

Follow the Methane Money

The Anti-Methane Funders Behind ProPublica and Its Climate Reporting

October 2026

MEMORANDUM

To:	Friends of the American Accountability Foundation
From:	American Accountability Foundation
Date:	October 1, 2026
Re:	ProPublica's methane coverage and the climate-activist money that underwrites it

In June and September 2026, ProPublica published two stories by its climate reporter arguing that the Trump administration's plan to loosen methane rules for low-producing oil and gas wells rewards a billionaire donor.¹ ProPublica's premise is that money shapes methane policy. This memo applies ProPublica's own premise to ProPublica.

IRS filings, most of them displayed on ProPublica's own Nonprofit Explorer, show that the foundations paying for ProPublica, the foundation-backed journalism center that has underwritten its reporter, and the advocacy groups ProPublica quoted are the same interlocking network that finances the organized campaign against methane from oil and gas. None of that is disclosed in either story.

- ProPublica's funders are the anti-methane movement's funders. MacArthur, Hewlett, Heising-Simons, Skyline, and Zegar — all ProPublica donors — have put more than \$35 million into the Global Methane Hub and the Environmental Defense Fund's methane and MethaneSAT work in 2022–2024 alone, according to their own tax returns.
- The reporter Alex Cuadros's backer is underwritten by the same money. Cuadros discloses support from the Pulitzer Center, and he is listed as a grantee of its Rainforest Journalism Fund. The Pulitzer Center's largest foundation funder in the IRS data, MacArthur (\$3.8 million since 2016), describes itself as "driving methane reduction efforts" through EDF, Clean Air Task Force and Earthworks.
- ProPublica's sources are its donors' grantees. The stories rely on Earthworks' infrared camera crews, Clean Air Task Force analysis and quotes, Carbon Mapper satellite data, Ceres, and IEEFA. Each is funded by one or more ProPublica donors; Earthworks and Clean Air Task Force are also plaintiffs suing EPA over the very methane rules the stories cover.

¹Alex Cuadros, Trump Plans to Protect Methane-Leaking Stripper Wells. This Billionaire Donor Will Benefit., ProPublica (June 16, 2026), <https://www.propublica.org/article/trump-epa-methane-jeffery-hildebrand-hilcorp-oil-regulations> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).



- ProPublica's leadership leads other groups underwriting methane litigation. ProPublica director Steve Daetz is president of the Sandler Foundation — ProPublica's largest foundation funder — and served as treasurer of Earthjustice, the environmental litigation group that Sandler funded for "Gas, Power and Petrochemicals." ProPublica director Claire Bernard is a trustee of the Natural Resources Defense Council, one of America's largest left-wing environmental groups.



I. The Story ProPublica Told

A. The Donor-Influence Thesis

ProPublica's June 16, 2026 story frames the methane rollback as a payoff. ProPublica's own published summary of the story reads:

"Oil tycoon Jeffery Hildebrand gave millions to Donald Trump's 2024 election campaign. He is set to reap a financial windfall as the EPA moves to weaken restrictions on wells like his that produce very little energy but release vast amounts of methane."²

— ProPublica, June 16, 2026

The September 11, 2026 follow-up repeated the frame, opening: "The Trump administration is poised to loosen environmental restrictions on oil and gas wells that produce very little energy but release vast amounts of methane, a highly potent greenhouse gas."³

B. Who ProPublica Relied On

The reporting leans heavily on advocacy organizations and advocacy-funded data. In the June story:

- Earthworks: the field scenes follow "infrared camera operators with the nonprofit Earthworks," and the story's well-site photographs are credited "COURTESY OF EARTHWORKS."⁴
- Carbon Mapper: the plume data comes from "the nonprofit Carbon Mapper, a NASA partner."⁵
- Clean Air Task Force: "according to a Clean Air Task Force analysis of data companies report to the EPA, Hilcorp became the No. 1 emitter of methane in the entire U.S. oil and gas industry," and CATF's Lesley Feldman is quoted.⁶

²*Id.*

³Alex Cuadros, EPA to Loosen Methane Rules, Boosting Pollution From Oil and Gas Wells, ProPublica (Sept. 11, 2026), <https://www.propublica.org/article/methane-gas-epa-proposal-stripper-wells> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

⁴See *supra* note 1.

⁵*Id.*

⁶*Id.*



- Ceres: Andrew Logan “of Ceres, a climate advocacy group.”⁷
- IEEFA: Clark Williams-Derry “of the nonprofit Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis.”⁸

In the September story, the only outside voice on the policy is Clean Air Task Force’s Darin Schroeder: “This is not about energy dominance,” he said. “It’s about padding the pockets of oil and gas operators and saddling society with the costs.”⁹ Earthworks again supplies the photograph.

C. ProPublica’s Own Standard

ProPublica tells readers its donors cannot touch its journalism:

“No donor may dictate what we report on, require pre-publication approval or condition gifts on suppressing or skewing content.”¹⁰

— ProPublica, Gift Acceptance Practices

Its Code of Ethics also commits the newsroom to flag the interests of the people it relies on:

“To the extent that we can, we identify in our stories any important bias such a source may have.”¹¹

— ProPublica, Code of Ethics

Neither story tells readers that Earthworks, Clean Air Task Force, Carbon Mapper, Ceres, and IEEFA are financed by foundations that also finance ProPublica, or that Earthworks and Clean Air Task Force are litigants challenging EPA’s methane delay. Clean Air Task Force is described only as “a nonprofit that advocates for cutting emissions” and “a climate advocacy group.”¹²

⁷*Id.*

⁸*Id.*

⁹See *supra* note 3.

¹⁰Gift Acceptance Practices, ProPublica, <https://www.propublica.org/gift-acceptance-practices> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

¹¹Code of Ethics, ProPublica, <https://www.propublica.org/code-of-ethics> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

¹²See *supra* note 1.



II. Who Pays for ProPublica

ProPublica publishes “a list of just some of our larger donors.”¹³ It names MacArthur, Hewlett, Heising-Simons, Park, Sandler, Zegar and Crankstart. IRS filings show a broader roster, including large 2024 donors that do not appear on that list at all.

Funder	Grant to ProPublica (filing year)	Amount	On ProPublica's supporters page?
Sandler Foundation	FY ended June 2025 (\$6M) and June 2024 (\$2M) ¹⁴	\$8,000,000	Yes
Crankstart	2024 capital campaign and general support ¹⁵	\$6,500,000	Yes
Skyline Foundation	2024 general support and campaign ¹⁶	\$2,000,000	No
Hollyhock Foundation	2024 “PNW Reporting Network” ¹⁷	\$1,719,706	No
Mariposa Foundation	2024 ¹⁸	\$500,000	No
MacArthur Foundation	2022 and 2023 general operations ¹⁹	\$550,000	Yes

¹³Supporters, ProPublica, <https://www.propublica.org/supporters> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

¹⁴Sandler Found., Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax (Form 990), sched. I, pt. II (2024) (tax year ended June 30, 2025) (reporting grant of \$6,000,000 to PRO PUBLICA, purpose: “GENERAL SUPPORT”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/943147856/202611349349311916/full>; Sandler Found., Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax (Form 990), sched. I, pt. II (2023) (tax year ended June 30, 2024) (reporting grant of \$2,000,000 to PRO PUBLICA, purpose: “GENERAL SUPPORT”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/943147856/202511339349309036/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

¹⁵Crankstart Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2024) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2024) (reporting grant of \$5,000,000 to PRO PUBLICA INC, purpose: “FOR THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/943377099/202543179349103724/full>; Crankstart Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2024) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2024) (reporting grant of \$1,500,000 to PRO PUBLICA INC, purpose: “GENERAL SUPPORT”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/943377099/202543179349103724/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

¹⁶Skyline Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2024) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2024) (reporting grant of \$1,000,000 to PRO PUBLICA INC, purpose: “GENERAL SUPPORT”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/943380194/202543199349100949/full>; Skyline Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2024) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2024) (reporting grant of \$1,000,000 to PRO PUBLICA INC, purpose: “CAMPAIGN”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/943380194/202543199349100949/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

¹⁷Hollyhock Found., Inc., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2024) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2024) (reporting grant of \$1,719,706 to PRO PUBLICA, purpose: “PNW REPORTING NETWORK”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/542091336/202513219349108286/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

¹⁸Mariposa Found., Inc., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2024) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2024) (reporting grant of \$500,000 to PRO PUBLICA, purpose: “FOR DONEE’S EXEMPT PURPOSE”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/510170409/202543109349101129/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

¹⁹John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2023) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2023) (reporting grant of \$250,000 to Pro Publica Inc, purpose: “in support of general operations”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/237093598/202423189349103932/full>; John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2022) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2022) (reporting grant of \$300,000 to Pro Publica Inc, purpose: “In support of general operations”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/237093598/202313179349104401/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).



