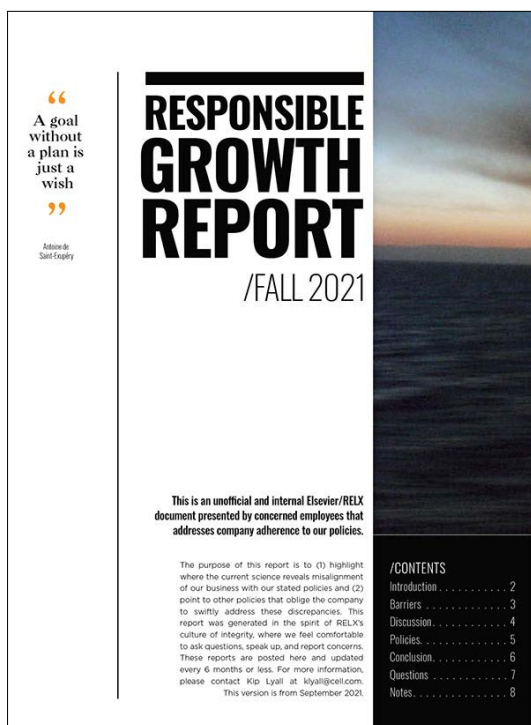


"You have assessed many RELX business activities that work against our climate pledge."

VP of Elsevier's Internal Climate Sustainability Program, included in a 2022 employee report.



Examples of marketing materials removed from circulation following a 2021 ethics complaint.



September 2021: Employees report RELX is "unfazed by the prospect of the world pushing well beyond the 1.5°C target." The company promotes its LEAD status in an initiative that supports a 'precautionary approach' to environmental challenge and holds a minimum requirement that companies perform human rights due diligence.

highlighting "lethal ramifications for hundreds of millions of people just this century," the company does not find there to be any violations of company policies. No Company messaging—including promotion of the oil industry as 'going green' and 'transitioning'—is determined to be false or misleading. Leaders are asked to provide evidence as to how global fossil fuel [expansion](#) could still be compatible with the language of its climate and human rights commitments or a 1.5°C warming target; to substantiate the claim made to employees that the industry Elsevier serves is "heavily motivated" to make a transition; to indicate which publics were consulted regarding engagement in the business activities in question; to share what the company considers to be prohibited under its climate and human rights commitments; and to share how large the projected loss of life would need to be for the company to consider the business activities in question antithetical to its commitments.

10 business, climate, and human rights questions are submitted to Cell Press' Senior Management Team in the report. These include asking if "the company [is] adequately providing information to investors and the general public that is sufficient to accurately evaluate our involvement in climate change-related human rights harms," as well as one seeking clarity on the Company's commitment to the OECD non-retaliation guideline to "refrain from discriminatory or disciplinary action against workers who make bona fide reports to management or, as appropriate, to the competent public authorities, on practices that contravene [our] policies." Company managers are unwilling to answer any of the questions or act on the request for RELX to end deceptive messaging and to provide employees with a timeline for when the company will end its dangerous support for fossil fuel expansion. An Elsevier sustainability leader is "disappointed to see this report didn't accurately reflect the progress and steps undertaken at an Elsevier level over the past 12 months. This includes our recent signing of the Climate Pledge, work done to transparently report on carbon emissions and our significant reduction of business travel targets." Both she and RELX Compliance are unable or unwilling to disclose what RELX's Ethics Code actually prohibits. ([Spring 2022 report](#))

In a RELX [podcast](#) "about the energy transition required to meet the Paris Agreement," RELX's Head of Corporate Responsibility promotes CCS ("Oil and gas is still - the world is too reliant upon [it] but will decrease with time, it needs to be accelerated. So there will be a need for CCS.") and asserts that oil production "helps with the economic development" in Africa. Guest Trevor Letcher pushes back on her points: "We don't really need much CCS... we don't actually need it for oil and gas powered power stations because they should be stopped...keep the oil in the ground. **I'm sorry, but I get the feeling that CCS is being supported strongly by the oil companies because they want to be kept in business.** CCS is a great thing. It's difficult to do...the whole thing is fraught with difficulty and the less CCS we have the better. We must have it for things like cement factories. Getting back to your comments on Africa...I'm sorry, but I still feel that even in Nigeria they should be focusing on new forms of energy, and that is solar and wind. **The oil should stay in the ground, I'm sorry...** I hope I've helped you on the Africa situation."

Dr. Letcher goes on to promote degrowth as the only thing that will save us: "It is the most challenging task that humanity has ever faced, to try and stop sending CO2 into the air. And I'm afraid the oil companies must realize they are to blame...Keep the oil in the ground. The trouble is the oil companies are so big that their lobby is enormous. **They would get all sorts of people on their side to keep their business going.**"

2021

A RELX website falsely [claims](#) "momentum has swung decisively in the favour of embracing sustainability in the hearts and minds of O&G decision makers at the highest levels" and [promotes](#) the "sustainability and decarbonisation" efforts of its petrochemical partners and customers. The RELX Board [reports](#) that it has also taken "strong climate action" in 2021, but somehow it "has found climate change has no material impact on RELX's business in the short term and will be **unlikely to have a significant impact in the medium and longer term.**"

An inquiry is fielded by RELX Compliance and a sustainability leader: "It's hard to understand how the Ethics Code and Doing the R.I.G.H.T. Thing [principles] allow for the company to align its business objectives with those of the fossil fuel industry, whose plans for this decade will make the Paris goals and SDGs unattainable. Our business activity in R&D, publishing, exhibitions etc. that aims to have that industry **exceed its current production goals** is clearly at odds with our public statements about aligning with the Paris Agreement. **If this activity contrasted with our statements doesn't violate the Ethics Code, as the company claims, then what does?**" They remain unwilling to clarify what types of false and misleading claims are actually prohibited by RELX. Human Resources and a Cell Press Senior Manager deny a request to disclose Elsevier's fossil fuel activity to prospective employees in a job post, partially under the premise that there isn't consensus that new fossil fuel projects are objectionable. (2022 report) A sustainability journal editor is "[not surprised](#)" but finds the reasons "very poor."

2022

As observed in a 2025 [legal filing](#), "slides from a January 2022 meeting [are shared] with all Cell Press employees in the hopes of creating more open and honest discussions about Elsevier and RELX's policies with respect to climate-related human rights impacts...[the slides] highlight the discrepancy in Elsevier and RELX's policies and statements and their business practices, including partnering with companies that violate environmental and human rights, financially supporting politicians who deny climate change, and products and services that accelerate the discovery of oil and gas." The deck ([Exhibit C](#)) observes the false assertion of company internal climate board members that Elsevier's fossil fuel industry customers are credibly transitioning.

2022

The company publicly [declares](#) it is "**not prepared to draw a line between the transition away from fossil fuels and the expansion of oil and gas,**" activity that "drags us towards disaster." Addressing Cell Press employees,



October 2021: A podcast guest reminds RELX that new oil and gas power stations need to be stopped, pushes back on the idea that fossil fuel development is needed in Africa, and criticizes CCS as a business scheme of oil majors.



Elsevier promotes an article that champions the merits of AI and Machine Learning for "profitable strategies" to "greatly boost the exploration of oil." Come 2025, RELX would claim such technologies are serving the industry's 'transition.'

"There'll always be laggards...those that are engaging in activities, maybe, without thinking about the full impact of what they're doing."

Márcia Balisciano, RELX Head of Corporate Responsibility (TetraNoodle Podcast, 2021)



Elsevier for Engineering R&D
@EngineeringRnD

New 'blue hydrogen' could play a huge role in the global energy transition. Read more in this article by @laboratorynews:
spkl.io/60114PnvW

#BlueHydrogen #EnergyTransition
#ClimateChange

5:44 AM · Dec 8, 2021

Elsevier R&D [promotes](#) the perspective of a former Shell employee, that "with modern CO2 capture technologies, virtually all the CO2 produced in the hydrogen plant can be mitigated and, therefore, blue hydrogen can play a key role in the transition to a carbon neutral society." RELX (ICIS) also promotes it as a "[renewable energy](#)." The [reality](#) is that 'blue' hydrogen may be "worse than gas or coal...The best hydrogen...can be that path to a sustainable future. Blue hydrogen is totally different." An Elsevier paper notes there's "[significant risk](#)" it will "lock society into ongoing greenhouse gas emissions."

The Guardian

Revealed: leading climate research publisher helps fuel oil and gas drilling

Elsevier's work with fossil fuel companies 'drags us towards disaster', climate researcher says



Elsevier is one of a few companies that publish peer-reviewed climate research, but it also consults with industry to find oil and gas reserves. Photograph: Kristoffer Trippelaar/Alamy



Above: The company reveals it won't end support for fossil fuel expansion. Below: An Elsevier leader [promotes](#) a company tree planting event made possible through employee donations. (February 2022)

management dismisses these concerns: "Some of you may have seen the Guardian article. Some of our colleagues kind of are concerned about our activities around oil and gas. Um, I do think within STMJ we can, um, take, it's not, I mean, it's not that we, you know, I think that also our oil and gas journals serve a purpose. Um, we cannot, kind of, do without fossil, um, fuel, um, you know, uh, right now, there [are] not alternatives. But we can play a role I think at STMJ to be more proactive on those journals. And not just, I mean, on the broader energy titles, for example, how do we see that? How do we see that in terms of aims and scope that need to evolve overtime, the composition of editorial boards, etc. So, I do think from that perspective there's a role to play. Um, and I also encourage you to come up with other ideas. But we have to play a proactive role." ([2022 report](#)) Management is subsequently [asked](#) about issuing a correction to employees given "the regrettable framing of the need to act on the scientific consensus (halting new fossil fuel projects) as being a call to end the use of fossil fuels," but no known correction is ever issued.

Following the Guardian article, a letter is sent to all external editors, assuring them of the Company's "profound, science-led and comprehensive commitment" to addressing global heating. The letter emphasizes Elsevier only has a "small number" of journals "covering fossil fuel related topics" and that "fossil fuels will be in the mix for several decades to come." This sidesteps the fact that the vast new fossil fuel expansion projects being informed across many Elsevier journals and other RELX products have no place in any science-led just transition.

2022

An Elsevier advocacy group [report](#) submitted to leadership titled 'Fueling the Crisis: Defensive Stigma Management Techniques at Elsevier and RELX' contains the following abstract: "This report examines the response of Elsevier and RELX to internal advocacy conducted by employees regarding the Company's failures to adhere to its environmental policies and pledges. **As a large MNE (multi-national enterprise) with business goals that include the generation of significant production gains for the fossil fuel industry, RELX publishes research that indicates these fossil fuel aims are entirely incompatible with the Company's climate goals.** Research also indicates the voluntary policies, initiatives, and communications strategies that RELX has embraced are widely utilized by large MNE's as tools for impression management of stakeholders that enable companies to conceal substantial negative impacts and resist reforms or changes to their operations that would hinder revenue generation. While Company performance of CSR (corporate social responsibility) includes ethics guidelines that prohibit false and misleading statements, **the Company has neglected to directly address employee concerns about use of deceptive policies and communications that include the amplification of fossil fuel industry misinformation.** The misleading of stakeholders generates a false consciousness regarding CSR, the Company's attitude towards the climate emergency, and the capacity of it and other large MNE's, due to their legal-economic structures, to refrain from business activities that are fueling the environmental crisis that is presently unfolding."

The report covers the "use of misleading CSR (corporate social responsibility) tools at RELX" that reflect "observations in the literature on **systemic greenwashing practices at large MNEs** and the ineffectiveness of voluntary corporate initiatives in stimulating corrective changes to corporate misbehavior...the Company supports a business-as-usual approach that involves accelerating fossil fuel extraction, supplemented by a growth in renewables. This path does not constitute an energy transition that Elsevier's CEO has described as 'mission critical'...**Serving the current aims of [the fossil fuel] industry inhibits RELX's ability to sound the alarm about what these companies are doing, and how RELX's business with them will have increasingly severe ramifications for the health of society and the planet.** Despite the Company's commitment to achieving business goals 'in an open, honest, ethical, and principled way,' leadership has been unwilling to openly confront the reality that the fossil fuel activity RELX is engaged in cannot realistically be a part of a world that stays below 1.5°C warming or acknowledge that **environmental policies that permit the Company to participate in ecocide are fundamentally misleading.** The inability of CEOs and other leaders across RELX to comply with both environmental policies and ethics guidelines underscores observations in the literature regarding the misleading nature of symbolic CSR tools and their ineffectiveness in bringing about the transformational changes that such MNEs claim to be striving for, but that commercial considerations compel them to resist."

