Current research projects involving collaboration with the fossil industry

Reference date 31 May 2013

What do we mean by fossil industry

The use of products made from fossil resources is woven throughout our society. From the clothes we wear to the buildings we work in, they often incorporate products that originated in fossil fuels. Therefore, to determine whether a research project involves collaboration with the fossil industry, the following delineation was used: "Companies that produce oil or other fossil fuels themselves, or chemical companies with a strong affinity for production of fossil fuels." Collaborations with general chemical and energy companies are not included in this overview.

Only current, ongoing projects are included in this overview. An exception is equipment donations (or money for purchase); those dates relate to the past five years. The condition for collaboration in current projects is that the research focuses on developing knowledge to accelerate the energy transition, phase out fossil fuels as soon as possible and/or avoid further CO2 emissions.

The overview was prepared in May 2023 and is a snapshot, which will be updated approximately twice per calendar year. Six of these projects will be completed by the end of 2023. For more details, please see https://www.uu.nl/en/research/research-at-utrecht-university/transparency-research-collaboration-fossil-industry.

Explanation of types of collaboration agreement

Think Tank

The Sustainable Industry Lab think tank brings together science, business, government and civil society partners to help Dutch industry make the transition to sustainability.

Donation of (funds for) equipment

This involves either a contribution to purchase scientific equipment, or a donation of equipment to conduct research, or providing equipment free of charge for the purpose of experimental research. This involves equipment that is no longer being used by the donating party and is therefore "written off," but is still of value for research at the university.

Consortium

This involves several companies and knowledge institutions conducting joint research. Such a form of collaboration is usually funded by a grant (mainly by NWO, Top Sectors such as ChemistryNL or Energy, and EU grants). The companies involved are often co-financiers of these studies.

Bilateral

This refers to a direct agreement between the university and one company to conduct a specific research project. Usually these are projects funded by the company involved. In a few cases, the research is co-financed by for example ChemistryNL.

Letter of Intent

This is a declaration of intent in which parties express the desire for collaboration. This does not yet involve the implementation of a research program or funding.

Indirect consortium

These are collaborations of the NWO DeepNL program. This NWO research program is made possible by a contribution from the Nederlandse Aardolie Maatschappij (NAM), but it does not involve direct collaboration with the fossil industry. The implementation of DeepNL takes place according to regular NWO procedures and quality standards and is completely independent. NAM is not involved in the decision-making or substantive steering of the program.
Research collaborations fossil industry

* We are consulting with our partners to make this information public. If the information concerns a budget, it has been included in the total sums that were used for the visualisations.

Think tank
Titel / Title: Sustainable Industry Lab (SIL)
Vorm van samenwerking / Type of collaboration agreement: Think tank
Industry members: Shell, ExxonMobil, BP International
Andere samenwerkingspartners / Other partners: ± 40 affiliated parties, see https://sustainableindustrylab.nl/members
Publieke financier / public funding body: Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy
Looptijd / Duration: Since January 2020
Totale onderzoeksbudget / Total research project budget: € 800.000
Bijdrage / funding industry partner aan / to UU: €0

Donation of (funds for) equipment
Titel / Title: Schenkingsovereenkomst - Thermographic system
Vorm van samenwerking / Type of collaboration agreement: Donation
Industry partner: NAM
Publieke financier / public funding body: N.A.
Totale onderzoeksbudget / Total research project budget: € 80.677
Bijdrage / funding industry partner aan / to UU: € 80.677

Consortium
Titel / Title: LOSS
Vorm van samenwerking / Type of collaboration agreement: Consortium
Industry partners: NAM
Andere samenwerkingspartners / Other partners: See https://nwa-loss.nl/en/consortium/
Publieke financier / public funding body: NWO (ORC programme)
Looptijd / Duration: Feb 2020 – March 2027
Totale onderzoeksbudget / Total research project budget: € 4.624.480
Bijdrage / funding industry partner aan / to UU: €0

Titel / Title: Return-ACT
Vorm van samenwerking / Type of collaboration agreement: Consortium
Andere samenwerkingspartners / Other partners: See https://return-act.eu/consortium
Publieke financier / public funding body: Accelerating CCS Technologies (ACT)
Looptijd / Duration: Dec 2021 – March 2025
Totale onderzoeksbudget / Total research project budget: € 7.400.000
Bijdrage / funding industry partner aan / to UU: * We are consulting with our partners to make this information public
Titel / Title: Improving reservoir property prediction and producing a database of Dutch geothermal plays
Vorm van samenwerking / Type of collaboration agreement: Consortium
Industry partner: EBN
Publieke financier / public funding body: TKI Energie
Looptijd / Duration: Sept 2021 – Dec 2025
Totale onderzoeksbudget / Total research project budget: € 495.298
Bijdrage / funding industry partner aan / to UU: €0