Funder	Grant to ProPublica (filing year)	Amount	On ProPublica's supporters page?
Heising-Simons Foundation	2020, 2021 and 2023 general support ²⁰	\$450,000	Yes
Hewlett Foundation	2024 general operating support ²¹	\$300,000	Yes
Park Foundation	2024 general operating support ²²	\$250,000	Yes
Zegar Family Foundation	2024 ²³	\$150,000	Yes
Benificus Foundation	2024 ²⁴	\$100,000	No

Amounts are the specific grant lines cited, as reported on each funder's return. Supporters-page status as of Sept. 25, 2026.²⁵

A. The Sandler Foundation and the Earthjustice Interlock

The Sandler Foundation, formed by Herb and Marion Sandler in 1991,²⁶ is ProPublica's largest foundation funder in the IRS data since 2016 — \$8 million across its two most recent fiscal years alone.²⁷ The foundation says it has funded efforts to “create good-paying clean energy jobs.”²⁸

²⁰Heising-Simons Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2023) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2023) (reporting grant of \$200,000 to PRO PUBLICA INC, purpose: “FOR GENERAL SUPPORT”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/260799587/202443169349102959/full>; Heising-Simons Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2021) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2021) (reporting grant of \$150,000 to PRO PUBLICA INC, purpose: “FOR GENERAL SUPPORT”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/260799587/202243139349101934/full>; Heising-Simons Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2020) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2020) (reporting grant of \$100,000 to PRO PUBLICA INC, purpose: “FOR GENERAL SUPPORT”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/260799587/202133199349105318/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

²¹William & Flora Hewlett Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2024) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2024) (reporting grant of \$300,000 to PRO PUBLICA INC, purpose: “FOR GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/941655673/202523189349102727/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

²²Park Found., Inc., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2024) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2024) (reporting grant of \$250,000 to PRO PUBLICA INC, purpose: “GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/166071043/202543179349103634/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

²³Zegar Family Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2024) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2024) (reporting grant of \$150,000 to PRO PUBLICA INC, purpose: “GENERAL PURPOSE CONTRIBUTION”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/137548507/202543219349103209/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

²⁴Benificus Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2024) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2024) (reporting grant of \$100,000 to PRO PUBLICA INC, purpose: “GENERAL PURPOSE”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/770444504/202513189349105251/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

²⁵See *supra* note 13.

²⁶Sandler Found., <https://www.sandlerfoundation.org/> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

²⁷See *supra* note 14.

²⁸See *supra* note 26.



Sandler's president is also a ProPublica director. Steve Daetz is listed on ProPublica's 2024 Form 990 as a director²⁹ and on the Sandler Foundation's return for the year ended June 2025 as "Director, President, Ast Sec."³⁰ Earthjustice's return for the year ended June 2022 lists him as its "Treas. & VC Finance."³¹ Sandler's grants director, Sergio Knaebel, is an Earthjustice trustee.³²

A For the 2024 calendar year, or tax year beginning 01-01-2024 , and ending 12-31-2024					
B Check if applicable: ☐ Address change ☐ Name change ☐ Initial return ☐ Final return/terminated ☐ Amended return ☐ Application pending	C Name of organization PRO PUBLICA INC Doing business as Number and street (or P.O. box if mail is not delivered to street address) Room/suite 155 AVE OF THE AMERICAS 13 FL City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code			D Employer identification number 14-2007220 E Telephone number (212) 514-5250	
Form 990, Part VII, Section A: Officers, Directors, Trustees other rows omitted; cited row highlighted					
(A) Name and title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below dotted line)	(C) Position (do not check more than one box, unless person is both an officer and a director/trustee)	(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W-2/1099-MISC/1099-NEC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W-2/1099-MISC/1099-NEC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
(5) STEVE DAETZ DIRECTOR	1.00	X	0	0	0

Figure 1. ProPublica's 2024 Form 990 lists Steve Daetz as a director.³³

²⁹Pro Publica, Inc., Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax (Form 990), pt. VII, sec. A (2024) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2024) (listing Steve Daetz), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/142007220/202523189349307912/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

³⁰Sandler Found., Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax (Form 990), pt. VII, sec. A (2024) (tax year ended June 30, 2025) (listing Steve Daetz), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/943147856/202611349349311916/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

³¹Earthjustice, Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax (Form 990), pt. VII, sec. A (2021) (tax year ended June 30, 2022) (listing Steve Daetz), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/941730465/202330879349301408/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

³²Sandler Found., Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax (Form 990), pt. VII, sec. A (2024) (tax year ended June 30, 2025) (listing Sergio Knaebel), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/943147856/202611349349311916/full>; Earthjustice, Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax (Form 990), pt. VII, sec. A (2024) (tax year ended June 30, 2025) (listing Sergio Knaebel), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/941730465/202601289349303040/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

³³See *supra* note 29.



A For the 2021 calendar year, or tax year beginning 07-01-2021 , and ending 06-30-2022										
B Check if applicable: ☐		C Name of organization EARTHJUSTICE					D Employer identification number 94-1730465			
Address change ☐		Doing business as								
Name change ☐										
Initial return ☐										
Final return/terminated ☐		Number and street (or P.O. box if mail is not delivered to street address) 50 CALIFORNIA STREET 500				Room/suite		E Telephone number (415) 217-2000		
Amended return ☐										
Application pending ☐										
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code										
Form 990, Part VII, Section A: Officers, Directors, Trustees other rows omitted; cited row highlighted										
(A) Name and title		(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below dotted line)	(C) Position (do not check more than one box, unless person is both an officer and a director/trustee)				(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W-2/1099-MISC/1099-NEC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W-2/1099-MISC/1099-NEC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations	
(5) STEVE DAETZ TREAS. & VC FINANCE		1.00	☒	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	0	0

Figure 2. Earthjustice's Form 990 (tax year ended June 30, 2022) lists Steve Daetz as treasurer and vice chair for finance³⁴

While Daetz served on both boards, Sandler sent Earthjustice \$2 million a year earmarked for “GAS, POWER AND PETROCHEMICALS” advocacy in each of the three fiscal years ending June 2019, 2020 and 2021.³⁵ Earthjustice describes itself as “instrumental in resisting the first Trump administration’s efforts to attack the” methane rule, and it called the current administration’s delay a rule that “gives the oil and gas industry a pass to pollute.”³⁶

³⁴See *supra* note 31.

³⁵ Sandler Found., Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax (Form 990), sched. I, pt. II (2020) (tax year ended June 30, 2021) (reporting grant of \$2,000,000 to EARTHJUSTICE, purpose: “GAS, POWER AND PETROCHEMICALS”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/943147856/202241319349306374/full>; Sandler Found., Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax (Form 990), sched. I, pt. II (2019) (tax year ended June 30, 2020) (reporting grant of \$2,000,000 to EARTHJUSTICE, purpose: “GAS, POWER AND PETROCHEMICALS”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/943147856/202141329349304039/full>; Sandler Found., Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax (Form 990), sched. I, pt. II (2018) (tax year ended June 30, 2019) (reporting grant of \$2,000,000 to EARTHJUSTICE, purpose: “GAS, POWER AND PETROCHEMICALS”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/943147856/202021369349303167/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

³⁶ Press Release, Earthjustice, Earthjustice Blasts EPA for Methane Emissions Rollback (July 29, 2025), <https://earthjustice.org/press/2025/earthjustice-blasts-epa-for-methane-emissions-rollback> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

A For the 2020 calendar year, or tax year beginning 07-01-2020 , and ending 06-30-2021							
B Check if applicable: ☐ Address change ☐ Name change ☐ Initial return ☐ Final return/terminated ☐ Amended return ☐ Application pending		C Name of organization SANDLER FOUNDATION Doing business as Number and street (or P.O. box if mail is not delivered to street address) Room/suite 121 STEUART STREET City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code				D Employer identification number 94-3147856 E Telephone number (415) 777-0411	
Schedule I (Form 990), Part II: Grants to Domestic Organizations other rows omitted; cited row highlighted							
(a) Name and address of organization or government	(b) EIN	(c) IRC section (if applicable)	(d) Amount of cash grant	(e) Amount of non-cash assistance	(f) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	(g) Description of noncash assistance	(h) Purpose of grant or assistance
(17) EARTHJUSTICE 50 CALIFORNIA STREET SUITE 500 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111	94-1730465	501(C)(3)	2,000,000			N/A	GAS, POWER AND PETROCHEMICALS