The report observes that **"Employees at RELX have been told they 'own' corporate responsibility, but it's unlikely they can effectively do so while being subjected to impression management practices that are consistent with what the literature defines as greenwashing.**...With policies and codes that are neither clear nor operational, there's a need to go beyond the carefully cultivated corporate image and engage with actual corporate practices, considering their impacts on the lives of people." The report also expresses the concern that the company's focus on information suppression following an ethics complaint is **"a response to greenwashing concerns that an editor-in-chief at an Elsevier journal described as 'intimidation.'"**

Following this report, Richard Horton finds it "more than disappointing that the tone of the replies [from Elsevier leaders, including Elsevier's CEO] was so defensive," finding it "perfectly reasonable" for employees to be "filling an information gap and identifying word-deed misalignments." Management urges employee advocates to **"disengage** from the [advocacy] group...undermining the voluntary participation and collaboration of employees who stood up to advocate for the global environmental crises."

A Senior Human Resources officer is informed that management techniques "are being used to deflect attention away from [RELX] word-deed misalignment" and that "misleading messaging found in our policies, pledges, and other statements have been ruled to be compliant with the ethics code." HR is informed that RELX "having business goals that the science indicates will lead to an unlivable planet, while misleading stakeholders about this, can't mean that we're successfully incorporating ethics into all our actions...the company's interpretation of words in our policies like 'harm', 'serious', 'ig-

FUELING THE CRISIS:

Defensive Stigma Management Techniques at Elsevier and RELX



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“ You have assessed many RELX business activities that work against our climate pledge.

VP Internal Climate Sustainability Program, Elsevier¹

“ Fossil fuel industries have to be shut down as soon as possible.

Jayashree Ray, Independent Climate Advisory Board member²



This is an unofficial and internal ELSEVIER document, created in the spirit of a culture of integrity that asks that we incorporate ethics into all of our actions, grow our business with integrity, speak out for what's right, and hold each other accountable. This report does not intend to disparage individuals fulfilling roles and obligations that have been defined by the Company, but rather to

advocate for the removal of constraints placed upon employees that restrict their ability to follow the 'Do the Right Thing' principles, the Operating Principles, and other ethical standards by which we've been challenged to abide. If you have questions, comments, or wish to get involved with our work, please contact Kip Lyall at klyall@cell.com

<https://tinyurl.com/RGR-Committee>

"A corporate greenwashing initiative."

Dr. Richard Horton, Editor-in-Chief of The Lancet, describing Elsevier's 'internal climate board,' from which he resigned in 2021.

Some of the partners and customers that RELX continues to serve, helping them to thrive and exceed their current production goals:



noring', 'precautionary', and 'misleading' simply run counter to the popularly understood definitions of those terms...the company appears to be making use of an inconsistent moral framework that's different from what's being communicated." The [request](#) is made to understand the proper ways to educate stakeholders regarding "how the company is choosing to qualify and define various words, communications, and actions," but HR offers no reply.

Elsevier [promotes](#) that the Company "encourage[s] research on all aspects of the energy transition," pointing to the journal Fuel as being "linked to the SDGs," despite this product serving vast fossil fuel expansion. An Elsevier sustainability leader is [asked](#) to provide employees with evidence to show the company isn't generating "potentially adverse climate change-related human rights impacts." In response, employees are assured that the company is "ensuring the content, products and data insights we generate help the energy transition."

2022

The same month Richard Horton of The Lancet [reports](#) he's been told by leaders "that the company is progressively divesting itself from the oil and gas industries," Elsevier joins the [OSDU Forum](#). Founded by oil and gas majors seeking an open data platform to "enable them all to be more efficient and effective in [finding oil deposits](#)," OSDU is called a "[game changer](#)" built "to resolve the problems of accessing complex E&P data." OSDU Forum oil majors have business plans antithetical to net zero pathways, warming targets, and a science-based, just transition. Fellow members such as Aramco, BP, Chevron, Equinor, Exxon, Petrobras, and Shell are fighting an energy transition, remain severely [misaligned](#) with the Paris Agreement, and have CCS (carbon capture and storage) [projects](#) that increase oil production. One partner is [lobbying](#) to extend one of its coal mines for over 90 years. These businesses are [sabotaging](#) all seventeen SDGs, but Elsevier [continues](#) to [claim](#) it's supporting its partners and customers in their "[energy transition](#)." RELX's UN Global Compact Communication on Progress [fails](#) to reveal that Elsevier has joined the [OSDU Forum](#).

According to a subsequent [legal filing](#), management calls advocacy efforts "disingenuous and further engage[s] in harassing, intimidating, and isolating" behavior. A *One Earth* editor in the advocacy group is [informed](#) that management "continues to make inaccurate claims about the company and the science," and that he's "being pointed to as backing up the company's positions."

On October 13, CEOs across RELX are [asked](#) about negligence of UNGP commitments to discontinue "activity with adverse climate change-related human rights impacts which may be directly linked to our operations, products or services [and] obtain free, prior, and informed consent from potentially impacted people prior to taking actions likely to have climate-related human rights impacts." In response, a leader forbids any sharing of the new employee report ([Exhibit D](#)).

Management's use of intimidation tactics targeting employee advocates and

the use of false claims are brought to the attention of RELX Compliance and Ethics. Along with [concerns](#) about "psychological safety in the workplace," including harassment and retaliation, the Ethics Department dismisses the concerns "on the false grounds that they had already been addressed."

RELX [promotes](#) the idea that "sharing knowledge is a human right, and tackling the climate crisis requires the rapid exchange of knowledge across geographic, economic, and disciplinary boundaries." Yet WIRED [reports](#) that **"companies like RELX prevent us from seeing critically important information that's supposed to be public...about pressing problems like climate change and the COVID pandemic. Paywalling factual studies and news stories creates an informational void that the public fills with misinformation, and even conspiracy theories. As journalist Nathan J. Robinson depicts the problem caused by companies like RELX, 'the truth is paywalled, but lies are free.'" RELX [promotes](#) its strong ESG ratings as part of its 'corporate responsibility' credentials, despite [researchers](#) observing that ESG ratings providers predominantly define ESG as "the impact of environmental and social risks on financial performance" and that "ESG ratings have low associations with environmental and social outcomes." The Center for Media and Democracy [reveals](#) RELX is one of the companies that is "both pursuing ESG principles and making donations to RAGA," a group of U.S. state attorneys general that's "hyper-focused on eroding air and water regulations, promoting fossil fuel companies, and using state governments to punish companies that try to limit their climate-related risks by divesting from oil, gas, and coal."**

Despite [LNG projects](#) being as bad as or worse than coal, RELX describes LNG as being one of the "building blocks for change" in "[decarbonising the economy](#)." RELX (LexisNexis) facilitates new lease transactions for E&P companies "rushing to lease acreage and drill additional wells" and [informs](#) the **"worldwide rush to explore for and produce as much oil and natural gas as possible."** RELX [amplifies](#) a Shell leader's observation that the "key barrier" to low carbon transitions in mobility is infrastructure, something Shell actively lobbies [against](#). RELX also [amplifies](#) Shell's call for expanding natural gas resources—defined as "clean"—for the purpose of achieving net zero. Elsevier is [listed](#), along with Saudi Aramco, Shell, and Chevron, in sponsoring the American Association of Petroleum Geologists' Imperial Barrel Award, a subsurface basin evaluation program. RELX (RX) [promotes](#) its mining exhibition QME as facilitating increased productivity for Australian coal mine operators. RELX (ICIS) [sponsors](#) the ICIS CEO of the Year Award, given to Dow CEO Jim Fitterling, who's described as "leading the charge on decarbonisation and sustainability." Fitterling has [denied](#) that plastic is toxic in order to stave off regulation and Dow has recently [settled](#) allegations of violating the U.S. Clean Air Act for excess emissions of harmful air pollution. As it continues to [publish](#) books that serve oil and gas expansion, a RELX (ICIS) online [publication](#) suggests **"changing the emotional perception of fossil fuels" to help correct "underinvestment in fossil fuel E&P."**



OSDU Forum

Fueling Hydrocarbon Exploration and Production in the 21st Century

"They're making oil and gas drilling operations more profitable. Full stop."

Rob Day, co-founder of Spring Lane Capital

2022: RELX continues to ignore the warnings of scientists and employees about the public health implications of fossil fuel expansion.



WITH THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE

RESPONSIBLE GROWTH REPORT
/FALL 2022

2022: Employees are pressured to disengage from advocacy related to RELX's deceptive claims. Their report is blocked from distribution by management.

The Quiet Invasion of 'Big Information'

Google and Facebook's privacy violations are common knowledge. But the decisions of a less-known company, Relx, are also impacting people's everyday lives.



PHOTO-ILLUSTRATION: WIRED STAFF; GETTY IMAGES

2022

As a founding member of the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change, flagship journal [The Lancet](#) calls for **ending the expansion of any new fossil fuel infrastructure and production**, phasing out existing production fairly, and fast-tracking real solutions. [Carbon capture and storage](#) is labeled a "false solution" that does "little to protect health and introduce[s] new risks."

The 2022 RELX annual [report](#), considering a "business as usual" scenario marked by rising sea levels, political instability, and "significant health impacts," notes that "sentiment may favour organisations such as RELX that have taken action to limit the impact of climate change." It also states, "Leadership made the decision to close one hydrocarbon journal and transition remaining [titles](#) with updated aims and scope."

RELX [maintains](#) it "**carefully vets potential customers**...before allowing them to access its services" and [boasts](#) that the company's "been recognized by the ratings agencies that rank companies based on their environmental, social and governance (ESG) performance." RELX's head of corporate affairs "has ensured the company focuses on practical actions rather than rhetorical commitments...The company has installed waterless urinals in its New York building as well as sinks with stoppers and automatic taps that flow for six seconds rather than the usual 15."

Morningstar touts [RELX](#) as one of only 13 companies that have its highest ESG rating. Impax Asset Management LLC, [reports](#) to the U.S. government that it's "building momentum toward a more sustainable future" through products including Impax International Sustainable Economy Fund; it has a "fossil fuel-free profile" and holds over 400,000 shares of RELX stock. [RELX](#) is the 5th largest holding for Triodos Investment Management B.V., with RELX in the top 10 investments made in 3 of its funds in 2022. These offerings seek to "make money work for environmental and social change," "contribute to the transition to an economy within planetary boundaries," and "contribute to the transition to an economy where all humans can enjoy a prosperous life." Investments that "cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective," or are misalignment with OECD Guidelines and the UNGP, are excluded. Exclusions include any "exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector."

Observers are [critical](#) of the UN Global Compact, as it assumes members such as [Shell](#), [TotalEnergies](#), [Equinor](#), and [BP](#) are voluntarily adhering to the principles without any oversight. RELX maintains membership another UN initiative, Race to Zero, which [recognizes](#) a 1.5-degree pathway requires the "phasing down and out" of fossil fuels and indicates members must end "facilitation of new unabated fossil fuel assets" in line with IEA and IPCC scenarios. The Union of Concerned Scientists and Scientists for Global Responsibility launch a [petition](#) requesting the company address inconsistency with its sustainability claims, the UN Global Compact, UN Race to Zero, and the UNGP. An associated blog post [observes](#) that company practices "are incompatible with the claims Elsevier makes about its commitment to climate action. In fact, this is what inaction on climate change looks like. **It's what greenwashing looks like.**"



ESG Companies Bankroll GOP AGs—the Very Officials Retaliating Against Their Climate Goals

By Alex Kotch | September 6th, 2022 at 11:49 AM (CDT)

Elsevier's Global Director of Sustainability is [asked](#) internally "if the company plans to withdraw from its Race to Zero pledge given that both Elsevier and RELX have taken actions that indicate no intention to honor its pledge." RELX opts not to withdraw. Senior RELX Corporate Responsibility and Compliance officers are again informed that "there remains genuine and avoidable confusion at the company regarding what our environmental, ethical, and human rights policies do in fact prohibit," are informed that "leadership has confirmed we're going to continue maintaining some commercial commitments that contradict our environmental pledges," and are asked to "explain why and to what extent these types of marketing statements are exempt from the company's restrictions on making misleading statements about the company."

The U.N. Human Rights Council [recognizes](#) climate change negatively impacts the realization of the right to food. The Lancet Planetary Health publishes a [call](#) to "**end expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure and production [...due to the] need to save lives** from pollution and climate change-related harm." The Lancet publishes a [commentary](#) article that declares the company's continued support for fossil fuel exploration is "**morally and materially insupportable**."

