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Climate activists hail breakthrough victories over Exxon and Shell

US group's shareholders elect activists to board while Dutch court orders Shell to accelerate emissions cuts

Derek Brower and Anjali Raval in London MAY 26 2021



In the Netherlands, a district court in The Hague [ruled](#) in favour of climate campaigners challenging Shell, saying the Anglo-Dutch oil producer needed to lower its emissions by 45 per cent by 2030 from 2019 levels, a much faster rate than the company had planned.

On the other side of the Atlantic, Exxon shareholders defied the company's management to [elect](#) at least two new board members proposed by Engine No 1, a tiny hedge fund that launched an activist campaign in December.

In addition, a big majority of [Chevron](#) shareholders voted for a resolution calling for the US supermajor to “substantially reduce” its scope 3 emissions, or those from the products it produces. The company said it would “carefully consider” the result.