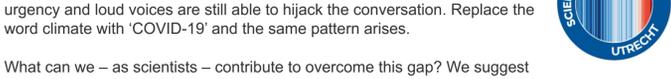


Dear {{voornaam}},

This is the Scientists4Future NL newsletter of March 2021, this month coordinated by **S4F Utrecht**. To subscribe, click [here](#). To unsubscribe, use the link at the bottom of this email.

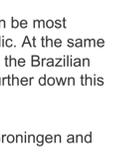
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Editorial

Current climate policies and pledges of the EU are not sufficient to stay below 1.5 °C of warming and this worries many people in the EU (around 90%, [data](#) shows). Regrettably, the public debate in The Netherlands misses urgency and loud voices are still able to hijack the conversation. Replace the word climate with 'COVID-19' and the same pattern arises.



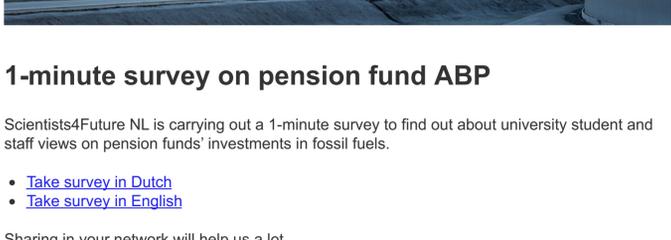
What can we – as scientists – contribute to overcome this gap? We suggest that effective climate advocacy should be like a cocktail, including both 'follow the science!' and moral / societal values. The former speaks most to the rational mind whereas the latter speaks to the emotional mind. We should never forget that besides being researchers, we are also citizens and human beings! Your choice whether you want the cocktail shaken or stirred.

Within Scientists4Future, we are continuously exploring the ways where we can be most effective. We work on outreach and science communication to the general public. At the same time, we have our pensions with ABP, which still invests in both fossil fuels and the Brazilian meat industry, which is linked to deforestation. More on this apparent conflict further down this newsletter.

S4F is steadily growing, with local groups being formed in Twente, Deventer, Groningen and Maastricht. S4F-Twente will introduce itself in this newsletter.

Next week, our role as citizens will come into full bloom when we vote for the new parlement. We wrote a piece arguing why these should be viewed as the 'climate elections'. To put the climate crisis loud and clear on the agenda before the elections, we invite you to make some noise during the climate alarm ('Klimaat Alarm') this Sunday, March 14th.

S4F Utrecht



1-minute survey on pension fund ABP

Scientists4Future NL is carrying out a 1-minute survey to find out about university student and staff views on pension funds' investments in fossil fuels.

- [Take survey in Dutch](#)
- [Take survey in English](#)

Sharing in your network will help us a lot.

Photo by Dmitry Anikin (Unsplash)

Introducing S4F Twente



In the past few weeks **S4F Twente** has quickly grown into a lively local chapter (currently 65 supporters – including 28 full professors, as well as a couple of very active students).

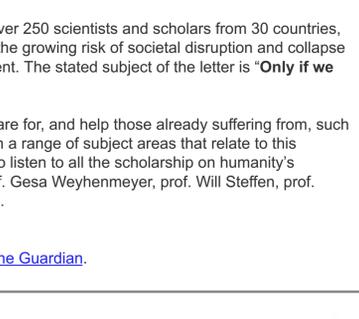
A range of different activities is organized almost every week. During the 'Fireside Chats', informal conversations take place with concerned fellow scientists, about a range of climate-crisis-related topics. There was an evening with prof. Maarten van Aalst, coordinating lead author for the IPCC, providing S4F-Twente scientists and students with an update on the current state of the climate emergency. A subgroup of the 'Policy' group is now convening regularly with members of the

City Council of Enschede to prepare a council meeting on the urgency of local policy measures. Meanwhile, the groups on 'Public Lectures', 'Schools', 'Media' and 'Behavioral Change', have either had or planned their first meetings.