2023

RELX publishes a commentary that [mocks](#) European "disapproval of fossil fuel energy development" through withholding money from hydrocarbon projects and cutting the duration of gas contracts as "creating an illusion of defying gravity. Here on earth, however, [the] apple will always fall down." Another [post](#) is critical of narratives focused on the "demonisation of fossil fuels indiscriminately of their actual carbon emission impact." It also [criticizes](#) those calling on banks to "stop financing new oil, gas and coal expansion" by falsely framing this as a call for the "abrupt elimination" of fossil fuels. An internal complaint made through ethics reporting channels [observes](#) leadership's use of this same deceptive rhetoric on employees, as well as other claims being made by specific leaders that aren't reflective of the reality of the "business, policies, or science"; this activity is not regarded as inappropriate and the reporting employee is encouraged to focus on practicing "self-reflection." At the Annual General Meeting, RELX leadership [emphasizes](#) that "the world still needs fossil fuels" as the company continues to provide the industry with "data, and analytics, and information." Products and services leaders tell investors have been 'repurposed' and 'transitioned' are in fact still informing the industry's drive for [new projects](#), and are thus incompatible with the SDGs and realistic just transition scenarios. An investor informs leaders, "**I don't think you understand what 'transition' means.**"

LexisNexis [frames](#) oil majors Chevron, Shell, ExxonMobil, BP, Eni, ConocoPhillips, and [TotalEnergies](#) as "innovators powering the energy transition." TotalEnergies is praised as standing apart, while BP commitments are said to provide a firm foundation to its "transformation from an International Oil Company to an Integrated Energy Company." The energy transition journey for the super-majors is "about working towards a reduced carbon future

Let's All Get Along

May 31, 2022 • (2 min read)

With a [worldwide rush to explore for and produce as much oil and natural gas as possible](#), many former rivals are joining together to explore energy-producing regions together. Using a joint operating agreement to govern individual rights and responsibilities, multiple parties can join together to [efficiently explore untapped fields quickly](#) and efficiently. Helping your clients understand the basics of negotiating a joint operating agreement will put them in good stead to take advantage of high energy prices and start producing more hydrocarbons today.

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How do we listen and learn from the research community about how to collectively achieve a more sustainable future? Discover more in the new [@ElsevierConnect Climate Action Report](#) [spkl.io/60154Zral](#)



It is incredibly important to be able to reimagine our world in a net zero context: every part of our society must change, and it will be confrontational. This is true of the research community and it is true of the publication process as well.



Prof. Gerard Grovers
KU Leuven
Belgium

8:00 AM • Dec 27, 2022 • 60 Views

2022: As the company associates itself with confrontational climate activism, it informs global fossil fuel expansion efforts.



through increasing investment in more sustainable energy sources." LexisNexis is "proud to directly support and serve these innovators in their **endeavors to better humankind**." The [reality](#) is these companies have investments **misaligned with a disastrous 2.5°C increase in global temperatures**.

RELX publishes a [commentary](#) that fossil fuels are "necessary to keep people out of poverty" and bemoans how "the lack of a committed support for North Sea exploration and production...is undermining the [oil and gas] industry," pointing criticism at the influence of "**the climate agenda**." A Shell leader tells attendees at a RELX energy [expo](#) that we need to stop demonising the role of gas in decarbonization. RELX (LexisNexis) [promotes](#) the appointment of Saudi Aramco's CEO to the board of BlackRock—RELX's [largest](#) institutional shareholder—as a "savvy" move that "embraces market realities," while [warning](#) of the "**harsh realities of trying to quit fossil fuels**." New Elsevier [books](#) cover the "environmentally-friendly" design and construction of new oil and gas pipelines and "[SDG-supported practices](#)" in enhanced oil recovery with CCS. 'Elsevier Environment' [promotes](#) a journal dedicated largely to serving the expansion of fossil fuel resources.

After investors have already been informed Geofacets has been 'repurposed,' a geophysics researcher offers a [webinar](#)—sponsored by Shell, BP, and others—on how to use Geofacets effectively for oil and gas exploration. SEG's Publications and Membership Managing Director also confirms that Geofacets has not been restricted from use in serving fossil fuel expansion. The leader of Elsevier's Climate Action program assures employees that energy journals have been 'transitioned'—even as they and [many other publications](#) continue to inform global fossil fuel expansion—and claims there is still need for a "scientific dialogue around fossil fuel."

Despite The Lancet identifying it as a "false solution," RELX (ICIS) [promotes](#) carbon capture and storage as allowing oil majors that are "working towards a greener future...to continue to produce oil within the Net Zero 2050 scenario." Elsevier also [promotes](#) the technology, including its use for generating "low-emission" blue hydrogen. RELX [describes](#) ExxonMobil's blue hydrogen as "low carbon," and helps promote Exxon's goal of "net-zero emissions in its oil and gas operations in the Permian Basin by 2030." (This goal doesn't account for the [burning](#) of their products and, in 2024, ExxonMobil will threaten to [scrap](#) world's largest blue hydrogen project over emissions criteria.) RELX sponsors an [award](#) given to the President of ExxonMobil Product Solutions, amplifying her claim that Exxon is "very focused on reducing [its] emissions." RELX [promotes](#) her award and her company as "committed to growing its global petrochemicals and plastics business," as Exxon's [Alliance to End Plastic Waste](#) scraps its plastic waste goals as "[just too ambitious](#)." It achieved 0.2% of its target. ExxonMobil Product Solutions is celebrated by RELX as being a repeated [recipient](#) of the ACC Responsible Care Company of the Year [Award](#) for "continued and exemplary commitment to advancing environmental, health, and safety (EH&S) performance"—this despite Exxon-Mobil actively [poisoning](#) the planet and creating "[toxic misery](#)" for disproportionately Black and brown communities near its facilities.

2023

RELX celebrates [Juneteenth](#), [Nelson Mandela](#), and [amplifies](#) a perspective [article](#) that calls for “environmental justice activism” to **confront “the fossil fuel energy order”** and the “environmental racism” of the petrochemical industry. Elsevier [markets](#) a [paper](#) that positions “fossil fuel racism” as a subset of environmental racism to bring focus “to the systems and structures which are actively protecting and promoting continued production of fossil fuels.” Elsevier and LexisNexis push the need to “end plastic pollution,” “build a green economy” and “restore our Earth.” RELX [affirms](#) its “commitment to respecting human rights,” [recognizes](#) that “the SDGs and human rights are not separate agendas,” [declares](#) it’s “turning climate pledges into climate action” and [claims](#) to “support the Paris Agreement’s intention to limit climate change to 1.5°C.” RELX [promotes](#) an article calling for [climate reparations](#) from oil majors engaging in fossil fuel exploration and that are generating “disinformation,” “delaying action,” and “willfully ignoring foreseeable climate harm.”

A consumer [report](#) submitted to the FTC observes that “RELX is misleading stakeholders by continuing to sell products and services that enable companies to find new fossil fuel exploration opportunities and accelerate new fossil fuel development...the world’s premiere publisher of climate science is misleading the public about the business [and] realistic net zero and warming pathways.”

Elsevier’s Global Director of Sustainability [emphasizes](#) that we need books that “get us to net zero as a global community.” She [promotes](#) Elsevier as being “a catalyst of change through the content that is published,” emphasizing that “understanding how your journals, [books](#), products, and services help drive societal impact is important to enable you to select focus SDG goals.” She also promotes membership in [STM](#), whose “Featured Initiatives and Collaborations” includes a 2021 call for “emergency action” that involves fossil fuel [divestment](#) and Elsevier’s [pledge](#) that **1.5°C is “the maximum global warming level [it] will contribute to achieving.”** Elsevier [shares](#) that it’s changed the Journal of Petroleum Science and Engineering to Geoenergy Science and Engineering, with a new scope that includes “sustainable hydro-carbon exploration and production.”

With fossil fuel and petrochemical expansion not fitting into a [circular economy](#), RELX is the [top holding](#) of BNPP Circular Economy ETF and the 3rd highest holding of RobecoSAM Circular Economy Fund. [Included](#) in the Dow Jones Sustainability World Index, RELX is the asset constituting the 2nd greatest proportion of investments in the [ONE Sustainable Fund](#), a fund that “invests in companies that provide services and technologies with a positive environmental impact.” [PensionBee](#) informs investors RELX products are “used for the benefit of the world” and “advance [the] United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.” [RELX](#) is one of 15 companies in the Aoris investment portfolio, which applies “ESG principles to [its] ownership decisions.” Aoris cites RELX’s net zero pledge and that it has identified how it helps advance progress on all but 2 of the 17 SDG’s, including Good Health & Wellbeing and Climate Action. [RELX](#) is a top investment of Handelsbanken



2023 RELX Annual General Meeting



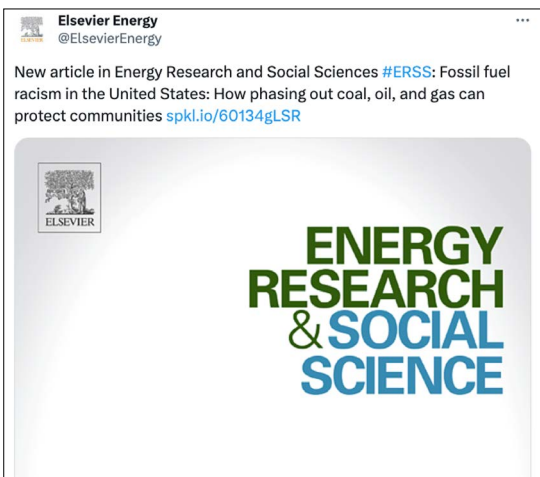
 RELX
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As climate disasters increase, LexisNexis Risk Solutions provides you with predictive property insights to optimize risk assessment. Provide more competitive quotes with better property data solutions:
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 **COMBAT THE COSTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE**
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7:30 AM · Nov 15, 2023

RELX helps insurance companies “combat the costs of climate change” in a world increasingly marked by “climate-driven extreme weather” and “climate disasters” being fueled by the burning of hydrocarbons.



Elsevier [markets](#) a [paper](#) that "position[s] 'fossil fuel racism' as a subset of environmental racism" to focus on "the systems and structures which are actively protecting and promoting continued production of fossil fuels." Observing the need for "rapid reductions" in fossil fuel production and the increased emissions from the industry's CCS schemes, the authors note the need to "disrupt the industry's actions and reduce its influence."



A journal that informs hydrocarbon expansion is rebranded as supporting the #energy transition, net-zero, and "sustainable hydrocarbon exploration and production." There's no room in the carbon budget for the "[deep hydrocarbon exploration](#)" this journal supports, generating confusion about the requirements for net-zero and a just energy transition.

Europa Selektiv, a fund that "promotes environmental and social characteristics through sustainable investments" that are "aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights." RELX maintains its position in the VanEck Sustainable European Equal Weight UCITS ETF, which [invests](#) in companies "that comply with the UN Global Compact Principles for responsible corporate behavior." RELX is included in Nordea's European Responsible Enhanced Equity Fund and Global Responsible Enhanced Equity Fund, which invest "in companies and issuers involved in activities that contributed to an environmental or social objective as outlined in UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and/or the EU Taxonomy," and excluding those violating the UNGC and OECD principles. For 2023, RELX is a top investment for 8 of Schroder's funds. Schroder seeks investments that **"enable system-or economy-wide reductions in carbon emissions."** The funds exclude companies that have breached one or more 'global norms' causing environmental or social harm, such as those in the UNGC principles, the OECD Guidelines and the UNGP, or that lack "processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with UN Global Compact principles and OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises."

Echo Group partners with RELX for a [meeting](#) on the lack of transparency in environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) standards; RELX wins a 'Britain's Most Admired Companies' [award](#), sponsored by Echo Group. Other winners include oil majors Equinor and TotalEnergies.

The IEA's 2023 Net Zero Roadmap report [reaffirms](#) no new oil, gas, or coal fields are compatible with the 1.5°C limit. A paper in Nature Communications [concludes](#) that **coal, oil, and gas supplies must decline** on average by 99%, 70%, and 84%, respectively, from 2020 to 2050, in a 1.5°C pathway. Referencing UNGP human rights guidelines, UN investigators send a [letter](#) to companies still facilitating "continued exploration for more oil and gas," indicating they are at risk of generating "significantly worsened climate change-related human rights impacts."

