



Dear {{voornaam}},

This is the Scientists4Future NL newsletter of January 2024. To subscribe, click [here](#). To unsubscribe, use the link at the bottom of this email.

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Editorial

New year, new newsletter! We hope this newsletter finds you all well-rested and with energy for 2024. There's a lot of exciting things going on in S4F NL and in local S4F chapters, take a peek below to read all about it!

For an even more extensive update, you can join our national meeting on 31 January! If you're new to S4F you can join our [Zoom room](#) at 19:00 for a meet&greet, where you'll learn more about S4F and get to know other new people. The national meeting starts at 20:00 in the same [Zoom room](#), we hope to see many newsletter readers there!

Open letter: plant-based universities

By Disa Sauters

Plant-Based Universities is a student-led campaign that calls on universities to transition to 100% plant-based catering. Since its inception, this campaign has achieved landmark votes for fully plant-based catering transitions at 7 UK universities. Plant-Based Universities has over 75 active campaigns globally, with 7 planning to launch in the Netherlands on February 5th 2024. They are currently trying to pull together academics and prominent figures from both within and outside the academic realm to lend their endorsement through an open letter. Click the links to the [Dutch](#) and the [English](#) versions of the letter!

You can sign by emailing your name, title and role (e.g., Dr Firstname Lastname, Lecturer of Very Important Topic, University of Whatever) to info@plantbaseduniversities.org (the Dutch signatures will be published on the 4th of February).



S4F-Wageningen's reaction to WUR's plans for fossil industry ties

By Ignas Heitkonig and Anne-Juul Welsink

S4F-Wageningen is now well into its second year of existence and has several focus points, ranging from a reading club on degrowth and working towards a much greener campus to tackling the links between WUR and the Fossil Fuel Industry (FFI). Other groups are active on the latter front too, like XR and End Fossil Occupy WUR. The groups appear to complement one another in terms of support base and types of activity, and put different types of pressure on the Executive Board of WUR to scrutinize the ties. The Executive Board decided to sharpen the collaboration principles, *starting* with the fossil industry, and installed an advisory group to assess the extent to which cooperation partners contribute to, or are an obstacle to, the necessary global transitions like stopping climate change. The advisory group presented [its recommendations](#) regarding guidelines for future collaborations to WUR staff and students in Nov/Dec 2023.

S4F-Wageningen acknowledges the proposed framework tabled by the advisory group to formulate guidelines for future collaborations. The framework is transparent and it makes clear that WUR is aware of the delaying tactics employed by the FFI. Yet, several concerns remain.

1. Under the proposed framework, WUR may continue to collaborate with FF companies if their contributions to the project in question are below 30% of total costs. This provides them with a moral license to operate and with greenwashing options: they may publicly claim to work on a sustainable transition while still investing in FF extraction. It also enables the industry to shape future research directions.

2. While the proposed framework contains several 'red flags', individual directors of WUR Science Groups (which are perhaps akin to faculties at other universities) are proposed to have a final say about collaboration. S4F-Wageningen urges that a newly appointed Committee provides a binding advice about collaboration with the FFI. Moreover, non-compliance with the Paris Agreement - one of the 'red flags' - should *always* imply that we do not engage in collaborations.

3. Furthermore, the proposed framework does not address (i) direct and small (personal) funding, e.g. appointments of special professors, (ii) paid contributions to workshops/meetings; (iii) specific agreements on PR to prevent greenwashing; (iv) what will happen to existing collaborations.

4. Lastly, the proposed framework should, but does not deal with the influence of FFI on education, including BSc and MSc theses, ACTs, internships, and career markets.

S4F-Wageningen has submitted the concerns to the advisory group and is looking forward to the Executive Board addressing them later in January. Read a more extensive reaction on WUR's plans in [Resource](#).

Planting our way out of the ecological crises!