Titel / Title: SUNER-C
Vorm van samenwerking / Type of collaboration agreement: Consortium
Industry partner: TotalEnergies
Andere samenwerkingspartners / Other partners: See cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101058481
Publieke financier / public funding body: EU
Looptijd / Duration: June 2022 – May 2025
Totale onderzoeksbudget / Total research project budget: € 3.997.646
Bijdrage / funding industry partner aan / to UU: €0

Titel / Title: ARC-CBBC
Vorm van samenwerking / Type of collaboration agreement: Consortium
Industry partner: Shell
Andere samenwerkingspartners / Other partners: See https://arc-cbbc.nl/founding-partners
Publieke financier / public funding body: NWO, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy (EZK), ChemistryNL
Looptijd / Duration: May 2016 – May 2026
Totale onderzoeksbudget / Total research project budget: * We are consulting with our partners to make this information public
Bijdrage / funding industry partner aan / to UU: * We are consulting with our partners to make this information public

Titel / Title: BatteryNL
Vorm van samenwerking / Type of collaboration agreement: Consortium
Industry partner: Shell
Andere samenwerkingspartners / Other partners: See https://www.batterynl.nl/consortium/
Publieke financier / public funding body: NWO
Looptijd / Duration: Sept 2022 – Sept 2030
Totale onderzoeksbudget / Total research project budget: € 9.686.201
Bijdrage / funding industry partner aan / to UU: € 25.657

Titel / Title: RELEASE
Vorm van samenwerking / Type of collaboration agreement: Consortium
Industry partner: Shell
Andere samenwerkingspartners / Other partners: See https://nwo-release.nl/consortium
Publieke financier / public funding body: NWO
Looptijd / Duration: Sept 2020 – Sept 2026
Totale onderzoeksbudget / Total research project budget: € 10.226.127
Bijdrage / funding industry partner aan / to UU: € 39.109

Titel / Title: CATlight
Vorm van samenwerking / Type of collaboration agreement: Consortium
Industry partners: Shell, ExxonMobil
Andere samenwerkingspartners / Other partners: BASF, Toyota, DENSsolutions, CL solutions
Publieke financier / public funding body: NWO
Looptijd / Duration: to be decided
Totale onderzoeksbudget / Total research project budget: € 1.631.887
Bijdrage / funding industry partner aan / to UU: € 41.363
**Bilateral**

A total of ten research projects fall under the category 'Bilateral', which are so-called bilateral contracts. This concerns for research projects with TotalEnergies, two with BP International, one with Concaewé consortium, one with SABIC, one with Shell and one with Sinopec. In three of the ten projects, there is also a public funding body in addition to the industry partner, namely ChemistryNL. The total amount that actually ends up at UU through these bilateral contracts and is directly funded by the industry partners is €3,572,254.

The exact amounts and duration per project cannot be shared for now, because the nature and/or contracts of those collaborations prevent disclosing this competition sensitive information. We are in contact with our partners to make this information public by mutual agreement. When possible, we will (incrementally) add the information at later times. All budgets of the bilateral contracts have been included in the total sums that were used for the visualisations.

**Letter of intent**

**Titel / Title:** ETCA
**Vorm van samenwerking / Type of collaboration agreement:** Letter of intent
**Industry partner:** Shell
**Andere samenwerkingspartners / Other partners:** See [https://www.energytransitioncampus.com/why-join-us.html](https://www.energytransitioncampus.com/why-join-us.html)
**Looptijd / Duration:** - (no collaboration as of yet)
**Totale onderzoeksbudget / Total research project budget:** €0 (no collaboration as of yet)
**Bijdrage / funding industry partner aan / to UU:** €0

**Indirect consortium**

**Titel / Title:** DeepNL (11 subprojects)
**Vorm van samenwerking / Type of collaboration agreement:** Indirect consortium
**Publieke financier / public funding body:** NWO
**Looptijd / Duration:** variable per sub-project, longest running project runs until April 2026
**Totale onderzoeksbudget / Total research project budget:** €8,431,317
**Bijdrage / funding industry partner aan / to UU:** €0

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