

Emma Thompson and Aisling Bea urge UK banks to stop financing fossil fuels

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🔗 Climate change



By **Beth Timmins**
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Emma Thompson, Stephen Fry and Aisling Bea are among celebrities calling on the five of the UK's biggest High Street banks to stop financing new oil, gas and coal projects.

It follows criticism that HSBC, Barclays, Santander, NatWest and Lloyds are funding "fossil fuel expansion" despite making green pledges.

Businesses and charities like Greenpeace also back the campaign.

HSBC and Barclays said they were helping their clients to cut emissions.

The Make My Money Matter campaign points to research by environmental charity Rainforest Action Network, which claims that between 2016 and 2021, HSBC, Barclays, Santander, NatWest and Lloyds funnelled almost \$368bn (£298bn) towards the fossil fuel industry.

It added that in the same time period, the lenders financed the 50 companies making the biggest investments in oil and gas projects to the tune of \$141bn.

It added that while HSBC and Lloyds had made "welcome new announcements" on stopping direct finance for new fossil fuel expansion since then, "there is a long way to go".

"HSBC was this month found to have provided \$340m to a company opening a new coal mine in Germany," it said.

- [Is a new oil field climate change hypocrisy?](#)
- [HSBC to end funding for new oil and gas fields](#)

The campaign, which is also backed by actor Mark Rylance and musician Brian Eno, urges the public to sign an open letter asking the banks to stop directly financing projects that expand fossil fuel use, or end relationships with clients that do.

The campaign's founder, filmmaker Richard Curtis, said he wanted to put "a fire under the banks".

"It's clear that new oil and gas fields are not only hugely damaging to the planet, but they're also wildly unpopular with the public," he added.

