

12347 / Petroculture NL. The ongoing normalisation of fossil dependencies as climate obstruction, the Dutch Case

Author : Martijn Duineveld - martijn.duineveld@wur.nl

ABSTRACT

Although deliberate tactics and strategies of denial and doubt are not absent in Dutch society, we will argue that climate obstruction in the Netherlands is primarily due to the normalization of a historical legacy of alignments and dependencies between the fossil fuel industry and Dutch society from which a 'Dutch' petroculture emerged. To support this argument, we analyse the historically established ties and dependencies between Dutch society and the fossil industry. We also examine the ongoing efforts to stabilise and enforce these entanglements. This chapter mainly focuses on Shell and Dutch state and non-state actors. Shell is highlighted due to its historical embeddedness in Dutch society and the available research on or related to climate obstruction by research journalists, NGOs, and scientists. The paper begins with a brief history of the emergence and normalization of the close ties between Shell and the Dutch state in the twentieth century. Three case studies are then presented to underpin and illustrate the argument.