

● Who are we?

No Coal in Oakland is a grassroots environmental justice group supported by dozens of labor, faith, community, and environmental organizations and thousands of Oakland residents. Supporters of our campaign to keep coal out of Oakland include:

Friends of the Earth United States
Friends of the Earth Canada
Rainforest Action Network
350.org
Bank Track
Alliance for a Better Utah
California Nurses Association
Sierra Club, Bay Area Chapter
West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project
350 Bay Area
Alameda Interfaith Climate Action Network
Diablo Rising Tide
East Bay Democratic Socialists of America
Communities for a Better Environment
Center for Biological Diversity
Asian Pacific Environmental Network

WARNING

● RESPONSIBLE INVESTORS BEWARE!

Responsible financial institutions don't fly below the radar with plans to finance major coal infrastructure. And they don't hide the real purpose of fossil fuel-related projects from investors.



For more information on the Bank of Montreal's involvement in the proposed coal export terminal, check out our white paper at bit.ly/BMOBackgrounder. Further analysis appears in a number of posts at nocoalinoakland.info. They include the proposed "teaser" at <https://tinyurl.com/BMO-teaser> and documentation of other statements in this flyer.

To contact us, send email to nocoalinoakland@gmail.com.

*Is the
Bank of Montreal
trying to fund a
coal terminal in
Oakland?*

● What we know

Beginning in 2014, **Bank of Montreal Capital Markets (“BMO”)** tried secretly to arrange financing for construction of a coal export terminal in Oakland, California. Coal from mines in Utah would ship to Oakland by rail. If successful, the plan could unleash over a billion tons of CO₂ in the decades to come and add to daily air pollution in many vulnerable communities along the train tracks and near the port. BMO’s partners in this plan are Bowie Resource Partners, Utah’s largest coal producer; and Phil Tagami, a Bay Area developer and longtime friend and business partner of California Gov. Jerry Brown.

BMO violated the Equator Principles by orchestrating the deal to finance the coal export terminal without requiring any consultation with the affected stakeholders or evaluation of the environmental impacts in Oakland. When news of the plan leaked three years ago, **BMO Managing Director Jeffrey Holt** called the leak “unfortunate” and counselled a large group of Utah government officials and **BMO** insiders to follow “the script . . . to downplay coal.”

At the time, Holt was in the midst of lobbying state officials in Utah for \$50 million

in public funds to seed the project and proposed to raise the remaining \$200 million by pawning off unrated debt on private investors from pension funds. A marketing teaser prepared by **BMO** did not disclose that the terminal would be operated by a wholly owned subsidiary of Bowie Resource Partners, a financially stressed coal company. In fact, it made no mention of coal at all.

BMO’s strategy of downplaying the role of coal in the project is understandable as borrowing money for coal projects is increasingly difficult. Wall Street scoffed last November when Bowie tried to raise \$500 million to retire its massive debts in order to merge with Massey Energy, the nation’s largest underground coal producer.

● What we don’t know

We don’t know whether the **BMO** is still targeting pension funds for this toxic investment. In March, No Coal in Oakland—joined by allies 350.org, Friends of the Earth U.S., Friends of the Earth Canada, Rainforest Action Network, and West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project—asked **BMO** to pledge no further involvement in advising or financing the coal terminal. **BMO** has responded by saying it will not take any such pledge.

BMO defends its actions by listing its participation in the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures, CDP, Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition, and the Principles for Responsible Investment. These organizations all promote transparency around fossil fuel projects in order to protect investors. But **BMO** has not followed these principles and has refused to renounce its efforts to fund a coal export terminal.

● We ask

- **BMO to pledge not to pursue or advise on funding for the proposed Oakland coal terminal.**
- **Pension funds and other institutional investors to require their investment managers to certify that private debt offerings they recommend not include any investments in coal infrastructure.**
- **All investors to take note that opaque private debt offerings may conceal risky fossil fuel investments that can’t withstand scrutiny of a rating agency.**