



Dear {{voornaam}},

This is the Scientists4Future NL newsletter of May 2023. To subscribe, click [here](#). To unsubscribe, use the link at the bottom of this email.

In this newsletter:

- Upcoming events - in-person meeting and demonstration
- Ties with fossil fuel industry
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National in-person meeting 11th June

Where? Our second personal meeting will again take place at the milieueentrum Utrecht, Oudegracht 60.

When will the show happen?

12:00 Doors open

13:00-17:00 Programme, discussions... details tbd

17:00-20:00 Dinner

What do we need from you?

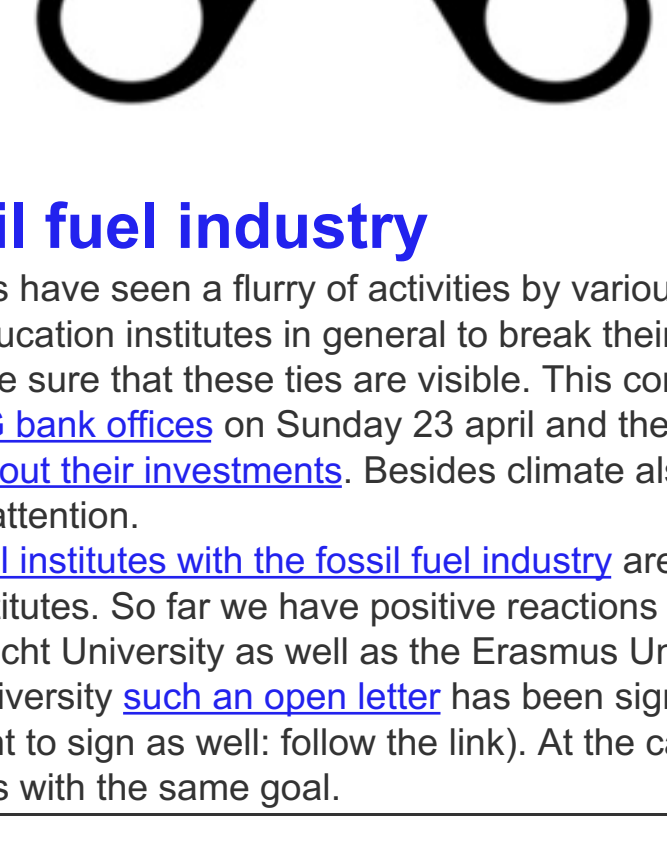
1. Please fill in this [questionnaire](#) to let us know about your attendance and wishes for topics.
2. If you attend, please bring some food for the dinner, which we will all share (potluck).



Blockade A12

On Saturday 27 May, 12:00h, Extinction Rebellion organises the next A12 blockade in The Hague also demanding a stop to fossil subsidies. Scientist Rebellion is taking part both in the blockade and in the support demonstration outside the blockade. You are very welcome to take part: join the signal group run by Scientist Rebellion, specifically for scientists who only want to join the support demo and do not want to join the blockade. Last time we were with nearly 100 scientists in- and outside the blockade. Let's make it more than 100 this time!!!

You can just come along or if you want to be more involved, join the [Signal group](#)

