
CIP INVESTIGATION · JULY 2026

Fueled by *Oil Money*

How **Capital Research Center** — bankrolled by millions from oil-fortune foundations — built a decades-long campaign of climate denial and attacks on the environmental movement.

THE INVESTIGATION · JULY 2026

The money is fossil fuel. The mission is *climate denial*.

Capital Research Center presents itself as a watchdog of the nonprofit world. But a review of public tax filings shows the organization has accepted millions of dollars from foundations built on oil and gas fortunes — even as it disputes the scientific consensus on climate change, works to defeat climate policy, and casts the environmental movement as an enemy of American freedom.

The pattern is consistent and documented. Oil-money foundations write the checks. Capital Research Center produces the research. And that research is now being cited by a Republican-controlled Congress and the Trump Justice Department to justify investigations of climate and good-government groups.

Every figure and quotation in this report is drawn from public records, tax filings, news reporting, and Capital Research Center's own published words. Each carries a link to its source.

BY THE NUMBERS

Oil fortunes, in dollars.

A sample of the fossil-fuel-linked foundation money Capital Research Center has accepted, according to public tax filings and reporting.

\$2.4M

From the Sarah Scaife Foundation — set up by the heir to an oil and banking dynasty that still holds tens of millions in energy-company shares.

[THE GUARDIAN](#)

\$1.7M

From the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation and the Bradley Impact Fund, "one of the largest donors to anti-climate policy causes."

[POLITICO E&E NEWS](#)

\$445K

From foundations built on the wealth of oil-drilling tycoon Lloyd Noble, "a leader in the oil and gas drilling industry."

[NOBLE RESEARCH INSTITUTE](#)

\$425K

From the Searle Freedom Trust, a major funder of climate denial and the rollback of Obama-era climate policy.

[POLITICO E&E NEWS](#)

500+

Articles Capital Research Center has published under its "Green Watch" project to track — and attack — the environmental movement.

[CAPITAL RESEARCH CENTER, ACCESSED 06/26/26](#)

1.3M+

Views on Capital Research Center's YouTube video promoting "Enemies of Energy," its 2026 report profiling 15 environmental groups as "anti-energy NGOs."

[YOUTUBE, CAPITAL RESEARCH CENTER, 05/20/26](#)

SECTION 01

The oil and gas money behind the operation.

Capital Research Center has accepted money from a long roster of foundations whose fortunes trace directly to oil and gas — from a foundation still holding millions in Exxon and Chevron stock to trusts built by West Texas drillers. Every figure below comes from public tax filings and reporting.

CASE FILE · PRIVATE FOUNDATION

Sarah Scaife Foundation

Set up by the billionaire libertarian heir to an oil and banking dynasty — still holding \$30m in energy-company shares, including \$9m in Exxon and \$5.7m in Chevron.

TOTAL TO CAPITAL RESEARCH CENTER

\$2.4M

FILE №

ON RECORD

PUBLIC 990 FILINGS

☒ FUNDED ☐ DISCLOSED

The foundation was established by the heir to an oil fortune and continues to hold shares in fossil fuel companies. As *The Guardian* reported, it was **set up by the heir to an oil and banking dynasty,** and holds "\$30m-worth of shares in 22 energy companies including \$9m in Exxon and \$5.7m in Chevron, according to its financial filings."

“\$30m-worth of shares in 22 energy companies including \$9m in Exxon and \$5.7m in Chevron.

— THE GUARDIAN, ON THE SARAH SCAIFE FOUNDATION, 05/04/22

The same foundation has funded a group that campaigned against clean-energy policy in the United Kingdom. The Global Warming Policy Foundation's US arm "received more than \$1m from US donors" over four years, most of which — "\$864,884, was channelled to the UK group," according to tax documents seen by The Guardian and OpenDemocracy.

