

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ELIZABETH S. BAST

2020 is a year many of us will not soon forget. The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the toll of racial justice reckonings range from the personal to the global, and for many the year has been devastating – direct and ongoing health impacts, lost loved ones, lack of work, isolation, the burden of having childcare facilities and schools closed, the painful processing of racial injustices, and the ongoing impacts of white supremacy and colonialism on Black people, communities of color, and Indigenous communities.

For us at Oil Change, 2020 demanded leaning into our efforts for social justice as well as climate justice. We deeply examined our collective values and made changes to our internal practices to reflect our commitment to justice and equity. We developed principles around our responses to the pandemic, and we prioritized speaking out for racial justice.

In our campaign work, the combination of the pandemic, the collapse in global oil prices, and the climate emergency created unforeseeable political, social, and economic opportunities for challenging fossil fuel industry expansion. The colliding crises showcased an unmanaged decline of oil and gas, with workers and communities largely abandoned while the fossil fuel industry prioritized maintaining dividends and lining shareholders' pockets. This created a responsibility, as well as opportunity, to demand recovery efforts align with principles of equity and justice.



Throughout 2020, we worked to define, build, and advance government responses to the crisis that included robust plans for an equitable and just phase-out of fossil fuel production. We also leaned into our support for frontline communities and campaigns – to put an end to new fossil fuel projects once and for all.

Our ongoing campaigns paid off: we celebrated the mid-year cancellation of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, as well as commitments at year end from Denmark committing to phase-out oil and gas production and the UK committing to ending overseas fossil fuel finance.

As we move into 2021, Oil Change International remains committed to stopping harmful fossil fuel infrastructure projects, demanding progress from international institutions, financiers, and governments to end fossil fuel production, and supporting movements around the world in resisting the fossil fuel industry and demanding climate justice.

We are so grateful to all of our donors and activists for your ongoing support of our work.

Elizabeth S. Bast
Executive Director
Oil Change International

A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR, THOMAS CAVANAGH

Among many hallmark moments in 2020 we want to take pause here and recognize a watershed moment, the passing of the leadership baton. After 15 years, Oil Change International founder Stephen Kretzmann stepped aside from his role as Executive Director.

Though it was long in planning and the organization was preparing for this inevitability, it is no small thing to have a founder no longer involved in the day-to-day in any year, and in 2020, it was an earthquake.

Steve accomplished something rare and remarkable by founding and building Oil Change International and lifting it to success over 15 long and hard-fought years. Today, the organization has become a vital institution in the struggle for fossil fuel industry accountability and climate justice. Steve's vision and dedication drove the creation of this widely respected organization.

OCI is widely quoted not only in the press and movement circles, but also in boardrooms, legislative chambers, policy shops, international institutions, academia, and courtrooms. As our amazing staff says often, OCI is truly data driven and people powered. And no

doubt Steve magnetically powered the people of OCI, at board and staff level and at collaborator and partner level, something the climate justice movement needs now more than ever. Alignment of principles with purpose drove Steve, and OCI will forever be indebted to him for his wisdom and his tenacity. The mold has been set for grit to be in the core recipe of the campaigners that charge ahead into the coming decade with wind in their sails.

The baton could not have landed in better hands than with Elizabeth Bast, long trusted as the lungs of the organization, long respected as foundational strength for OCI. And by leaning into the transition, opportunity has arrived, renewed hope has been inspired, and clarity of vision is exposed.

In some ways the timing could not have been better when you consider that the need to act, the mandate to level up, coupled with global demand for equity and justice is woven together with embracing change.

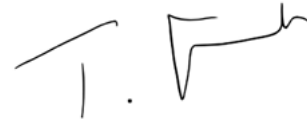
We will not return to normal after COVID-19 waves pass through us. We will not return to normal while climate injustice runs rampant.

Stephen Kretzmann subscribed to the “no compromise” methodology and infused into OCI a DNA code that will be resilient and shine through data driven relevance for many years to come.

