

The Real Funding Facts Behind the Powder River Basin Resource Council

The Powder River Basin Resource Council (PRBRC) is a multimillion-dollar organization funded over the last 10 years predominantly from donations funneled from national and international anti-fossil fuel and anti-mineral interests, particularly coastal environmental groups and anti-natural resource activists. These groups are directly linked to liberal billionaires such as the Michael Bloomberg Family Foundation, Tom Steyer (now also running as a Democratic candidate for President) and George Soros.

Although the PRBRC's board is cosmetically structured with local environmental activists and landowners to make it appear as a grassroots local organization, the true sources of its out-of-state funding are traceable from tax-exempt IRS Form 990s and other public filings between 2010 and 2017, the latest filing year of record. This research cites verifiable facts, along with links to public filings, to show the actual funding sources behind the façade of PRBRC's supposedly "local" advocacy. In fact, the PRBRC has reported *no income* from membership dues and a modest \$16,000 from local fundraising activities¹.

The true reality is that coastal environmental groups, backed by money from liberal elites, has funded the PRBRC via an intermediary umbrella resource council called the Western Organization of Resource Councils (WORC). WORC receives grants from the Bloomberg Family Foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies, NEO Philanthropy, the New World Foundation, the Proteus Fund (backed by George Soros), the New Venture Fund, the JBP Fund and others who regularly move millions of dollars into left-leaning, renewable-only, "kill-coal, oil and natural gas" and other employment killing anti-fossil fuel efforts in the West.

In the case of Wyoming, in every year since 2010, the WORC² is the PRBRC's largest funding source, despite the PRBRC misleadingly marketing itself as just a "local group of Wyoming landowners." The WORC has contributed almost half of PRBRC's funding in the last three years, and \$1.1 million since 2010.

Notable donors to WORC, which received \$12.8 million between 2010 and 2017, include:

- **The New World Foundation (EIN 13-1919791)**, a direct major donor to PRBRC on its own (see below), which also donated \$140,000 since 2014 to WORC.³
- **NEO Philanthropy INC (EIN 13-3191113)**, a New York-based organization, which donated \$423,500 since 2015.⁴
- **The Bloomberg Family Foundation (EIN 20-5602483)**, one of the vehicles through which billionaire Democratic presidential candidate **Michael Bloomberg** has also contributed directly to gun control and anti-coal campaigns, and which donated \$250,000 in 2017.⁵
- **The Just Transition Fund (JTF)**, part of a \$3,000,000 initiative launched by Bloomberg Philanthropies to transition communities away from coal contributed \$50,000 to WORC as well as \$5,000 to the PRBRC.⁶

- **The Proteus Fund (EIN 04-3243004)** and **The New Venture Fund**, both charities funded in part by **George Soros**. The Proteus Fund donated \$40,000 to the PRBRC between 2015 and 2018, and the New Venture Fund donated \$10,000 in 2017.⁷
- **The JPB Foundation (EIN 90-074216)**, a foundation established by the late Jeffrey Picower, one of the leading beneficiaries of the Bernie Madoff fraud, which donated \$500,000 in 2017. Per the New York Times, Picower was accused of reaping over \$7 billion from Madoff's Ponzi scheme, and was later found dead in his Palm Beach swimming pool.⁸

Of \$3.6 million that PRBRC received as non-local "donor income" between 2010 and 2017:

- PRBRC has received more than \$29,000 from the liberal San Francisco-based **Tides Foundation (EIN 51-0198509)** since 2010.⁹
- PRBRC has received almost \$61,500 since 2015 from the **New World Foundation (NWF)** a New York-based organization, whose board was formerly headed by **Hillary Clinton**. The NWF supports community activists across America for environmental justice..¹⁰
- PRBRC received \$60,000 over three years between 2015 and 2017 from the New York-based **New-Land Foundation (EIN 13-6086562)**, which is a left-leaning public lands/environmental group that also funds groups that support population control and abortion rights.¹¹
- PRBRC has received \$25,000 since 2015 from the **Lynn Handleman Charitable Foundation (EIN 65-6263327)**, whose "mission is to promote social change, resist oppression, and empower marginalized communities." LHC funds groups that advocate for the BDS (boycott, divest, sanction) movement against Israel.¹²
- PRBRC received \$50,000 since 2015 from the **Civil Society Institute (EIN 04-3272715)**, a Woburn MA organization promoting renewable energy.¹³
- PRBRC received a large donation in 2013 from the Seattle-based **Social Justice Fund Northwest**.¹⁴
- PRBRC received \$5,000 in 2014 from the **Energy Foundation (EIN 94-3126848)**, a San Francisco-based organization that has received significant funding in the past from billionaire Democratic presidential candidate **Tom Steyer** whose agenda includes eliminating coal.¹⁵

