

Dear {{voornaam}},

This is the Scientists4Future NL newsletter of March 2020, coordinated by S4F Delft. To unsubscribe, use the link at the bottom of this email.

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#ClimateStrikeOnline on 3 April



Due to the Corona crisis, the next large international Climate Strike, which is scheduled for 3 April, will not happen in the classical form. Instead, an online Climate Strike is being planned. "We'll have to find new ways to create public awareness and advocate for change that don't involve too big crowds," Greta Thunberg wrote on Twitter earlier this month.

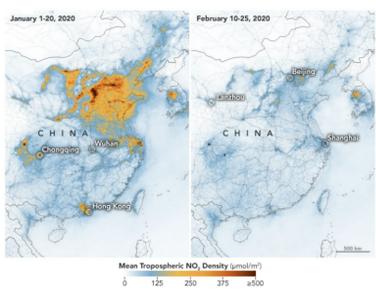
Here is how you can join us:

- We will be very active on social media on 3 April - please like and share our posts on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and (for the first time!) [Instagram](#)
- Post a photo or video of yourself striking at home using the hashtags #ClimateStrikeOnline and #ScientistsStrikeNL
- Take the virtual strike to a remote location that is threatened by climate change. Details will follow...
- Be creative! We are curious to see what you will come up with.

More details will become available in the following days on [our website](#) and the [Facebook event](#).

Air pollution falls rapidly as the coronavirus spreads

The world is facing the outbreak of the coronavirus and many countries have been forced to undertake drastic measures to prevent its spread: from encouraged home office, closing of public venues and travel restrictions to full country lockdowns. These measures, however, ultimately rely on people's commitment and individual behavioural changes to make a difference, which has occurred.



Interestingly, the environment has also benefited from such response to the coronavirus outbreak. In countries such as China and Italy, where coronavirus has struck hardest, air and water quality have largely improved due to the reduced industrial activity and commuting. Recent data collected by ESA's atmosphere-monitoring satellites reveals a [significant drop in nitrogen dioxide \(NO2\) levels](#), a powerful greenhouse gas released with the burning of fossil fuels.

This should remind ourselves how important individual contributions and coordination are in the fight against a common threat. Because if we can unintentionally impact the environment so much by committing to the coronavirus health crisis, one can but wonder how much progress we could make in the fight for the climate with the same level of commitment.

EU Green Deal: Climate Law and Climate Pact

On 4 March, the European Union presented the draft for a European climate law to ensure "climate neutrality" by 2050. In a statement, the German body of Scientists4Future argued that the draft lacks anchoring in science. The principal points of critique are that the proposed measures fall short of what is necessary and do rely on the uncertain future possibility of technologies that can filter CO2 from the air. In addition, there are no scientifically based controls by independent reviewers or advisory mechanisms proposed. You can find the complete statement [here](#). Further, you can [take a look at the draft yourself and provide feedback to the EU](#) until 1 May.

The EU is also looking to launch a European Climate Pact to "encourage broad societal engagement on climate and environment". While this pact is one more initiative aiming at voluntary pledges instead of creating a rigid legal framework, it could potentially help support grassroots activism and help change individual behaviours. The three main points of the pact are "talking about climate change", "triggering action" and "working together". Until 27 May you can share your ideas to shape this pact in a [public online consultation](#).

Introduction S4F Delft

TU Delft is the second largest group of signees of S4F NL's Consensus Statement. Thus, it was high time to form a local Scientists4Future group in Delft. This happened early this year, making us the third local group in the Netherlands (together with Utrecht and Nijmegen). So far, we've been busy organising ourselves, brainstorming what kind of activities we want to organise and figuring out which strategies to follow. Ideas are plenty and we will probably first focus on organising an outreach and education event with talks by scientists to the general public. If you live or work in or near Delft, why not come to one of our meetings? We meet bi-weekly and the next meeting is on 7 April. [Contact us](#) for more information!

Are you inspired to found a local S4F group in your city? [Get in touch with the national body!](#)

Climate101: Creating an Open Online Course on Sustainability

Ecosystem impacts and sustainability are wicked problems which link to many fields of studies. However, many students are not being taught about it. [Climate101](#), a student-led initiative aims to change this by offering an online course that will address a broad range of fields, which will be extremely valuable to students (level of the course: bachelor level 1). Only then students will understand how sustainability is relevant in every field of study and it will give them tools to apply this in their further careers.