It is with great respect for our past that we may now seize opportunity and leap forward into a new future.

We look forward to having you, our supporters and movement allies, by our side as we jointly charge ahead.

In Solidarity,



Thomas Cavanagh
2020 Board Chair
Oil Change International

PROGRAM CONTENT

2020 - Stepping up to face new and old challenges

With a global pandemic, a racial justice reckoning, and climate impacts growing stronger by the day, 2020 saw a lot of challenges and new opportunities for global climate justice campaigning. But OCI was well-placed to meet these challenges, with experience in remote working, flexible and compassionate organizational policies to support its staff, and well-honed campaign strategies that could be adjusted to meet the ever-changing realities of a year like no other.

Support for racial justice. As the United States and countries around the globe grappled with the realities of systemic racism, Oil Change responded to national and global calls for racial justice, both internally and externally. We released a [statement of solidarity](#) with uprisings against police violence and anti-Black racism, supported calls to defund the police, and provided small grants to racial justice organizations. We have also focused on internal efforts towards equity and racial justice, working to articulate our organizational values and commitment to equity and racial justice.

Response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Early on in the pandemic, Oil Change agreed to [three principles to guide our work](#) — principles that have only gotten more important over the last few months: 1) We will support the people working to save lives; 2) We will support people who are directly impacted; and 3) We will support just recovery policies that will build a resilient and safer climate future. To promote a just recovery, in addition to the Energy Policy Tracker we developed with partners, we also put out a [briefing](#) challenging governments to recover better and fund a just transition away from fossil fuels that protects workers, communities, and the climate.



The COVID-19 crisis has put the livelihoods of millions in Canada at risk, and the federal government is preparing historic levels of public finance in response. Since the stimulus money will shape our economy for decades to come, the government should use this opportunity to build resilience to future crises and invest in a clean recovery that maximizes job creation. It must not respond with further public backing of oil and gas, which is entirely incompatible with the Paris Agreement's goal of limiting warming to well below 2°C. This would leave us vulnerable to escalating climate impacts and economic risks associated with an overreliance on fossil fuel extraction.

Canada's export bank, Export Development Canada (EDC), already provides on average nearly fourteen billion dollars in support to oil and gas companies each year. As a result, Canada ranks 54th highest among G20 countries in public finance for fossil fuels. Now the federal government is using EDC to channel more support to the oil and gas sector which has been intensely lobbying the government for a bailout package of \$30 billion.²

EDC is not the sole vehicle through which the government is offering bailouts to oil and gas firms. A program that provides large companies loans of \$60 million.



environmental defence

POLICY BRIEFING: CARBON IMPACTS OF REINSTATING THE U.S. CRUDE EXPORT BAN

JANUARY 2021



In addition to this critical work in response to the pandemic and racial justice awakening, OCI pushed forward

to achieve key wins and milestones on long-fought campaigns throughout the year:

● **Elevated the profile of the Permian Basin as an oil and gas extraction disaster.** In February before the pandemic hit, we released a report, “Drilling Towards Disaster: New Mexico’s Oil & Gas Boom Undermines the State’s Climate Goals” to highlight the boom in production since 2010 and that intended growth (projected through 2030) can still be stopped, since over 70% of these wells expected in production have not yet been drilled. We released the report in the New Mexico State Rotunda, leveraging the opportunity to meet with the Governor’s office, as well as several state senators and representatives, with our community partners.



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● **Exposed billions in continued government funding for fossil fuels.** Research by Oil Change International found that G20 countries provided at least \$77 billion a year in finance for oil, gas, and coal projects through their public finance institutions alone. Further, Oil Change and partners launched the Energy Policy Tracker which found G20 governments have committed over \$200 billion to fossil fuels in COVID-19 recovery packages. This tracker has been cited in the media, policy makers, and served as a valuable tool for advocates and allies in the countries it covers in pursuing more climate-aligned recovery packages.



