Oil and gas industry giants have a long history of polluting Black, Brown and Native communities, with devastating environmental and health impacts. Here are just some of the many examples of the harm they’ve caused.

**ExxonMobil**

- After decades of resistance, ExxonMobil refineries are still spewing cancer-causing chemicals into the majority Black Charlton-Pollard community of Beaumont, Texas.

- On February 12th, 2020, the ExxonMobil oil refinery in majority-Black Baton Rouge, LA erupted in fire, releasing cancer-causing chemicals and enraging nearby residents.
  - The refinery shed 1,900 jobs over two decades while receiving property tax breaks worth nearly $700 million.
  - After the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board rejected Exxon’s requests for tax exemptions, the company lobbied to remove control over tax exemptions from local governments.

- In 1989, Exxon’s Valdez oil tanker spilled at least 11 million gallons of crude oil into Alaska’s Prince William Sound. The spill profoundly
affected native Alaskans in the area, who relied on fishing for sustenance and income.

- Oil from the spill covered 1,300 miles of coastline, stretching more than 500 miles south to the Alaska Native village of Chignik on the Alaska Peninsula.

- Spilled oil killed thousands of animals and devastated the salmon and herring fisheries. Plummeting prices forced some members of the Eyak peoples to move away from their ancestral lands.

- The event was the worst oil spill in U.S. history until BP's Deepwater Horizon spill in 2010, and decades later, pockets of crude oil remain in some places.

Marathon

- Pollution from Marathon’s southwest Detroit refinery, located in one the most polluted zip codes in the country, has caused the rates of cancer and asthma to skyrocket among its predominantly Black residents.

- In 2019, a vapor chemical leak at Marathon’s Detroit refinery resulted in the hospitalization of at least two people. Marathon allegedly failed to inform residents of the dangers, including health impacts, associated with the released chemicals.

- In 2019, Marathon sought exemptions to state environmental regulations in order to store pet coke uncovered near the Detroit River.

- In 2010, Marathon was ordered to pay $4.7 million to the federal government after knowingly underpaying royalties from natural gas produced on federal and Indian leases.

- In 2018, nearly 50 members of three Native American tribes in North Dakota filed a lawsuit claiming Marathon’s Andeavor profited from operating the High Plains crude oil pipeline through tribal lands without compensating landowners. In April 2020, a US District Judge ruled the tribal members were to exhaust remedies with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) before pursuing legal action, and the lawsuit was dismissed. In July 2020, the BIA ordered Marathon to shut down the pipeline and fined the company $187 million for damages associated with the trespass. Marathon appealed the order, and the
U.S. Interior's Board of Indian Appeals is yet to make a decision, leaving the BIA's decision in effect.

Chevron

- Chevron tweeted "black lives matter" (no capitalization), drawing a fervent rage from climate activists who've spent decades fighting the consequences of the company's environmental racism in Black communities.
  - Despite Chevron’s public comments in support of the Black Lives Matter movement, Global Witness found that Chevron gave over four times more campaign funding to U.S. politicians who failed to uphold racial justice and civil rights legislation.
- In 2012, Chevron's refinery in Richmond, CA caught fire, forcing 15,000 primarily Black and Latino residents to seek medical attention for respiratory problems.
  - The company pleaded no contest to 6 criminal charges, and paid $2 million in fines.
- A 2009 survey found that children growing up near Chevron's Richmond refinery are diagnosed with asthma at more than twice the national rate.
  - Oil refining is the largest industrial air polluter in the Bay Area, which is linked to increased rates of asthma.
  - In the past 5 years, Chevron’s Richmond refinery has had 12 quarters with significant environmental violations, received 205 informal enforcement actions, and paid $1,930,300 in EPA penalties.

Occidental Petroleum

- Occidental expanded its toxic facility in the predominantly Black Cancer Alley in 2019.
- In 2006, Occidental subsidiary Oxy Vinyls reached a settlement for releasing cancer-causing chemicals into the predominantly Latino community of Pasadena, TX, and the disproportionately Black community of Louisville, KY.
In 2014, an Occidental subsidiary reached a settlement for polluting the Passaic River near the predominantly Black city of Newark, NJ.

