

What People are Saying about “Achieving Zero Emissions with More Mobility and Less Mining”:

You can find the [full report here](#).

This first-of-its-kind research examines the lithium intensity of four pathways to zero emissions transportation in the United States. The report illustrates the connections between the global frontlines of lithium mining with the end-site of electrified US personal transportation. It quantifies the lithium intensity implications of urban area density, EV regulations, mineral recycling, and other levers available to shape lithium demand and protect communities affected by mining.

“The energy transition is a critical juncture: will we electrify the status quo, or take the opportunity for ambitious policies that simultaneously slash emissions, reduce pressure on ecosystems, and improve community wellbeing? Our report shows that despite alarming headlines, there is no zero-sum tradeoff between zero emissions transportation and protecting biodiversity and Indigenous rights. Reducing car dependency means reducing mining while improving mobility for all.”

- **Thea Riofrancos**, lead author, Climate and Community Project member, and Associate Professor of Political Science at Providence College

“The transition from gasoline to EV is a step forward in lowering our carbon footprint and we can make it a leap forward if we address the associated environmental and human burdens that are shifting from oil fields and tailpipes to lithium mines and new frontline communities. Our research shows three key strategies that can reduce US lithium demand by 90% in the next 3 decades relative to the most lithium-intensive scenario: decreasing car dependency, right-sizing EV batteries, and creating a robust recycling system.”

- **Alissa Kendall**, report author and Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at University of California-Davis

“While there is a critical urgency to move away from fossil fuels, particularly in high emissions sectors as transport, it is also essential that the decisions made in countries in the global north also include an abrupt turn away from material and mineral overconsumption in the foreseen solutions. Policies should avoid causing new harm to the environment and human rights of communities in the lithium rich areas in the global south. The report brings into light options and possibilities for a future without fossil fuels that minimizes mineral extraction and material use.”

- **Pía Marchegiani**, Environmental Policy Director at Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales

“We must urgently slash carbon emissions and wean off fossil fuels – but do so without generating new injustices and environmental harm through mining, which is displacing communities and polluting ecosystems across the planet. This new report from the researchers at Climate and Community Project and UC Davis provides important and timely insights and answers to these societal questions. The findings of this report must inform and jumpstart policies to invest in robust, accessible public transit systems that advance equity, reduce pollution and get people where they need to go.”

- **Payal Sampat**, Mining Program Director, Earthworks

“This report represents a substantial effort to understand the consequences of an energy transition prominently dominated by individual car consumption and conceived with a worrying lack of knowledge about the implications of green extractivism in the Global South. Also, producing knowledge in dialogue with the territories directly affected by the expansion of lithium mining is a fundamental step given by the research team towards new mobility paradigms and a just transition for all, which is only one with less mining.”

- **Ramón Balcázar**, Observatorio Plurinacional de Salares Andinos member

“It is our duty to protect sacred land. We all need to come to the reality that we only have one earth and it must be protected. Walk more, buy used, and respect the land. Destroying Peehee Mu'huh is cultural genocide.”

- **People of Red Mountain member**

“Decarbonizing personal mobility is a challenge, but also an opportunity to work towards a transportation system that works better both for commuters in the US and communities around the world. Faced with the extreme urgency of decarbonization – but also the host of health, safety, quality of life, and other social and economic costs of car dependency – many cities and countries have pursued strategies that have not only electrified their transportation systems, but also shifted trips from private cars and SUVs to public and active transit. Now, the modeling in our report finds that such changes can also dramatically reduce the global ecological footprint of the energy transition in this sector.”

- **Kira McDonald**, report author and Climate and Community Project member

“Policies intended to decarbonize transportation that do not consider downstream effects of the transition's supply chain are celebrated for their short-term political and economic gains, but in the longer-term they simply displace carbon production, destroy ecosystems, and further exhaust Earth's resources. The most immediate and greatest losers from this short-sightedness are the communities with mines on their doorstep, like in Covas do Barroso, Portugal.”

- **Catarina Scarrott**, Associação Unidos em Defesa de Covas do Barroso member