WOKE FINANCE IS HURTING FLORIDIANS

Financial institutions are targeting key Florida industries, including agriculture and tourism.

- The world's largest money managers are targeting specific sectors—including agriculture and tourism—to force them to comply with the aspirational climate goals of the Paris Agreement.
- Members of initiatives like NZAM or CA100+—including BlackRock, Amundi, Robeco, and Schroders—manage large amounts of retirement savings, including over $29 billion for the Florida Retirement Systems as of 2023.
- These money managers push their decarbonization goals by pressuring companies to make farmers electrify their farm vehicles, change their fertilizer use, and switch to "lower-carbon alternatives to meat and dairy."
- Moreover, climate groups say the U.S. needs to cut its per capita ruminant meat consumption in half by 2050.
- These policies hurt Florida's 47,000 farms and ranches, which contribute $180 billion to the state's economy.
- For aviation, climate activists pursue goals like: "keeping business travel to 2019 levels; capping long-haul flights . . . for leisure at 2019 levels; and shifting demand to high-speed rail," as well as mandating the use of costly biofuels. This will surely harm Florida tourism, which had a $121.5 billion economic impact in 2022.

Money managers—in conjunction with blue-state pension funds—are also imposing ESG mandates on utilities like Duke Energy. This will make the Sunshine State's electricity supply dependent on China.

- Money managers are pressuring power companies to "align future capital expenditures with . . . limiting global warming to 1.5° C," which means ramping up solar and wind energy to nearly 70% of electricity generation.
- This increases dependence on China, which controls more than 80% of all manufacturing stages of solar panels, 60–80% of wind energy components, and up to 90% of the processing of critical minerals, like rare earths.
- At the same time, these asset managers pressure electric utilities to phase out gas and coal power by 2040, but coal and natural gas accounted for 80% of Florida's net electricity generation as of November 2023.
- California and New York pension funds are pushing this radical energy transformation on Florida energy provider Duke Energy. Notably, blue states with green mandates have much higher electricity prices.

Major banks are pressuring energy companies with their lending practices.

- Wells Fargo, Bank of America, and JPMorgan Chase have all joined the Net-Zero Banking Alliance, committing to slash their financed emissions in the power sector by 60%–70% carbon intensity by 2030.

How Florida can push back: Legislative Solutions

In 2023, Florida passed a law, enforceable by the Attorney General to push back against the ESG agenda by:

- **Protecting Workers' and Families' Savings:** It clarifies that the fiduciary duty of those managing Florida's pension funds and other state funds is to consider only pecuniary factors, and not the furthering of social, political, or ideological interests.
- **Protecting Florida's Economic Interests:** It ensures that state funds are not entrusted to financial institutions that discriminate based on politics, religious beliefs, lawful ownership of a firearm, engaging in mining, energy, or agriculture, not meeting aspirational environmental or social standards, or other non-financial factors.
- **Protecting Taxpayer Dollars:** It prevents public bodies from choosing vendors based on social, political, or ideological interests.

Next Florida lawmakers can:

- **Protect Florida's Farmers:** Florida can further protect farmers by empowering the Commissioner of Agriculture and Attorney General to investigate and take action when banks restrict services to farmers based on environmental policies.

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 other 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 the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ), which is grounded in the UN-backed Race to Zero campaign, and Climate Action 100+, which is partially led by the UN-affiliated Principles for Responsible Investment.

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

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 over 40% of global banking assets, including JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America, Wells Fargo, Citi, Goldman Sachs, and Morgan Stanley. Overseen by the UN, these members commit to align their financed emissions with net zero by 2050 or sooner. Similarly, members of GFANZ's Net Zero Asset Managers initiative (NZAM), 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 by phasing out fossil fuels.

Climate Action 100+ (CA100+) members collectively managed $68 trillion in assets in 2023. CA100+ members 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, steel, and mining.

These groups are using Floridians' hard-earned savings to advance their own radical goals.

Asset managers influence company behavior by "engaging" with companies one-on-one and voting at annual meetings on shareholder proposals and board directors, using shares paid for with Florida retirement funds. In recent years, this has been most notoriously displayed by BlackRock:

- asking companies to "set short-, medium-, and long-term targets for greenhouse gas reductions" and "explain how their business model will be compatible with . . . net zero," and
- voting for dissident board candidates at ExxonMobil as part of a campaign to get ExxonMobil to "align [its] business with a net zero economy;" voting in favor of insurers Chubb and Travelers Companies disclosing plans to "reduce the GHG emissions associated with [their] underwriting, insuring, and investment activities" in line with net zero; and voting in favor of Charter Communications publishing a "diversity, equity, and inclusion" (DEI) report with "quantitative data on workforce composition, and recruitment, retention, and promotion rates of employees by gender, race, and ethnicity."

Further, analyses have found that other asset managers used by Florida have supported ESG proposals at an extremely high rate, including Amundi (98% support), Robeco (95%), Schroders (83%), and UBS (82%).