S4F Twente was recently featured in local university TV programme 'Campus Talks', [watch it here](#).

Het Klimaatalarm

The climate crisis is the biggest threat of our time. On March 14, tens of thousands of people in more than 40 cities from Groningen to Maastricht will sound the [climate alarm](#) loud and clear. You can participate in one of the local manifestations, or simply from your own home, balcony or garden.



The organisers call on everybody to register [here](#) so they can get an idea of the total number of participants. This is also important to maintain corona safety.

Scientists in Delft who are not able or willing to visit the event, can give their mandate to S4F Delft to represent them, via [this online form](#).

At 15:00 exactly, after one minute of silence, the Climate Alarm for a fair and decisive climate policy will go off. Alarm clocks ring, pans and pots rattle, bells ring, sirens sound, roosters crowing, and children beat their drums, all to shake up politicians. Via the [national live broadcast](#), you can follow how the Climate Alarm is sounding throughout the country.

The Climate Alarm is an initiative of the national 'Klimaatcrisis Coalitie' (Climate Crisis Coalition). In 2021, together with more than 40 local Climate coalitions throughout the Netherlands, we will increase the pressure to get politics moving. The Climate Alarm is only the first step. "So even after the elections, the Climate Coalition will be heard of!"

Scholars Warning on Societal Disruption and Collapse

A public letter (December 2020) signed by over 250 scientists and scholars from 30 countries, calls on policy makers to engage more with the growing risk of societal disruption and collapse due to damage to the climate and environment. The stated subject of the letter is **"Only if we discuss collapse might we prepare"**.

The letter invites focus on how to slow, prepare for, and help those already suffering from, such disruptions. The signatories are specialists in a range of subject areas that relate to this predicament. Among the signatories are prof. Gesa Weyhenmeyer, prof. Will Steffen, prof. Marjolijn Visser and prof. Lummina Horlings.

Read the full letter [here](#).
An edited version of the letter appeared in [The Guardian](#).



The Climate Elections

According to this [2019 EC survey](#), around 90% of the people in the EU (as well as in the NL) see climate change as a very serious problem. However, current climate policies are not enough to stay below 1.5C or even 2C warming. Neither the [global](#) nor the [Dutch policies](#) seem to be enough. How could this be? Are politicians not doing their job? Or are we just not electing the right people to represent our values? Luckily, in a few weeks, on March 17th, we will sharpen our red pencil and elect new members for the Dutch House of Representatives – de Tweede Kamer.

As Scientists4Future NL, I don't think we should endorse any party or candidate. But what we can do, is inform each other of the possibilities. The Jonge Klimaat Beweging (JKB) made a list of the ['climate candidates'](#) for the parties that are currently in the Tweede Kamer. This is with exception of PVV and FVD which don't have a climate agenda. In February JKB organized a debate with these nine climate candidates, that you can watch [here](#). Another debate was organized by [de Balie](#) and they invited some different candidates, which also included 'challengers' of parties that are electable, but not currently in the House. Jongeren Milieu Actief (JMA, Young Friends of the Earth NL) organized another [climate debate](#), where they invited the chairs of six political youth parties. This event also featured writer Jaap Tielbeke, where they invited the chairs of six political youth parties. This event also featured writer Jaap Tielbeke, where they invited the chairs of six political youth parties. This event also featured writer Jaap Tielbeke, where they invited the chairs of six political youth parties.

However, the candidates proclaim or promise in these debates or in their election programs, is not necessarily enough to reach the climate or biodiversity goals. Fortunately, the Planbureau voor de Leefomgeving (PBL, Netherlands environmental assessment agency) performed an analysis on the election programs of all participating parties. The PBL analyzed the costs and effects of proposed measures in the programs, based on themes such as mobility, energy and food production. They presented their results at a press conference on March 1st, and a summary can be found [here](#). Notable absentees are the VVD as well as the PvdD. From both sides, there are critiques on the way the PBL defines their models and performs their calculations, and this posed a reason not to participate. You can find more info on the PBL analysis [here](#) (in Dutch).