— \$1.7 million — the Bradley Foundation & Bradley Impact Fund

The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation was built on the wealth of two brothers, one of whom, Harry, was "a member of the far-right John Birch Society." The Bradley Impact Fund is a donor-advised fund tied to "one of the nation's leading conservative private foundations." According to Politico E&E News, the Bradley Foundation is "one of the largest donors to anti-climate policy causes," and has "spent millions of dollars annually on groups that try to sow doubt about climate change and that work to weaken climate regulations." In recent years, it "pumped millions of dollars into groups that worked closely with the Trump White House to roll back most of the Obama administration's climate policy."

— \$445,000 — foundations built on an oil-drilling fortune

Lloyd Noble "became a leader in the oil and gas drilling industry," purchasing his first drilling rig at 24. Foundations built on his wealth, including the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, give "in the spirit of Lloyd Noble, an Oklahoma oilman."

— \$425,000 — the Searle Freedom Trust

The Searle Freedom Trust was founded from a family pharmaceutical fortune, and public tax filings show it is a major funder of climate denial. In 2018 alone, E&E News reported, the trust "gave more than \$2 million to groups that worked with the Trump administration to roll back environmental regulations, including the CO2 Coalition, CEI, Cato and the Heritage Foundation," and spent "more than \$300,000 on groups that publish and promote climate misinformation, including the Daily Caller News Foundation and the Prager University Foundation."

— \$132,500 — Karakin, Kickapoo Springs & Legett Foundations

These three foundations were funded by the wealth of a West Texas oil family. The Legett Jones family "discovered oil, and became one of the wealthiest families in West Texas," establishing the Dodge Jones Foundation — which, on its 2019 termination, transferred millions to "the Karakin, Kickapoo Springs, Legett, and Still Water Foundations."

— \$55,000 — the Ken W. Davis Foundation

Ken W. Davis led Loffland Brothers, which under his leadership "became the world's largest drilling contractor," drilling from Libya to Prudhoe Bay to the world's deepest well.

— \$22,500 — the Strake Foundation

The Strake Foundation was built on the wealth of George William Strake, whose Conroe discovery "proved to be the third largest oilfield in the United States," leaving an oil fortune estimated between \$100 million and \$200 million.

— And more, down to \$1,000

Smaller gifts round out the pattern — each tied to oil, gas, or drilling wealth:

Charles Koch Foundation — Koch Industries <u>"originated as an oil refining business"</u> (Form 990, 2017)	\$10.8K
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Shell USA Company Foundation — affiliated with Shell, which operates <u>"the largest retail gasoline... network in the country"</u>	\$4.9K
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James C. & Teresa K. Day Foundation — Day built <u>"one of the largest worldwide offshore drilling companies"</u> and sits on the American Petroleum Institute (Form 990, 2021)	\$1K
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— THE RECEIPTS

Over \$5 million, since 2017.

\$5,196,694

Total known giving to Capital Research Center from foundations tied to oil wealth or climate denial — across ten funders, 2017–2024.

SOURCE: PUBLIC IRS FORM 990 FILINGS COMPILED BY THE CONGRESSIONAL INTEGRITY PROJECT

Total known giving, by contributor

CONTRIBUTOR	TOTAL TO CRC
Sarah Scaife Foundation	\$2,400,000
Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, Bradley Impact Fund	\$1,700,000
Lloyd and Vivian Noble Foundation, Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation	\$445,000
Searle Freedom Trust	\$425,000
Karakin, Kickapoo Springs & Legett Foundations	\$132,500
Ken W. Davis Foundation	\$55,000
Strake Foundation	\$22,500
Charles Koch Foundation	\$10,844
Shell USA Company Foundation	\$4,850
James C. & Teresa K. Day Foundation	\$1,000
Total, 2017–2024	\$5,196,694

THE RECEIPTS · DETAIL

Year by year, funder by funder.

Every gift on the previous page, broken out by year and recipient entity, exactly as reported in the funders' public tax filings.

