

UK is a big financier of the TAR SANDS industry – FACTS & FIGURES:

RBS (& other banks):

The report “**Cashing in on Tar Sands**” (by PLATFORM, with WDM, P&P, FoE) states:

The three main high street banks in the UK (**Barclays**, **HSBC** and the **Royal Bank of Scotland**) are all involved in providing significant sums of project or corporate finance for oil extraction from Canadian tar sands.

In the three year time frame examined between 2007-2009, the **Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS)** has led underwriting for the largest amount in loans to companies operating in tar sands in Canada, to a total of **more than \$7.5 billion**.

Since the initial recapitalisation of UK banks took place in October 2008, RBS has underwritten corporate debt and equity worth **nearly \$2.5 billion with tar sands related companies**.

In the same period **Barclays Bank** has led the most corporate debt and equity to tar sands-related companies, more than \$14 billion. [though elsewhere states “a total of \$12.4 billion”]

re **RBS**: “**84% of RBS now owned by the UK taxpayer**” and it has a “well known position as the UK bank most heavily associated with financing all fossil fuel sectors”

Despite this [referring to criticisms from many organisations], the Treasury [under previous gov.] is adamant that the shares will be managed “on a commercial basis” on behalf of the HM Treasury and UK taxpayers at “**arms-length**” by UK Financial Investments (UKFI), a wholly government owned company set up for this purpose.

Financial data collated & summated from Bloomberg. Another quote:

The data shows that RBS led underwriting for **over \$7.5 billion in loans to tar-sands related companies**, over five times more than Barclays and over eleven times more than HSBC. This figure for RBS represented 11.5 per cent of the total global figure of the 26 banks that were surveyed in this period, and is the highest figure for any bank outside of North America.

Barclays topped other banks in lead underwriting of corporate debt and equity, with a total of \$12.4 billion.

The combined total of underwriting loans, equity and corporate debt for all 26 banks that were examined using Bloomberg was \$205.92 billion. The combined UK total of \$35.92 billion means that the UK banks were responsible for **17.4 percent of the global total** – the highest share of any country outside of North America.

An investigation by *The Guardian* showed that in the first six months following the banks initial recapitalisation in October 2008, **RBS** had been involved in loans worth nearly £10 billion to oil, coal and gas companies – a quarter of the total amount of public funds put into **RBS** at that point.

SOURCE of above: Above are quotes from pdf report **Cashing in on Tar Sands – RBS, UK banks and Canada’s “blood oil”** by PLATFORM www.platformlondon.org (helped by feedback comments from e.g. WDM, People & Planet, FoE etc.)

“**RBS** is also financing the proposed **Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline**, which will affect over 50 First Nations’ territories and allow for the export of tar sands oil to China, which in turn will fuel a massive expansion of tar sands operations. Another of Enbridge’s pipelines has just sprung a massive leak in Michigan, spewing 800,000 litres of oil [Tar Sands crude] into the local river system. No wonder local First Nations are opposed to allowing Enbridge to cross their territories.” - Sue & Jess (presumably Jess Worth) - Tar Sands in Focus c.Aug.10. This proposal is a big threat to the wild salmon (including the wild salmon economy worth \$140 million).

Drilling in the Arctic - is our money oiling the cogs? - www.wdm.org.uk 26/8/10 states:

Edinburgh-based oil company **Cairn Energy** have started drilling in the Davis Straits **off the coast of Greenland**, nicknamed 'Iceberg Alley and close to where the recent Petermann glacier broke away. According to research that was revealed in the Sunday Herald, **RBS loaned \$100 million to Cairn Energy on 11 December 2009**, and then on 21 December 2009 it announced it was able to move forward its plans to drill in Greenland by one year. [refers to Chris Watt’s 25aug10 article in Sunday Herald’s www.heraldsotland.com]

Pension funds

Most pension funds invest heavily into the oil industry, and a number of the big oil companies have stakes in the Alberta Tar Sands. Shell has a big physical stake there already, and BP has been wanting to increase its investment there in the Sunrise project, a joint venture with Canada's Husky Energy. FairPensions states that “Shell and BP are two of the key companies that our pension providers typically invest in heavily. In the past this has meant big returns for our pension funds. Before the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, £1 in every £7 paid in dividends to UK pension funds by FTSE 100 companies came from BP. With about 18 million people across the UK holding shares in the company or paying into pension funds that have BP shares, we’ve all got a lot invested in keeping the oil industry going.

But this also carries a big risk for our future. Since the oil spill, BP has been forced to cancel dividend payments to shareholders, which will affect pension investments.” Visit www.fairpensions.org.uk for further information and action you can take.