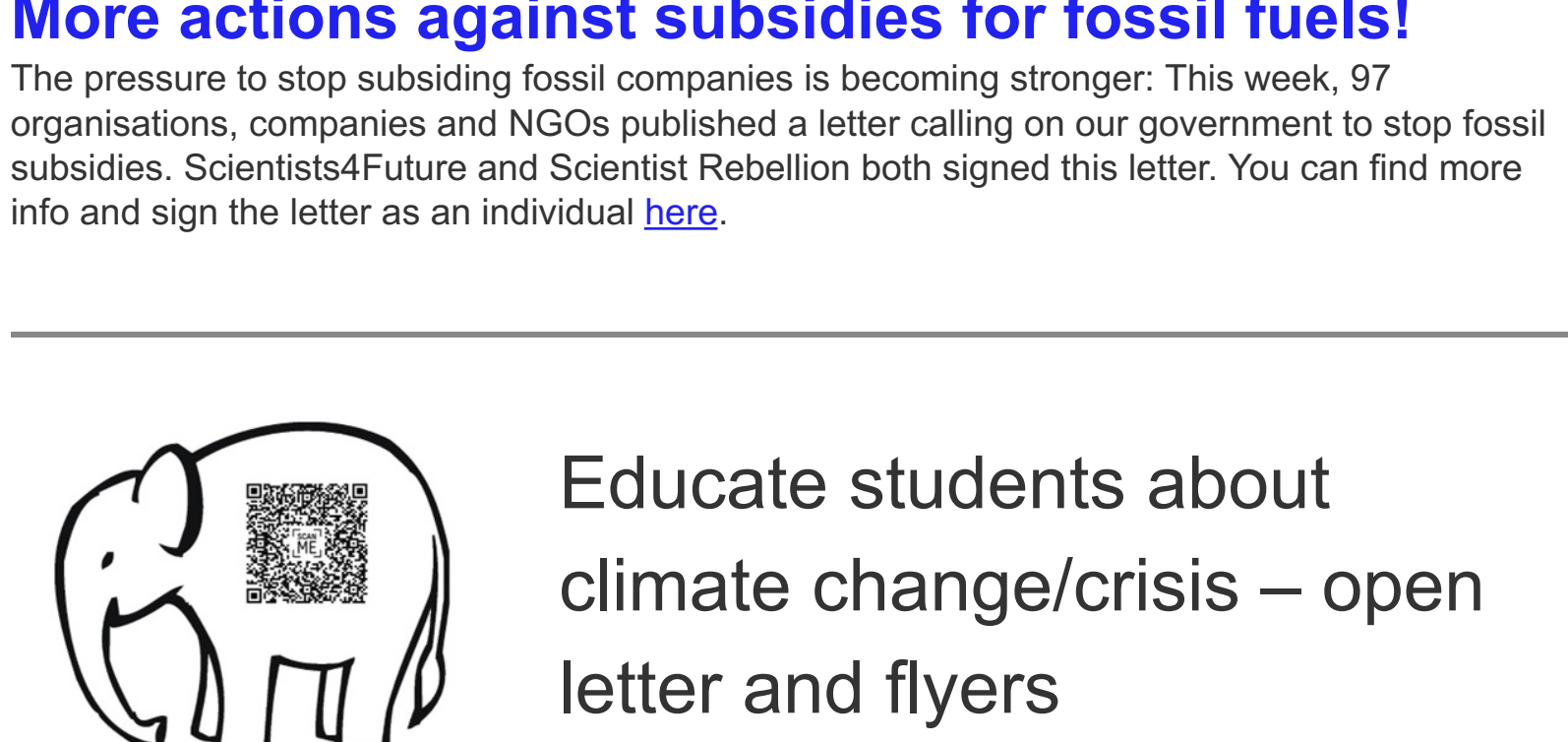


Ties with fossil fuel industry

The past couple of months have seen a flurry of activities by various groups to convince universities and higher education institutes in general to break their ties with the fossil fuel industry or at least to make sure that these ties are visible. This comes in addition to [demonstrations at the ING bank offices](#) on Tuesday 23 april and the initiative of the ABP pension fund to be [more critical about their investments](#). Besides climate also human rights and biodiversity will get more attention.