RELX's [purpose](#) remains "to benefit society" and it is "making the world a better place." In his speech at RELX's SDG Inspiration Day, Ban Ki-moon [says](#) **"it is vital that businesses firstly identify their full environmental impact,** starting with a clear understanding of the organization's impact on the whole of the environment, not exclusively their carbon emissions and pollution." A researcher interrupts her own talk to criticize Elsevier for its ties to fossil fuel expansion. The Lancet Countdown [declares](#) "fossil fuel phase out is the most important public health intervention of our time."

A senior Human Resources officer is [informed](#) by the employee that RELX leaders are "correctly emphasizing that an energy transition is a process, but **the science indicates a safe transition—as well as the SDGs and other stated goals—requires that the [fossil fuel] expansion we're presently informing needs to already have stopped...**[it's] unclear why the need to cease expansion is being framed as an unrealistic call to immediately discontinue using fossil fuels, and why our company holds that the expan-

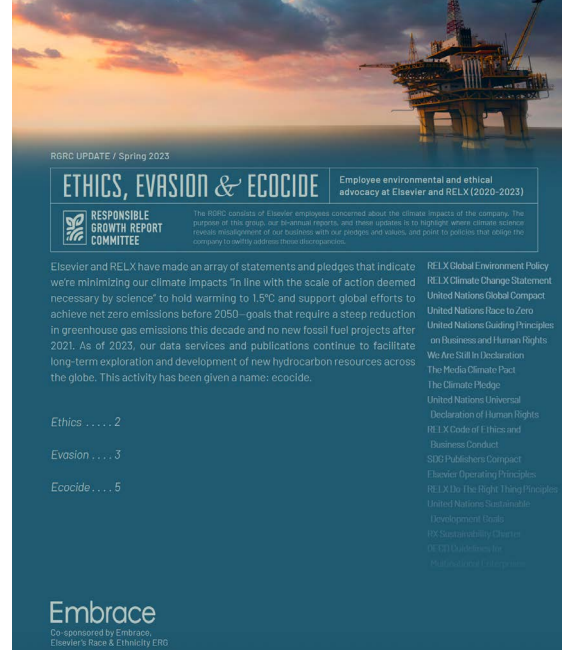
sion we still support is 'in line with the scale of action deemed necessary by science'...it's unclear why the ethics code allows for our messaging, memberships, and pledges to suggest we don't support this activity while still engaging in it. The rationale offered for not adequately addressing [word-deed] misalignment was the suggestion that doing so won't impact climate change." A request to understand "what is and is not permitted under our standards of conduct" goes [unfulfilled](#).

According to a subsequent legal filing, an employee is [told](#) by management that everyone else at the company suspects he leaked information about the company to The Guardian. It states the company undertook "aggressive retaliation tactics and pressured him to leave his job...The VP added in the same conversation: 'yes, but the company keeps lying about this. That may be true...You might work at a company where you're never going to think they're doing the right thing. And then it's a question of is this a place you really want to work?'" After also being informed "'Not everybody you engage with is going to be as authentic as you want them to be,'" the employee "reached out to a Cell Press Senior Manager who was organizing an anti-bullying initiative explaining the Defendants' hostile actions and that 'the only 'solution' that's been offered is the suggestion that I may want to reconsider working here.'"

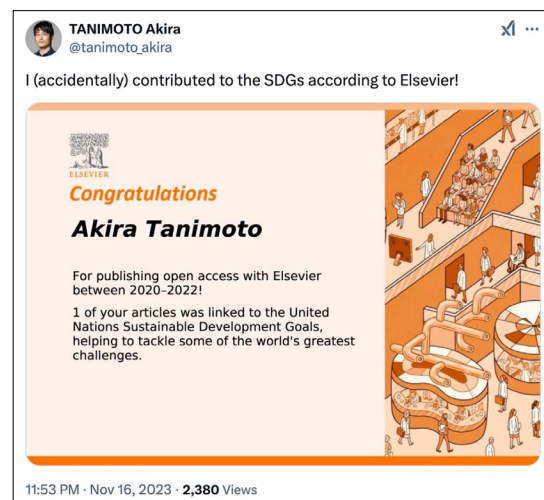
Human Resources is asked about the Company ignoring its ethics complaint procedures, leadership's claims "that the company doesn't promote extraction or new fossil fuel infrastructure; that fossil fuel expansion is required to meet energy needs; that our oil major customers aren't inhibiting a safe transition; [the claim that RELX doesn't] have a wide array of climate and human rights-based pledges and declarations," the pressuring of employees "to disassociate from a group raising word-deed misalignment concerns," psychological safety concerns, and RELX's UNGP commitments pertaining to due diligence that include adverse climate change-related human rights impacts. [No response](#) is provided.

Responding to RELX's petition reply, Union of Concerned Scientists and Scientists for Global Responsibility petition organizers observe that the company is negligent of its UNGP obligations and its own Ethics Code. They [conclude RELX's claims "are demonstrably false"](#) and it's "turning a blind eye to its activities that enable other entities to remain high emitters." Petition organizers [observe](#) that "it is difficult if not impossible to square the company's facilitation of new fossil fuel development with its claim that it is scaling 'progress on the SDGs,'" and request that the company pledge to end support for fossil fuel expansion and industry misinformation by the end of 2023.

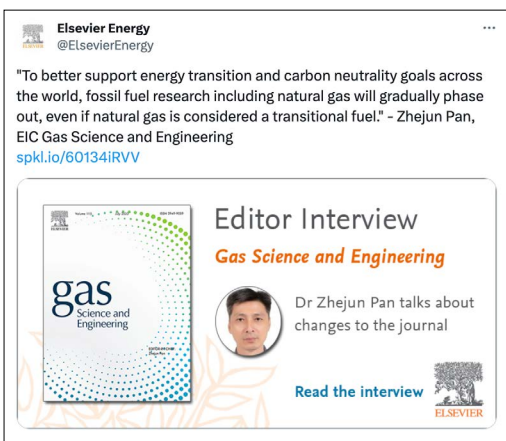
As a UK Health Alliance on Climate Change member, The Lancet [again](#) calls for **ending the expansion of any new fossil fuel infrastructure and production**: "In the face of increasing harm and suffering, new fossil fuel resources continue to be developed and greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise." ([The Guardian](#))



2023: Leaders are [questioned](#) why RELX's ethical commitments allow it to make deceptive claims, engage in intimidation of employees, and facilitate new fossil fuel exploration and development.



As employees [reported](#) to RELX, a critical shortcoming of the SDGs is that companies primarily map products onto the SDGs, rather than discontinuing products that remove realistic pathways to their achievement.



Elsevier's promotion of the industry talking point that gas is a safe "["transitional fuel"](#)" can mislead policymakers. [Experts warn](#) gas development impedes a just energy transition and risks increasing warming far beyond 1.5°C.

A [complaint](#) is filed with the Massachusetts (United States) Attorney General's Office, observing that RELX is "a company that attracts Massachusetts investors and employees through deceptive and fraudulent means...Leaders forbid the sharing of paywalled climate research with employees, criticized employees for deviating from the company's 'narrative,' repeatedly made inaccurate claims, and engaged in what the company defines as prohibited forms of harassment and retaliation."

The Union of Concerned Scientists and Scientists for Global Responsibility [announce](#) the launch a UNGP-based grievance mechanism process to be spearheaded by the Climate Rights Coalition (CRC), an organization founded by a former employee.

2024

As The Lancet continues its call for "all institutions to divest from fossil fuel," RELX (LexisNexis) offers [materials](#) that cover procedures for obtaining a foreign investment license in Saudi Arabia for new oil and gas projects—to help achieve "sustainable and positive development." RELX amplifies the Aramco CEO's [call](#) for more investment in fossil fuels "amid growing oil demand" in Asia and the Global South, neglecting the fact that renewables are cheaper in [Asia](#) and the [Global South](#). Elsevier [markets](#) a [paper](#) that aims "to promote the commercial exploration of the oil shale" and [announces](#) an Outstanding Author award given to the co-author of a paper that identified a "key area for oil and gas exploration." Amidst rising sea levels, RELX seeks to aid those "drowning in paperwork" by selling [resources](#) in service of navigating oil and gas exploration and production operations. Elsevier's new volume of [Sustainable Natural Gas Drilling](#) promises insights related to drilling for gas "in a more environmentally sustainable way," while [Sustainable Liquefied Natural Gas](#) focuses on LNG operations for "moving towards net-zero." Elsevier "sunsets" Geofacets, but it's still [offered](#) by third parties [promoting](#) fossil fuel expansion.

RELX also markets itself as a UN Race to Zero member, but the Race to Zero Policy & Engagement Leader indicates that RELX is not in Race to Zero and "thus should not be [presenting themselves](#) as [such](#)." The Race to Zero interpretation [guide](#) requires that members restrict facilitating new fossil fuel assets in line with the IEA and IPCC's pathways.

Despite the [The Lancet](#) Commission on Public Policy and Health in the Trump Era describing his first term as "singularly damaging," [RELX](#) is among other large UK employers that quietly back Donald Trump, who [vows](#) to boost fossil fuel production. RELX (ICIS) [observes](#) that "oil and gas production, the main source of the feedstock and energy used by the petrochemical industry, should benefit from policies proposed by Trump." Trump's Energy Secretary pick denies the existence of the climate crisis, but correctly [refutes](#) the idea of a credible 'energy transition.' REPAC [support](#) is also given to [Steve Daines](#), who's condemned CO2 emission reduction rules and the "war on coal," the PAC of Jim Jordan, a deeply [anti-climate](#) representative, the PAC of Thom Tillis, a climate change [denier](#) who urged Trump to exit the Paris Agreement, and [JD Vance](#), who doesn't think there's a climate crisis.

RELX continues to be [accused](#) of ignoring its human rights obligations and "skirting laws for profit" via its ICE contract: "The price paid by society has been steep."

RELX's [Fenasucro & Agrocana](#) fair, focusing on the sugar-energy sector in Latin America, promotes Brazil as "a world reference in bioenergy and sustainability." With a 2019 [decree](#) enabling sugarcane production in the Amazon that's capable of creating "a [carbon debt](#) that could take centuries to offset," Brazilian biofuels are considered a [threat](#) to the global climate. Neglecting RELX's [focus](#) on "reducing deforestation and protecting rainforests," this fair serves [International Paper](#), one of the largest drivers of deforestation in the world, [Bayer](#), a purveyor of agricultural poisons, Nestlé, part of a [coalition](#) that pushes for extractive activity in Indigenous territories—as well as [Cargill](#), [BP](#), [Petrobras](#), and other extractive enterprises permanently harming the Amazon and its people.

RELX (RX) [partner](#) Whitehaven Coal continues coal [expansion](#), while another partner, Glencore, [generates](#) the "largest coal-mining proposal ever put forward" in New South Wales. With coal use reaching [record levels](#), RELX quietly [sells](#) its Australian coal mining exhibitions—to a business that openly celebrates coal expansion and is dedicated to "supporting the growth of the Australian resources sector." RELX [acquires](#) the Sustainable Energy Conferences and its array of hydrogen-oriented conferences as part of a "strategy to expand in the growing low carbon sector," claiming hydrogen is "crucial to ensure a decarbonised energy future" and will "significantly contribute to reaching net-zero goals." As BP [freezes](#) offshore wind projects "to focus on fossil fuels," a RELX hydrogen conference video [claims](#) that BP is transforming "from an integrated oil and gas company to an integrated energy company" that aims to get to net zero by 2050 and "keep global warming to no more than 1.5°C." BP presents its "[low carbon hydrogen](#)" as "[vital](#) to the energy transition." In reality hydrogen-based energy is [criticized](#) as one of the fossil fuel industry's "latest deceptive greenwash slogans"—as is "the likewise-deceptive Sustainable Energy Council," the brand name used by RELX's SEC events. Desmog [reports](#) that RELX's Hydrogen Americas summit sponsors, which include Chevron, Exxon, and BP, tout "clean" blue hydrogen that's "produced with natural gas and reliant on [unproven and unrealistic](#) promises of [carbon capture and storage](#) (CCS)," generating "both emissions and leakage of methane, a greenhouse gas some 80 times [more potent](#) than carbon dioxide over a 20-year window." Emissions associated with the gas used to make blue hydrogen may "[increase](#) warming over a couple decades," as the industry's [neocolonial](#) push for it [threatens](#) "the functioning of the biosphere as we know it." RELX [claims](#) its hydrogen efforts "bring together world leaders to build a sustainable energy future," but Desmog [reports](#) that "if the Hydrogen Americas conference is any guide... 'sound policy' sounds a lot like **business as usual**."

