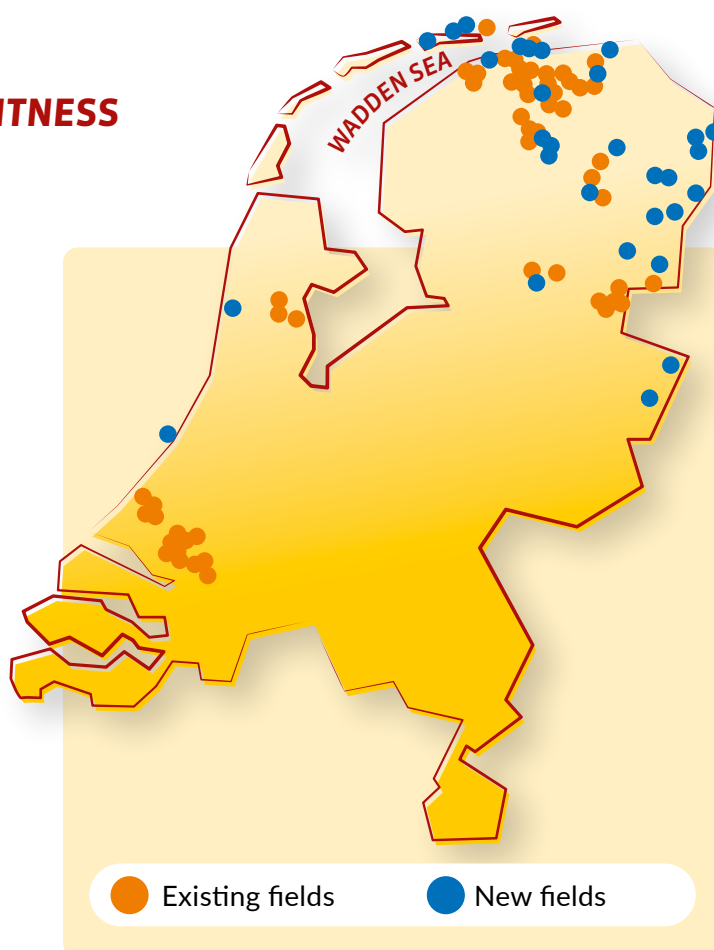


ON LAND AND AT SEA:

SHELL COULD DRILL NEW OIL AND GAS FIELDS IN THE NETHERLANDS

RESULTS OF RESEARCH CONDUCTED IN COLLABORATION WITH GLOBAL WITNESS

- Shell has a stake in 84 oil and gas fields in the Netherlands, 30 of which are new fields.
- The fields where Shell may potentially start drilling include locations near Ameland, Schiermonnikoog, and by Egmond-Binnen. Shell even has a new field near Ternaard, on the edge of the Wadden Sea: the largest tidal area in the world. The Wadden Sea is a UNESCO World Heritage Site due to its unique ecological value.
- According to Rystad Energy¹, Shell could extract fossil fuels from these new fields for up to 50 years. Oil and gas production from some of these new fields is expected to continue until 2075.



EVERY NEW OIL OR GAS FIELD IS ONE TOO MANY, IN THE NETHERLANDS AND IN ANY OTHER COUNTRY

- Bringing new oil and gas fields into production is not an option if we want to limit global warming to 1.5 °C, as agreed upon in the Paris Agreement. According to the IEA (International Energy Agency) and the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), existing fields potentially need to be closed earlier than their anticipated operational lifetime if we want to keep the 1.5 °C goal within reach.

There is simply no room to expand fossil fuel production with new oil and gas fields. Multiple studies confirm this.

- Still, Shell has a stake in 700 possible new oil and gas fields globally, according to research by Milieudefensie in collaboration with Global Witness based on data from Rystad Energy.²

NEW OIL AND GAS FIELDS ARE NOT NECESSARY

- According to the IEA, existing fields contain enough oil and gas to meet the demand for oil and gas in the coming decades on a pathway to net zero in 2050.³
- To ensure (European) energy security, renewable energy is the solution. “The greatest threat to energy security today is fossil fuels. They leave economies and people at the mercy of price shocks, supply disruptions and geopolitical turmoil. There are no price spikes for sunlight. No embargos on wind”, stated António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations.⁴

RECENT SUCCESSES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST NEW OIL AND GAS PROJECTS

- January 2025, a Scottish judge put a stop to two oil and gas projects in the North Sea – Shell’s Jackdaw gas project and Equinor’s Rosebank oil project. The emissions that would result from the use of the extracted oil and gas (Scope 3 emissions) had unlawfully not been taken into account when granting permits for these projects.⁵
- In April 2025, Norway’s Supreme Court temporarily shut down the development of three oil projects in the North Sea.⁶ Norwegian judges also requested an Advisory Opinion from the EFTA Court (Court of the European Free Trade Association), which confirmed in May 2025 that the emissions resulting from the combustion of the extracted oil and gas from fossil projects need to be taken into account when deciding on whether these projects should be granted permits for development.⁷
- United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteur on human rights Elisa Morgera stated in a May 2025 report that the exploration and development of new fossil fuel projects must be prevented, and that permits that have already been granted for the exploration or development of new projects should be revoked.⁸