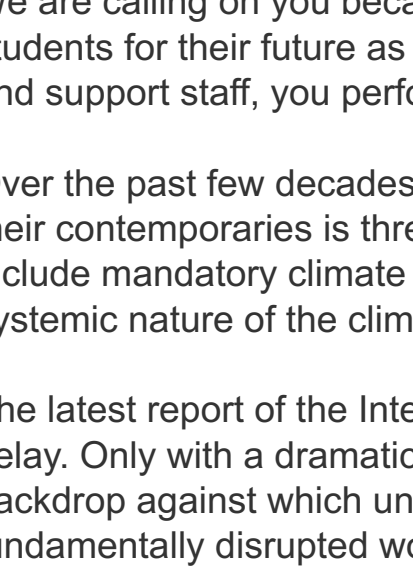
The [ties of our educational institutes with the fossil fuel industry](#) are the subject of an open letter that was sent to these institutes. So far we have positive reactions from the Free University of Amsterdam (VU), the Utrecht University as well as the Erasmus University in Rotterdam.

Furthermore, at Leiden University [such an open letter](#) has been signed by a several hundred people already (if you want to sign as well: follow the link). At the campus of the TU Delft there have been demonstrations with the same goal.



More actions against subsidies for fossil fuels!

The pressure to stop subsidizing fossil companies is becoming stronger: This week, 97 organisations, companies and NGOs published a letter calling on our government to stop fossil subsidies. Scientists4Future and Scientist Rebellion both signed this letter. You can find more info and sign the letter as an individual [here](#).



Educate students about climate change/crisis – open letter and flyers