Figure 3. Sandler Foundation, Form 990 Schedule I (tax year ended June 30, 2021): \$2,000,000 to Earthjustice for “Gas, Power and Petrochemicals.”³⁷

Crankstart, ProPublica’s largest 2024 donor, followed the same pattern. The same 2024 return that reports \$6.5 million to ProPublica³⁸ reports \$450,000 to Earthjustice “TO REDUCE OIL & GAS PRODUCTION AND EXTRACTION PROJECTS IN CORPUS CHRISTI.”³⁹ Crankstart says it supports “work that accelerates the transition to clean energy.”⁴⁰

For calendar year 2024, or tax year beginning 01-01-2024 , and ending 12-31-2024				
Name of foundation CRANKSTART FOUNDATION Number and street (or P.O. box number if mail is not delivered to street address) Room/suite CO 1952 CAMDEN AVE STE 202 City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code			A Employer identification number 94-3377099 B Telephone number (see instructions) (415) 561-6540	
Form 990-PF, Part XV, line 3a: Grants Paid During the Year other rows omitted; cited row highlighted				
Recipient Name and address (home or business)	If recipient is an individual, show any relationship to any foundation manager or substantial contributor	Foundation status of recipient	Purpose of grant or contribution	Amount
EARTHJUSTICE 50 CALIFORNIA STREET SUITE 500 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111	NONE	501(C)(3) PUBLIC CHA	TO REDUCE OIL & GAS PRODUCTION AND EXTRACTION PROJECTS IN CORPUS CHRISTI	450,000

Figure 4. Crankstart Foundation, 2024 Form 990-PF: \$450,000 to Earthjustice to reduce oil and gas production in Corpus Christi.⁴¹

³⁷See *supra* note 35.

³⁸See *supra* note 15.

³⁹Crankstart Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2024) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2024) (reporting grant of \$450,000 to EARTHJUSTICE, purpose: “TO REDUCE OIL & GAS PRODUCTION AND EXTRACTION PROJECTS IN CORPUS CHRISTI”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/943377099/202543179349103724/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

⁴⁰Programs, Crankstart, <https://crankstart.org/programs> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

⁴¹See *supra* note 39.



B. Claire Bernard: ProPublica, Mariposa and NRDC

Claire Bernard is a ProPublica director,⁴² president of the Mariposa Foundation, which gave ProPublica \$500,000 in 2024,⁴³ and a trustee of the Natural Resources Defense Council,⁴⁴ one of the groups suing EPA over its methane delay.⁴⁵

C. ProPublica Donors by the Numbers

In 2023, 2024, and 2025, ProPublica received 119 grants equal to or greater than \$50,000.⁴⁶ Of the money given to ProPublica through these grants, 57% came from organizations with a clear environmental agenda, and 82% came from organizations with at least some record of funding environmental causes.

Funder Type	Value of Grants	Number of Grants
Total	\$61,594,066.00	119
Organizations with a clear environmental agenda	\$35,288,150.00 (57.29%)	39 (32.77%)
Organizations that provide at least some funding to environmental groups	\$15,384,320.00 (24.97%)	38 (31.93%)
All other organizations	\$10,921,596.00 (17.73%)	42 (35.29%)

⁴²Pro Publica, Inc., Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax (Form 990), pt. VII, sec. A (2024) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2024) (listing Claire Bernard), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/142007220/202523189349307912/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

⁴³Mariposa Found., Inc., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. VII, line 1 (2024) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2024) (listing Claire Bernard), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/510170409/202543109349101129/full>; Mariposa Found., Inc., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2024) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2024) (reporting grant of \$500,000 to PROPUBLICA, purpose: "FOR DONEE'S EXEMPT PURPOSE"), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/510170409/202543109349101129/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

⁴⁴Nat. Res. Def. Council, Inc., Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax (Form 990), pt. VII, sec. A (2023) (tax year ended June 30, 2024) (listing Claire Bernard), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/132654926/202541339349309704/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

⁴⁵Press Release, Earthjustice, Groups File Lawsuit Challenging Trump EPA Final Rule That Delays Methane Pollution Protections from Oil and Gas Industry (Dec. 4, 2025), <https://earthjustice.org/press/2025/groups-file-lawsuit-challenging-trump-epa-final-rule-that-delays-methane-pollution-protections-from-oil-and-gas-industry> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

⁴⁶Sourced from ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer's IRS Form 990 database. Only a limited number of 2025 grants are publicly available. See Nonprofit Explorer, ProPublica, <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/> (last visited Sept. 28, 2026).



III. Who Underwrites the Reporter

A. The Pulitzer Center and Its Rainforest Journalism Fund

Cuadros's ProPublica biography states: "My work has been supported by the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting, the Fund for Investigative Journalism and the Alicia Patterson Foundation."⁴⁷ The Pulitzer Center's Rainforest Journalism Fund lists him as an "International RJF Grantee" for a project on climate "tipping points" in the Amazon⁴⁸ and the Pulitzer Center separately lists his project on Rio's evangelical drug gangs.⁴⁹ The public record does not show that the Pulitzer Center paid for the 2026 methane stories themselves; it shows that the Pulitzer Center has underwritten the reporter.

The Pulitzer Center says that it "solely controls decisions about its reporting projects and programs."⁵⁰ Its current donors include the MacArthur Foundation, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, the Walton Family Foundation, the Park Foundation, the Wellspring Philanthropic Fund, the Tides Foundation, the Open Society Foundations, the Ford Foundation, the Climate and Land Use Alliance, and Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative, which funds its reporting "on the ocean, rainforests, and corporate governance and transparency related to the environment."⁵¹

B. MacArthur: The Pulitzer Center's Largest Foundation Backer

The Pulitzer Center thanks MacArthur for "transformational support over the years."⁵² MacArthur's returns report \$3.8 million to the Pulitzer Center from 2016 through 2024, almost all of it "in support of general operations."⁵³ Other Pulitzer Center funders with

⁴⁷Alex Cuadros, ProPublica, <https://www.propublica.org/people/alex-cuadros> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

⁴⁸The Amazon's Tipping Point, Rainforest Journalism Fund (Pulitzer Ctr.) (project page identifying Alex Cuadros as "International RJF Grantee"), <https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/amazons-tipping-point> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

⁴⁹Alex Cuadros, Pulitzer Ctr., <https://pulitzercenter.org/people/alex-cuadros> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

⁵⁰Donors, Pulitzer Ctr., <https://pulitzercenter.org/about/donors> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

⁵¹*Id.*

⁵²*Id.*

⁵³John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2023) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2023) (reporting grant of \$200,000 to Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting, purpose: "in support of general operations"), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/237093598/202423189349103932/full>; John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2022) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2022) (reporting grant of \$350,000 to Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting, purpose: "In support of general operations"), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/237093598/202313179349104401/full>; John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2024) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2024) (reporting grant of \$150,000 to PULITZER CENTER ON CRISIS REPORTING, purpose: "IN SUPPORT OF THE AI SPOTLIGHT SERIES"), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/237093598/202503169349102460/full>; John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2021) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2021) (reporting grant of \$350,000 to Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting, purpose: "in support of general operations."), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/237093598/202340929349100004/full>; John D. & Catherine T.



methane portfolios include Moore (\$750,000 in 2023–2024)⁵⁴, Walton (\$800,000 in 2021–2024)⁵⁵, Hewlett (\$120,000 in 2019)⁵⁶ and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund (\$300,000 in 2021–2022).⁵⁷

MacArthur is explicit about what it funds on methane:

MacArthur Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2020) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2020) (reporting grant of \$500,000 to Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting, purpose: “in support of general operations.”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/237093598/202133169349104553/full>; John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2019) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2019) (reporting grant of \$500,000 to PULITZER CENTER ON CRISIS REPORTING, purpose: “IN SUPPORT OF GENERAL OPERATIONS.”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/237093598/202023179349103467/full>; John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2018) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2018) (reporting grant of \$500,000 to PULITZER CENTER ON CRISIS REPORTING, purpose: “IN SUPPORT OF GENERAL OPERATIONS.”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/237093598/201913189349103221/full>; John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2017) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2017) (reporting grant of \$500,000 to PULITZER CENTER ON CRISIS REPORTING, purpose: “IN SUPPORT OF GENERAL OPERATIONS.”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/237093598/201813199349100836/full>; John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2016) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2016) (reporting grant of \$250,000 to PULITZER CENTER ON CRISIS REPORTING, purpose: “IN SUPPORT OF A NEW FUND FOR MULTI-MEDIA JOURNALISM COLLABORATIONS BETWEEN THE PULITZER CENTER AND MAJOR NEWS ORGANIZATIONS WITH LARGE AUDIENCES.”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/237093598/201733199349101673/full>; John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2016) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2016) (reporting grant of \$500,000 to PULITZER CENTER ON CRISIS REPORTING, purpose: “IN SUPPORT OF GENERAL OPERATIONS.”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/237093598/201733199349101673/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

⁵⁴Gordon E. & Betty I. Moore Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2024) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2024) (reporting grant of \$500,000 to PULITZER CENTER ON CRISIS REPORTING, purpose: “TO ENABLE JOURNALISTS TO INVESTIGATE AND REPORT ON COMMERCIAL AND POLICY CONDITIONS THAT MAKE DEFORESTATION, ILLEGAL FISHING, AND RELATED FINANCIAL CRIMES TOO COMMON, AND ON EFFORTS UNDERWAY TO CHANGE THOSE CONDITIONS.”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/943397785/202503189349103305/full>; Gordon E. & Betty I. Moore Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2023) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2023) (reporting grant of \$250,000 to PULITZER CENTER ON CRISIS REPORTING, purpose: “TO ENABLE JOURNALISTS TO INVESTIGATE AND REPORT ON COMMERCIAL AND POLICY CONDITIONS THAT MAKE DEFORESTATION, ILLEGAL FISHING, AND RELATED FINANCIAL CRIMES TOO COMMON, AND ON EFFORTS UNDERWAY TO CHANGE THOSE CONDITIONS.”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/943397785/202433189349101128/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

⁵⁵Walton Family Found., Inc., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2024) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2024) (reporting grant of \$300,000 to Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting, purpose: “To raise awareness of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and its myriad impacts on oceans, climate and communities.”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/133441466/202543219349103824/full>; Walton Family Found., Inc., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2022) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2022) (reporting grant of \$250,000 to Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting, purpose: “To raise awareness of underreported global sustainability issues related to fisheries through support for quality multimedia journalism and education and public outreach programs.”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/133441466/202323199349103222/full>; Walton Family Found., Inc., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2021) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2021) (reporting grant of \$250,000 to Pulitzer Center for Crisis Reporting, purpose: “To raise awareness of underreported global sustainability issues related to fisheries through support for quality multimedia journalism and education and public outreach programs.”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/133441466/202223199349107147/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

⁵⁶William & Flora Hewlett Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2019) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2019) (reporting grant of \$120,000 to PULITZER CENTER ON CRISIS REPORTING, purpose: “FOR THE REPORTING COVERAGE OF GUANTANAMO BAY”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/941655673/202043089349100749/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

⁵⁷Rockefeller Bros. Fund, Inc., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2022) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2022) (reporting grant of \$150,000 to PULITZER CENTER ON CRISIS REPORTING, purpose: “FOR ITS PROJECT, 1619 EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/131760106/202323179349101577/full>; Rockefeller Bros. Fund, Inc., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2021) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2021) (reporting grant of \$150,000 to PULITZER CENTER ON CRISIS REPORTING, purpose: “FOR ITS PROJECT, 1619 EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/131760106/202243189349102299/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).



“MacArthur has been driving methane reduction efforts for several years by supporting the work of groups such as the Environmental Defense Fund, Clean Air Task Force, Earthworks, and others. Our grantees and partners work at both the regulatory and enforcement levels, to make this invisible threat visible, and at national and international levels, to restrict these dangerous emissions.”⁵⁸

— Jorgen Thomsen, Director, Climate Solutions, MacArthur Foundation (Dec. 16, 2021)

Two of the three groups MacArthur names — Clean Air Task Force and Earthworks — are ProPublica’s principal sources in the methane stories.

⁵⁸Jorgen Thomsen, Meeting the Methane Moment, John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Found. (Dec. 16, 2021), <https://www.macfound.org/press/perspectives/meeting-the-methane-moment> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).



IV. The Same Money Runs the Anti-Methane Campaign

A. A Coordinated \$328 Million Methane Pledge

In October 2021, Hewlett announced a coalition of more than 20 funders pledging “more than \$328 million to drastically reduce methane emissions around the world.” The listed members include Hewlett, MacArthur and the Zegar Family Foundation — all three ProPublica donors.⁵⁹ Hewlett’s then-president, Larry Kramer, said: “The science is clear: slashing methane emissions is the fastest and most cost-effective way to keep the planet’s temperature rise to under 1.5°C and mitigate the worst harms of climate change.”⁶⁰ MacArthur president John Palfrey said the effort “demands government, the private sector, and philanthropy act ambitiously.”⁶¹

B. The Global Methane Hub

The Global Methane Hub, housed at the Windward Fund, describes itself as “a connector, funder, educator, and advocate” working to “reduce global methane emissions 35% by 2030.”⁶² ProPublica’s donors are among its largest financiers:

- Hewlett: \$20 million “FOR THE METHANE HUB” in 2022, 2023 and 2024.⁶³
- MacArthur: \$10 million “in support of the Methane Hub” in 2022–2024.⁶⁴

⁵⁹Press Release, William & Flora Hewlett Found., Leading Philanthropic Organizations Partner and Commit to Over \$328M to Reducing Methane Emissions (Oct. 11, 2021; updated Nov. 2, 2021), <https://hewlett.org/newsroom/leading-philanthropies-partner-and-commit-to-over-200m-to-reducing-methane-emissions/> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

⁶⁰*Id.*

⁶¹*Id.*

⁶²About Us, Global Methane Hub, <https://www.globalmethanehub.org/about/> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

⁶³William & Flora Hewlett Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2024) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2024) (reporting grant of \$6,666,666 to WINDWARD FUND, purpose: “FOR THE METHANE HUB”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/941655673/202523189349102727/full>; William & Flora Hewlett Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2023) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2023) (reporting grant of \$6,666,666 to WINDWARD FUND, purpose: “FOR THE METHANE HUB”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/941655673/202403169349102865/full>; William & Flora Hewlett Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2022) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2022) (reporting grant of \$6,666,668 to WINDWARD FUND, purpose: “FOR THE METHANE HUB”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/941655673/202343179349104459/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

⁶⁴John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2023) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2023) (reporting grant of \$4,000,000 to Windward Fund, purpose: “in support of the Methane Hub”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/237093598/202423189349103932/full>; John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2022) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2022) (reporting grant of \$1,000,000 to Windward Fund, purpose: “in support of the Methane Hub”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/237093598/202313179349104401/full>; John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2024) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2024) (reporting grant of \$5,000,000 to WINDWARD FUND, purpose: “IN SUPPORT OF THE METHANE HUB”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/237093598/202503169349102460/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).