RELX (ICIS) [sponsors](#) the 2024 ICIS CEO of the Year Award, given to the CEO of [Arkema](#), and claims Arkema's "on the cutting edge of sustainability." Arkema has worked to dilute U.S. climate and plastics regulation and faces a vast



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Elsevier and RELX's Climate Problem

Published Sep 19, 2023



Press Release

IEA's 2023 Net Zero Roadmap Reinforces Urgent Need for a Fossil Fuel Phase-Out

September 26, 2023



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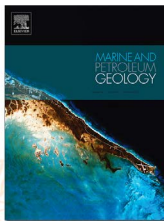


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Type	Practical Guidance
Document type	Practice Note
Date	8 Jan 2024
Jurisdiction	Saudi Arabia
Taxonomy	General Natural Resources, Energy & Utilities Law, Oil & Petroleum, Gas, General Commercial Law
Copyright	LexisNexis

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Overview

A key goal under Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 is to invite foreign investment in KSA through making the investment environment more attractive, in order to increase economic growth and achieve sustainable and positive development.

Subsequent to the release of Vision 2030, authorities have moved to simplify the processes and requirements for issuing and amending foreign investment licenses. Furthermore, there has been a shift in paradigm towards opening up more sectors for foreign investment.

As one of the most powerful oil and gas markets in the world, the KSA oil and gas sector remains an attractive one for foreign investors.

This Practice Note will provide an overview and a brief roadmap on the main procedures for obtaining a foreign investment license in the oil and gas industry in Saudi Arabia.

Offshore

Industry looking forward to new Trump presidential term



Nov. 25, 2024

"To keep global warming to no more than 1.5°C – as called for in the Paris Agreement – emissions need to be reduced by 45% by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050."



2024: Businesses being sued for climate harms and discrediting science are being associated with global climate targets.

array of lawsuits pertaining to its poisoning of humans and the environment with PFAS chemicals ("Forever chemicals"); in April, hundreds of people storm one of its factories in protest of its toxic impacts. A RELX online publication bemoans that it's become "'almost fashionable' to blame producers for plastics waste," and amplifies the call for an 'all of the above' approach to energy sources. RELX elevates an Exxon CEO's criticism of plastics treaty negotiators as having "mistaken plastic itself as the problem," as it promotes the petrochemical industry as "positioned to make a meaningful difference." Despite the human health and climate implications, the partners and customers that RELX champions take aggressive action to prevent a plastics treaty that would curb plastic production.

The OSDU Forum removes Elsevier from its list of members, but geospatial data and other relevant resources continue to be made available to fossil fuel exploration professionals.

5 OSDU Forum members are sued for climate harms and discrediting science. After Shell waters down its climate pledges, RELX conferences dedicated to a "#SustainableFuture" welcome it as a returning sponsor. ExxonMobil's CEO—critical of focus being "on the 'downside' of CO2 emissions"—blames the public for the crisis. BP freezes offshore wind projects to boost fossil fuel output. Chevron openly promotes its increasing oil and gas production. A RELX article amplifies the Saudi Aramco CEO's conclusion that "the fantasy of phasing out oil and gas should be abandoned." All of these oil majors have employees serving as editors on Elsevier journals, as fossil fuel industry misinformation is published in Elsevier journals that claim "it is crucial to find new sources of fossil fuel" and feature content "vital for successful hydrocarbon exploration, development, and production efforts." As its done for decades, the company claims its primary negative impact is "through the use of energy and paper, the use of print and production technologies, and the recycling of waste."

2023 is declared the hottest year on record. In February: Canada's fire season starts, the Atlantic Ocean is 'on fire' with the currents system shows signals of collapse, Antarctica's 'Doomsday Glacier' is rapidly melting, the world has for the first time spent a year over 1.5°C, there's extreme heat across the globe, and the planet is warming at an unprecedented rate. Richard Horton observes in The Lancet that, due to global heating, "every dimension of health tracked by the Lancet Countdown is getting worse, not better," as fossil fuel supply increases are projected to produce the highest-ever level of global oil supply in 2024, fossil fuel firms are spending more money on new oil and gas sites than at any time since the 2015 Paris climate deal, and the industry colludes "to obstruct climate policies" while contesting "efforts to constrain fossil fuel supply." Despite its own publications indicating climate change threatens "the future of a hospitable planet Earth," the RELX Board again concludes that climate change "will be unlikely to have a significant impact [on RELX] in the medium and longer term."

2024

The Climate Rights Coalition's initial human rights grievance mechanism communication is delivered to RELX, including a complaint submitted to

The Special Procedures of the United Nations Human Rights Council. An [announcement](#) by CRC's Director, a former Elsevier employee, states "the process is being undertaken by CRC in collaboration with 150+ partner organizations & other stakeholders, while maintaining a 50-person advisory board that acknowledges there are human rights implications to fossil fuel expansion." An associated [blog post](#) states that "A primary aim is to give a voice to people being more directly impacted by these business decisions, with the hope to generate more substantive commitments that employees and scientists have been unable to secure." As employees did in 2021, RELX is asked to provide a timeline for when it will stop supporting activities that risk substantial human rights harms.

Elsevier [markets](#) its energy journals as advancing "clean energy transitions for all" and a "transition to net zero." An Elsevier climate leader claims the company has "reviewed [its] [journals](#) to ensure their missions reflect and advance the UN SDGs and promote a pathway to a net zero future." RELX "reaffirms its support of the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact," which [state](#) "decision-makers need to apply precaution" when there is "reasonable suspicion of harm." The UN Global Compact endorses a [guidance](#) which includes "no support of new or continued developments of fossil fuels."

RELX [claims](#) it has only a "limited impact on climate change" and [submits](#) its "science-based" climate targets to SBTi, an organization co-founded by the UNGC, that's under [investigation](#) by the U.S. government and has been criticized in the [media](#), by advocacy [organizations](#), and by one of its [original instigators](#) as having clear conflicts of interest; observations include that "comprehensive scientific studies find SBTi's methods inferior," SBTi "prioritizes its own and its clients' confidentiality over and above the public interest," it's an "SBTi standard setter that also serves as a SBT validator with a business model tied to validation growth," and that SBTi's targets neglect to include "historic responsibility for emissions — a core tenet of the Paris Agreement" as well as "the only way to enact climate justice." Uncertain if the organization is "[incompetent or insidious](#)," former SBTi Technical Advisory Group member Bill Baue sees SBTi as having "huge blindspots on the substance side of things" and personally finds that "science-based corporate pledges don't square with facilitating fossil fuel expansion." A Senior Project Manager at the UNGC echoes this, sharing that she doesn't believe investments "supporting fossil fuel expansion would be considered in line with the UN Global Compact or its Ten Principles, particularly the principles that sit under 'Environment'."

PensionBee [recognizes](#) "concerns over climate change have fuelled demand for impact investing," bringing the threat of "companies present[ing] themselves as environmentally responsible or sustainable through misleading or false claims." Created in partnership with RELX's largest institutional investor BlackRock for customers invested in their Fossil Fuel Free plan, PensionBee's Impact Plan "only invests in companies, such as RELX" because "the impact of these companies on people and the planet can be measured, so you know they're contributing to real change." Good With Money [rates](#) PensionBee's Impact Plan one of top 8 ethical pension funds in 2024. Listed

2021 Marine and Petroleum Geology

"The evaluation of energy resource potential (oil and gas) in the **Pelotas Basin** showed large reserves of gas hydrate in the Cone do Rio Grande feature, making the basin an attractive target for oil research."

2021 Journal of South American Earth Sciences

"A petroleum geology study was carried out at Foz do Amazonas Basin northwest portion, a new exploratory frontier basin on the Brazilian **Equatorial Margin**...It was concluded that there is a great hydrocarbon exploratory potential to this part of the basin"

2022 Marine and Petroleum Geology

"The objective of this work is to...improve the understanding of the lacustrine petroleum system of the pre-salt section from the **Santos Basin** (Brazil)... We are thankful to **Petrobras** Research Center for supporting this project."

2024 World Oil

"**Petrobras** expects to invest roughly \$7.5 billion in five years to explore for oil and gas in prospective regions like the **Santos Basin**, **Pelotas Basin** and **Equatorial Margin**."

CLIMATE-RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS GRIEVANCE MECHANISM



 Climate Rights Coalition @climaterightsco · Apr 25, 2024
#Elsevier leaders have been repeatedly asked since 2021 to provide employees w scientific evidence showing the #FossilFuel expansion it supports is compatible w environmental pledges & #HumanRights obligations—none has ever been. @SREnvironment @volker_turk 3/4



2024: Hundreds of activists storm an Arkema 'forever chemicals' plant and stage a protest depicting an Arkema representative pouring PFAS into the water of a nursing mother. RELX praises Arkema for being "on the cutting edge of sustainability."



as a [favorite](#) choice for ESG investments, RELX is in the top 10 assets for ESG funds offered by [Goldman Sachs](#), [BlackRock](#), [Fidelity](#), [Lazard](#) and [Invesco](#) ("To support the transition to a low carbon economy over the medium to long term with a view to achieving the long term goals of the Paris Agreement.") [RELX](#) is in the top 10 holdings of the Goldman Sachs Patrimonial Balanced Europe Sustainable fund, which selects "companies that pursue a policy of sustainable development." The fund does not invest "in issuers involved in activities related to...Arctic drilling and shale oil & gas." [RELX](#) is the top holding of EdenTree Responsible and Sustainable UK Equity fund, which holds companies with "sustainable and socially responsible practices." [RELX](#) is the 2nd largest holding of the Trojan Ethical Income Fund; for investing decisions, Troy's [assessment](#) includes whether a company has "set targets aligned with the objectives of the Paris Agreement ('Paris-aligned')."

RELX's CFO [boasts](#) that the company's "commitment to corporate responsibility continues to be recognised by external reporting agencies. We rated AAA with MSCI for an eighth consecutive year, and ranked second in our sector globally with Sustainalytics, in the top 1% companies, overall." [RELX](#) is a top 10 holding of the MSCI Europe SRI Select Reduced Fossil Fuel Index, which aims to [include](#) "companies that are consistent with specific values and climate change based criteria, as well as exhibit a high minimum level of ESG performance" and "strong sustainability profiles." [RELX](#) is also a top 10 holding of MSCI Europe ESG Climate Paris Aligned BenchmarkSelect Index, which targets "alignment with the Paris Agreement requirements." MSCI ESG funds claim to [exclude](#) "companies that fail to comply with the United Nations Global Compact principles." MSCI's [methodology](#), which considers how companies "contribute to the [SDG's] in a variety of ways (positively and negatively)," lists RELX as aligned with Climate Action and other SDGs. The MSCI SDG [Alignment Tool](#) "uses available data on companies' products and services, practices, policies and performance to measure their degree of alignment with each of the 17 UN SDGs, as of Aug. 11, 2020." The MSCI SDG Alignment [framework](#) "is built on an understanding that companies may contribute to the goals in a variety of ways, both positive and negative, through their operations and the products and services they provide." It relies on "corporate disclosure, media sources, government databases, NGO, trade and industry associations, multilateral organizations, [and] academic think tanks" and does not accept "data shared by companies that has not been disclosed to [the] public."

[RELX](#) is a top 10 holding of Federated Hermes Sustainable Global Equity Fund, which seeks to "achieve its objective by investing in companies contributing to a more sustainable future. These companies are selected based on the strength of their business model, how well they manage environmental, social and governance ("ESG") factors and their broader benefit to people and the planet." The [AB Sustainable Global Thematic Fund](#), which maintains "sustainable investment themes that are broadly consistent with achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals," holds over \$28 million of [RELX](#) stock.