Sarah Scaife Foundation

YEAR	AMOUNT
2024	\$500,000
2023	\$500,000
2022	\$500,000
2021	\$500,000
2020	\$400,000
Total	\$2,400,000

Searle Freedom Trust

YEAR	AMOUNT
2023	\$75,000
2022	\$125,000
2021	\$125,000
2020	\$100,000
Total	\$425,000

Bradley Foundation & Impact Fund

YEAR	ENTITY	AMOUNT
2024	Bradley Foundation	\$300,000
2024	Impact Fund	\$10,750
2023	Bradley Foundation	\$300,000
2023	Impact Fund	\$79,500
2022	Bradley Foundation	\$300,000
2022	Impact Fund	\$23,000
2021	Bradley Foundation	\$300,000
2021	Impact Fund	\$40,500
2020	Bradley Foundation	\$300,000
2018	Impact Fund	\$32,750
2017	Impact Fund	\$13,500
Total		\$1,700,000

Noble Foundations

YEAR	ENTITY	AMOUNT
2024	Lloyd & Vivian Noble	\$75,000
2024	Samuel Roberts Noble	\$60,000
2023	Lloyd & Vivian Noble	\$75,000
2023	Samuel Roberts Noble	\$45,000
2022	Lloyd & Vivian Noble	\$60,000
2022	Samuel Roberts Noble	\$35,000
2021	Lloyd & Vivian Noble	\$30,000
2021	Samuel Roberts Noble	\$25,000
2020	Lloyd & Vivian Noble	\$15,000
2020	Samuel Roberts Noble	\$25,000
Total		\$445,000

Karakin, Kickapoo Springs & Legett

YEAR	ENTITY	AMOUNT
2024	Karakin	\$20,000
2024	Legett	\$20,000
2024	Kickapoo Springs	\$20,000
2023	Karakin	\$10,000
2023	Legett	\$10,000
2023	Kickapoo Springs	\$10,000
2022	Karakin	\$10,000
2022	Legett	\$10,000
2022	Kickapoo Springs	\$10,000
2021	Legett	\$5,000
2021	Kickapoo Springs	\$5,000
2020	Kickapoo Springs	\$2,500
Total		\$132,500

Ken W. Davis Foundation

YEAR	AMOUNT
2023	\$15,000
2022	\$15,000
2021	\$15,000
2020	\$10,000
Total	\$55,000

Strake Foundation

YEAR	AMOUNT
2023	\$7,500
2021	\$5,000
2020	\$5,000
2018	\$5,000
Total	\$22,500

Shell USA Company Foundation

YEAR	AMOUNT
2024	\$2,400
2022	\$2,200
2021	\$125
2020	\$125
Total	\$4,850

Charles Koch Foundation (\$10,844, 2017) and the James C. & Teresa K. Day Foundation (\$1,000, 2021) each appear in a single filing year; see [Form 990 \(Koch\)](#) and [Form 990 \(Day\)](#).

SECTION 02

A long record of climate denial.

For more than a decade, Capital Research Center has disputed the scientific consensus around climate change and opposed international efforts, like the Paris Agreement, that aim to address it. Its own published articles are the record.

— Disputing the science

In 2014, Capital Research Center referred to climate scientists as "global warming alarmists" and claimed "the debate over anthropogenic climate change has not been settled." That same year, it described climate-science communication as "a new school of deception" comparable to the techniques of "magicians, con men, and intelligence operatives."

“Years from now, when Global Warming theory is on the ashheap of history with supposed science like white supremacy... and canals on Mars...”

— CAPITAL RESEARCH CENTER, 04/21/15

— Denying the danger of carbon dioxide

In 2017, the organization dismissed the "supposed threat" of rising carbon dioxide, likening the increase to "adding a tablespoon of water into a 35-gallon bathtub." In its 2023 series "The Global Warming Scam" — subtitled "The Greatest Heist In World History" — it claimed "the entire Western world" has been lied to, and argued that "carbon dioxide is plant food."

