

WOKE FINANCE IS HURTING WISCONSINITES

Money managers hurt Wisconsinites by imposing expensive ESG mandates on utilities like Xcel Energy, We Energies, and Wisconsin Public Service.

- A [group of the world's largest money managers](#) is targeting specific companies, including Wisconsin utilities [Xcel Energy](#) and [WEC Energy Group](#) (parent company of [We Energies](#) and [Wisconsin Public Service](#)) to force them to comply with the aspirational climate goals of the Paris Agreement.
- Members of Climate Action 100+ [like BlackRock](#) are able to exert influence over companies because they manage large amounts of citizens' retirement savings, including [over \\$9.5 billion for the State of Wisconsin Investment Board](#) as of 2019.
- They are [pressuring electric utilities to phase-out gas and coal power by 2040](#), while natural gas and coal provide [over 70% of Wisconsin's electricity](#). This radical energy transformation would hurt Wisconsinites, who enjoy [lower electricity prices than states like California](#) with green mandates.

Even worse, major banks have put similar pressure on energy companies in their lending practices.

- [Wells Fargo](#) and [JPMorgan Chase](#) have joined [the Net-Zero Banking Alliance](#), committing to slash their financed emissions in the power sector by 60%-69% carbon intensity by 2030.

These financial institutions are also targeting food and agriculture, key Wisconsin industries.

- Climate Action 100+ is upending the agriculture and food sectors by pressuring companies to [reduce emissions in their supply chain](#), for example, by [electrifying farm machinery](#), increasing costs for farmers and consumers.
- They are also pushing companies to go green by promoting [lower-carbon alternatives to meat and dairy products](#). This is sure to hurt America's Dairyland, which makes [25% of the nation's cheese](#) and [14% of its milk](#).
- They also pressure companies to align their lobbying practices and trade association memberships with net zero, assessing them based on if they [lobby for climate policies and against agricultural subsidies](#).

How Wisconsin can push back: Legislative Solutions

Protect Wisconsin's Pension Funds

- Enact a law, enforceable by the AG or an executive branch official, clarifying that the fiduciary duty of those managing Wisconsin's pension funds is to consider only *financial* factors, for a *financial* purpose.
- Commitments to promote ESG goals are evidence of a motive to promote non-financial purposes.
- This will benefit retirees by shifting assets to asset managers focused on financial purposes.

Protect State Contracts And Investments

- Enact a law, enforceable by the AG or an executive branch official, prohibiting state contracts with companies that boycott or penalize companies for actions that do not violate the law, including:
 - engaging in mining, energy, agriculture, firearms, or commercial timber
 - not meeting corporate board composition criteria based upon protected characteristics
 - not meeting aspirational environmental or social standards

More Information on Woke Finance Organizations

United Nations-inspired climate initiatives push the Paris Agreement on U.S. companies.

In the past few years, numerous financial initiatives have arisen to coordinate asset managers, banks, and others financial institutions to comply with the aspirational climate goals of the Paris Agreement—even though the Paris Agreement is not legally binding on U.S. companies.

Some of the most notable groups are [Climate Action 100+](#), which is [partially led by](#) the UN-affiliated Principles in Responsible Investing, and the [Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero](#) (GFANZ), which is [grounded in the UN-backed Race to Zero campaign](#).

Climate Action 100+ and GFANZ have enormous sway, controlling trillions of dollars.

Climate Action 100+ members collectively manage [\\$68 trillion in assets](#) and include two of the “big three” asset managers—[BlackRock and State Street Global Advisors](#). They target certain companies and pressure them to commit to [“\[t\]ake action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the value chain, consistent with the Paris Agreement’s goal.”](#) Their [sector strategies](#) target power companies, agriculture (food & beverage), aviation, and steel.

GFANZ [boasts](#) that its members represent “over \$130 trillion of private capital” that is “committed to transforming the economy for net zero.” Its [Net-Zero Banking Alliance](#) represents nearly 40% of global banking assets, [including](#) JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America, Wells Fargo, Citi, Goldman Sachs, and Morgan Stanley. Overseen by the UN, they [commit](#) to align their financed emissions with net zero by 2050 or sooner. Similarly, GFANZ’s [Net Zero Asset Managers, including](#) Blackrock and State Street, [commit](#) to “play [their] part to help deliver the goals of the Paris Agreement” by managing assets in line with net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 or sooner and [fossil fuel phase out](#).

These groups are using Wisconsinites’ hard-earned savings to advance their own radical goals.

Through these initiatives, financial organizations are advancing radical climate and social policy. Money managers should be focused on making money in a tough stock market. Banks should provide credit based on financial metrics. Instead, they are using Wisconsinites’ money to force U.S. companies to comply with the UN’s aspirational climate goals—while China and others prioritize energy security and national interests.

Unless Wisconsin pushes back against this sweeping agenda, its citizens will suffer. Energy costs will go up, while reliability goes down. Jobs will be destroyed. National security will be jeopardized. Now is the time for Wisconsin to fight back.