

NEW DOCUMENTS: DONORS TRUST POURS \$20 MILLION INTO GROUPS PUSHING CLIMATE CHANGE DENIALISM

SUMMARY: DonorsTrust has long been a pass-through between anonymous wealthy donors and right-wing causes. Newly-obtained copies of the group's 2021 tax filings shed light on how that money was spent in the most recent tax year.

An Accountable.US analysis shows that nearly **\$20 million** went to extremist groups that want to sow misunderstanding of the climate crisis, or even push outright climate denialism.

New IRS Filings How The Right-Wing Dark Money Mega-Foundation Has Gave Over \$16 Million Spreading Climate Disinformation

DonorsTrust Still Bankrolls Climate Skepticism And Denialism

Grand Total Given In The Last Year: \$19,951,178

DonorsTrust And Its Sister Organization Donors Capital Fund Have Been Dubbed The "Dark-Money ATM of The Right" And Have Acted As Middlemen Between Anonymous Wealthy Donors and Right-Wing Causes Since The Late 1990s.

DonorsTrust and its affiliate organization, Donors Capital Fund, are two of the most influential conservative donor-advised funds in contemporary American politics. In 2013, Mother Jones dubbed DonorsTrust the "[dark-money ATM of the right](#)." Donors Capital Fund functions like DonorsTrust but is [intended for individuals who plan to contribute large sums of money](#) to right-wing causes. [An initial gift of at least \\$1 million is required](#) in order to open a donor-advised fund with Donors Capital Fund, whereas DonorsTrust [accepts first-time contributions of \\$10,000 or more](#).

The DonorsTrust Money Was Spread Across 19 Different Groups From Around The United States

Donors Trust Gave \$19,951,178 to Eleven Groups Wanting To Eliminate Or Privatize Federal Public Land. An analysis of DonorsTrust's newly-revealed IRS form 990 shows that it gave money to ALEC, American Spectator Foundation, Americans for Prosperity Foundation, America's Future Foundation, Atlas Economic Research Foundation, California Policy Center, CATO Institute, Citizens Against Government Waste, Citizens for Self-Governance, CO2 Coalition, Committee to Unleash Prosperity, Competitive Enterprise Institute, Discovery Institute, Heartland Institute, John Locke Foundation, Mackinac Center for Public Policy, State Policy Network, Texas Public Policy Foundation, and the Wyoming Liberty Group. [2021 DonorsTrust IRS Form 990]

Grantee	Amount	Grantee's Position on Climate
ALEC	\$191,600	ALEC distributes model legislation promoting uncertainty about climate science and hosts climate deniers at conferences
American Spectator Foundation	\$305,100	The American Spectator Foundation's publication is a frequent host of client-denial articles
Americans for Prosperity Foundation	\$76,100	The nonprofit arm of Americans for Prosperity, which "distort(s) climate change science and economics to undermine public support for government action to address the problem"
America's Future Foundation	\$469,350	Member of a "the longest running climate denial coalition" also funded by ExxonMobil and the Kochs
Atlas Economic Research Foundation	\$572,200	"Atlas has cosponsored Heartland Institute events dedicated to the proposition that climate change is not a crisis"
California Policy Center	\$47,500	Says climate change laws "hurt the poor and benefit no one"
CATO Institute	\$411,300	CATO Institute for years operated a "prominent center that challenged climate science"
Citizens Against Government Waste	\$6,100	Citizens Against Government Waste is a "climate denial front group" that publishes articles downplaying the impacts of climate change

Citizens for Self-Governance	\$100,000	Citizens for Self-Governance publishes articles denying that there is a climate crisis
CO2 Coalition	\$200,000	The CO2 Coalition “has challenged the scientific consensus on climate change inside and outside of government.”
Committee to Unleash Prosperity	\$745,000	Blames scientific climate consensus on “ confirmation bias ” and says “ climate crazies want your refrigerator ”
Competitive Enterprise Institute	\$815,500	Competitive Enterprise Institute is a leading promoter of climate change denialism
Discovery Institute	\$1,503,000	Discovery Institute promotes climate change denialism
Heartland Institute	\$934,500	Heartland Institute says “delusion” backed by “shoddy science and missing economics”
John Locke Foundation	\$42,250	Says concerns about climate are “alarmist” and is more concerned about “climate derangement syndrome”
Mackinac Center for Public Policy	\$2,843,750	“ Mackinac has also called research on anthropogenic global warming a ‘pseudoscience’ citing well-known climate change deniers Patrick J. Michaels and Robert C. Balling as evidence that the science behind global warming is falsified. ”
State Policy Network	\$9,034,775	“A large number of members of the State Policy Network either deny climate change outright or deny the extent to which climate change will affect the environment. Many of their member organizations

		<u>accept donations from the Koch Foundations.</u>
Texas Public Policy Foundation	\$493,153	<u>“TPPF questions the science of climate change, and urges federal lawmakers to implement a “rigorous” review of scientific facts dealing with climate change, along with calling for the suspension of all state programs that regulate greenhouse gasses and federal mandates to reduce carbon dioxide.”</u>
Wyoming Liberty Group	\$1,160,000	Says that <u>“alarmists continue to pus anthropogenic - man-made- climate change”</u> and <u>shares information from climate change deniers</u>
TOTAL:	\$19,951,178	