● **Supported campaign to force cancellation of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.** In July, following years of pressure from communities and organizations across three states, the Atlantic Coast Pipeline was cancelled by project sponsors. Oil Change played a critical role in this campaign, including publication of several briefings and reports highlighting how the project was designed to funnel ratepayer money to Dominion’s and Duke’s shareholders and that, far from cleaning up energy supply in the Southeast, the pipeline would have made the energy system dirtier.

● **Coordinated coalition driving Japan to slash support for overseas coal power plants.** Also in July, the Japanese government pledged to restrict financing for overseas coal

projects, following pressure from Japanese and international activists via the No Coal Japan campaign, which Oil Change helps to coordinate.

- Supported movement partners in Africa to resist fossil fuels.** In January, Oil Change International, in coordination with Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF), Oxfam, Power Shift Africa, and MELCA Ethiopia, convened the “Africa Civil Society Energy Leaders Summit”, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The summit brought together high level civil society leaders from across Africa and globally, producing the Addis Ababa [communiqué](#), a civil society call on African governments and regional intergovernmental bodies like the African Union to stop fossil fuel expansion, support energy access, and facilitate a just transition. Throughout 2020, we supported civil society networks in Africa, including Oilwatch Africa. We also provided support to regional and national level groups in fighting fossil fuel projects, including the East Africa Crude Oil Pipeline.
- Helped take air out of Big Oil’s public relations campaigns.** With our [Big Oil Reality Check](#) report released in the fall of 2020, we exposed the empty



promises and green-washing of oil and gas companies - showing that none of the major oil companies come close to aligning their actions with the urgent 1.5°C global warming limit as outlined by the Paris Agreement. The report has become a key resource for partners and reporters alike, in exposing the truths behind oil company claims.

- International Energy Agency offers an energy pathway that could hold global warming to 1.5 degrees C.** For the first time, the [IEA's 2020 World Energy Outlook](#) included a “Net Zero Emissions 2050” case, projecting CO₂ emission reductions by 2030 that align with some 1.5°C pathways. Thanks to pressure from OCI and our partners,

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the IEA took this key step towards the ultimate goal of having a centrally featured energy scenario from the IEA that could hold global warming to 1.5°C, now expected in the 2021 edition of the World Energy Outlook.

❶ **Denmark commits to phase-out oil and gas production.** In early December, the Danish government announced the cancellation of the 8th North Sea licensing round, a ban on future offshore licencing (following an onshore ban in 2018), and a ban on all offshore production by 2050. Oil Change worked with partners to expose the climate impacts of this planned extraction, including through our [Denmark Sky's Limit report](#). Following this announcement, an op-ed from Denmark's minister of climate,

energy and utilities and Costa Rica's minister of environment and energy called on the countries of the world to join Denmark and Costa Rica in setting an end date for oil and gas production.

❷ **UK commits to ending overseas fossil fuel finance.** Early December also saw the UK announce it will end overseas finance for fossil fuels, following years of pressure from activists, including from Oil Change. This was the first significant oil and gas producing country to announce it will end its finance for all fossil fuels overseas and followed on commitments from the World Bank Group and the European Investment Bank to end financing for oil, gas, and coal in 2017 and 2019, respectively.

❸ **Pressured the incoming Biden Administration for aggressive action on fossil fuels and climate.** Oil Change successfully pressured the incoming Biden administration in the U.S. to avoid cabinet appointments unnecessarily influenced by the fossil fuel industry. Working with coalition partners, OCI also called on President-elect Joe Biden to take aggressive action for the climate as soon as he took office, including signing executive orders to confront the climate emergency and banning new fossil fuel leasing and permitting on federal public lands and waters. This work in partnership with U.S. allies set the stage for quick action in 2021 from the new administration.