The Global Warming Scam: The Lie

The Greatest Heist in World History

EXHIBIT A · The headline of Capital Research Center's 2023 series, published on its own website.
capitalresearch.org

— Fighting the Paris Agreement

Capital Research Center argued that the "real purpose" of the Paris climate treaty was "expensive energy, and the restructuring of the world economic system that would result." It cast the agreement as a tool the "axis of environmentalist groups, bureaucrats, and left-wing judges could use... to thwart Trump," and urged the president to "simply ignore the unratified treaty."

— A member of the "Cooler Heads Coalition"

Capital Research Center President Scott Walter has described the organization as a member of the "Cooler Heads Coalition." The Washington Post described that coalition as an alliance of groups "in the vanguard of efforts to cast doubt on the gravity of climate change and thwart government efforts to address it." Its leader "served as the transition director at the Environmental Protection Agency" and helped arrange a White House briefing against the Paris agreement.

SECTION 03

Targeting the environmental movement.

In 2010, Capital Research Center launched "[Green Watch](#)," a project to "track the non-profit advocacy groups that comprise the front-line soldiers of the environmental movement... to shine a light on their motives, methods, and money — because somebody has to."

Over more than 500 articles, its writers have described environmental groups as promoting "[an anti-freedom, anti-prosperity agenda](#)" that threatens national security, and characterized environmental advocacy as "[intimidation](#)." A 2016 article described acknowledgement of climate change as "[a major component of Islamofascist ideology](#)," and a 2024 article denounced climate lawsuits against oil and gas companies as "[an affront](#)" to the justice system.

“The lust for power is at the heart of environmentalism.

— CAPITAL RESEARCH CENTER, "GREEN WATCH," 02/11/20



GREEN WATCH

Enemies of Energy: World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

WWF is America's wealthiest anti-energy NGO and has received tens of millions of dollars annually from American taxpayers.

by **KEN BRAUN** on JUNE 24, 2026



GREEN WATCH

Enemies of Energy: Earthjustice

The legal defense arm of the anti-energy movement wants to save the whales from reliable offshore oil & gas production, but isn't so worried if weather-dependent offshore wind turbines harms...

by **KEN BRAUN** on JUNE 23, 2026



GREEN WATCH

Enemies of Energy: World Resources Institute (WRI)

The WRI has celebrated weather dependent wind and solar energy workers for being 14x LESS efficient than hydrocarbon energy employees. Perhaps "Wasted" Resources Institute should be the name.

by **KEN BRAUN** on JUNE 22, 2026



GREEN WATCH

Enemies of Energy: Greenpeace

EXHIBIT B · Capital Research Center's "Green Watch" feed churns out serialized "Enemies of Energy" profiles of environmental groups. capitalresearch.org/category/green-watch

— A partial list of "Green Watch" targets

Sierra Club	Greenpeace	Natural Resources Defense Council	Environmental Defense Fund
League of Conservation Voters	Union of Concerned Scientists	The Nature Conservancy	
Sunrise Movement	Earthjustice	World Wildlife Fund	Southern Environmental Law Center
The Audubon Society	The AFL-CIO	The NAACP	League of Women Voters

World Resources Institute

350.org

Rocky Mountain Institute

Friends of the Earth

Public Citizen

The Revolving Door Project

Capital Research Center also maintains a list of over 200 nonprofit organizations it targets for opposing nuclear energy. Both Greenpeace, which calls the organization a "Koch Industries Climate Denial Front Group," and Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, who cited its "long history of promoting climate change denial," have described the group as a climate denialist operation.

SECTION 04

Weaponized in Washington.

Capital Research Center's attacks on climate and good-government groups are no longer confined to its website. They have been cited by a Republican-controlled congressional committee and by Donald Trump's Department of Justice.