- Skyline: \$2 million “FOR THE CHARITABLE PURPOSES OF GLOBAL METHANE HUB” in 2023–2024.⁶⁵
- Zegar: \$1.9 million for the “GLOBAL METHANE HUB - ENTERIC ACCELERATOR” in 2024.⁶⁶
- Rockefeller Brothers Fund (a Pulitzer Center funder): \$100,000 “FOR ITS METHANE HUB PROJECT” in 2020, plus a UC “Methane Protocol” project.⁶⁷

For calendar year 2024, or tax year beginning 01-01-2024, and ending 12-31-2024				
Name of foundation THE WILLIAM & FLORA HEWLETT FOUNDATION			A Employer identification number 94-1655673	
% DWIGHT KODA				
Number and street (or P.O. box number if mail is not delivered to street address) 2121 SAND HILL ROAD		Room/suite	B Telephone number (see instructions) (650) 234-4500	
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code				
Form 990-PF, Part XV, line 3a: Grants Paid During the Year other rows omitted; cited row highlighted				
Recipient Name and address (home or business)	If recipient is an individual, show any relationship to any foundation manager or substantial contributor	Foundation status of recipient	Purpose of grant or contribution	Amount
WINDWARD FUND 1828 L STREET NW SUITE 300-C WASHINGTON, DC 20036		PC	FOR THE METHANE HUB	6,666,666

Figure 5. Hewlett Foundation, 2024 Form 990-PF: \$6,666,666 to Windward Fund “For the Methane Hub” — the same return reports \$300,000 to ProPublica.⁶⁸

⁶⁵Skyline Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2024) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2024) (reporting grant of \$1,000,000 to WINDWARD FUND, purpose: “FOR THE CHARITABLE PURPOSES OF GLOBAL METHANE HUB”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/943380194/202543199349100949/full>; Skyline Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2023) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2023) (reporting grant of \$1,000,000 to WINDWARD FUND, purpose: “FOR THE CHARITABLE PURPOSES OF GLOBAL METHANE HUB”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/943380194/202403199349102075/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

⁶⁶Zegar Family Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2024) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2024) (reporting grant of \$1,905,048 to WINDWARD FUND, purpose: “GLOBAL METHANE HUB - ENTERIC ACCELERATOR”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/137548507/202543219349103209/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

⁶⁷Rockefeller Bros. Fund, Inc., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2021) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2021) (reporting grant of \$100,000 to THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, purpose: “FOR ITS METHANE PROTOCOL COP26 PROJECT”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/131760106/202243189349102299/full>; Rockefeller Bros. Fund, Inc., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2024) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2024) (reporting grant of \$100,000 to THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, purpose: “FOR ITS METHANE PROTOCOL PROJECT”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/131760106/202523149349101482/full>; Rockefeller Bros. Fund, Inc., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2020) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2020) (reporting grant of \$100,000 to COALSWARM, purpose: “FOR ITS METHANE HUB PROJECT”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/131760106/202123129349101907/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

⁶⁸See *supra* note 62.



AMERICAN ACCOUNTABILITY FOUNDATION

For calendar year 2024, or tax year beginning 01-01-2024 , and ending 12-31-2024				
Name of foundation JOHN D AND CATHERINE T MACARTHUR FOUNDATION			A Employer identification number 23-7093598	
Number and street (or P.O. box number if mail is not delivered to street address) 140 SOUTH DEARBORN ST STE 1200		Room/suite	B Telephone number (see instructions) (312) 726-8000	
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code				
Form 990-PF, Part XV, line 3a: Grants Paid During the Year other rows omitted; cited row highlighted				
Recipient Name and address (home or business)	If recipient is an individual, show any relationship to any foundation manager or substantial contributor	Foundation status of recipient	Purpose of grant or contribution	Amount
WINDWARD FUND 1828 L STREET NW SUITE 300-C WASHINGTON, DC 20036		PC	IN SUPPORT OF THE METHANE HUB	5,000,000

Figure 6. MacArthur Foundation, 2024 Form 990-PF: \$5,000,000 to Windward Fund “In support of the Methane Hub.”⁶⁹

For calendar year 2024, or tax year beginning 01-01-2024 , and ending 12-31-2024				
Name of foundation SKYLINE FOUNDATION			A Employer identification number 94-3380194	
Number and street (or P.O. box number if mail is not delivered to street address) 1660 BUSH STREET 300		Room/suite	B Telephone number (see instructions) (415) 561-6540	
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code				
Form 990-PF, Part XV, line 3a: Grants Paid During the Year other rows omitted; cited row highlighted				
Recipient Name and address (home or business)	If recipient is an individual, show any relationship to any foundation manager or substantial contributor	Foundation status of recipient	Purpose of grant or contribution	Amount
WINDWARD FUND 1828 L STREET NW SUITE 300-C WASHINGTON, DC 20036		PC	FOR THE CHARITABLE PURPOSES OF GLOBAL METHANE HUB	1,000,000

Figure 7. Skyline Foundation, 2024 Form 990-PF: \$1,000,000 to Windward Fund for the Global Methane Hub — the same return reports \$2,000,000 to ProPublica.⁷⁰

⁶⁹See *supra* note 63.

⁷⁰See *supra* note 64.



For calendar year 2024, or tax year beginning 01-01-2024 , and ending 12-31-2024				
Name of foundation THE ZEGAR FAMILY FOUNDATION			A Employer identification number 13-7548507	
Number and street (or P.O. box number if mail is not delivered to street address) CO CORIENT TAX LLC - PO BOX 1510		Room/suite	B Telephone number (see instructions) (212) 583-6001	
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code				
Form 990-PF, Part XV, line 3a: Grants Paid During the Year other rows omitted; cited row highlighted				
Recipient	If recipient is an individual, show any relationship to any foundation manager or substantial contributor	Foundation status of recipient	Purpose of grant or contribution	Amount
Name and address (home or business)				
WINDWARD FUND 1828 L STREET NW 300-C WASHINGTON, DC 20036	NONE	PC	GLOBAL METHANE HUB - ENTERIC ACCELERATOR	1,905,048

Figure 8. Zegar Family Foundation, 2024 Form 990-PF: \$1,905,048 for the Global Methane Hub.⁷¹

C. Environmental Defense Fund and MethaneSAT

EDF says its “research and advocacy have driven global action on methane for over a decade, putting methane at the center of the global climate agenda,” and its methane page carries the headline “Coming soon: Trump administration poised to weaken national methane protections.”⁷² EDF built MethaneSAT so that “companies, governments and advocates can speed up emissions cuts, track progress and hold polluters truly accountable.”⁷³

- MacArthur: \$5 million to EDF in 2021–2023 “to cut methane emissions and reduce harmful climate and environmental impacts resulting from oil and natural gas production.”⁷⁴

⁷¹See *supra* note 65.

⁷²Methane Pollution, Env’t Def. Fund, <https://www.edf.org/issue/methane> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

⁷³MethaneSAT, Env’t Def. Fund, <https://www.edf.org/methanesat> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

⁷⁴John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2023) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2023) (reporting grant of \$1,000,000 to Environmental Defense Fund Incorporated, purpose: “to cut methane emissions and reduce harmful climate and environmental impacts resulting from oil and natural gas production”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/237093598/202423189349103932/full>; John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2022) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2022) (reporting grant of \$2,000,000 to Environmental Defense Fund Incorporated, purpose: “to cut methane emissions and reduce harmful climate and environmental impacts resulting from oil and natural gas production”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/237093598/202313179349104401/full>; John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2021) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2021) (reporting grant of \$2,000,000 to Environmental Defense Fund Incorporated, purpose: “to cut methane emissions and reduce harmful climate and environmental impacts resulting from oil and natural gas production”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/237093598/202340929349100004/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).



- Heising-Simons: \$1 million in 2024 “TO VALIDATE METHANESAT MEASUREMENTS,” after \$2 million in 2021 that included \$500,000 for “METHANE EMISSIONS REDUCTION.”⁷⁵
- Skyline: \$1 million in 2024 for “METHANESAT.”⁷⁶
- Walton (a Pulitzer Center funder): \$3 million in 2023–2024 “To support EDF to expand MethaneSAT’s capabilities.”⁷⁷
- Hewlett: \$1 million in 2017 “FOR THE PATH TO A LOWCARBON FUTURE REDUCING US METHANE EMISSIONS FROM OIL AND GAS,” plus \$1.2 million for the “Methane Partners Campaign.”⁷⁸

⁷⁵Heising-Simons Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2024) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2024) (reporting grant of \$1,000,000 to ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND INC, purpose: “TO VALIDATE METHANESAT MEASUREMENTS”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/260799587/202543219349106499/full>; Heising-Simons Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2021) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2021) (reporting grant of \$2,000,000 to ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND INC, purpose: “TO ADVANCE AMBITIOUS FEDERAL CLIMATE POLICY (\$1,250,000), METHANE EMISSIONS REDUCTION (\$500,000), AND CLIMATE FINANCE (\$250,000)”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/260799587/202243139349101934/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

⁷⁶Skyline Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2024) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2024) (reporting grant of \$1,000,000 to ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND INCORPORATED, purpose: “METHANESAT”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/943380194/202543199349100949/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

⁷⁷Walton Family Found., Inc., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2024) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2024) (reporting grant of \$2,000,000 to Environmental Defense Fund, purpose: “To support EDF to expand MethaneSAT’s capabilities to monitor CO2 emissions.”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/133441466/202543219349103824/full>; Walton Family Found., Inc., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2023) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2023) (reporting grant of \$1,000,000 to Environmental Defense Fund Inc, purpose: “To support EDF to expand MethaneSAT’s capabilities to monitor CO2 emissions”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/133441466/202413199349102766/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

⁷⁸William & Flora Hewlett Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2017) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2017) (reporting grant of \$1,000,000 to ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND INCORPORATED, purpose: “FOR THE PATH TO A LOWCARBON FUTURE REDUCING US METHANE EMISSIONS FROM OIL AND GAS”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/941655673/201823069349100707/full>; William & Flora Hewlett Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2017) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2017) (reporting grant of \$700,000 to PARTNERSHIP PROJECT INC, purpose: “FOR THE CLIMATE ADVOCACY LAB AND METHANE PARTNERS CAMPAIGN”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/941655673/201823069349100707/full>; William & Flora Hewlett Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2016) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2016) (reporting grant of \$500,000 to PARTNERSHIP PROJECT INC, purpose: “FOR SUPPORT OF THE METHANE PARTNERS CAMPAIGN”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/941655673/201733079349101008/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).