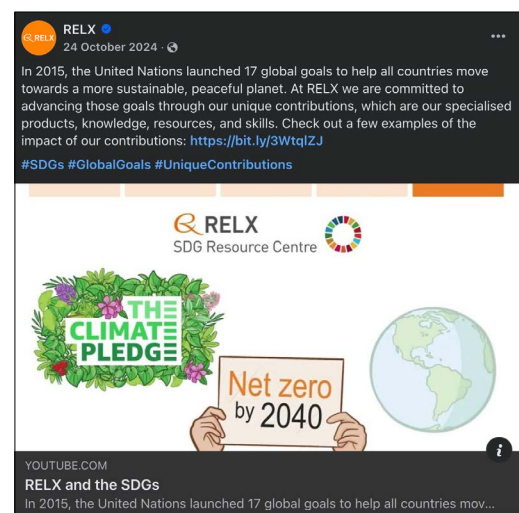
RELX's Chief Sustainability Officer (CSO) [promotes](#) RELX's "[responsible lobbying](#)," its commitment to the UNGC's 10 Principles, and its SDG Resource Center, a product that highlights the need to [confront](#) "the fossil fuel energy

order" of RELX's chosen partners and customers. RELX's CSO is a panelist at an [event](#) hosted by a marketing agency that, in [2021](#), stopped working with oil companies because they'd failed to stop generating "new oil and gas fields, which is a central requirement of the IEA's recent Net Zero By 2050 Roadmap"; the event explores "climate action narratives," "effective climate storytelling," and "how to navigate the fine line between sustainability leadership and greenwashing." Sustainability Live London features corporate responsibility [speakers](#) from RELX and [other companies](#) promoting their sustainability efforts; the event is run by BizClik media group, a "corporate storyteller" that promotes OSDU Forum [members](#) as moving "[away from Fossil Fuels](#)"—and runs [conferences](#) serving oil and gas "Exploration and Production Optimization." Former employees at Microsoft, an OSDU Forum member, [reveal](#) they've been gaslit by leaders pledging to reduce the company's own emissions while simultaneously serving fossil fuel [expansion](#); they start an [organization](#) calling attention to its business activity that lowers "the economic and technical barriers to increased fossil fuel extraction" and its [support](#) for "the expansion of industries that threaten all life." One of RELX's [biggest suppliers](#) and [collaborators](#), Microsoft's climate pledges are also found to be [untenable](#)—despite it [acknowledging](#) to the UNGC that "human rights are under threat from climate change" and "respect for human rights is embedded in Microsoft's mission."

An Amnesty International USA human rights [event](#) and [petition](#) call on the UN to reform voluntary corporate initiatives like the UNGC that help companies serving fossil fuel expansion to hide their negative impacts. A triple [pro-test](#) disrupts a RELX (RX) renewables and decarbonization conference, which includes participants that are sabotaging climate goals. A protestor notes BP is using the genocide in Gaza as an opportunity for fossil fuel exploration; BP's SVP emphasizes that "projects on the net zero journey have to make returns and be investible for their owners." Researchers [interrupt](#) an Elsevier commercial seminar, demanding RELX listen to the science it publishes and stop supporting the business plans of oil majors. A company representative [acknowledges](#) "it does damage, it really does," but falsely claims "it's still necessary." A scientist [coalition](#) launches a [petition](#) demanding the company stop "spreading fossil fuel company misinformation that claims fossil fuel expansion is part of the energy transition and in line with the Paris Agreement, and helping Elsevier's oil and gas customers maintain their social license to operate." RELX again [asserts](#) it's minimizing its contribution to climate change in a way that's consistent with the science.

16 years after the United Nations Human Rights Council [called](#) on companies to practice human rights due diligence and adopt a human rights policy, RELX [reveals](#) it's working on drafting a "RELX Human Rights Policy."

In August, a [lawsuit](#) is filed by attorneys representing the CRC Director and former Elsevier employee in U.S. Federal Court alleging RELX's violations of the Securities Exchange Act and the Fair Employment Practices Act, with the company having made "numerous business decisions that contradict their climate pledges in materials filed to the SEC and disclosed to investors, marketing materials, and commitments to international organizations."



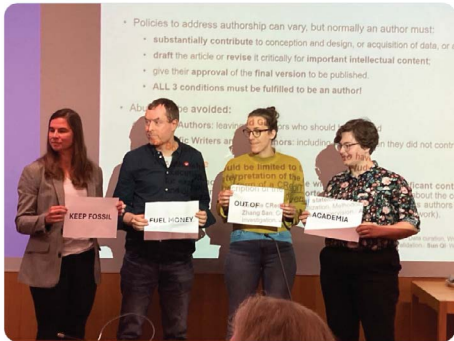
Video: Triple protests disrupt All Energy renewables conference



Scientist Rebellion Finland @SrFinland - Oct 10, 2024

We interrupted Elsevier's commercial seminar to remind the publisher that the message is clear:
 🚫 Keep fossil fuels out of academia.

Elsevier and RELX must stop working with oil companies. It's time they listen to the science they publish.
 @climaterightsco



Scientist Rebellion

The lawsuit observes that RELX's **"greenwashing practices are materially misleading to consumers, investors, and impose severe public harm."**

The filing includes 3 internal employee reports, as well as a slide deck from a 2022 presentation which observes that "shareholders are uninformed regarding business activities fueling climate change." The lawsuit observes that "While publicly making commitments to key international sustainability codes that allowed them to be listed as one of the leading ESG investment options, they frequently engaged in actions and business practices in private that contradict those commitments and statements...Defendants were repeatedly made aware of their greenwashing practices by their own employees." In addition, it's alleged the company "pressured, harassed, retaliated, and terminated" an employee for "advocating for Defendants to align their actions with their sustainability pledges." In its legal [filing](#), **RELX defends its actions by deceptively diverting attention to the fossil fuel industry talking point that net zero pathways include an "ongoing need to produce oil and gas for the indefinite future."** This argument obfuscates the science, which maintains existing resources can meet demand for a transition, and that new fossil fuel projects are incompatible with climate goals. **RELX also reveals that its array of pledges are merely "aspirational statements about sustainability."** Responding to RELX's motion to dismiss, the plaintiff's attorney [observes](#) that RELX "take[s] the position that their sustainability related statements are nothing more than puffery, and should be deemed immaterial. Such assertion is **morally and legally troubling**."

A [spokesperson](#) for the Lancet Group, publisher of the Lancet, says editors would "strongly scrutinise any fossil fuel industry funded research." Lancet editor-in-chief Richard Horton promotes the need to "[keep fossil fuels in the ground](#)," as The Lancet again [urges](#) divestment from fossil fuels to save lives, with a [report](#) declaring the **"expansion of fossil fuel assets is increasingly jeopardising the economies on which people's livelihoods depend."** The World Health Organization [endorses](#) this, observing that "the climate crisis is no longer a distant threat – it's here, and it's taking a devastating toll on people's health."

2025

As the [global heating crisis](#) impacts billions and methane leaks [surge](#) amid record fossil fuel production, **RELX continues to support the expansion of new fossil fuel assets, selling** "content pertaining to upstream oil and gas guidance" to customers involved in "the [exploration and production](#) of hydrocarbons." With its own journals [noting](#) LNG expansion is "incompatible with climate goal objectives," RELX products include legal practice [notes](#) on the financing of new LNG projects and [documents](#) on financing oil and gas exploration and production programs. RELX helps customers [navigate](#) the construction phase of new LNG projects and [petroleum agreements](#) pertaining to exploration and production activities. RELX materials [inform](#) on the planning regime for hydraulic fracturing projects, [facilitate](#) the exploration and production of conventional oil and gas projects, including ones specific to the [UKCS](#), and generate [insights](#) on "upstream oil and gas lease transactions." RELX facilitates [agreements](#) for the "critical" exploration phase of new petroleum projects and [agreements](#) on "how two

or more co-interest holders in an oil and gas project explore for, develop, and produce hydrocarbons." The company offers customers [guidance](#) for successful "exploration, appraisal, development and production operations," generated by [experts](#) who serve the interests of "international oil companies, independent exploration and production companies and state-owned entities." Such experts contributing to RELX products are promoted by the company as currently active in and/or having expertise in [advising](#) oil majors and "major E&P [companies](#)," projects and [investments](#) in oil, gas, and petrochemicals, "upstream oil and gas [exploration](#)," including "frontier exploration [opportunities](#)," industry [infrastructure](#) and construction, including of oil, gas and LNG production [facilities, and pipelines](#)," "disputes related to oil and gas [exploration and production](#) [and] the construction and operation of pipelines," LNG [projects](#) and plant [construction](#)," "offshore oil and gas [projects](#)," including [financing](#)," "oil and gas [development projects](#)," and acquisitions and divestitures related to unconventional resources, pipelines, LNG, and petrochemicals. Another [boasts](#) of having been "successful in having the Crown drop a case against a major oil and gas company investigated for health and safety failings" and advised "in relation to an appeal of improvement notices served on an installation operator in relation to hydrocarbon releases offshore."

RELX appears to start adding [legal disclaimers, previously absent](#), to materials that promote fossil fuel expansion.

As BP ramps up [oil and gas spending](#) to grow fossil fuel production, RELX [presents](#) BP as having net zero ambitions and to be "transforming from an international oil company to an integrated energy company...to drive a home-grown energy transition." Another energy conference sponsor and exhibitor, [Drax](#), is promoted as supplying "renewable power as standard." In reality [Drax](#) sells burning wood as "a green alternative to fossil fuels...because trees grow back," has "broken environmental regulations over [11,000 times](#) in the US," is "driving environmental racism," and is the UK's "single largest carbon emitter"—pushing a "[false solution](#)" that's [resulted](#) in "sustained opposition from environmental activists."

Touted by RELX for their efforts pertaining to sustainability and the environment, LyondellBasell, Dow, ExxonMobil, and Arkema [pursue](#) a "[large-scale coordinated attack](#)" to combat restrictions on the production of "forever chemicals," described as "one of the most pressing environmental and public health concerns of our modern world." As with [hydrocarbons](#), the PFAS crisis is augmented through 'tobacco playbook' despite the availability of alternatives and their [severe impacts](#) on human health. RELX [promotes](#) customers such as [Shell](#), [Chevron](#), [Unilever](#), [Sadara](#), and [Dow](#) as oil, gas, and petrochemical "decision-makers and influencers" that are "helping to keep us safe and secure." These businesses are generating substantial [deceptions](#), contributions to global [instability](#), and are [poisoning humanity](#) and the [planet](#). As it heavily invests in petrochemical expansion projects, SABIC (Saudi Aramco) is promoted by RELX as being a "[leader in circularity](#)." SABIC touts RELX's recognition of its CEO as underscoring his "[commitment to sustainability](#)." SABIC is in reality helping fuel a global plastics [crisis](#) while being sued for



Microplastics hinder plant photosynthesis, study finds, threatening millions with starvation

Researchers say problem could increase number of people at risk of starvation by 400m in next two decades



📷 The world's staple crops such as wheat, maize and rice are under threat from pervasive particles. Photograph: Jodie777/Getty Images/iStockphoto

Companies actively resisting restrictions on plastic production are touted by RELX for their sustainability efforts.

its devastatingly toxic [impacts](#), including the dumping of PCB-drenched soil in [children's playgrounds](#). Despite their "[business-as-usual investments](#) that will fail to achieve climate and pollution reduction goals"—and the U.N. explicitly [recognizing](#) the link between plastic pollution and human rights—RELX conferences continue to generate "[business opportunities](#)" for its chosen petrochemical customers while coating the industry with an unsubstantiated veneer of "sustainability." RELX's plastics industry customers are [criticized](#) for their own contributions to this deceptive "information ecosystem."

After RELX's PAC financially supports the re-election of U.S. President Trump, the [scientific community](#) uniformly [protests](#) the administration's policies. Prominent U.S. scientists sign a [letter](#) that observes "the nation's scientific enterprise is being decimated" and that the Trump administration is "destroying" the ability of scientists to "freely explore new questions and report their findings honestly, independent of special interests." With researchers sounding the [alarm](#) about an executive order that will "destroy American science" and pave the way for "state-controlled science" that favors the fossil fuel energy order, Elsevier leaders are internally petitioned to "stop supporting Members of Congress who are unambiguously hostile to science and the rule of law," and if not, to suspend REPAC organizing activities that "target Elsevier employees." When RELX leadership is [asked](#) about any worries they may have regarding Trump defunding scientific research, leadership indicates: "**It's very hard for us to have an opinion on it.**" As he [pauses](#) approvals, permits and loans for onshore and offshore wind projects and [withdraws](#) support for research that references the climate crisis, Trump [declares](#) an energy 'emergency' to push for more oil and gas drilling. RELX—whose claimed "key environmental impact" is through products and services that "[inform debate](#)" and "[evidence-based policies](#)"—continues to publish industry-influenced content that can help justify such an [energy-needs](#) narrative. An Elsevier paper, partially funded by a key PetroChina research funder, [claims](#) that fossil fuel expansion "is consistent with that of the idea of green development" and urges the United States government to "actively participate in international natural gas cooperation projects." Trump makes [moves](#) impacting [climate](#), [environmental justice](#), and [science](#), seeks to [reverse](#) bans on toxic 'forever chemicals', aims to [criminalize](#) work on climate science and impacts, and to [stop](#) enforcement of "critical policies holding fossil fuel companies accountable." The United States [informs](#) the U.N. that it "rejects and denounces the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals."

