



## Google is bankrolling climate deniers, report reveals. Here's the 3 most problematic ways.

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Google is helping to fund several major climate deniers despite "its insistence that it supports political action on the climate crisis," claims an in-depth *Guardian* investigation.

The tech giant's website names as "beneficiaries of its political giving" more than a dozen organisations that have "campaigned against climate legislation, questioned the need for action, or actively sought to roll back Obama-era environmental protections," writes *Guardian* investigations correspondent Stephanie Kirchgaessner.

Mashable reached out to Google's press office for a statement but did not receive an immediate response. In a statement to the *Guardian*, Google defended its actions and claimed its "collaboration" with these groups did not equate to endorsing the organisations' "entire agenda." A spokesperson added that Google sponsors organisations with "strong technology policies" across the political spectrum.

"We're hardly alone among companies that contribute to organisations while strongly disagreeing with them on climate policy," the spokesperson told the *Guardian*.

Google states in its online policy on transparency that its "sponsorship or collaboration with a third party organization doesn't mean that we endorse the organisations' entire agenda, its events or advocacy positions nor the views of its leaders or members."

Here are the three major takeaways from the investigation:

### **Google's sponsorship of the Competitive Enterprise Institute (CEI)**

Among the dozen organisations that Google is sponsoring is CEI, a conservative think-tank that has been identified by academics as one of the organisations central to promoting climate change denial.

According to Greenpeace, CEI — a Koch-funded climate denial group — has claimed that climate change would create a "milder, greener, more prosperous world". The policy group was, per the *Guardian*, "instrumental in convincing the Trump administration to abandon the Paris agreement."

In July, the *New York Times* reported that Amazon and Google sponsored a (CEI) gala.

## Google's sponsorship of the State Policy Network (SPN)

The investigation found that Google is a sponsor for the upcoming meeting of the SPN, an umbrella organisation for several conservative think tanks, including the Heartland Institute — a "radical anti-science group that has chided the teenage activist Greta Thunberg for 'climate delusion hysterics.'" Greenpeace notes that SPN is another "Koch Industries climate denial front group".

A SPN-member created "climate pledge" states "in many ways, our natural environment is getting better.

In many ways, our natural environment is getting better.

Our water is cleaner - both nationally and worldwide. Our air is cleaner. The ozone hole is closing. The number of trees in the United States and across the earth is growing. Our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have decreased by about 14% below 2005 levels, and in the United States, nitrous oxide and methane emissions are down to where they were 30 years ago.

That's all very good news! But many people are still concerned about the pressures humans place on our environment, and the Peoples Climate Movement arose out of these concerns. On Sept. 20 to 27, it is asking people around the planet to walk out of school and the workplace to demand change.

A screenshot of "My Climate Pledge"

## Google's donations to Cato Institute

Google reportedly donated "undisclosed sums" to the Cato Institute, another Conservative think tank which has opposed "climate legislation and questioned the severity of the crisis."

According to Greenpeace, the Cato Institute concentrates on "disputing the science behind global warming and questioning the rationale for taking action." The organisation was founded by Ed Crane and Charles Koch.