



The “Keep Fossil Fuels in the Ground” Act of 2015

Stopping new fossil fuel projects on Federal lands

Senator Jeff Merkley

Background

Since 2009 the United States and 167 nations have agreed that increases in global temperature should be kept to no more than 2° Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

In order to avoid 2° Celsius, 80 percent of the world’s fossil fuels must stay in the ground.

Federal Responsibility

Our society is still dependent on fossil fuels, but affordable and reliable technology exists to transition to clean energy and clean transportation.

While it won’t be possible to make this transition overnight, it’s the responsibility of the Federal government to help accelerate this transition by stopping the expansion of fossil fuel production on our public lands and waters.

Solution for Federal Lands

The *Keep Fossil Fuels in the Ground* bill would stop corporations from starting new fossil fuels projects on all Federal lands and waters.

Specifically, the bill would:

- Prohibit offshore drilling in the Arctic and the Atlantic
- Stop new leases and end nonproducing leases for offshore drilling in the Pacific and Gulf of Mexico.
- Stop new leases and end nonproducing leases for coal, oil, gas, oil shale and tar sands on all Federal lands.

This bill would keep over 90 percent of the potential carbon emissions from oil, gas and coal on our Federal lands and Federal waters underground forever.

For more information about the Keep it in the Ground Act, please contact Adrian Deveny (202-224-3753; Adrian_Deveny@merkley.senate.gov) in Senator Merkley’s office.

Carbon Math

990 Gt CO₂e = The global carbon budget (emissions we can burn before we have a 33% chance of exceeding 2 degrees warming)

5385 Gt CO₂e = The total global fossil carbon proven reserves still in the ground.

18% = $\frac{990}{5385}$ = Percentage of fossil fuel carbon currently in the ground can be burned before we hit 2 degrees Celsius warming,

82% = The amount of fossil fuel carbon that must remain in the ground.

100% = The amount of unconventional fossil fuel carbon that must remain in the ground, including the Arctic and the tar sands.

490 Gt CO₂e = The total fossil carbon reserves on Federal lands.

50% = The percentage of the global carbon budget we would use if we burned all the fossil fuels on public land.

90% = The percentage of fossil carbon on Federal lands that remains unleased.