Climate101 is fully student-led, thus we hope that members of the scientific community would be willing to give advice on the didactic quality of the course. Additionally, we are still looking for people who would like to provide some of the lesson contents, as soon as we know exactly what the outline will be. If you think you have something that could be of value, please let us know! If you are willing to give any feedback, we would also be very thankful. If you are interested or if you have any questions, you can [send us an email](#) or [follow us on Twitter](#).

'Experiment' at the 2020 PtS conference

On 5th of March, the local group Utrecht hosted a stand at the [Pathways to Sustainability conference](#).

The theme of our stand was: "Being an academic in times of a planetary emergency".

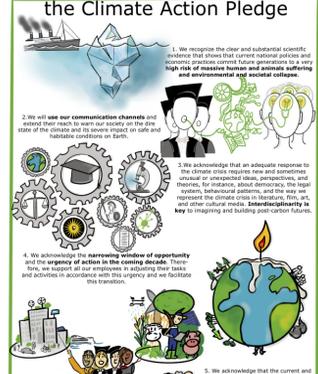


We brought poster boards on which we explored the various aspects of our responsibilities, both as individuals and as institutions. Framed as a scientific experiment (which it was clearly not), these posters did foster lively discussion amongst people passing by.

Photo: Robert Oosterbroek

Find the results of the posters on our [website](#).

The Utrecht University Board commits to the Climate Action Pledge



The Utrecht Young Academy presented a Climate Action Pledge to academics on the stage of the [Pathways to Sustainability](#) conference on the 5th of March 2020. They appealed to the Utrecht University leadership to step up sustainability ambitions and sign this pledge. The Climate Action Pledge embodies both the acknowledgement of the high risk of our current national policies and the urgency of action, as well as key suggestions for an adequate response to the climate crisis. The President of the Utrecht University Board, Anton Pijpers, has stated that [the board supports this pledge](#) and will adopt the pledge and concomitant actions.

Members of the Utrecht Young Academy invite all universities in the Netherlands to step up and accelerate their actions with respect to the climate crisis. The university's leadership can communicate their commitment by adopting this pledge.

World Scientists' Warning on Climate Emergency still open for signing

The [World Scientists' Warning on Climate Emergency](#) was published in "BioScience" in November 2019. The article underlines the need for action based on a large number of indicators and identifies six main areas where swift actions must take place. So far over 13,000 scientists from 156 countries have signed the article to demonstrate their support for the message. Every scientist (including graduate students) from any discipline is invited to read and [sign the article](#).

IPCC Second Draft Review

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the United Nations body tasked with assessing the risks of man-made climate change, proposing adaptation and mitigation measures and providing society with the most recent information in a transparent and objective manner.

Since its consolidation in 1988, the IPCC has released five Assessment Reports reviewing the latest findings related to the climate science. Currently, it is working on the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) that will be released in April 2021. Among the different subgroups of the IPCC, the so-called Working Group I will contribute to the AR6 with Climate change 2021: The physical science basis, tackling regional as well as large scale climate changes and feedback processes.

The [draft review of the contribution of Working Group I to AR6](#) is currently taking place and scientists from all over the world are encouraged to register and provide constructive feedback. [Registration is open until 19 April 2020](#).

Upcoming events

- **28 March: Earth Hour**
20:30 local time, <https://www.earthhour.org/>
- **3 April: International Climate Strike (online)**
For details, keep an eye on [our website](#) and the [Facebook event](#)
- **7 April: S4F Delft meeting**
Online, 17:00, [contact us](#) for details
- **8 April: S4F NL national body meeting**
Online, 19:00, [contact us](#) for details
- **22 April: Earth Day (50th anniversary)**
<https://www.earthday.org/>
- **5/6 June: Scientists4Future Conference "Science for Transition"**
Hannover, Germany; details on their [website](#) (in German)

We wish you lots of strength in these difficult times. May we have lots of creativity and patience to make the best out of it!

If you want to initiate or get involved in a local group at your university or research institute, or want to contribute to the national group, please [contact us](#).

Finally, check out our new [Instagram](#) page and (if you haven't done so already) follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) where we will be sharing national and international news regarding the role of scientists in times of the climate crisis.

Scientists4Future NL



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