

PRESS RELEASE

New data reveals that many public affairs consultancies and law firms work for the fossil fuel industry – delaying climate action and perpetuating emissions. Despite their sustainability pledges, these consultants undermine global climate efforts while escaping public scrutiny.

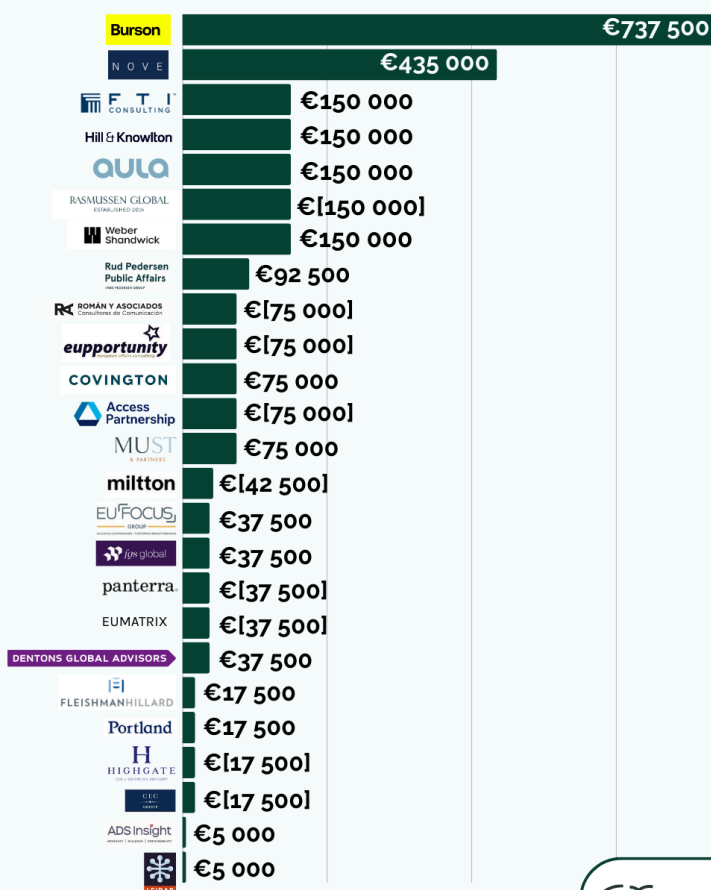
New research by The Good Lobby [reveals](#) how many public affairs consultancies and law firms lobby on behalf of fossil fuel companies – directly contradicting their sustainability commitments.

The ‘Decarbonise Professional Influence’ project relied upon the EU Transparency Register to track fossil fuel ties and assess how these lobbying services conflict

with the firms’ sustainability commitments, as well as their dependency on the fossil fuel sector in terms of revenues.

The findings are stark: major players like FTI Consulting, Burson, and Rud Pedersen – top-ten lobby spenders – lobby for fossil fuel interests. Burson earned over €700,000 from fossil fuel clients; smaller firm NOVE received €435,000 in the latest reporting cycle (EU Transparency Register).

Top 25 Public Affairs & Law Firms Revenue from Fossil Fuels in the EU



Source: EU Transparency Register January 2024

* In the most recently closed financial year (2021/2022) at the time of data extraction. For revenues reported in brackets we have chosen the mid-point.



“Our data reveals how public affairs consultancies and law firms use their advocacy expertise and policy connections to support the fossil fuel industry’s efforts to delay the clean energy transition. Despite their influence, these actors remain largely unregulated—highlighting the urgent need for transparency about their role in maintaining the status quo while positioning themselves as part of the solution”, says Professor Alberto Alemanno, Founder of The Good Lobby.

There is a silver lining: for many firms, only 1% of revenues come from fossil fuel clients – meaning cutting ties would bring minimal financial loss but major gains in credibility.

“The industry’s reputational risk-taking is astounding,” says Dieter Zinnbauer, senior advisor to The Good Lobby. “Claims of helping fossil clients ‘transition’ no longer hold water – especially as many of these companies are actively rolling back their climate goals.”

“Putting lobbying expertise in service of climate obstruction is not just ethically questionable – it is also dubious from the point of professional values and integrity,” adds Zinnbauer.

Still, many firms make bold sustainability claims. Rud Pedersen says it is ‘critical’ to be part of the climate solution; Hill & Knowlton pledges to ‘challenge businesses and brands to have a better impact on people and the planet’. Yet such claims ring hollow when these firms enable fossil fuel lobbying behind the scenes.

A Call to Action: Drop Fossil Clients, Build Climate Credibility

The message is clear: drop fossil fuel clients, or risk credibility, public trust, and increasing scrutiny. Walking the talk is not only possible – it’s essential.

For media inquiries: Dr Jacquelyn Veraldi (jacquelyn@thegoodlobby.eu)