May also saw an open letter addressed to our educational institutes. This letter, endorsed by Scientists Rebellion Netherlands and Scientists for Future Netherlands, calls out to the boards of directors to provide a mandatory course on climate and climate change. Here is the first part of the text:

Addressing the Elephant in the Lecture Hall: Climate Education Now

Dear Boards of Directors of Dutch Higher Education Institutions,

We are calling on you because you lead organizations that bear the responsibility of preparing students for their future as professionals. Together with a community of teachers, researchers and support staff, you perform this task with great dedication and care.

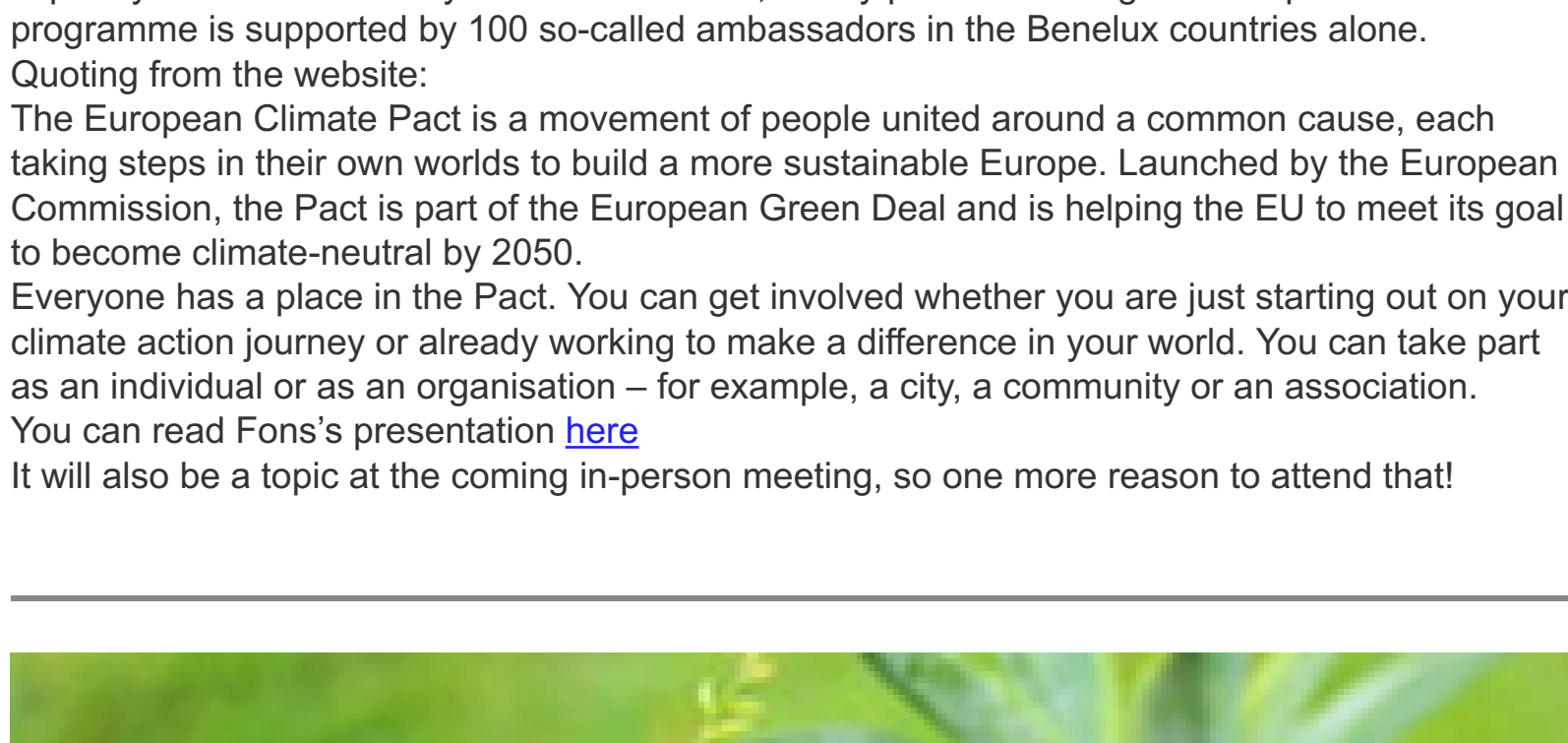
Over the past few decades, it has become increasingly evident that the future of students and their contemporaries is threatened by the climate and ecological crisis. We therefore urge you to include mandatory climate education in all curricula in order to familiarize students with the systemic nature of the climate and ecological crisis and empower them to take action.

The latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change leaves no room for doubt or delay. Only with a dramatic, concerted effort will we be able to avert the worst. This is the backdrop against which universities educate the generations that will have to deal with a fundamentally disrupted world. Lack of understanding of the scale, urgency and causes of the problem will leave students vulnerable to misrepresentations by politicians and media outlets. Higher education institutions have a duty to educate students and to foster their development as responsible members of society. We are convinced this implies preparing the students to face the challenges posed by the climate and ecological crisis, and equipping them to lead and effect change.

A mandatory climate course across all higher education institutions should be the first step. This course, to be implemented urgently, should offer a comprehensive overview of the systemic causes and consequences of the climate and ecological crisis and potential solutions. The complex nature of the problem requires action and leadership from individuals and organizations across all sectors of society. This course would be tailor-made for each study programme, including at least the basic science on global heating and its consequences, and discussing feasible mitigation pathways, and questions of global equity and justice.

We emphasize that this education proposal is not about promoting a political agenda. The scientific consensus on the severity and the causes of the climate and ecological crisis is well established, as documented in the IPCC report.

Please find the complete letter [here](#). You can also sign it, as more than one thousand people have already done.



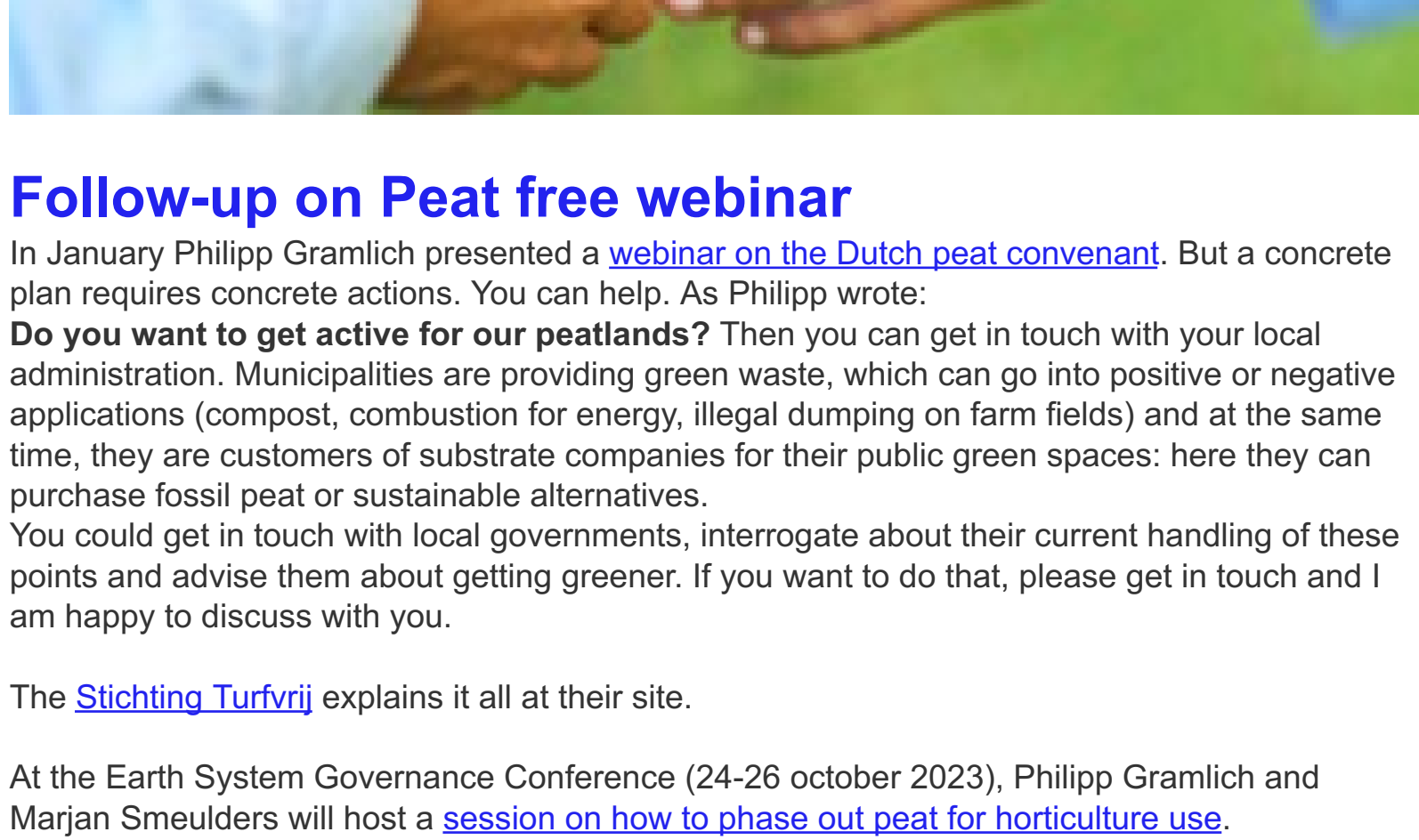
Presentation on the European Climate Pact

At the May online meeting Fons Janssen presented the [European Climate Pact](#), an action programme to enhance the awareness of the European population about climate issues. It is explicitly meant to be led by individual citizens, not by politicians. To give an impression: the programme is supported by 100 so-called ambassadors in the Benelux countries alone.

Quoting from the website: The European Climate Pact is a movement of people united around a common cause, each taking steps in their own worlds to build a more sustainable Europe. Launched by the European Commission, the Pact is part of the European Green Deal and is helping the EU to meet its goal to become climate-neutral by 2050.

Everyone has a place in the Pact. You can get involved whether you are just starting out on your climate action journey or already working to make a difference in your world. You can take part as an individual or as an organisation – for example, a city, a community or an association. You can read Fons's presentation [here](#)

It will also be a topic at the coming in-person meeting, so one more reason to attend that!



