

## The Tar Sands:

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

- sign up for e-mails from [www.fairpensions.org.uk](http://www.fairpensions.org.uk) and participate in campaigns:

“FairPensions is an award-winning campaigning organisation founded in 2005 to promote Responsible Investment in the pensions and investment industry. At FairPensions we’re concerned with highlighting those business practices that are negligent or harmful to people or the environment, and catalysing action to change them.

Tar Sands Campaign Update

This AGM season, FairPensions co-ordinated two shareholder resolutions, asking BP and Shell to publish details of the environmental, social and financial risks associated with their tar sands projects. Our resolution was discussed by BP shareholders on 15th April and by Shell shareholders on 18th May. Working with partners including Greenpeace, The Co Op, WWF and UNISON, we succeeded in mobilising thousands of people to take action. The Shell AGM saw 1 in 10 shareholders refusing to heed the company’s recommendation to vote against the resolution, just weeks after 1 in 7 investors in BP (controlling £10 billion in the company’s stock) refused to back management on tar sands. These results come despite a massive charm offensive by both companies’ “investor relations” teams.”

FairPensions are now running a “Got Oil?” campaign to urge pension companies to promote environmental, social and financial responsibility in oil companies they invest in such as BP, in the light of BP’s Mexican Gulf disaster. Sign and email their recent draft letter (in collaboration with Greenpeace).

They also have links to other Tar Sands campaigns.

- join:

**SLACCtt** - South Lakes Action on Climate Change *Towards Transition* [www.slacc.org.uk](http://www.slacc.org.uk) - their monthly newsletter will let you know of action plans – some re the Tar Sands. Website depicts the recent Climate Camp direct action against RBS financing dirty oil industries. There are other direct actions in the offing if that appeals to you.

**South Lakes WDM** - South Lakes World Development Movement. Visit the [www.wdm.org.uk](http://www.wdm.org.uk) website

- re YOUR LOCAL BANK: Close any savings accounts with banks financing Tar Sands (especially RBS/NatWest, Barclays, HSBC) and explain why you decided to do so. (e.g. I closed my ISA with Barclays and put in a complaint). If someone says “But most or all the banks finance the Tar Sands”, reply “But they vary as to how much they do so – focus on the worst offenders”. Consider an alternative investment: e.g. if you can lock away £10K for 5 to 10 years or so – consider installing a pv solar panel and getting the good feed-in tariff – there are several local Cumbrian installation firms.

- Write to your MP. OK Tim Farron knows about this issue and he himself is against us investing into Tar Sands but the strength by which an MP can (and should) represent his constituents’ views is dependent on the number and strength of letters/emails/etc he receives. There are example draft letters in internet campaigns e.g. via links in FairPensions website.

**Say no to tar sands by joining our tarnishedearth photo petition** - <http://www.tarnishedearth.co.uk>

The EU Fuel Quality Directive, a European Union law that would effectively prevent tar sands oil from getting into Europe, has been watered down following pressure from the Canadian government and big oil companies.

Join The Co-operative, Greenpeace and WWF in asking the EU to reverse its decision and keep tar sands oil out of Europe.

- spread the word!

Further information on the Tar Sands: try websites listed above for a start.

There are many other websites with Tar sands information, and some also with photos and videos.

Or try your own research by googling TAR SANDS or e.g. TAR SANDS RBS