AMERICAN ACCOUNTABILITY FOUNDATION

For calendar year 2022, or tax year beginning 01-01-2022 , and ending 12-31-2022				
Name of foundation John D and Catherine T MacArthur Foundation (Consolidated)			A Employer identification number 23-7093598	
Number and street (or P.O. box number if mail is not delivered to street address) 140 South Dearborn St Ste 1200		Room/suite	B Telephone number (see instructions) (312) 726-8000	
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code				
Form 990-PF, Part XV, line 3a: Grants Paid During the Year other rows omitted; cited row highlighted				
Recipient	If recipient is an individual, show any relationship to any foundation manager or substantial contributor	Foundation status of recipient	Purpose of grant or contribution	Amount
Name and address (home or business)				
Environmental Defense Fund Incorporated 257 Park Avenue South New York, NY 10010		PC	to cut methane emissions and reduce harmful climate and environmental impacts resulting from oil and natural gas production	2,000,000

Figure 9. MacArthur Foundation, 2022 Form 990-PF: \$2,000,000 to EDF “to cut methane emissions ... resulting from oil and natural gas production.”⁷⁹

For calendar year 2024, or tax year beginning 01-01-2024 , and ending 12-31-2024				
Name of foundation THE HEISING-SIMONS FOUNDATION			A Employer identification number 26-0799587	
Number and street (or P.O. box number if mail is not delivered to street address) 400 MAIN ST 200		Room/suite	B Telephone number (see instructions) (650) 887-0277	
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code				
Form 990-PF, Part XV, line 3a: Grants Paid During the Year other rows omitted; cited row highlighted				
Recipient	If recipient is an individual, show any relationship to any foundation manager or substantial contributor	Foundation status of recipient	Purpose of grant or contribution	Amount
Name and address (home or business)				
ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND INC 123 MISSION STREET SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105	N/A	PC	TO VALIDATE METHANESAT MEASUREMENTS	1,000,000

Figure 10. Heising-Simons Foundation, 2024 Form 990-PF: \$1,000,000 to EDF “To validate MethaneSAT measurements.”⁸⁰

⁷⁹See *supra* note 73.

⁸⁰See *supra* note 74.



For calendar year 2024, or tax year beginning 01-01-2024 , and ending 12-31-2024				
Name of foundation SKYLINE FOUNDATION			A Employer identification number 94-3380194	
Number and street (or P.O. box number if mail is not delivered to street address) 1660 BUSH STREET 300		Room/suite	B Telephone number (see instructions) (415) 561-6540	
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code				
Form 990-PF, Part XV, line 3a: Grants Paid During the Year other rows omitted; cited row highlighted				
Recipient	If recipient is an individual, show any relationship to any foundation manager or substantial contributor	Foundation status of recipient	Purpose of grant or contribution	Amount
Name and address (home or business) ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND INCORPORATED 257 PARK AVENUE SOUTH NEW YORK, NY 10010		PC	METHANESAT	1,000,000

Figure 11. Skyline Foundation, 2024 Form 990-PF: \$1,000,000 to EDF for “MethaneSAT.”⁸¹

For calendar year 2024, or tax year beginning 01-01-2024 , and ending 12-31-2024				
Name of foundation Walton Family Foundation Inc			A Employer identification number 13-3441466	
Number and street (or P.O. box number if mail is not delivered to street address) PO Box 1860		Room/suite	B Telephone number (see instructions) (479) 464-1570	
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code				
Form 990-PF, Part XV, line 3a: Grants Paid During the Year other rows omitted; cited row highlighted				
Recipient	If recipient is an individual, show any relationship to any foundation manager or substantial contributor	Foundation status of recipient	Purpose of grant or contribution	Amount
Name and address (home or business) Environmental Defense Fund 257 Park Avenue South New York, NY 10010		PC	To support EDF to expand MethaneSAT's capabilities to monitor CO2 emissions.	2,000,000

Figure 12. Walton Family Foundation, 2024 Form 990-PF: \$2,000,000 to EDF to expand MethaneSAT.⁸²

EDF's chairman co-founded a ProPublica donor

EDF's Form 990 for the tax year ended Sept. 30, 2024 lists Mark W. Heising as its chair.⁸³ The Heising-Simons Foundation says it “was established by Mark Heising and Liz Simons in 2007,”⁸⁴ and its biography of him states: “Mark serves as Chair of the Environmental Defense Fund.”⁸⁵ Heising-Simons is on ProPublica's supporters page.⁸⁶

⁸¹See *supra* note 75.

⁸²See *supra* note 76.

⁸³Env't Def. Fund, Inc., Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax (Form 990), pt. VII, sec. A (2023) (tax year ended Sept. 30, 2024) (listing Mark W Heising), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/116107128/202531909349301613/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

⁸⁴About, Heising-Simons Found., <https://www.hsfoundation.org/about/> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

⁸⁵Mark Heising, Heising-Simons Found., <https://www.hsfoundation.org/person/mark-heising/> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

⁸⁶See *supra* note 13.



A For the 2023 calendar year, or tax year beginning 10-01-2023 , and ending 09-30-2024									
B Check if applicable: ☐		C Name of organization ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND INCORPORATED					D Employer identification number 11-6107128		
Address change ☐		% FREDERIC D KRUPP							
Name change ☐		Doing business as							
Initial return ☐									
Final return/terminated ☐		Number and street (or P.O. box if mail is not delivered to street address)					Room/suite		
Amended return ☐		257 PARK AVENUE SOUTH							
Application pending ☐							E Telephone number (212) 505-2100		
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code									
Form 990, Part VII, Section A: Officers, Directors, Trustees other rows omitted; cited row highlighted									
(A) Name and title		(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below dotted line)	(C) Position (do not check more than one box, unless person is both an officer and a director/trustee)				(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W-2/1099-MISC/1099-NEC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W-2/1099-MISC/1099-NEC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
(14) MARK W HEISING		2.0	X				0	0	
CHAIR		0.0							

Figure 13. Environmental Defense Fund, Form 990 (tax year ended Sept. 30, 2024): Mark W. Heising, Chair.⁸⁷

EDF advisory trustee and former board member is the president of a ProPublica donor

Ann Doerr is the President of the Benificus Foundation, which gave ProPublica \$100,000 in 2024.⁸⁸ Doerr is currently an advisory trustee at EDF and formerly served on the EDF board as a trustee. According to the EDF's website "because of their commitment to EDF's values and mission [advisory trustees] continue to be engaged with the organization in a counseling capacity and actively participate in our efforts and activities." The website lists Ann Doerr's name under this description.⁸⁹

D. ProPublica's Sources Are Its Donors' Grantees

Earthworks

Earthworks “co-leads a national campaign to enact strong federal rules to cut methane emissions from oil and gas production.”⁹⁰ MacArthur describes the same infrared program ProPublica followed into the field: “Earthworks uses infrared cameras to help empower communities to advocate for climate action that limits methane emissions,” aiming to “stop the oil and gas expansion propelled by advancements in hydraulic fracturing.”

⁸⁷ See *supra* note 82.

88 Benificus Foundation, Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax (Form 990) pt. VII, sec. A (2024) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2024) (listing Ann Howland Doerr), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/770444504/202513189349105251/full>

⁸⁹ Advisory trustees, Environmental Defense Fund, <https://www.edf.org/about/advisory-trustees>

⁹⁰Protecting Climate from Oil & Gas Methane Pollution, Earthworks, <https://earthworks.org/campaigns/methane-and-climate/> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).