Follow-up on Peat free webinar

In January Philipp Gramlich presented a [webinar on the Dutch peat covenant](#). But a concrete plan requires concrete actions. You can [help](#). As Philipp wrote:

Do you want to get active for our peatlands? Then you can get in touch with your local administration. Municipalities are providing green waste, which can go into positive or negative applications (compost, combustion for energy, illegal dumping on farm fields) and at the same time, they are customers of substrate companies for their public green spaces: here they can purchase fossil peat or sustainable alternatives.

You could get in touch with local governments, interrogate about their current handling of these points and advise them about getting greener. If you want to do that, please get in touch and I am happy to discuss with you.

The [Stichting Turfvrij](#) explains it all at their site.

At the Earth System Governance Conference (24-26 October 2023), Philipp Gramlich and Marjan Smeulders will host a [session on how to phase out peat for horticulture use](#).

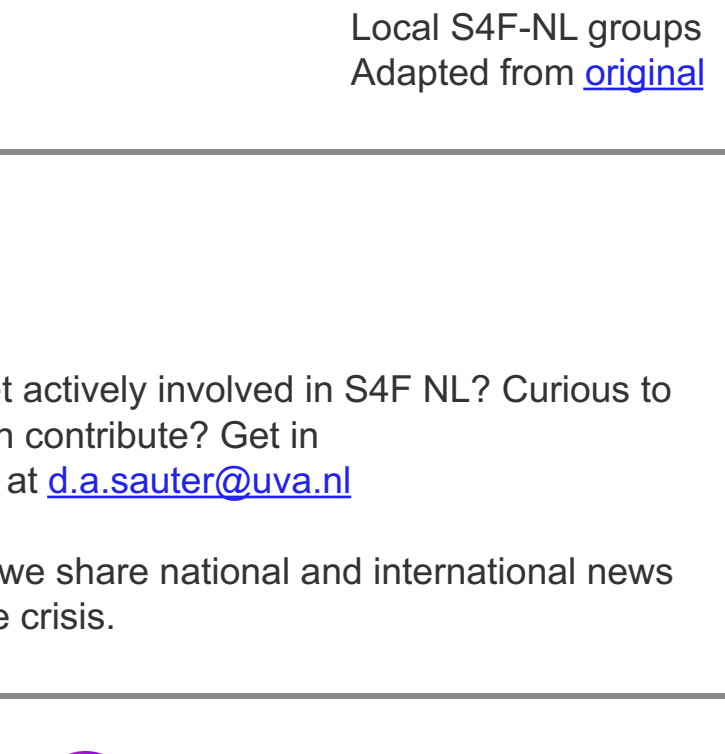
And this action is getting traction (sorry, the text is mostly Dutch): The call to action to contact municipalities seems a fruitful one, the local leaders are getting aware and active. We just got this email today: *Aan mij o.a. de nobele taak om een uitvoeringsprogramma biodiversiteit op te stellen. Vanwege eerdere werkzaamheden en wellicht mijn achternaam ben ik al langere tijd erg geïnteresseerd in veenecosystemen en de uiterst negatieve invloed van de mens hierop.*

Ik weet niet meer hoe, maar toevallig weet ik dat jij in 'mijn' gemeente woont. In het toekomstig uitvoeringsprogramma ben ik op zoek naar initiatieven en manieren die buiten de gemeentegrenzen reiken. Terugdringen van het gebruik van turf is hier (voor mij) een logische, maar ik weet niet goed wat voor rol een gemeente daar in kan hebben (behalve gewoon niet doen).

Zullen we eens afspreken, dat je me de wereld van Turfvrij kunt uitleggen?

Local groups

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



Starters Guide for new active members

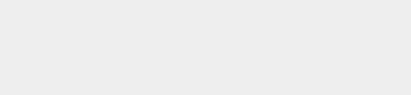
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Local S4F-NL groups
Adapted from [original](#)

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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