

CLIENT EARTH



<https://www.clientearth.org/>

OVERVIEW

ClientEarth is a world leading environmental law charity with a unique approach. They use the power of law to create lasting impact and drive systemic change to protect the planet and all its inhabitants.

The Better Business Network partnered with and advocates for ClientEarth because they are using innovative and effective methods to fight climate change; enforcing the law to create a positive impact for people and the planet.

We work to amplify their work by advocating for the changes they're working towards; providing information to our Members about existing legislation within the UK and how to act on these to combat the climate crisis. Alongside this, we intend to grow this partnership through an innovation legal fund for the Better Business Network.

BACKGROUND

Through legal interventions, strategic communications and advocacy, ClientEarth finds positive and practical solutions to fight climate change, stop pollution, and protect nature. They are changing systems by informing, implementing and enforcing the law.

Since launching in 2007 ClientEarth have grown and have offices in London, Brussels, Berlin, Warsaw, Madrid, Beijing and Los Angeles. Their reach extends beyond these hubs and working in collaboration with partners, governments, and specialists. They are making a difference in more than 60 countries around the world.

WORK AND IMPACT: TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

- Coal is one of the biggest sources of emissions: ClientEarth work to end coal extraction around the world. In the last 14 years they have prevented a new generation of more than **40 coal power stations** in Europe. They've now taken the fight to Asia, home to 70% of the world's coal capacity, including a pipeline of over 450 planned coal plants.

The logo for the Better Business Network, consisting of the words "BETTER BUSINESS NETWORK" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, stacked vertically. A thick black horizontal bar is positioned above the text.

**BETTER
BUSINESS
NETWORK**

- ClientEarth [put an end to the last planned coal plant in Poland](#) by using corporate law to showcase that funding coal creates stranded assets. **Energy firms Enea and Energa** announced they would suspend funding to, and construction of Ostrołęka C following our shareholder lawsuit. ClientEarth are using this model to stop coal elsewhere, including Asia, and tackle not just the plants themselves, but the funding and subsidies that keep coal alive.
- Climate change disproportionately affects communities who have contributed least to the problem. ClientEarth are supporting residents of the Torres Strait Islands in Australia in a [world-first climate change complaint against the Australian Government](#). This has already secured a promise of [AUS \\$25 million](#) in climate-adaptation funding from the government.
- As oil and gas become increasingly redundant, industry is attempting to shift fossil fuels towards plastic production. ClientEarth's legal challenges resulted in petrochemicals giant INEOS 'indefinitely' suspending plans for half of a **\$3 billion plastics refinery** development planned for the Port of Antwerp. Their interventions have caused over two years of delay for the project and have contributed to impairment charges of €118.5 million (as laid out in its 2020 report) for the company – one part of their [strategy to prove that plastics is a business risk](#). They will continue to fight the project in court.

WORK AND IMPACT: CHALLENGING AND CHANGING THE SYSTEM

- ClientEarth have trained more than [1,500 Chinese judges and prosecutors in environmental law](#), and over the last three years more than **100,000 cases** have been launched. These are some of the very first cases for the protection of the environment in China.
- ClientEarth stand up to corporate greenwashing. They [filed a legal complaint](#) when BP launched a campaign advertising its green energy credentials, when in reality more than **96% of their expenditure** was in fossil fuels. BP swiftly withdrew the campaign, admitting it amounted to reputational advertising, and our complaint was found to be legitimate and substantiated – setting an important legal precedent, paving the way for future action against greenwashing.
- Building on this success ClientEarth launched the [Greenwashing Files](#), an exposé on fossil fuel giants, including Shell, Exxon and Aramco, advertising campaigns which mislead the public about their climate impact. Our research made an immediate impact and was cited in New York City's recent lawsuit against **Exxon, Shell, BP and the API** for misinforming consumers about climate change. Extensive media coverage of this was received, including in [Forbes](#), [CNN](#), and [Le Monde](#).

WORK AND IMPACT: DEFENDING WILDLIFE AND HABITATS

- Our survival depends on our incredible natural world. ClientEarth work to protect and rehabilitate natural habitats and species by **strengthening laws** and making sure they are properly enforced.

- ClientEarth stepped in to help [save Poland's ancient UNESCO protected forests from illegal logging](#). Their intervention prompted an historic ruling from the European Court of Justice, instructing the Polish Government to cease all logging activity immediately.
- Oceans are essential to life on earth, and **over 8000 million people** depend on fishing for their livelihoods. ClientEarth pioneered the [Sustainable Seafood Coalition](#), uniting UK retailers in sourcing and labelling codes for seafood.
- ClientEarth are working with the Chinese Government, the EU, and other delegations to strengthen biodiversity protection globally. China will soon host the **UN Convention on Biological Diversity** – a global meeting of States with a sole focus on biodiversity, with the potential to be for biodiversity what the Paris Agreement was for climate.

WORK AND IMPACT: PROTECTING THE WORLD'S FORESTS

Forests are essential for the survival of our planet: they provide carbon storage, a home for biodiversity and a sustainable livelihood for almost a quarter of the world's population. ClientEarth are [using community-led solutions to protect the world's major forested areas](#).

- ClientEarth helped to create a first-of-its-kind forest law in Gabon that officially recognised the rights of forest-dependent people to defend their forests and livelihoods. They supported forest communities to contribute to **Ghana's new forest law**. Now Ivory Coast and the Republic of Congo have followed suit.
- Illegal timber is one of the world's biggest criminal trades, second only to the drugs trade. ClientEarth are working at both ends of the supply chain to stop this illegal traffic.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

By joining the ClientEarth Community you'll be some of the first to hear about their wins in court, gain access to exclusive webinars and events, get campaign updates, as well as ClientEarth's insights on the latest environmental news.

In order to join, ClientEarth asks for a monthly donation (suggested amounts of \$10, \$15, and \$25 are made although other amounts can be offered). The dates for this donation to be given can be selected as either on the 1st, 15th or 28th of each month. [The form for joining can be found here](#).

Once the above has been decided, ClientEarth will then request your details (email, address, etc.) in order to make you a fully fledged member. Upon completion of the form, click submit and you will then be a part of the ClientEarth Community.

With your committed support, ClientEarth will be able to continue fighting for a future in which people and the planet thrive together.

USEFUL LINKS

- [ClientEarth Website](#)
- [Joining The ClientEarth Community](#)

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