



UNEP

SHOULD THE WILLOW PROJECT BE STOPPED?

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DESCRIPTION OF COMMITTEE:

The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) is an essential and key body within the United Nations system, overseeing and coordinating international environmental efforts. Its fundamental goal is to promote sustainable development, preserve natural resources, and protect the well-being of the planet. UNEP was founded in June 1972 and is the result of the first world conference about environmental issues, called The Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. Throughout its history, UNEP has played a critical role in developing international environmental policies and agreements, including the Montreal Protocol, which protects the ozone layer, and the Convention on Biological Diversity, which aims to preserve global ecosystems. Currently, UNEP is at the forefront of initiatives that focus on combating climate change, protecting species, and promoting environmentally friendly technologies, all while aiming for a more sustainable future for the planet. Additionally, UNEP acts as an important leader for boosting environmental awareness and developing collaboration among governments, nonprofit organizations, and businesses to solve these serious issues. Its current programs include facilitating research and knowledge-sharing on new environmental risks, as well as assisting developing nations with building capacity to guarantee a more fair and inclusive approach to environmental care. UNEP's constant dedication towards protecting our planet highlights the organization's importance as a global leader in the pursuit of a healthier, more sustainable future. The love and constant effort UNEP demonstrates for the environment is one that comprehends its importance and one that praises the planet's well-being. UNEP was created for the main purpose of guiding both nations and people to a more green future in which we are both capable of using nature and protecting it.

INTRODUCTION TO THE TOPIC:

The Willow Project, what is the Willow Project? The Willow Project is an oil drilling project and it is proposed by the company of ConocoPhillips, which is an energy company from Texas that has been drilling oil in Alaska for several years. The Willow project involves drilling in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska and in the area it holds up to 600 million barrels of oil and is owned by the federal government. The Willow project is the largest proposed oil drilling on United States public land in decades. The Biden administration acknowledges that when the Willow project completes, the project was originally to construct and operate up to five drill pads for a total of 250 oil wells. Some of the effects that The Willow project has is that it would release an additional 9.2 million metric tons of carbon pollution into the atmosphere. Each year it is roughly equivalent to the pollution generated by two million gas-powered cars. Some of the effects that are caused by the Willow project is that, Some conservationists estimate the project alone could result in the loss of 532 acres of wetlands, 619 acres of habitat disturbances for polar bears, and more than 17,000 acres of such disturbances for birds. The initiative of the Willow project has frequently received approval for its efforts and attempts to stop erosion, restore ecosystems, and increase biodiversity through the thoughtful planting and maintenance of willow trees, people had been making questions regarding potential negative effects. It is crucial to do a thorough study that considers the project's effects and consequences in the environment, economy, and society.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE TOPIC:

Supporters are claiming that fresh oil from Alaska will contribute to the U.S. having a steady domestic energy supply. That is crucial for reducing the reliance of the nation and its allies on oil suppliers who frequently operate under autocratic regimes and lax environmental regulations. In Alaska, where state officials and many Alaska Natives say they need a lift to a sagging economy, Willow is also expected to generate billions of dollars in economic activity and tax income. According to some environmentalists, the project alone may cause the loss of 532 acres of wetlands, 619 acres of polar bear habitat disruption, and more than 17,000 acres of bird habitat disturbance. ConocoPhillips is funding the Willow project that President Biden has given the go-ahead for. As of June 30, 2022, the Oregon Treasury had a \$37.8 million stake in ConocoPhillips. The Willow experiment demonstrates both the human rights dangers that many fossil fuel businesses pose as well as the financial riskiness of the Treasury's returns on its fossil fuel investments. ConocoPhillips is one of the businesses cited in the Divest Oregon study titled "Oregon Treasury's Human Rights Problem: Fossil Fuel Companies Creating Risk to PERS" and scheduled for release on April 19, 2023. Democrats and Republicans support the contentious Willow project to a comparable extent. The ConocoPhillips project is supported by nearly one in two American adults, including 54% of Republicans and 48% of Democrats. With 60% of baby boomers supporting the idea, older generations are becoming more supportive of Willow.

