



**University of  
Zurich<sup>UZH</sup>**

MASTER'S THESIS

Assessing the Coal Transition:  
The Consequences of the Paris Agreement on Coal  
Companies' Financial Risk

University of Zurich  
Department of Banking and Finance

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Submission date:	September 18, 2019

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**CARBON DELTA**

## Abstract

Shortly after the Paris Agreement, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change published its special Report “Global Warming of 1.5°C”. In the report, they presented a pathway for global energy generation compatible with the Paris Agreement. Coal, the least sustainable energy source, has to phase out soon if we want to avoid further global warming and its consequences. The aim of this thesis is to disentangle the coal sector and compute losses of companies active in the coal sector. Using three different databases and the IPCC scenario as a framework I find that publicly traded coal companies will phases losses of 435 billion USD until 2050. In total I identified 197 publicly traded companies either active in the coal power sector or in the coal mining sector. Two third of existing power plants have to phase out by 2030 and around 95% by 2050. <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>I would like to thank Professor Chesney for the possibility to write my thesis at his Chair and special thanks also to Isabelle Zheng for her guidance, kind support and valuable suggestions during this project.

I would also like to thank Phanos Hadjikyriakou from Carbon Delta and the whole Carbon Delta team, not only for providing me their data, but also for supervision and valuable support. Last, many thanks also to Ted Nace from Global Energy Monitor for providing me fully access to the Global Coal Plant Tracker database.