“MacArthur is supporting Earthworks’ Community Empowerment Project with a \$3 million grant.”⁹¹

MacArthur’s returns report \$4.55 million to Earthworks in 2019–2024, nearly all of it “to reduce methane emissions from oil and gas operations through community empowerment.”⁹² Park Foundation — a donor to both ProPublica and the Pulitzer Center — funded Earthworks’ “Oil & Gas Accountability Project Appalachia” and its work “Curbing U.S. Oil and Gas Expansion,”⁹³ and Food & Water Watch for “Moving the Greater New York Region off Fracked Gas.”⁹⁴

⁹¹Infrared Tech Reveals Invisible Climate Threats, John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Found., <https://www.macfound.org/press/grantee-stories/infrared-tech-reveals-invisible-climate-threats> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

⁹²John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2023) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2023) (reporting grant of \$50,000 to Earthworks, purpose: “to convene Earthworks staff, Foundation staff, and prospective funders to learn about the role of citizen science in methane detection”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/237093598/202423189349103932/full>; John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2022) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2022) (reporting grant of \$1,000,000 to Earthworks, purpose: “to reduce methane emissions from oil and gas operations through community empowerment”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/237093598/202313179349104401/full>; John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2021) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2021) (reporting grant of \$1,600,000 to Earthworks, purpose: “to reduce methane emissions from oil and gas operations through community empowerment”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/237093598/202340929349100004/full>; John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2024) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2024) (reporting grant of \$500,000 to EARTHWORKS, purpose: “TO REDUCE METHANE EMISSIONS FROM OIL AND GAS OPERATIONS THROUGH COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/237093598/202503169349102460/full>; John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2020) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2020) (reporting grant of \$400,000 to Earthworks, purpose: “to reduce methane emissions from oil and gas operations through community empowerment.”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/237093598/202133169349104553/full>; John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2019) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2019) (reporting grant of \$1,000,000 to EARTHWORKS, purpose: “TO REDUCE METHANE EMISSIONS FROM OIL AND GAS OPERATIONS THROUGH COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT.”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/237093598/202023179349103467/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

⁹³Park Found., Inc., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2022) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2022) (reporting grant of \$110,000 to EARTHWORKS, purpose: “CURBING U.S. OIL AND GAS EXPANSION WITH A FOCUS ON THE MARCELLUS AND UTICA SHALE”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/166071043/202343179349101224/full>; Park Found., Inc., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2021) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2021) (reporting grant of \$110,000 to EARTHWORKS, purpose: “OIL & GAS ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT APPALACHIA”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/166071043/202243159349100524/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

⁹⁴Park Found., Inc., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2022) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2022) (reporting grant of \$100,000 to FOOD & WATER WATCH, purpose: “MOVING THE GREATER NEW YORK REGION OFF FRACKED GAS”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/166071043/202343179349101224/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).



For calendar year 2024, or tax year beginning 01-01-2024 , and ending 12-31-2024				
Name of foundation JOHN D AND CATHERINE T MACARTHUR FOUNDATION			A Employer identification number 23-7093598	
Number and street (or P.O. box number if mail is not delivered to street address) 140 SOUTH DEARBORN ST STE 1200		Room/suite	B Telephone number (see instructions) (312) 726-8000	
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code				
Form 990-PF, Part XV, line 3a: Grants Paid During the Year other rows omitted; cited row highlighted				
Recipient	If recipient is an individual, show any relationship to any foundation manager or substantial contributor	Foundation status of recipient	Purpose of grant or contribution	Amount
Name and address (home or business)				
EARTHWORKS 1612 K STREET NW SUITE 904 WASHINGTON, DC 20006		PC	TO REDUCE METHANE EMISSIONS FROM OIL AND GAS OPERATIONS THROUGH COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT	500,000

Figure 14. MacArthur Foundation, 2024 Form 990-PF: \$500,000 to Earthworks “to reduce methane emissions from oil and gas operations.” The preceding year’s donations to Earthworks contain near identical language.

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For calendar year 2022, or tax year beginning 01-01-2022 , and ending 12-31-2022				
Name of foundation PARK FOUNDATION INC			A Employer identification number 16-6071043	
Number and street (or P.O. box number if mail is not delivered to street address) PO BOX 550		Room/suite	B Telephone number (see instructions) (607) 272-9124	
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code				
Form 990-PF, Part XV, line 3a: Grants Paid During the Year other rows omitted; cited row highlighted				
Recipient	If recipient is an individual, show any relationship to any foundation manager or substantial contributor	Foundation status of recipient	Purpose of grant or contribution	Amount
Name and address (home or business)				
EARTHWORKS 1612 K ST NW SUITE 904 WASHINGTON, NY 20006			CURBING U.S. OIL AND GAS EXPANSION WITH A FOCUS ON THE MARCELLUS AND UTICA SHALE	110,000

Figure 15. Park Foundation, 2022 Form 990-PF: \$110,000 to Earthworks for “Curbing U.S. Oil and Gas Expansion.”⁹⁶

Clean Air Task Force

CATF calls itself “the first environmental group to publicly sound the alarm about the dangers of methane emissions and pollution.”⁹⁷ Its ProPublica-donor funders include

⁹⁵See *supra* note 89.

⁹⁶See *supra* note 90.

⁹⁷Methane, Clean Air Task Force, <https://www.catf.us/methane/> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).



Skyline (\$3 million in general support, 2022–2024)⁹⁸, MacArthur (\$1.5 million, 2021–2023)⁹⁹, Hewlett (\$750,000 in general operating support in 2024, on the same return as its ProPublica grant)¹⁰⁰ and Heising-Simons, including grants for “METHANE EMISSIONS REDUCTION IN THE U.S. AND CANADA.”¹⁰¹

Carbon Mapper, Ceres and IEEFA

Carbon Mapper’s “mission is to drive greenhouse gas emission reductions by making methane and carbon dioxide data accessible and actionable.”¹⁰² Zegar, a ProPublica donor, gave it \$3 million in 2021–2023.¹⁰³ Ceres calls itself “a nonprofit advocacy organization working to accelerate the transition to a cleaner, more just, and resilient world”¹⁰⁴; MacArthur gave it \$1.25 million in 2024 alone¹⁰⁵ and Heising-Simons \$950,000 in 2023–

⁹⁸Skyline Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2024) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2024) (reporting grant of \$1,000,000 to CLEAN AIR TASK FORCE INC, purpose: “GENERAL SUPPORT”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/943380194/202543199349100949/full>; Skyline Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2023) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2023) (reporting grant of \$1,000,000 to CLEAN AIR TASK FORCE INC, purpose: “GENERAL SUPPORT”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/943380194/202403199349102075/full>; Skyline Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2022) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2022) (reporting grant of \$1,000,000 to CLEAN AIR TASK FORCE INC, purpose: “GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/943380194/202323199349102782/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

⁹⁹John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2023) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2023) (reporting grant of \$500,000 to Clean Air Task Force Inc, purpose: “in support of general operations”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/237093598/202423189349103932/full>; John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2022) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2022) (reporting grant of \$500,000 to Clean Air Task Force Inc, purpose: “in support of general operations”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/237093598/20233179349104401/full>; John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2021) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2021) (reporting grant of \$500,000 to Clean Air Task Force Inc, purpose: “in support of general operations.”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/237093598/202340929349100004/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

¹⁰⁰William & Flora Hewlett Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2024) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2024) (reporting grant of \$750,000 to CLEAN AIR TASK FORCE INC, purpose: “FOR GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/941655673/202523189349102727/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

¹⁰¹Heising-Simons Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2018) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2018) (reporting grant of \$50,000 to CLEAN AIR TASK FORCE INC, purpose: “METHANE EMISSIONS REDUCTION IN THE U.S. AND CANADA”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/260799587/201903189349101855/full>; Heising-Simons Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2017) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2017) (reporting grant of \$50,000 to CLEAN AIR TASK FORCE INC, purpose: “METHANE EMISSIONS REDUCTION IN THE U.S. AND CANADA”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/260799587/201833189349102488/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

¹⁰²About, Carbon Mapper, <https://carbonmapper.org/about> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

¹⁰³Zegar Family Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2023) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2023) (reporting grant of \$1,000,000 to CARBON MAPPER INC, purpose: “GENERAL PURPOSE CONTRIBUTION”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/137548507/202413209349106036/full>; Zegar Family Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2022) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2022) (reporting grant of \$1,000,000 to CARBON MAPPER INC, purpose: “GENERAL PURPOSE CONTRIBUTION”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/137548507/202323199349106862/full>; Zegar Family Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2021) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2021) (reporting grant of \$999,960 to CARBON MAPPER INC, purpose: “GENERAL PURPOSE CONTRIBUTION”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/137548507/202243199349101244/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

¹⁰⁴About, Ceres, <https://www.ceres.org/about> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

¹⁰⁵John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2024) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2024) (reporting grant of \$1,000,000 to CERES INC, purpose: “IN SUPPORT OF GENERAL OPERATIONS”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/237093598/202503169349102460/full>; John D. & Catherine T.