A RELX [podcast](#) features Andrei Marcu, Executive Director of the European Roundtable on Climate Change and Sustainable Transition (ERCST). RELX describes ERCST as an "independent think tank" (in the guest's words, "we're a simple, honest to God think tank"). ERCST membership is heavily comprised of oil majors influencing climate change policy to protect industry "from cost arising [from] climate change policy...You have to protect your industry. Whether it's in line with the Paris agreement or not, that's a different story." The only alternatives, he claims, would be to "commit suicide" or "deindustrialize." Mr. Marcu has elsewhere been criticized for [serving](#) the "interests of

big oil companies," steering climate talks "[toward market distractions](#)" and [offset schemes](#), and working to "[lock-in](#) the future of fossil fuels." Despite this, RELX's podcast host promotes the guest as having the "best approach, from my point of view, in terms of being very rigorously intellectual and critical in terms of the [climate] policy angles."

With RELX's chosen [partners and customers](#) running "perhaps the biggest campaign of disinformation and political interference in American history," an industry group [celebrates](#) "a new path where U.S. oil and natural gas are embraced." However, Elsevier presents its oil and gas book portfolio as serving "[oil and gas in transition](#)," with subjects including enhanced oil recovery, CO2 storage, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), and data analytics. In reality, the Company's own [products](#) showcase that these tools are being used by its [customers](#) to [generate](#) exploration [successes](#), fossil fuel [lock-in](#), and [increasing](#) emissions. With the industry [clear](#) that AI "is being deployed to enhance exploration," the "merits of using Machine Learning and AI techniques in oil and gas" have elsewhere been [touted](#) by Elsevier as tools its customers can use to accelerate reservoir evaluation, optimize production, and "[greatly boost the exploration of oil](#)." With the industry [rebranding](#) CCS as an oil industry boost, big oil and Trump successfully increase public [support](#) for the CCS [scam](#) that's more [costly and polluting](#) than switching to renewables and, as an Elsevier [paper](#) notes, "slow[s] the energy transition and entrench[es] society's dependence on fossil fuels."

RELX's "Sustainable Energy Council" promotes the idea that hydrogen is [crucial](#) for "achieving our climate goals" and has an essential role in "the transition to a green economy." SEC [claims](#) hydrogen "will significantly contribute to reaching net-zero goals" and the hydrogen industry "will deliver a successful energy transition." SEC's [World Hydrogen Advisory Board](#) includes stakeholders from Hydrogen Europe (Members [include](#): Equinor, BP, Aramco, Repsol, Shell, TotalEnergies, Eni, and ConocoPhillips) and the Australian Hydrogen Council (Members [include](#): ExxonMobil, BP, and Chevron). These industry groups are [heavily involved](#) in [lobbying](#) for policies based on their fossil-based "clean" hydrogen [scam](#) while [concerned](#) that "green targets are hindering [the] roll-out of projects based on fossil fuels." An Elsevier [paper](#) notes that "blue hydrogen projects are mainly pushed forward by fossil fuel interests," with the associated reliance on CCS "a solution to climate change for those who are trying to uphold an unsustainable status quo." Labeled another "[false solution](#)," blue hydrogen projects entail a [notably](#) "carbon-intensive process that perpetuates our reliance on fossil fuels," break [green-washing laws](#), and pose "a major [threat](#) to the climate and public health." RELX is striving to "kickstart the next wave of hydrogen project developments into the 2030s."

RELX claims its events bring "industries together which can advance sustainability...Our [sustainability] approach is guided by the UN Sustainable Development Goals," goals requiring fossil fuel exploration activities to have ended. While RELX uses "clean, renewable energy sources" to power their events, these events spread industry misinformation and empower

THE NEW STATESMAN

Revealed: the British companies quietly backing Trump

Some of the UK's biggest employers have links to the committees that fund Trump and his allies.



Barclays Group US
RELX Inc
AON Corp (AON plc)
Haleon plc
BP North America

5 November 2024

Trump's FBI Moves to Criminally Charge Major Climate Groups

The Trump administration is targeting climate organizations that received a Biden-era grant.



ANNA MONEYMAKER/GETTY IMAGES

Colleen Fellows
@colleenfellows.bsky.social

They are coming for the scientists.

Laura Bassett @lebassett.bsky.social · 1d
From a source: "Just had a co-presenter for a buildings research conference bow out. She's a dual citizen and the FBI came knocking to ask her about her involvement in coauthoring chunks of the Paris Agreement."

Climate science is being literally (and I mean literally) criminalized."

March 18, 2025 at 2:03 PM



businesses generating devastating fossil fuel lock-in: RELX [presents](#) Repsol as “leading the energy transition” and “committed to net-zero emissions by 2050,” despite the fact that Repsol has been successfully [challenged](#) for deceptive net zero claims “omit[ting] information about Repsol’s overall business activities, including the fact that Repsol’s oil and gas activities are substantial and expanding.” RELX [promotes](#) Sonatrach as “reducing the environmental footprint by the use of cleaner energies,” as Sonatrach simultaneously [invests](#) \$40 billion between 2022 and 2026 in new oil and gas exploration and production activities.

As lawyers of conscience [protest](#) “enablers” in the legal profession still facilitating new fossil fuel projects, LexisNexis gives multiple [awards](#) to a law [firm](#) “at the heart of [the Middle East’s] energy industry” that represents oil, gas, LNG, and petrochemical corporations in “the development of oil, gas, LNG” and other projects. RELX’s ICIS CEO is “[delighted](#)” to sponsor an award given to ADNOC’s CEO Sultan Al Jaber, citing “the launch of XRG, ADNOC’s international investment arm.” ICIS proclaims that through XRG, ADNOC will “ensure energy remains a catalyst for sustainable growth.” In reality, XRG was in the midst of trying to acquire [Santos](#), a fossil fuel firm “pursuing massive expansion plans consistent with the failure of the Paris Agreement,” while XRG [invests](#) heavily in gas/LNG expansion projects. Echoing messaging found in RELX materials, XRG [claims](#) gas is “a lower carbon transition fuel.” The award helps fuel [propaganda](#) that Dr. Al Jaber is “leading discussions on climate change, sustainability, and responsible growth.” Such assertions are mirrored in a [resource](#) shared by LexisNexis, assuring stakeholders that Middle East energy CEOs recognize the changes accompanying the “energy transition,” are “adding renewables to their current energy mix,” and “taking positive steps to seize the moment.” The truth is CEO’s such as Dr. Al Jaber have drawn extensive criticism for [greenwashing](#) and helping lead the industry’s [sabotaging](#) of global climate goals. In accepting the award, Dr. Al Jaber [praises](#) ICIS for enabling his industry “to make informed business decisions.”

An analyst on an ICIS [podcast](#) emphasizes that Europe “need[s] investments in gas plants...we need those additional [gas] plants.” The host states there’s a need to build more of everything—emphasizing, as RELX leadership told investors in 2023, that “it is effectively an energy transition, right? It doesn’t happen overnight.” New fossil fuel infrastructure is considered incompatible with climate goals.

RELX [promotes](#) its listing with ESG ratings agencies as being reflective of its “corporate responsibility” efforts,” but neglects to disclose such agencies are part of an ESG ratings market [heavily criticized](#) for “its lack of objectivity,” “methodologies,” and for “not functioning properly.” [Morningstar](#) gives RELX an ESG Risk Management Rating of Strong; it cites RELX having a “global head of ESG and corporate responsibility who provides updates to the board and engages with senior managers on key ESG issues.” However, a Senior Sales officer with Morningstar confirms that, absent other factors, **“involvement in facilitating fossil fuel assets is not a downgrade trigger for GSS [Sustainalytics’ Global Standards Screening].”**

With journals rebranded as having missions aligned with net zero, the Company's industry-influenced papers [continue](#) to point to extensive new hydrocarbon resources. Its engineering service offers insights on [oil field development](#). With one fossil fuel professional [observing](#) that "supply leads demand," RELX serves as a "[valuable partner](#)" in the strategic decision making of companies undertaking oil and gas exploration. RELX [continues](#) to frame LNG as a "transition fuel" and a "solution" for managing global emissions; its expansion—[incompatible](#) with climate objectives—is setting "[the world on fire](#)." RELX employs an AI-generated spokesperson to [promote](#) a "4,278 word document"—and "thousands of others like it"—that serves the continued generation of new fossil fuel projects with notably "long lives."

With 2024 [declared](#) the hottest on record (the first that the average global temperature [exceeded 1.5°C](#) above its pre-industrial level), the first catastrophic tipping point is [breached](#), some regions are on track to exceed [3.0°C heating](#) by 2060, and scientists [warn](#) that there's only two years left of world's carbon budget to possibly meet the 1.5°C warming target. RELX takes advantage of growing [unprecedented](#) climate impacts by selling [resources](#) to insurance companies navigating a world of "climate-driven extreme weather" and "climate disasters" resulting from ever-rising fossil fuel emissions.

2025

RELX [continues](#) to [present](#) itself a member of the UN's Race to Zero initiative, a pledge requiring members to restrict facilitation of new fossil fuel assets in line with IPCC and IEA 1.5°C pathways. As a UNGC member for over 20 years, RELX goes further by [maintaining](#) "a precautionary approach to environmental challenges" and avoiding "human rights risks with which the company may be involved through links to its products, operations or services." RELX is [ensuring](#) its customers "make better decisions, get better results and be more productive," as it makes "a positive environmental impact through [its] products and services." The company is [presented](#) as acting in alignment with the "ambitious 1.5°C goal of the Paris Climate Agreement," it continues to [observe](#) that "achieving the SDGs necessitates a transition from fossil fuels," and it continues to claim it [prohibits](#) "false representations or statements," "misleading conduct," misleading "reports and written or oral statements," and inaccurate "environmental policies/practices."

[Science in Resistance](#), a book on scientist climate activism, observes that Elsevier "has made numerous statements about its dedication to sustainability. It has an entire website dedicated to advertising its commitment to the Paris Agreement...[yet] **Elsevier has been giving the fossil fuel industry all kinds of assistance in order to expand their operations, way beyond what is compatible with the Paris Agreement, their net zero pledges, or any basic notion of sustainability**...Most recently, a large coalition of academics and climate NGOs initiated a legal grievance mechanism at the UN Human Rights Council, calling out the company for the risks it poses to human rights as a direct consequence of its support for fossil fuel corporations." The Lancet sounds the [alarm](#) regarding the health impacts of companies that are "accelerating growth in plastic production." Health professionals

A promotional graphic for the ICIS 2025 CEO of the Year award. It features two men: one in a dark suit and tie, and the other in a white thobe and ghutra. They are standing against a dark blue background with a starry pattern. The man in the thobe is holding a small trophy. The ICIS logo is in the top left, and the text 'CEO of the year 2025' is prominently displayed in the center. Below this, a quote about Dr. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber is shown, followed by a line indicating the ICB magazine special edition is available now.

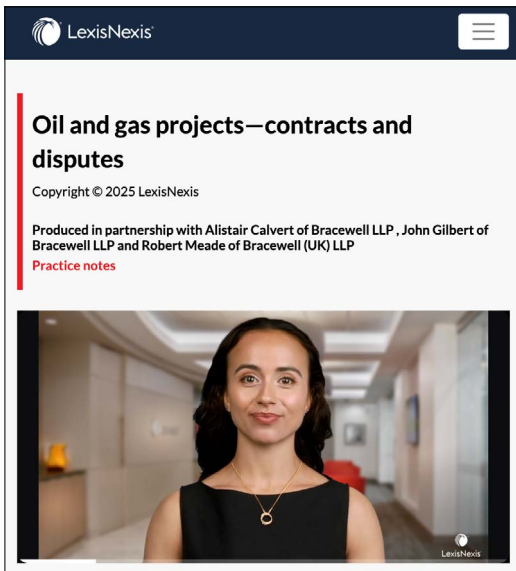
ICIS
Independent Commodity
Intelligence Services

**CEO
of the year
2025**

Dr. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber
makes big moves to consolidate
the industry and elevate
competitiveness

ICB magazine special edition available now

Despite its expansion being incompatible with climate targets, both RELX and its ICIS 2025 CEO of the Year describe gas as a "transition fuel." Dr. Al Jaber has drawn extensive criticism for greenwashing and helping lead the industry's sabotaging of global climate goals.



2025: An AI-generated spokesperson promotes RELX products that endanger global climate goals.