— Cited by the House Judiciary Committee

In April 2026, the Republican-controlled House Judiciary Committee sent a letter to the Environmental Law Institute as part of an investigation into ["improper attempts... to influence federal judges."](#) The letter cited a Capital Research Center "Green Watch" article as evidence of alleged coordination between the institute and third parties.

— Cited by the Justice Department against George Soros

In September 2025, according to the New York Times, the Justice Department urged federal prosecutors to investigate George Soros and ["cited a report by a conservative watchdog group"](#) — Capital Research Center — that accused the donor of financing groups "tied to terrorism or extremist violence." The Times noted the report "does not show evidence that Mr. Soros's network knowingly paid for its grantees to break the law." The report also spotlighted the Sunrise Movement, seeking to link the climate group to unrelated violence.

ON THE RECORD

Capital Research Center also publishes InfluenceWatch, which it operates itself. Characterizations of how its research has been "weaponized" reflect the assessment of the Congressional Integrity Project; the underlying government documents and news reports are linked directly above.

SECTION 05

"Enemies of Energy."

In May 2026, Capital Research Center released a report titled ["Enemies of Energy,"](#) profiling what it calls "the 15 most influential anti-energy NGOs, their 15 largest known donors, and ten of the biggest myths and misconceptions they rely on."

"The agenda of these NGOs is an existential threat to the American civilization."

— CAPITAL RESEARCH CENTER, "ENEMIES OF ENERGY," MAY 2026

The report dismisses the idea of a climate emergency as ["an opinion,"](#) promotes natural gas as "a far cleaner fuel than any other hydrocarbon," and declares wind and solar energy "enemies of conservationists" for their land use. Capital Research Center has promoted it aggressively: a companion YouTube video has drawn [more than 1.3 million views](#), the organization has published [14 standalone "Green Watch" articles](#) drawn from the report, and released a [second video](#) on three of its alleged "myths," including what it calls "climate alarmism."



Enemies of Energy

 **Capital Research Center**
63.3K subscribers

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1,312,949 views May 20, 2026
Who's shaping America's energy debate?

In this video, Ken Braun breaks down three major nonprofit organizations influencing U.S. energy policy and opposing traditional energy production, including oil, natural gas, coal, and nuclear power.

EXHIBIT C · The "3 Enemies of Energy" video on Capital Research Center's YouTube channel — **1,312,949 views** as of July 2026. [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)



Ken Braun
Capital Research Center
Author, *Enemies of Energy*

Three Myths Driving America's Anti-Energy Movement

Capital Research Center
63.3K subscribers

Subscribe

107

Share

Ask

Save

64K views 2 weeks ago
Climate alarmism. Carbon emissions. Wind and solar power.

EXHIBIT D · A companion video, "Three Myths Driving America's Anti-Energy Movement," featuring CRC author Ken Braun. [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

— The 15 groups named as "anti-energy NGOs"

League of Conservation Voters	Environmental Defense Fund	Natural Resources Defense Council		
Sierra Club	Rocky Mountain Institute	World Wildlife Fund	Earthjustice	Greenpeace
World Resources Institute	Union of Concerned Scientists	Southern Environmental Law Center		
Grid Alternatives	Center for Biological Diversity	Climate Reality Project	350.org	

The groups Capital Research Center names as enemies are the same groups its oil-fortune funders have long opposed. The money and the message point in one direction.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Transparency starts with following the money.

When a self-styled "watchdog" is bankrolled by the very interests it serves, the public deserves to know. Every figure in this report comes from public tax filings and Capital Research Center's own published words.

Read the full investigation and the receipts at
CongressionalIntegrity.org.



CONGRESSIONAL INTEGRITY PROJECT · JULY 2026

Follow the money, and the denial follows too.

The Congressional Integrity Project investigates the money and networks behind attacks on America's institutions — and puts the receipts on the record.

Every figure and quotation in this report is drawn from public tax filings, government documents, news reporting, and Capital Research Center's own published words, each linked to its source.

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