



Revealed: Google made large contributions to climate change deniers

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Google has made “substantial” contributions to some of the most notorious climate deniers in Washington despite its insistence that it supports political action on the climate crisis.

era environmental protections.

The list includes the Competitive Enterprise Institute (CEI), a conservative policy group which has been instrumental in convincing the Trump administration to abandon the White House.

Google said it was disappointed by the US decision to abandon the global climate deal , but has continued to support CEI.

Google is also listed as a sponsor for an annual meeting of the State Policy Network (SPN), an umbrella organization that supports conservative groups including the Heartland Institute, a radical anti-science group that has chided the teenage activist Greta Thunberg for “climate delusion hysterics”.

SPN members recently created a “climate pledge” website that falsely states “our natural environment is getting better” and “there is no climate crisis”.

Google has defended its contributions, saying that its “collaboration” with organizations such as CEI “does not mean we endorse the organizations’ entire agenda”.

It is to be retained, to close the company, to try to influence the lawmakers, and – most importantly – to help the deregulatory agenda the groups espouse.

A spokesperson for Google said that it is a proponent of the political spectrum that advocates for “strong technology policies”.

“We’re hardly alone among companies that contribute to organizations while strongly disagreeing with them on climate policy,” the spokesperson said. Amazon has, like Google, also sponsored a gala, according to a program for the event reported in the New York Times.

CEI has opposed the laws of the United States, and has defended Google against some of the United States’ claims that the search engine has an anti-conservative bias.

But environmental activists and other critics say that, for a company that purports to support global action on climate change, such tradeoffs are not acceptable.

“You do not get a pass on it. It is to be disqualified to support what is primarily a phoney climate denying front group. They said, “said Sheldon Whitehouse, a Democratic senator from Rhode Island who is one of the most vocal proponents of climate action in Congress.

“What all of corporate America should be doing if you are a trade organization or lobby group and you are interfering on climate, we are out. Period,” he added.

On its website, Google says its political commitment is “open, transparent and clear to our users, shareholders, and the public”.

But the company declined to answer the Guardian’s questions on how much it has given to organizations.

We have a webpage devoted to “transparency”, it describes the groups – among the hundreds of others, including some progressive advocates such as the Center for American Progress – as having received “substantial” contributions.

Apart from CEI, they include the American Conservative Union, whose chairman, Matt Schlapp, worked for a decade for Koch Industries and shaped the company’s radical anti-environment policies in Washington; the American Enterprise Institute, which has railed against climate “alarmists”; and Americans for Tax Reform, who has criticized companies who support climate action for seeking out “corporate welfare”.

It has also been awarded to the Cato Institute, which has been opposed to climate change and the severity of the crisis. Google has also made donations to the Mercatus Center, a Koch-funded thinktank, and the Heritage Foundation and Heritage Action, which has said the Paris was supported by “cosmopolitan elites” and part of Barack Obama’s “destructive legacy.”

Bill McKibben, a prominent environmentalist who has been on the frontline of the climate crisis for decades, said Google and other companies are “engaged in a” functional greenwashing “given the contradiction in their public pronouncements and private donations. He said that they also used their own lobbyists to advocate for change on climate

“I’m going to talk to you about it, and it’s going to be yours, and it’s going to be your business to put serious muscle behind it. And they never do,” McKibben said. “They want some tax break or some regulations switch and they never tire the slightest muscle behind the most important issue of our time or any time.”

A spokesperson for Google said: “We’ve been extremely clear that we do not mean that we endorse that organization’s entire agenda – we may disagree strongly on some issues.

“Our position on climate change is similarly clear. Since 2007, we have operated a carbon neutral company for the second year % renewable energy for our global operations.

The company said it’s called “strong action” at the climate conference in Paris 2015 Helped to sponsor the Global Climate Action summit in San Francisco last year.

But this position is at odds with the support it gives to CEI.

The group’s director of energy and environment policy, Myron Ebell, helped the Cooler Heads Coalition 20 years ago, a group of libertarian and rightwing organizations

When Donald Trump was elected to the White House in 2016, Ebell joined the transition team and advised new president on environmental issues, successfully lobbying Trump to adhere to a campaign and abandon the Paris agreement.

Kert Davies, the founder of the Climate Investigations Center, a research group that examines corporate campaigning, said Ebell had the anti-climate-action crusade for decades.

“They’re extremists,” he said, referring to the Cooler Heads Coalition. “They are never finished,” he said. “Myron has taken a lot of credit for Trump’s actions and is quite proud of his access.”

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His wishlist now includes reversing a 2009 by the Environmental Protection Agency that CO₂ and other greenhouse gases endanger the health and welfare of Americans.

CEI said it “respects the privacy of its donors” and declined to answer questions about Google. At CEI spokespeople told the Guardian: “On energy policy, it is more abundant and more efficient. Making energy accessible, especially for the most vulnerable, is a core value. “

One source who is familiar with Google’s decision-making defended the company’s funding of CEI.

“When it comes to regulation of technology,” they said, “the source said.