Looking back, we can clearly see that a lot has happened in the political landscape with regards to climate. In 2017 there were no 'climate debates' organized. We hadn't seen a climate strike or march. Organizations such as Fridays for Future, Extinction Rebellion and Scientists for Future had not seen the light. We ended up with a coalition of VVD, CDA, D66 and the ChristenUnie, not specifically a 'green cabinet' - even though they did call themselves the greenest cabinet ever. Still, this 'green' cabinet ended up with a climate accord and a climate law, two big things that were not even included in their coalition agreement. What has been achieved on climate policy in the Netherlands in the past years is not nearly enough, but the decor has definitely changed. A clear indication of this, is the organizations of climate debates and climate marches and the existence of climate advocacy groups - this includes everyone that is in one way or another involved with Scientists4Future!

On this positive train of thought, I would like to reach out to all of you and ask you to get out there and VOTE. Let's hope that this time, we will truly see the birth of the greenest cabinet ever.

Arthur Oldeman (UU)



WUR letter on ABP links to deforestation

Over 400 professors and employees of Wageningen University are calling on pension fund ABP to stop investing in large Brazilian meat companies, which play a major role in Amazon deforestation. The scientists are asking their executive board to join them in demanding that ABP invest more sustainably. They see that it is necessary and possible for the financial sector to take responsibility.

One of the initiators is professor of forest ecology Marielos Peña Claros. "We teach our students about the enormous consequences of deforestation. At the same time, our pension money goes to companies that are the biggest contributors to this. That gives conflict."

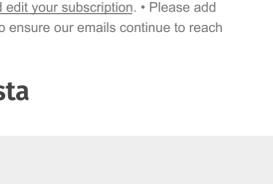
Volkskrant report [here](#). For more information, contact [Marieke Meesters](#).

Photo credit: FairPlanet

Recommended reading

In "Een beter milieu begint niet bij jezelf" maakt **Jaap Tielbeke**, journalist en redacteur bij de Groene Amsterdammer, korte metten met het denkbeeld dat we een beter milieu kunnen bewerkstelligen door persoonlijke gedragsverandering. Jaap Tielbeke ontcracht vier mythes die het huidige klimaatdebat domineren maar de werkelijke machtsverhoudingen buiten beeld houden. Om de klimaatcrisis recht te doen, moeten de problemen bij de kern aangepakt worden en de verantwoordelijken tot verantwoording geroepen worden: een beter milieu begint in de rechtbank, op de barricaden en bij de politiek.

Muriel Holding (UL)



Now here is a book that will get you thinking! **Andreas Malm** is a Swedish author and an associate senior lecturer of human ecology at Lund University. I've heard Andreas Malm talk in 2018, and his talk really shocked me. Not so much the contents of it, which was a truly forceful argument for advanced civil disobedience. It was the realisation that I, a pacifist to the bone and defender of democracy, had to admit to myself that "IF" things keep going as they were going, with governments allowing fossil fuel companies to execute their plans which are in no way compatible with a stable earth and would endanger my children and grandchildren, I might arrive at the point were I would consider to blow up a pipeline. It kept me awake that night, and it still does at times.

Peter Roessingh (UvA)

Upcoming events

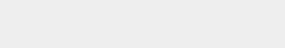
- **14 maart** [Klimaatalarm](#) (from 14:00)
- **18 maart** S4F-NL National Meeting

Local groups

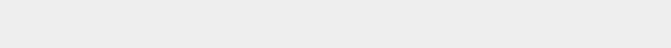
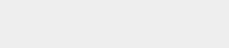
- Amsterdam
- Utrecht
- Leiden
- [Delft](#)
- [Twente](#)
- Nijmegen
- Deventer/Zutphen
- Groningen (starting)
- Maastricht (starting)

[Starters Guide for new active members](#)

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [Twitter](#) where we will be sharing national and international news regarding the role of scientists in times of the climate crisis.



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



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