**Koch Industries**

- The Koch brothers’ Flint Hills Resources refinery sits in Refinery Row in Corpus Christi, TX, where it spills cancer-causing and asthma-inducing pollution into nearby communities of color.
- Koch Industries funded a disinformation campaign aimed at the Black church that used gospel music to portray oil and gas as beneficial to Black communities.
- Koch-owned Georgia-Pacific was the subject of Company Town, a 2016 documentary detailing the environmental racism of a paper mill in Crossett, AK, that pumped 1.5 million pounds of toxic chemicals into a disproportionately Black community.

**Valero**

- Low-income Latino communities in the Manchester area of Houston, TX, continue to fight against hydrogen cyanide pollution of their air from Valero’s petro-chemical plant, which leaked harmful chemicals during Hurricane Harvey.
  - Exposure to hydrogen cyanide impacts nearly every organ in the body, especially the brain, heart, and lungs, and can be fatal in high concentrations.
  - Manchester residents face a 22% higher risk of cancer than the overall Houston urban area.
- Valero is seeking approval to build a crude oil pipeline in Memphis, TN, that would cut through several Black communities and the municipal wellfield that provides their drinking water.
- In 2017, a malfunction and repeated flaring activity at Valero’s Benicia refinery released more than 80,000 pounds of sulfur dioxide into the Bay area’s atmosphere.
TC Energy

- TC Energy’s Keystone XL pipeline would have crossed the territory of 67 Native American Tribes, most of whom fought the construction of the pipeline due to environmental concerns.

- Even though existing Keystone XL pipeline infrastructure is relatively new, the pipeline has ruptured several times in the past decade, including spilling 407,000 gallons of oil near a South Dakota Indian reservation in 2017. These spills jeopardize the ability of indigenous peoples to hunt and fish for subsistence and for their economy.

Chesapeake Energy

- In 2015, Chesapeake was fined $2.1 million for under reporting gas production on land leased from Native tribes, cheating the Tribes of their royalty revenue while releasing dangerous pollutants onto their ancestral land.

Shell

- Shell is building a plastics facility on the outskirts of Pittsburgh, PA, that some worry could start to turn Appalachia into the next Cancer Alley.

- Shell’s operations in the Cancer Alley town of Norco, LA’s Diamond neighborhood have received international recognition as a textbook example of environmental racism. One study found that the majority Black residents of Diamond were exposed to toxin levels 100-1000 times those experienced by rural Louisianans.
  - In 2018, Shell settled allegations that they had violated the Clean Air Act in Norco, paying a penalty of $350,000 and agreeing to “eliminate more than 150 tons of excess emissions of harmful air pollutants” each year at the facility.

- Shell’s facilities in Galena Park, TX — a low-income community that is 81% Hispanic — have contributed to decades of pollution that exceeds EPA limits for cancer-causing benzene.
BP

- Following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, a majority of landfills that received oil-spill solid waste were located in communities of color already bearing the brunt of industrial pollution.
- BP has facilities in the Cancer Alley tract near the predominantly Black community of Baton Rouge, LA.
- BP was ranked in the 15th out of 18 tiers in an assessment of oil and gas companies' respect for indigenous rights in the Arctic.
  - BP had planned to drill in the Alaskan National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), but ultimately opted not to in the face of public pressure and low oil prices.

ConocoPhillips

- ConocoPhillips operates a refinery in the heavily polluted city of Wilmington, CA. The community has a population that is 86% Latino and is predominantly low-income.
  - Wilmington has one of the highest cancer rates in Southern California, and some of the state's highest asthma rates.
- ConocoPhillips operates an oil refinery in the predominantly Black neighborhood of Mossville, LA. Mossville residents have suffered the effects of industrial pollution for decades - with residents' toxicology results showing dioxide levels among the highest ever recorded in the country.

WPX Energy

- In 2016, oil tanks owned by WPX Energy exploded near the majority Native-American area of Nageezi, NM, causing a fire that burned for days. More than 50 residents were evacuated, and residents complained about health issues from breathing in methane burned by the fire.

Hilcorp Energy

- Hilcorp Energy is the largest operator of methane gas wells in the Four Corners region of New Mexico.
● Hundreds of thousands of Native Americans live within the Four Corners region of the Southwest U.S., which is covered by a cloud of methane released by the region's oil and gas wells.
  ○ The area has the highest concentration of methane emissions in the country, causing devastating environmental and public health impacts.

● In 2018, investigators from Earthworks documented methane leaks from Hilcorp’s wells in New Mexico.

● In 2019, the New Mexico Environment Department issued a Notice of Violation to Hilcorp regarding methane emissions at other sites in New Mexico.