



Dear {{voornaam}},

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In this newsletter:

- Editorial
- **Twenty prominent economists comment on fossil fuel subsidies**
- **Meet&greet 16 November**
- **Update: responses to the open letter from S4F to NWO and KNAW**
- **Paris Alignment of Dutch academia**
- **Tips for the upcoming elections**
- **Upcoming events**
- **Local groups**
- **Get involved!**

Editorial



After a very successful March for Climate and Justice, where over 200 academics participated in the science block, it's undeniable that action is needed! Let's hope that politicians have been paying attention, especially now that the elections are approaching.

In this newsletter, you find information on past and ongoing actions, and an invitation to our meet&greet. The perfect place and moment to hear more about being active within S4F NL, or just to get to know other S4F-interested people a bit better! We hope to see you there or at the next national meeting 12 December!

Twenty prominent economists comment on fossil fuel subsidies

By Peter Roessingh

Scientists4Future asked a group of prominent economist to reflect on fossil fuel subsidies (tax breaks). Twenty of them did so in the FD article "[Fossiele subsidies ondermijnen het klimaatbeleid](#)".

The title says it all: these subsidies are counterproductive and represent one of the most extreme inconsistencies in public policy ever. They can be compared to switching on airconditioning and heating at the same time, only cost money and yield nothing. Also, the often forwarded argument that ending fossil subsidies will cause companies to move to other countries was flagged as incorrect. Large leakage effects, as in that industries relocate to other countries, have never been empirically demonstrated.



Meet&greet 16 November

Are you concerned about climate change but not sure what you can do about it? Or are you involved in other groups but curious about Scientists for Future? Or have you recently joined Scientists for Future and do you want to get to know us better?

Please join our Meet & Greet on Thursday 16 November at 20.00 on [Zoom](#). We will tell you about how Scientists for Future works and the kind of work we do, and you will have an opportunity to ask questions and informally meet others.

Join us: we are stronger together!

For questions, please email us at contact@scientists4future.nl

Update: responses to the open letter from S4F to NWO and KNAW

By Nicole Bale

On Monday the 6th of November, an [S4F open letter](#) was sent to NWO and KNAW, calling for critical policies relating to collaboration between researchers and fossil energy companies. The letter had been signed by over 450 scientists, academics, and employees from 13 universities and 11 research institutes.

The letter was based on the opinion that the activities of the fossil energy sector continue to be in direct opposition to the conclusions of the international scientific community, such as those recorded in the [United Nations IPCC reports](#). Indeed, some [universities](#) and [institutes](#) have already published clearer policies or fully ceased their collaboration with the fossil energy sector. The signatories of the letter call on NWO and KNAW to only allow and encourage new collaborations with companies from the fossil energy sector that can prove themselves committed in the short term to the Paris climate agreement. The letter was covered in several [news outlets](#).

On Friday 10th November, S4F received separately [a reply](#) from Prof. Marileen Dogterom, president of KNAW, and [a reply](#) from Prof. Marcel Levi, chairperson of the board of NWO. Both letters are also available to read on the S4F Slack workspace, in the channel [#proj-open-letter-nwo-knaw-fossil-fuel-collaborations](#).

In brief, Prof. Marcel Levi stated that "The issue of climate change is too big and too complex to solve without each other (...). That is why [NWO] would like to propose that we discuss this openly with each other at the table: the fossil industry, the letter

writers, KNAW and our organization. Because solutions are never closer by writing open letters to each other or by completely closing doors to collaboration. The purpose of the conversation is to try to understand each other instead of judging each other. How can we jointly make a reliable contribution to the energy transition? What would be the role of companies in the fossil fuel industry? How do these companies and science come closer together and what alternatives are available if we can't reach an agreement together? What are the dilemmas surrounding this issue?"

In brief, Prof. Marileen Dogterom stated "We believe that the institutional level is the right place to establish [such] policies, after careful and balanced debate within the organization (...) In our role as the voice of science, we are happy to facilitate the debate on collaboration with the fossil industry and we hope to provide research institutions with tools for assessment frameworks (...) Academic freedom and scientific integrity also have the KNAW's constant attention. The discussion about this also includes themes that touch on collaboration with the fossil industry, such as: independence and undesirable influence by clients or third parties and the accountability of scientists as laid down in the code of conduct for scientific integrity."

If you would like to join the debate on this subject within S4F, or potentially join future discussions with NWO and KNAW on this subject, then please join the channel [#proj-open-letter-nwo-knaw-fossil-fuel-collaborations](#) in the S4F Slack workspace.



Paris alignment of Dutch academia

By Linda Knoester (Solid Sustainability)

Some academic institutions are pledging to cut ties with companies that don't commit to the Paris Agreement – but which companies does that mean exactly? The financial sector offers answers. Solid Sustainability looked at the Paris Alignment methodology used by seven Dutch pension funds with progressive policies. Six of them categorically exclude all or a part of fossil fuel production. Their reasoning is that extensive dialogue with oil & gas companies has not been effective and they do not expect these companies to make the required change in their business model. Read more in [the full article!](#)

Tips for the upcoming elections



By Anneke

It's soon election time! The Dutch elections for parliament (Tweede Kamer) will take place on 22 November. A total number of 26 parties participates, but what are the best options if you want to focus on climate, sustainability and nature? We found two useful sources!

Web platform **Vanaf Hier** (by ASN Bank) provided political parties with 16 statements, and created a "sustainable election guide" that you find [here](#).

Stem voor de Natuur, a collective of creatives, teachers and scientists, has scrutinised the parts of electoral programmes that concern nature, environment and climate. You find the results [here](#).

Upcoming events

- 16 November: meet & greet for people that are (relatively) new to Scientists4Future NL
- 12 December: national meeting Scientists4Future NL

Local groups

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

Get involved!

Are you a subscriber to this newsletter who is not yet 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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