-
- ¹ Powder River Basin Resource Council, Form 990, Internal Revenue Service ([2017](#))
- ² Powder River Basin Resource Council, Form 990, Internal Revenue Service ([2017](#)); Western Organization of Resource Councils, Form 990, Internal Revenue Service ([2017](#)).
- ³ New World Foundation, IRS Form 990, ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer (tax year ending [Sep. 30, 2015](#)).
- ⁴ NEO Philanthropy INC, IRS Form 990, Internal Revenue Service ([2017](#)).
- ⁵ Bloomberg Family Foundation Inc., Form 990, Nonprofit Explorer, PROPUBLICA ([2017](#)); *Michael R. Bloomberg Announces Bloomberg Family Foundation Board of Directors*, BLOOMBERG PHILANTHROPIES ([Mar. 31, 2010](#)); David Weinberg, *Bloomberg: 'Here's \$50 Million for Gun Control'*, MARKETPLACE ([Apr. 16, 2014](#)); Rachana Pradhan, *Bush Role in Bloomberg Charity Gets Attention*, POLITICO ([Aug. 10, 2015](#)).
- ⁶ <https://www.bloomberg.org/press/releases/bloomberg-philanthropies-announces-funds-support-local-economic-development-efforts-coal-communities-launches-national-fundraising-campaign/>
- ⁷ *Proteus Fund, Inc., Awarded Grants*, OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS (last visited [Jan. 24, 2020](#)); New Venture Fund, Form 990, SCRIBD ([2018](#)).
- ⁸ JPB Foundation, Form 990, Internal Revenue Service ([2017](#)); *About the Foundation*, THE JPB FOUNDATION (last visited [Jan. 24, 2020](#)); Jake Bernstein, *Madoff Client Jeffrey Picower Netted \$5 Billion – Likely More Than Madoff Himself*, PROPUBLICA ([June 23, 2009](#)); Nathan Vardi, *Barbara Picower is Back in Business as One of the Nation's Top Philanthropists*, FORBES ([Sep. 9, 2014](#)); NEW YORK TIMES -“Autopsy Finds Madoff Investor Drowned in Pool” ([Oct. 26, 2009](#)).
- ⁹ Tides Foundation, Form 990, Nonprofit Explorer, PROPUBLICA ([2012](#)).
- ¹⁰ New World Foundation, IRS Form 990, PROPUBLICA NONPROFIT EXPLORER (tax year ending [Sep. 30, 2017](#)); Rick Cohen, *The Philanthropic Problem with Hillary Clinton's Huge Speaking Fees*, NONPROFIT QUARTERLY ([July 11, 2014](#)). As a note of interest, in the same 990 reports, the New World Foundation also has donated money to groups with ties to the Communist faction of the PLO.
- ¹¹ New-Land Foundation, Form 990, Nonprofit Explorer, ProPublica ([2017](#)); *Our Mission*, Center for Reproductive Rights (last visited [Jan. 16, 2020](#)); *Grantmaking Overview*, New-Land Foundation (last visited [Feb. 28, 2020](#))
- ¹² Lynn Handleman Charitable Foundation, IRS Form 990, ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer ([2017](#)); Lynn Handleman Charitable Foundation, IRS Form 990, ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer ([2015](#)); Grace Paley, *JVP Supports the BDS Movement*, Jewish Voice for Peace (last visited [Dec. 19, 2019](#)); *Statement by Jewish Activists and Organizations Active in BDS Against Israel*, International Jewish Anti-Zionist Network (last visited [Dec. 19, 2019](#)).
- ¹³ Civil Society Inc, IRS Form 990, ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer ([2015](#)).
- ¹⁴ Social Justice Fund Northwest, Form 990, Nonprofit Explorer, PROPUBLICA ([2012](#)); *How We Make Change*, SOCIAL JUSTICE FUND NORTHWEST (last visited [Jan. 24, 2020](#)).
- ¹⁵ The Energy Foundation, Form 990, Nonprofit Explorer, PROPUBLICA ([2014](#)); Andrew Seifter, *Right-Wing Media Falsely Drag Steyer Into Oregon Gov. Scandal*, MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA ([Feb. 19, 2015](#)).