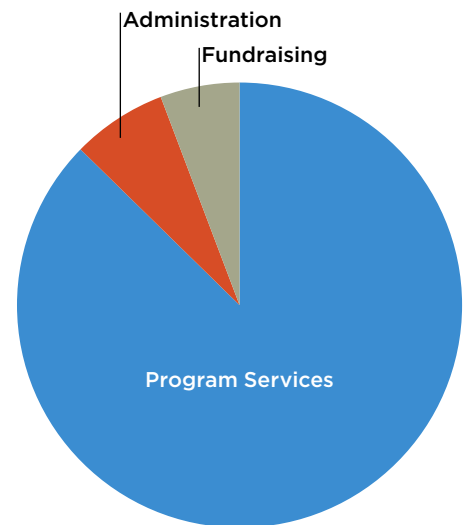
FINANCIALS

Statement of Financial Position for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020

	2019	2020
Assets	\$	\$
Cash	809,872	834,835
Contributions Receivable	461,870	1,324,229
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	93,141	67,906
Fixed assets, net depreciation	10,948	10,033
Security deposit	8,400	8,400
Total Assets	1,384,231	2,245,403
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	57,187	76,250
Withholding Payable	123	5,639
Short-term loan	-	240,000
Total Liabilities	57,310	282,289
Net Assets		
Unrestricted Net Assets	354,338	446,687
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	972,583	1,516,427
Total Net Assets	1,326,921	1,963,114
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	1,384,231	2,245,403

Revenues & Expenses for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020

	2019	2020
Revenues	\$	\$
Grants	3,085,665	2,983,534
Contributions	132,108	422,514
Sublease income	28,350	41,004
Reimbursements	90,967	51,294
Other income	-	20,450
Gain on fixed asset sale	3,205	3,835
Interest	89	179
Total Revenues	3,340,384	3,522,810
Expenses		
Program Services	2,402,574	2,357,785
Administration	190,006	314,835
Fundraising	158,519	213,997
Total Expenses	2,751,099	2,886,617*



*The organization uses the accrual method of accounting and, as such, grants received that will be paid over multiple years are recorded as income in the year the grant is first awarded. Subsequent payments of grant installment payments are not shown as income on the Statement of Revenue and Expenses but instead reduce Grants Receivable on the Statement of Financial Position report. This is a timing issue which results in expenses not matching revenues in certain years.

OUR BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF

STAFF

Elizabeth Bast

*Executive Director (as of May 1, 2020)
Managing Director (through April 30, 2020)*

Stephen Kretzmann

Executive Director & Founder (through April 30, 2020)

Rebecca Concepcion Apostol

U.S. Program Director

Ken Bossong

Shift the Subsidies Database Manager

Alex Doukas

Stop Funding Fossils Program Director

Romain Ioualalen

Senior Campaigner

Vickal Khadka

Office Manager

Aneesa Khan

Communications Officer

Matt Maiorana

Digital Director

Thuli Makama

Senior Advisor - Africa

Hannah McKinnon

Energy Transitions and Futures Program Director

Alex Ortiz

Communications Associate

Collin Rees

Senior Campaigner

Andy Rowell

Contributing Editor, The Price of Oil Blog

Susan Rubinstein

Operations Director

Lorne Stockman

Senior Research Analyst

David Tong

Senior Campaigner

Kelly Trout

Senior Research Analyst

Bronwen Tucker

Analyst

David Turnbull

Strategic Communications Director

Laurie van der Burg

Senior Campaigner

BOARD MEMBERS

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Executive Director, Sierra Club

Thomas Cavanagh, Board Chair

Executive Director, Bandaloop

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Partner, Butsavage & Durkalski, P.C

D. Cole Frates

Co-Founder, Renewables Resources Group & EndOil

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Director, Partners for a New Economy

Jonathan G. Kaufman

Executive Director, Advocates for Community Alternatives

Stephen Kretzmann

Executive Director, Oil Change International

Jennifer Krill

Executive Director, Earthworks

Melissa Mills, Secretary

Genetic Counselor, Stanford Children's Hospital

Renato Redentor Constantino

Executive Director, Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities

Jason Scott

Co-Managing Partner, Encourage Capital

Sandra N. Smithey

Director, Program & Philanthropic Engagement, Shine Campaign

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