

THE HISTORY OF

# Exxon's Climate Denial

Exxon has understood the science of climate change for at least the last 50 years. It has done nothing to stop the problem.

## EXXON KNEW

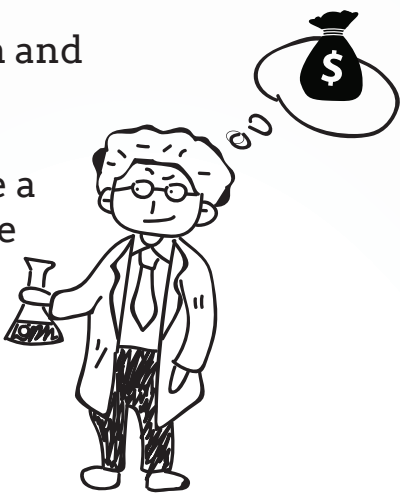
**1979**

Major fossil fuel companies met regularly as part of a task force to discuss the science and implications of climate change.



**1982**

Roger Cohen, director of the Theoretical and Mathematical Sciences Laboratory at Exxon wrote a memo stating "Temperature increase of this magnitude would bring about significant changes in the earth's climate, including rainfall distribution and alterations in the biosphere." Cohen would later become a lead climate science denier at an Exxon-funded front group.



**1983**

Exxon cut funding for climate research from \$900,000 per year to \$150,000. Exxon pivoted from the cutting edge of early climate change science to the forefront of climate denial.

**1996**

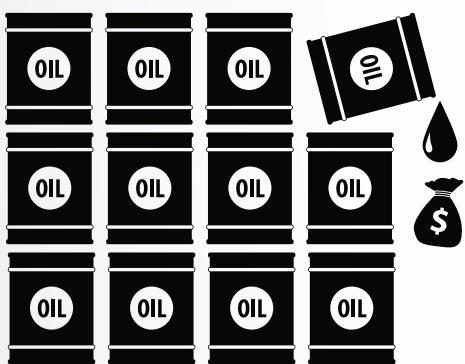
Mobil engineers noted that "An estimated rise in water level, due to global warming, of 0.5 meters may be assumed" in their planning for exploration and production facilities along the coast of Nova Scotia.

## EXXON FUNDS DENIAL



**1998**

American Petroleum Institute organized a \$5-million plan to challenge the science of climate change.



**1998**

ExxonMobil-funded think tank, the George C. Marshall Institute, co-published the "Oregon petition," a petition challenging the consensus around climate change. The petition contained suspicious signatures, including fictional characters from the TV show M.A.S.H. and Spice Girl "Dr." Geri Halliwell.

**2001**

George W. Bush became president with \$100,000 in inaugural funding from ExxonMobil. Shortly after, the Bush administration announced withdrawal from the Kyoto Protocol.

**2008**

Exxon announced it will stop funding climate-denying groups. Funding is cut to some climate-denying groups. Funding to others continues.



## GREENPEACE FIGHTS BACK

**2002**

Greenpeace USA launched the campaign to expose Exxon's climate denial machine. Actions at Exxon stations spread across the globe.

**2003**

The Greenpeace Global Warming Crimes Unit converged on ExxonMobil's compound in Irving, Texas, to charge the oil giant with crimes against the climate.

**2004**

Greenpeace USA developed a website that showed the links between Exxon money and some of the loudest climate deniers quoted in the media: [exxonsecrets.org](http://exxonsecrets.org).

**2005**

Environmental and public interest groups launched the "Exxpose Exxon" campaign.

**2015**

New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman opens an investigation into Exxon over whether the company has lied about what it knew about climate change. The AG issued a subpoena to Exxon demanding in-house documents.

**2016**

In an attempt to distract and intimidate Greenpeace and interfere with our work on holding Exxon accountable for its decades of climate denial, Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX) issued Congressional subpoenas to Greenpeace USA along with seven other NGOs and the Attorneys General of New York and Massachusetts.



## INVESTIGATION