[observe](#) that The Lancet, along with its family of over 20 other journals, has updated its advertising policy and will "no longer be accepting advertising content submitted by, or on behalf of, companies that produce, or fund the production of, fossil fuels." They also note that the Company is "causing, and profiting from, major environmental harm by working with the fossil fuel industry, supporting new fossil fuel projects and publishing journals for oil and gas technology and strategies for petroleum exploration. [Márcia Balisciano, RELX Head of Corporate Responsibility has] argued that their fossil fuel activity 'shouldn't negate all of the amazing work' they have done with renewable energy. Scientists point out that **continuing support for fossil fuels is exactly what will negate all their work and the work of the scientists they serve.**"

Pay-to-play "corporate storyteller" BizClik, which promotes oil major clients as serving "[environmental objectives](#)" and offering "[climate-conscious energy solutions](#)," awards RELX's Head of Corporate Responsibility a global sustainability lifetime achievement [award](#). RELX also uses BizClik's services to be [recognized](#) as one of the world's most sustainable companies and [promote](#) itself as having "embedded sustainability within its core business strategy," as well as a contract it was awarded for a customer "seeking certification of alignment with the UN Declaration on Human Rights." Companies such as [RELX](#) and [Shell](#) promote their actions and policies as being informed by the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the United Nations SDGs, the UN Global Compact, and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

RELX is [listed](#) as among the top ESG fund managers' favorite UK shares. The [WS Epworth Climate Stewardship Fund for Charities](#), investing in companies that "help the transition to a lower carbon economy," features [RELX](#) as its 5th largest holding. [RELX](#) is a top 10 holding of the S&P UK Net Zero 2050 Paris-Aligned ESG Index, a [fund](#) "weighted to be collectively compatible with a 1.5°C global warming climate scenario at the index level." Its [methodology](#) entails the exclusion of companies with "violations of the principles of the United Nations' Global Compact." Exclusions are based on Sustainalytics' Global Standards Screening (GSS), an assessment of a company's impact on stakeholders and the extent to which a company causes, contributes, or is linked to violations of international norms and standards based on UNGC Principles, as well as OECD and UNGP standards. [RELX](#) is a top 5 holding of Mirova Europe Sustainable Economy Fund, which invests in "companies that contribute to the achievement of UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and/or reduces the risk of not achieving one or more of the UN SDGs." [RELX](#) is a top 10 holding of "M&G (Lux) Pan European Sustain Paris Aligned Fund EUR A Acc," which invests in "companies that contribute towards the Paris Agreement climate change goal." M&G [excludes](#) companies "in breach of the 'Do no significant harm' principle. These include companies which are flagged as violating the UN's Global Compact, a global framework for businesses to adopt sustainable and socially responsible policies." [RELX](#) is the

4th largest holding of the Rathbone Greenbank Global Sustainability Fund, which invests "in companies that operate sustainably and are committed to helping achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals." The FTSE All-Share Paris-aligned (PAB) Index, designed for investors seeking to align their portfolios "with the climate goals of the Paris Agreement," features [RELX](#) as a top 10 holding. The [Green Century](#) MSCI International Index Fund portfolio of investments has an investment [strategy](#) to "invest in companies that meet high ESG criteria" as it "seeks to invest in companies that have not driven climate change." Its fossil fuel free investing [guide](#) notes that many people "do not want to support the industry and companies that misled the public for decades about climate change" but "many people who care about the environment continue to inadvertently invest in companies that harm our planet." Green Century MSCI International Index Fund holds over \$3 million U.S. in RELX [stock](#).

SBTi, the organization to which RELX submits its "science based" climate targets, is again [criticized](#) by one of its founding instigators as being "irredeemably corrupt," "[flouting the science](#)...and making a mockery of the claim to scientific integrity implied in its name." He [rejects](#) the "fundamental systemic flaws of the corporate sustainability field. After more than two decades of engagement in that field, I came to the realization that transformation efforts within the existing economic and cultural systems are doomed, as the self-reinforcing dynamics of these systems are too strong."

A UN human rights [report](#) raises "businesses' responsibilities to phase out fossil fuels...the main cause of climate change, and the main driver of other planetary crises – biodiversity loss, toxic pollution, inequalities and mass human rights violations... International human rights law should be further interpreted in the light of the best available science, which indicates that: Most of the world's proven fossil fuel reserves must be left unburned...**Fossil fuel supply must decline** by 55 per cent by 2035 on 2023 levels; Fossil fuel usage must decrease rapidly." It continues: "The increasing production of plastics and petrochemicals is embedding dependence on fossil fuels in our economies...plastics and petrochemicals cause their own host of **severe human rights impacts**, worsening climate change, biodiversity loss and toxic pollution, and thereby compounding negative impacts on the rights to life, health, an adequate standard of living and a healthy environment and on cultural rights." It also highlights the "**evolving strategies to keep the public uninformed** about the severity of climate change and about the role of fossil fuels in causing it."

A research [paper](#) observes that greenwashing accusations are "increasingly being made from within the scholarly community toward major actors in the academic publishing industry...These initiatives are using strategies that go much further than critiquing and monitoring the industry on its climate mitigation efforts, including by taking legal action, calling out publicly what they see as the rampant greenwashing in the sector, and engaging in acts of civil disobedience, including boycotts. Mostly led by scientists, these initia-



Lancet Countdown report says climate inaction is claiming millions of lives

November 28, 2025



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May 17, 2022 • (1 min read)

With a **worldwide energy crisis** brewing and no end in sight, exploration and production companies are rushing to lease acreage and drill additional wells.

ELSEVIER

Gas Science and Engineering (2024)

"The exploration and development of shale gas plays a vital role in addressing **energy crisis**, reducing carbon emissions, and achieving carbon neutrality."

The WHITE HOUSE

DECLARING A NATIONAL ENERGY EMERGENCY

The White House | January 20, 2025

Researchers continue to **warn** that "expanding LNG capacity is unnecessary for energy security... the false premises of energy security and sustainable development in Europe keeps us trapped in a fossil-centric system paradigm."

tives have predominantly focused on Elsevier and its parent company RELX as the target of their campaigns." Another [paper](#) highlights **"how corporate publishers attempt to actively conceal their relations with the fossil fuel industry through increasingly dynamic greenwashing strategies in the public sphere and through evolving 'greenwashing rituals' among workers."** The paper notes, "Elsevier representatives have detailed this problematic position: '...the IPCC and IEA (International Energy Agency) indicate that fossil fuels will continue to play a role in the energy mix for many years to come' (Martin, 2022). The IPCC and IEA, however, have been clear that fossil fuel exploration must halt." It observes that "as Elsevier tries to push re-branding a step ahead of bad press, its greenwashing practices have become increasingly dynamic, characterized by a mix of discursive posturing and occlusion" and that "despite claims that its corporate responsibility is 'owned by our more than 33,000 people across the business,' none of RELX's divisions have formal, democratic mechanisms for aligning company policy with worker values...Elsevier sponsored spaces and actions for worker participation in climate change mitigation introduce greenwashing strategies into the governance of labor."

An amended class action complaint against Cell Press, Elsevier, and RELX is [filed](#) in U.S. court regarding the company's greenwashing and employment practices. The filing includes a Spring 2022 employee report (Jan 6, 2025: [Exhibit E](#)) with "a table illustrating the statements and omissions in the 2021 Corporate Responsibility investor presentation...The thoroughly researched RGRC publication points out statements made by Defendants to its shareholders which materially misled investors to believe that RELX has a robust CSR program and implementing ESG goals to its business practice." The complaint observes that "a pension scheme provider included RELX in its Impact Plan and [spotlighted](#) it: 'RELX has demonstrated measurable impacts on both society and the environment. But **beyond the tools it develops its stated purpose is that these tools are used for the benefit of the world. This is why it was selected for inclusion in the Impact Plan.**'" The legal complaint, which would be dismissed in October on procedural grounds, again alleges that "Defendants knew or deliberately disregarded that [its] statements were misleading," that "the RELX Ethics Department dismissed [psychological safety] concerns on the false grounds that they had already been addressed," and that the company took disciplinary action after the **plaintiff was warned and failed "to think about what's palatable for the company"—that leadership isn't going to admit "certain things are out of alignment."**

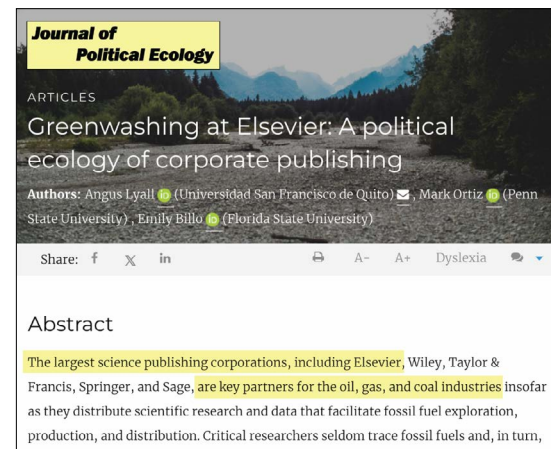
Pension Bee's new [Climate Plan](#), an [investment](#) presented as being **"in line with the Paris Agreement,"** promotes that it "goes further" than simply investing in "companies committed to reducing their carbon emissions" by

excluding “companies misaligned with UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).” Investors are [informed](#) that “the plan’s objective is to align with the goals of the Paris Agreement to keep the rise in global surface temperature well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels. **Any companies who negatively impact or hinder the progress of environmental UN SDGs are excluded from the investment portfolio.**” Created in [partnership](#) with State Street Global Advisors in response to “desire among savers to evolve how they invest in line with their values,” this [fund](#)—labeled “Paris Aligned”—holds over 14,000 [shares](#) of RELX stock.

The legal filing in opposition to RELX's motion to dismiss observes: “Defendants’ arguments cut against their own defense: they argue that because their most egregious false statements (i.e. UN Net Zero pledge) occurred after Defendants’ contradictory actions were already public (e.g. support for climate-change-denying politicians since 2014), and that Plaintiff should have known better that Defendants were already lying when Plaintiff purchased the stocks in 2021...Defendants take the position that their sustainability-related statements are nothing more than aspirations and forward-looking, thus it would not rise to falsehood. Such an assertion is morally and legally troubling. Defendants made concrete and actionable statements about their sustainability commitments, including their pledge to UN’s Net-Zero campaign goals, UN Race to Zero, and more...

“By stating that it is pledging and committing to be aligned with the Net Zero and Sustainability Pledges while continuing to support new fossil fuel explorations, this mismatch of concrete statements versus actions forms the basis for investor fraud...Not only do Defendants’ arguments seek for this Court to make baseless factual inferences about the mind of the reasonable investor, the arguments are not even logically coherent. Indeed, the **Net Zero and UNGC principles highlight an urgency in absolutely ending promoting of fossil fuel explorations, and Defendants’ own representations (not the Plaintiffs’ sage opinions) have stated that it is in compliance with the Net Zero and UNGC policies...**

“The Amended Complaint alleges that RELX knew or intentionally disregarded their own misrepresentation regarding greenwashing. The Complaint highlights that Defendants knowingly and intentionally made commitments and pledges (explained in the previous section). And, between September 2021 and April 2023, the Responsible Growth Report Committee (RGRC), led by the Plaintiff, repeatedly brought RELX’s greenwashing practices to the company’s attention...Among other reasons, the Amended Complaint alleges that **Defendants were motivated to greenwash their operations because it would be beneficial to them** in terms of marketing to various sectors of



An advertisement for impact investing. It features a large heading 'Impact investing is here!' followed by the text 'Use your pension to help solve the world's great social and environmental problems.' Below this is a yellow 'Get started' button. Underneath the button, it says 'When investing, your capital is at risk' and shows a stylized illustration of a globe with various symbols representing social and environmental issues like a crane, a factory, a tree, and a person. At the bottom, there is a section titled 'What's the size of RELX's impact?' which contains text about RELX's products, tools, and initiatives impacting many areas of life around the world, mentioning Research4Life and Elsevier's digital simulation programs.

RELX's annual Corporate Responsibility reports make no mention regarding what RELX considers to be acceptable negative impacts resulting from the use of its products and services.

The Climate Plan - invest in line with the Paris Agreement

Find out how you can use your pension to invest in environmentally friendly businesses at the forefront of the transition to a low carbon economy.

Get started

When investing, your capital is at risk



A financial product containing RELX stock is marketed as excluding "any companies who negatively impact or hinder the progress of environmental UN SDGs" and "in line with the Paris Agreement."

investors and consumers. See AC ¶¶ 54-59 (listing all of the ESG highlights the Defendants represented to investors including Net Zero to gain a **“green stamp” to attract conscientious investors.**)”

In October 2025, the lawsuit is [dismissed](#) on procedural grounds.