

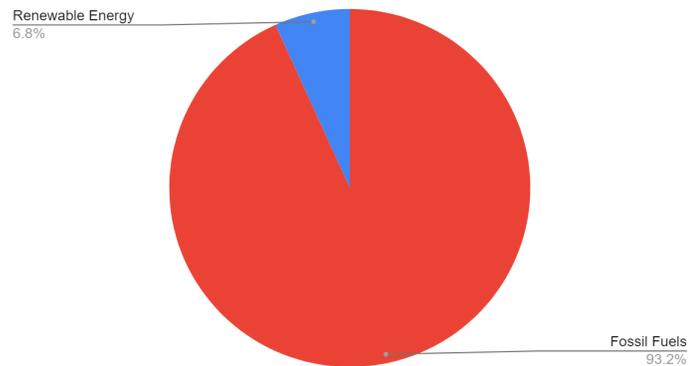
Money in Politics and the Environment

95% of Democratic voters and 71% of Republican voters support the transition to clean and renewable energy. In addition, two-thirds want the federal government to make protecting the environment a priority and half believe the same about acting on climate change. We are already seeing the effects of global climate change: flooding, wildfires, drought, “hundred year” storms, and so on. Despite producing the majority of global emissions, the fossil fuel industry pushes the cost and responsibility of the climate crisis onto consumers, while continuing to profit. The fossil fuel industry influences climate and energy policy by spending billions of dollars on election contributions and lobbying, preventing meaningful steps towards climate action. Congressmen who have attempted to change their stance on the climate crisis have become the targets of smear campaigns and lost their seats in Congress. Potentially bipartisan support for bills on climate change are undercut, as the fossil fuel industry spends an overwhelming majority of its contributions on Republicans. The fossil fuel industry spends so much on politics because they receive huge returns on investment in the form of subsidies. Politicians need to know that their constituents are not in favor of the fossil fuel industry’s agenda. In order for the people’s voices to be heard over the money of the fossil fuel industry, the influence of big money needs to be taken out of politics.

Money in Politics and the Environment at the Federal Level:

- ★ Over the past decade, the U.S. has lost \$350 billion in costs due to property damage, health concerns and lost lives, associated with climate change.
- ★ The top 100 fossil fuel companies are responsible for 71% of global emissions.
- ★ The fossil fuel industry is spending \$13.70 in lobbying and political contributions for every \$1 spent by the renewable energy industry.
- ★ During the 2017-2018 midterm election cycle, the fossil fuel industry spent \$359 million in political contributions, which is approximately \$500,000 per day.
- ★ With an average return-on-investment of \$119 in fossil fuel subsidies gained for every \$1 spent on lobbying, the fossil fuel industry has made an estimated \$238 billion in profits for the \$2 billion it spent from 2000 to 2016 alone.
- ★ It would take 125 years for a family earning \$65,000 per year to make as much as the politician who received the most contributions from the fossil fuel industry.
- ★ The fossil fuel industry has spent \$827.9 million in campaign contributions since 2000 to elect sympathetic officials at the **local, state and federal levels**.

Political contributions 2017-2018



Money in Politics and the Environment in New Hampshire:

- ★ With the passing of Senate Bill 86, NH lawmakers have prohibited cities and towns from restricting fossil fuel hookups in new construction, one of the easiest and cheapest ways to cut emissions at the local level.
- ★ Fossil fuel groups lobbying the state government are framing their opposition to clean energy as a matter of consumer choice.
- ★ Eversource Energy and NextEra Energy Resources who gave \$25,000 each to Chris Sununu in the 2016 election.
- ★ Eversource Energy president William Quinlan and New England Ratepayers Association executive director Marc Brown were co-hosts for a Sununu re-election fundraiser in 2017.

What you can do:

- ★ Advocate for climate change legislation and let your senators and representatives know that you support them.
- ★ Public and scientific pressure against the fossil fuel industry.
- ★ Demand corporate transparency in political contributions so you know if a business is supporting a political agenda that you disagree with.
- ★ Vocalize support for policies that would remove big money from politics, giving voters more influence than corporate entities