- In France, the prefect of Gironde denied approval for 8 new oil drillings in June 2025. According to the prefect, these drillings would go against the climate science and the Paris Agreement.
- On 23 July 2025, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) unanimously delivered an advisory opinion indicating that states must address fossil fuel production and use—including through regulation of permits and subsidies—if they are to comply with their international legal obligations.⁹

METHODOLOGY

The data and projections in this factsheet are based on Rystad Energy’s UCube database, as per 15 August 2025. For a detailed description of the methodology, see the Appendix of [‘Developing Disaster – How Shell’s Expansion Plans Continue To Fuel The Climate Crisis’](#).

In the data analysis of the report, assets estimated to have less than 50 thousand barrels of oil equivalent of commercial resources were excluded. For this factsheet, assets of less than an estimated 50 thousand barrels of commercial resources were included as there are multiple fields in the Netherlands which Rystad has assessed to have uncertain development plans, or which hold a small amount of commercial resources, thereby providing a complete overview. These data reflect a conservative indication of new fields in the Netherlands in which Shell has a stake, since new fields that are qualified as undiscovered assets in Rystad were not included. The fields listed in this factsheet in which Shell holds a stake include those where it does so in its capacity as part of NAM, the joint venture in which Shell and ExxonMobil each own a 50% share.

This factsheet has been written by Milieudefensie. The analysis of Rystad data has been conducted by Global Witness.

SHELL'S RESPONSE

We contacted Shell with the findings based on Rystad Energy Modelling. A NAM spokesperson responded by stating that our information is incorrect and that “NAM[’s] current forward look is that their producing small gas fields will cease production before 2050.” The spokesperson did not respond to any claims relating to new fields that are currently not producing. When asked to clarify which of our claims they believed were incorrect, Shell did not respond by time of publication.

REFERENCES

- 1 See Methodology.
- 2 Developing Disaster - How Shell's Expansion Plans Continue To Fuel the Climate Crisis. <https://en.milieudefensie.nl/news/research-confirms-how-shells-oil-and-gas-plans-continue-to-worsen-the-climate-crisis>
The number of 700 new oil and gas fields mentioned in the report exclude those fields with more than 50 thousand barrels of oil equivalent of commercial resources. In this factsheet, we also include those fields that have fewer than this amount of commercial resources. See Methodology below.
- 3 IEA 2022, World Energy Outlook 2022, p. 80; IEA 2023, Net Zero Roadmap, A Global Pathway to Keep the 1.5°C Goal in Reach, 2023 Update, p. 55; IEA 2024, World Energy Outlook 2024, p. 239.
- 4 World on brink of climate breakthrough as fossil fuels 'run out of road', UN chief says. The Guardian, 22 July 2025: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/jul/22/antonio-guterres-climate-breakthrough-clean-energy-fossil-fuels>
- 5 New oil and gas field consent was unlawful – judge. BBC, 30 January 2025. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c3e1pw7npklo>
- 6 Judgment by the Supreme Court of Norway 11 April 2025. <https://www.domstol.no/globalassets/upload/hret/translated-rulings/2025/hr-2025-677-a.pdf>
- 7 Judgment by the EFTA Court 21 May 2025. https://eftacourt.int/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/18_24_Judgment_EN.pdf?x86057
- 8 United Nations General Assembly, A/HRC/59/42: The imperative of defossilizing our economies: <https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/59/42>.
- 9 International Court of Justice: Obligations of States in respect of Climate Change – Summary of the Advisory Opinion of 23 July 2025, p. 21: <https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/187/187-20250723-sum-01-00-en.pdf>

APPENDIX

Overview of new fields in the Netherlands where Shell has a stake in:

- 1 Nieuweschans
- 2 Rodewolt
- 3 Allardsoog
- 4 Stadskanaal
- 5 Marumerlage
- 6 Lankhorst
- 7 Usquert
- 8 Langebrug
- 9 Beerta
- 10 Zevenhuizen-West
- 11 Valthermond
- 12 Buma
- 13 Exloo
- 14 Vlagtwedde
- 15 Midlaren
- 16 Deurningen
- 17 Witten
- 18 Egmond-Binnen
- 19 Ternaard
- 20 Boven Nes- Noord (M09-FA)
- 21 Nes-Noord
- 22 Schiermonnikoog-Wad
- 23 Rammelbeek
- 24 Zweelo
- 25 Pieterzijl Oost
- 26 Gieterveen Oost
- 27 Wassenaar Zee
- 28 Hollum Ameland
- 29 Lauwersoog Central
- 30 Lauwersoog 3