

Backlash Over \$6 Trillion Carbon Loss Begins as Investors Call for Action

James Poulter on May 10, 2013

A US energy firm is among the first to face a shareholder backlash over unburnable carbon.

Leading researchers recently warned up to \$6 trillion could be lost if the world hit its carbon emission targets, and this week the world's first shareholder resolution tackling the problem was put forward at a listed company meeting.

Investors in US energy company CONSOL Energy pushed executives for clarity over the threat of increased regulation on the firm's value.

They also asked bosses to consider the impact of a portion of its reserves or infrastructure becoming obsolete because of unburnable carbon.

CONSOL is the largest producer of coal from underground mines in the US, with 4.5 billion tonnes of proven and recoverable coal reserves.

The resolution was put forward by non-profit shareholder activist group **As You Sow**, which said the potential for severe limits on carbon created a 'real risk' for investors, and argued equity holders needed to be 'fully informed' of how, or if, the company was planning for a carbon constrained future.

Despite the backlash, CONSOL executives remained tight lipped about the shareholder resolution and were not available for comment.

The result of the vote will be disclosed by firm early next week.