2024.¹⁰⁶ IEEFA’s “mission is to accelerate the transition to a diverse, sustainable and profitable energy economy”¹⁰⁷; its funders include the Sandler Foundation, \$2.5 million in fiscal 2023–2025.¹⁰⁸

E. The Sources Are Also Litigants

On December 4, 2025, a coalition that includes Earthworks, Clean Air Task Force, EDF, Earthjustice and NRDC announced a second lawsuit in the D.C. Circuit challenging EPA’s final rule delaying the 2024 methane standards.¹⁰⁹ ProPublica quoted two of the plaintiffs about that same rulemaking without telling readers they were suing over it, and without telling readers that ProPublica’s own donors fund them.

F. The Reporter’s Backers Fund the Same Fight

The Pulitzer Center’s funders are not neutral on fossil energy. The Rockefeller Brothers Fund paid 350.org in 2022 and 2023 “FOR BUILDING CAPACITY TO CHALLENGE FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT.”¹¹⁰ Moore paid Stanford \$2.5 million in 2022–2024 for research “aimed at advancing the understanding of methane emissions from

MacArthur Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2024) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2024) (reporting grant of \$250,000 to CERES INC, purpose: “TO SUPPORT THEIR EFFORTS IN PROTECTING THE PRIVATE SECTOR’S FREEDOM TO INVEST RESPONSIBLY”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/237093598/202503169349102460/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

¹⁰⁶Heising-Simons Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2023) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2023) (reporting grant of \$425,000 to CERES INC, purpose: “TO ADVANCE TRANSPORTATION ELECTRIFICATION AND CLIMATE FINANCE SECTOR REFORM”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/260799587/202443169349102959/full>; Heising-Simons Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2024) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2024) (reporting grant of \$100,000 to CERES INC, purpose: “TO LEVERAGE BUSINESS TO SUSTAIN CLEAN ENERGY PROGRESS”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/260799587/202543219349106499/full>; Heising-Simons Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2024) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2024) (reporting grant of \$425,000 to CERES INC, purpose: “TO ADVANCE TRANSPORTATION ELECTRIFICATION AND CLIMATE FINANCE SECTOR REFORM”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/260799587/202543219349106499/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

¹⁰⁷About, Inst. for Energy Econ. & Fin. Analysis, <https://ieefa.org/about> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

¹⁰⁸Sandler Found., Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax (Form 990), sched. I, pt. II (2024) (tax year ended June 30, 2025) (reporting grant of \$750,000 to INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY ECONOMICS AND FINANCIAL ANALYSIS, purpose: “GENERAL SUPPORT”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/943147856/202611349349311916/full>; Sandler Found., Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax (Form 990), sched. I, pt. II (2023) (tax year ended June 30, 2024) (reporting grant of \$750,000 to INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY ECONOMICS AND FINANCIAL ANALYSIS, purpose: “GENERAL SUPPORT”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/943147856/202511339349309036/full>; Sandler Found., Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax (Form 990), sched. I, pt. II (2022) (tax year ended June 30, 2023) (reporting grant of \$1,000,000 to INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY ECONOMICS AND FINANCIAL ANALYSIS, purpose: “GENERAL SUPPORT”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/943147856/202401029349300145/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

¹⁰⁹See *supra* note 45.

¹¹⁰Rockefeller Bros. Fund, Inc., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2022) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2022) (reporting grant of \$80,000 to 350ORG, purpose: “FOR BUILDING CAPACITY TO CHALLENGE FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/131760106/202323179349101577/full>; Rockefeller Bros. Fund, Inc., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2023) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2023) (reporting grant of \$77,000 to 350ORG, purpose: “FOR BUILDING CAPACITY TO CHALLENGE FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/131760106/202413189349103611/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).



tropical wetlands.”¹¹¹ Walton, as shown above, pays for MethaneSAT. And MacArthur, the Pulitzer Center’s largest backer in the IRS data, is among the largest funders of the Methane Hub, EDF’s methane program and Earthworks.

For calendar year 2023, or tax year beginning 01-01-2023 , and ending 12-31-2023				
Name of foundation ROCKEFELLER BROTHERS FUND INC			A Employer identification number 13-1760106	
Number and street (or P.O. box number if mail is not delivered to street address) 475 RIVERSIDE DRIVE 900		Room/suite	B Telephone number (see instructions) (212) 812-4200	
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code				
Form 990-PF, Part XV, line 3a: Grants Paid During the Year other rows omitted; cited row highlighted				
Recipient Name and address (home or business)	If recipient is an individual, show any relationship to any foundation manager or substantial contributor	Foundation status of recipient	Purpose of grant or contribution	Amount
350ORG PO BOX 843004 BOSTON, MA 022843004	N/A	PC	FOR BUILDING CAPACITY TO CHALLENGE FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT	77,000

Figure 16. Rockefeller Brothers Fund, 2023 Form 990-PF: \$77,000 to 350.org “for building capacity to challenge fossil fuel infrastructure development.”¹¹²

¹¹¹Gordon E. & Betty I. Moore Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2024) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2024) (reporting grant of \$449,575 to THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE LELAND STANFORD JUNIOR UNIVERSITY, purpose: “IN SUPPORT OF FIELD MEASUREMENTS AND MODELING EFFORTS AIMED AT ADVANCING THE UNDERSTANDING OF METHANE EMISSIONS FROM TROPICAL WETLANDS, INCLUDING SITES IN AFRICA AND SOUTH AMERICA.”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/943397785/202503189349103305/full>; Gordon E. & Betty I. Moore Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2023) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2023) (reporting grant of \$750,000 to THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE LELAND STANFORD JUNIOR UNIVERSITY, purpose: “IN SUPPORT OF FIELD MEASUREMENTS AND MODELING EFFORTS AIMED AT ADVANCING THE UNDERSTANDING OF METHANE EMISSIONS FROM TROPICAL WETLANDS, INCLUDING SITES IN AFRICA AND SOUTH AMERICA.”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/943397785/202433189349101128/full>; Gordon E. & Betty I. Moore Found., Return of Private Foundation (Form 990-PF), pt. XV, line 3a (2022) (tax year ended Dec. 31, 2022) (reporting grant of \$1,300,000 to THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE LELAND STANFORD JUNIOR UNIVERSITY, purpose: “IN SUPPORT OF FIELD MEASUREMENTS AND MODELING EFFORTS AIMED AT ADVANCING THE UNDERSTANDING OF METHANE EMISSIONS FROM TROPICAL WETLANDS, INCLUDING SITES IN AFRICA AND SOUTH AMERICA.”), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/943397785/202323189349106572/full> (last visited Sept. 25, 2026).

¹¹²See *supra* note 107.



V. Conclusion

ProPublica asks readers to connect a donor's money to a policy outcome. By that standard, ProPublica's methane coverage deserves the same scrutiny. The foundations that finance ProPublica also finance the Global Methane Hub, EDF's methane and MethaneSAT programs, Earthworks' infrared campaign, and Clean Air Task Force. The journalism center that has underwritten ProPublica's climate reporter counts MacArthur, the self-described driver of "methane reduction efforts," as its largest foundation backer. And the advocates ProPublica quoted are grantees of ProPublica's donors and litigants in the very rulemaking under review.

ProPublica's Code of Ethics promises to identify "any important bias such a source may have."¹¹³ Readers of its methane coverage were not told that the sources, the reporter's past backer, and ProPublica itself draw on the same pool of anti-methane money. In fact, the people financing the report and the publisher of the story have a clear biased agenda that is incredibly well funded and organized, public reporting being only a small part of those advocacy efforts.

¹¹³See *supra* note 11.