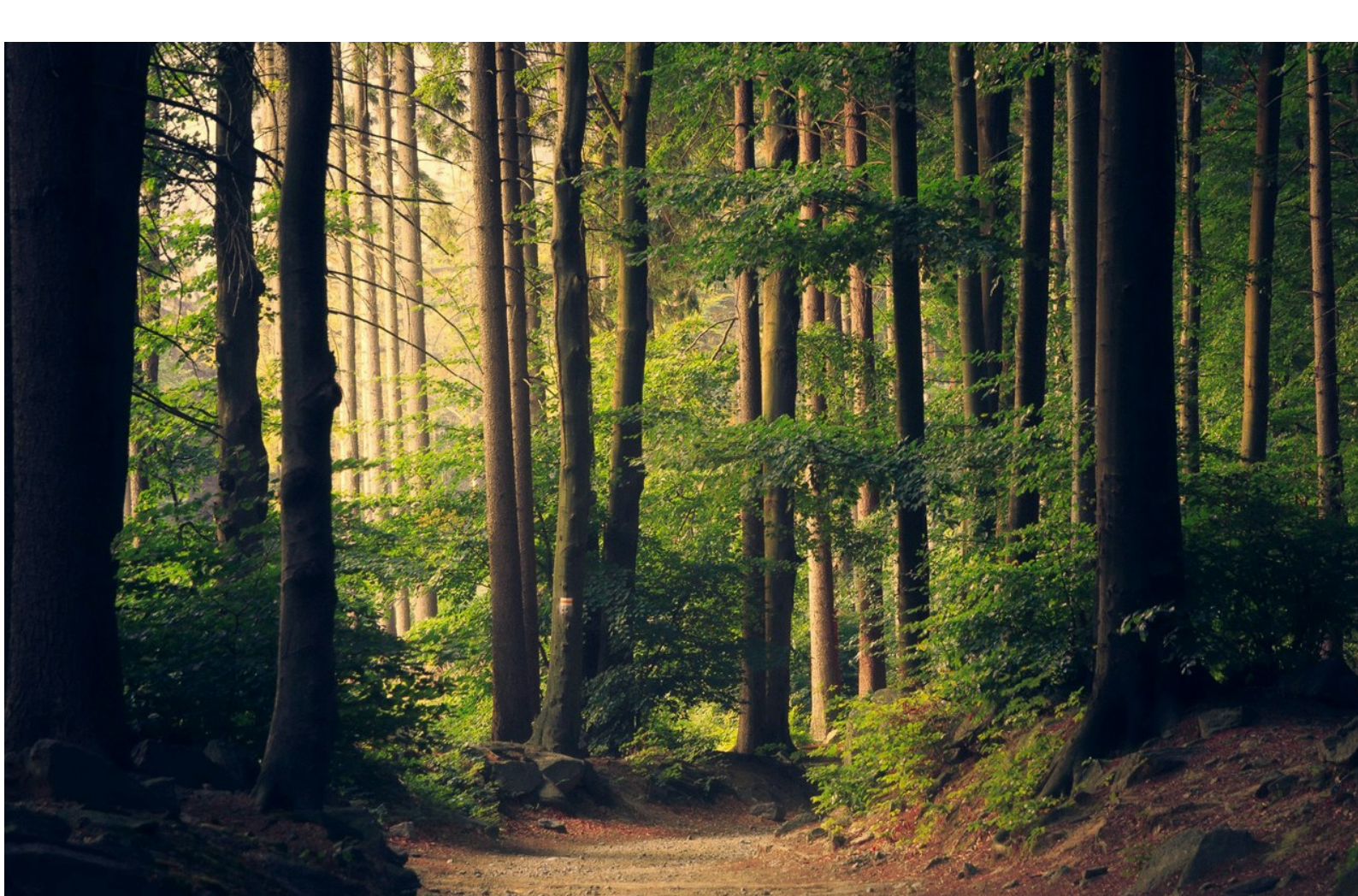
By Philipp Gramlich

Why wait for governments to act if a bit of well-considered rule-breaking can work wonders?

Karin Bodewits and Manon Botha have started [GuerillaBoeren](#), planting trees in unused public spaces. Many of the trees come from sustainable initiatives such as [MeerBomenNu](#), and are selected to give food to humans and animals (fruit and nut trees, flowering species for insects). Ambassadors from the neighbourhood are recruited to look after the trees, giving water in dry periods and, of course, organising harvesting parties ;)

They have greened schools, but that might just as well work for the habitat of many S4F members, our universities: why not look for spaces where a bit of natural shade might replace an air con, where the buzzing of a bee might complement with the humming of your instruments? Copy guerrillaBoeren's ideas or get in touch with them for some 'get your hands dirty grassroots activity'!

Just a few weeks old, this organisation has already gotten 4000€ worth of donations and a couple of [press appearances](#).



Upcoming events

- 31 January, 19:00: meet&greet for people that are (relatively) new to Scientists4Future NL on [Zoom](#)
- 31 January, 20:00: national meeting Scientists4Future NL on [Zoom](#)
- 7th March, 20:00: national meeting Scientists4Future NL on [Zoom](#)
- 14 March, 18:00-22:00: duurzame onderwijsmarkt en verkiezing van de [Duurzame Docent 2024](#)
- 20 April, 13:00-17:00: in-person national meeting in Utrecht
- 13 May, 20:00: national meeting Scientists4Future NL on [Zoom](#)
- 18 June, 20:00: national meeting Scientists4Future NL on [Zoom](#)

Local groups



- [Amsterdam](#)
- [Delft](#)
- Deventer/Zutphen
- Groningen
- Leiden
- Maastricht
- [Nijmegen](#)
- NIOZ (Texel and Yerseke)
- [Twente](#)
- [Utrecht](#)
- [Wageningen](#)

Get involved!

Are you a subscriber to this newsletter who is not yet actively involved in S4F NL? Curious to find out more about what S4F does and how you can contribute? Get in touch via contact@scientists4future.nl or email Disa at d.a.sauter@uva.nl

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