CURRENT SITUATION ON THE TOPIC:

ConocoPhillips' Willow Project is a large-scale oil drilling project located in Alaska's North Slope. It was created with the main purpose of extracting up to 600 million barrels of oil. The Trump administration first authorized five drilling pads in 2020, but it was later reduced to three drilling pads by the Biden administration. The project has caused significant opposition, especially from environmental advocacy groups such as Earthjustice, which are preparing for court battles because of concerns about its environmental consequences and contribution to greenhouse gas emissions. Proponents claim that the project will create jobs, boost domestic energy output, and provide financial assistance to local communities. However, this permission goes against President Biden's campaign promise to stop new oil and gas drilling on public lands, creating questions about whether it is consistent with climate goals considering the change to renewable energy sources. The ultimate decision about the future of the Willow Project is near, but it is clouded in doubt because of legal issues and environmental concerns. Additionally, a petition to stop the Willow project has already gained 3.2 million signatures on Change.org. The final decision on the Willow Project's fate is not just a turning point in American energy policy, but also vital in the ongoing worldwide debate about environmental sustainability and economic progress.

INTERNATIONAL ACTION OF THE TOPIC:

The U.S. government finally gave the approval for the Willow project. If the Willow Project produces oil over thirty years, the oil would release the equivalent of 277 million tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. That's about 4% of the U.S. annual emissions, from one project, when emissions fall rapidly the country helps to achieve its goal of the net-zero emissions by 2050. By approving 'Willow', U.S. President Joe Biden broke a campaign promise that there will be no new drilling period on the federal lands. The Biden administration is not able to restrict the supply of fossil fuels by blocking drilling or not to directly restrict demand by taxing the fuels, the restriction of the supplies of the devices that burn fossil fuels. Germany and California are trying this with the restrictions on future sales of oil powered cars and gas powered heating Which "Willow" is the only one. You also can get threat of the climate change and crisis. Governments are currently planning to produce the double of fossil fuels in 2030 as this would be consistent with limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, their plans for the fossil fuel production could also exceed to the level that would be compatible with 2 degrees Celsius of warming, the less ambitious target to which they committed themselves in the Paris Agreement.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CREATING A RESOLUTION:

This are some recommendations to make your resolution paper better

- Make sure to have solutions for your resolution paper
- Make sure you are not using personal pronouns.
- Try to use formal language.
- Remember that money is never a problem in the UN.
- Remember to use preambulatory and operative clauses
- Make sure to always add a bibliography and cite your sources.
- Make sure to have reasonable solutions.
- Remember this is about the Willow Project and if it should be stopped.
- Consider having short and long-term solutions.

- Research previous solutions.
- Write a draft of your paper.
- The UN can not do anything with laws but enforce them.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. What is your delegation's position on this topic?
2. What is environmental pollution?
3. How is the Willow Project affecting the U.S. population?
4. How does the Willow Project affect your country?
5. What will happen in the future if the Willow Project doesn't stop?
6. Has your country taken any actions on this topic?
7. Has something similar happened in your country?
8. What is the best long term outcome for your delegation?
9. What are the primary goals of the Willow Project?
10. What kind of environmental benefits did the project bring about?
11. Does the Willow Project's long-term impact have access to trustworthy data?

If your delegation is against the Willow Project:

12. What is being done to stop the willow project?
13. How can your delegation help stop the willow project?

If your delegation is in favor of the Willow Project:

14. What is being done to continue the willow project?
15. How can you help continue the Willow Project?

RESEARCH AID:

Introduction:

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<https://edition.cnn.com/2023/03/14/politics/willow-project-oil-alaska-explained-climate/index.html>

<https://www.reuters.com/world/us/willow-oil-gas-project-alaska-sparks-green-opposition-2023-03-03/>

General information:

<https://www.avaenergy.com/the-willow-project-the-details/>

<https://www.npr.org/2023/03/13/1163075377/willow-drilling-project-alaska-approved-biden>

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/3/14/controversial-alaska-oil-drilling-heres-what-you-need-to-know>

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<https://blogs.law.columbia.edu/climatechange/2023/05/10/rethinking-the-willow-project-did-blm-have-other-options/>

TERMS AND CONCEPTS:

Willow Project: ConocoPhillips' Willow project is a drilling operation for oil that is situated in Alaska's National Petroleum Reserve on the plain of the North Slope.

Autocratic: A system of governance known as an autocracy is one in which the ruler, sometimes known as an autocrat, possesses total authority.

Emissions: The production and discharge of carbon.

Drilling: The process of boring using a drill to create a hole in anything.

Acres: 4,840 square yards constitute one square yard of land.

Controversy: Argument, usually when passionate, lengthy, and public.

Sustainable: Capable of being kept at a particular pace or level.

Facilitating: Make (a process or activity) simple or simpler.

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