



Dear {{voornaam}},

This is the Scientists4Future NL newsletter for the end of 2021. To subscribe, click [here](#). To unsubscribe, use the link at the bottom of this email.

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A New Look

Dear reader,

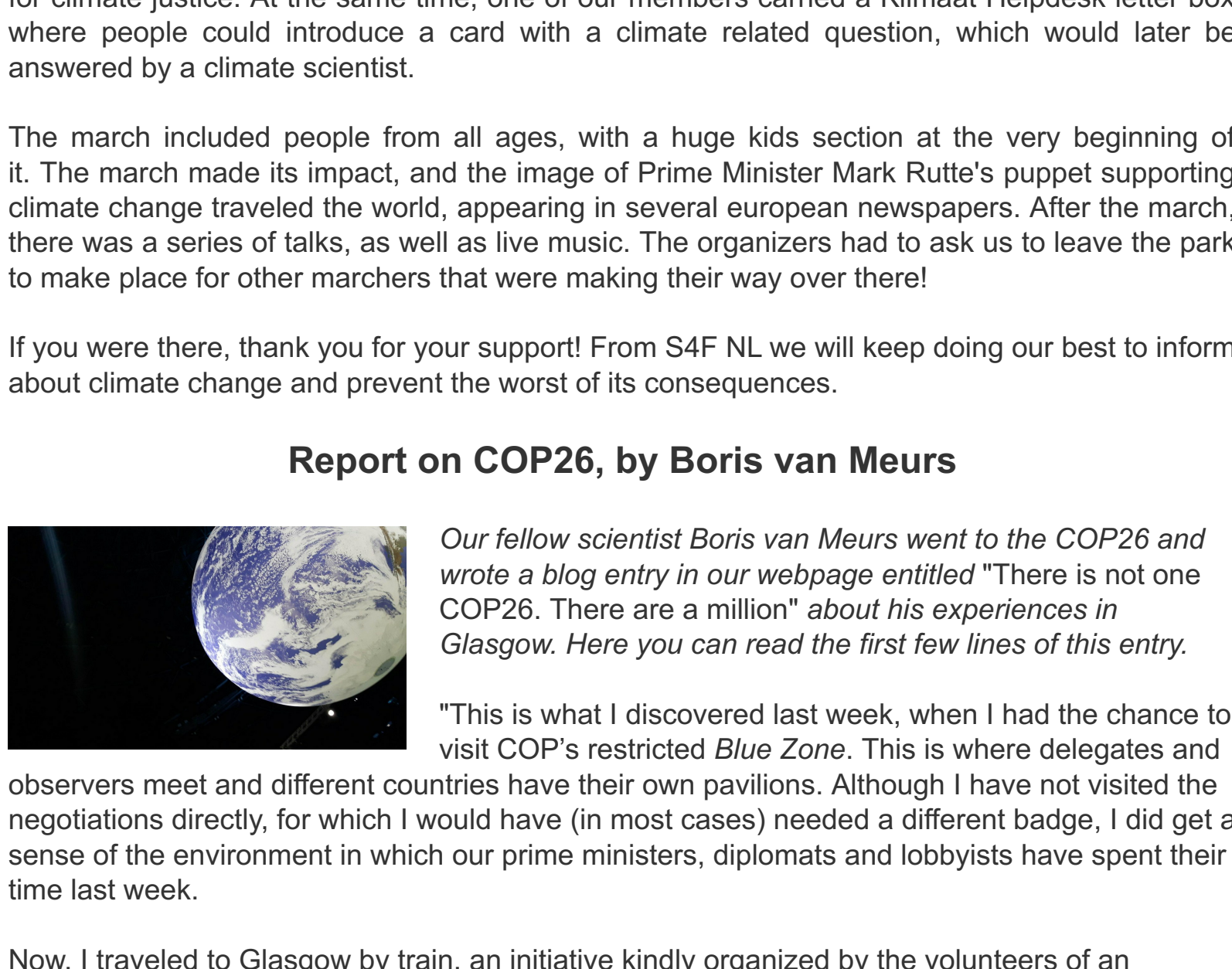
On behalf of Scientists4Future NL, we want to thank you for your support by reading this newsletter and supporting our initiatives. It is that same support that makes us want to improve ourselves and our planet every day. The working team for this newsletter understands the importance of clear communication, and that is why we present to you a better, more polished version of our monthly newsletter. We hope that this new format makes it easier to follow our efforts and commune with our cause. Happy reading!

The Newsletter Team

S4F Looking Back

In this section, you will find the chronicles of the different events that our team of scientists has attended, giving you some insight about our cause.

Klimaatmars 6 November: Marching through the streets of Amsterdam



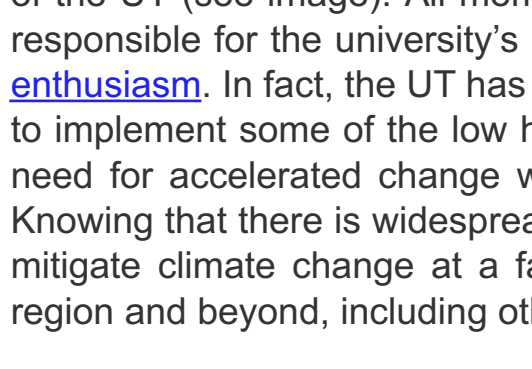
Time is up. We need climate action NOW! On Saturday November 6th, the Klimaatmars was organized, and we were there!

In a further attempt to get politicians to listen up, [a group of organizations](#) set up the Klimaatmars or Climate March in motion. On November 6th, around 40 scientists and members of S4F NL joined the climate march, together with other 40.000 people. We marched the streets of Amsterdam, starting from the Dam, holding our banner of "Science not Silence" and chanting for climate justice. At the same time, one of our members carried a Klimaat Helpdesk letter box where people could introduce a card with a climate related question, which would later be answered by a climate scientist.

The march included people from all ages, with a huge kids section at the very beginning of it. The march made its impact, and the image of Prime Minister Mark Rutte's puppet supporting climate change traveled the world, appearing in several European newspapers. After the march, there was a series of talks, as well as live music. The organizers had to ask us to leave the park to make place for other marchers that were making their way over there!

If you were there, thank you for your support! From S4F NL we will keep doing our best to inform about climate change and prevent the worst of its consequences.

Report on COP26, by Boris van Meurs



Our fellow scientist Boris van Meurs went to the COP26 and wrote a blog entry in our webpage entitled "There is not one COP26. There are a million" about his experiences in Glasgow. Here you can read the first few lines of this entry.

"This is what I discovered last week, when I had the chance to visit COP's restricted *Blue Zone*. This is where delegates and observers meet and different countries have their own pavilions. Although I have not visited the negotiations directly, for which I would have (in most cases) needed a different badge, I did get a sense of the environment in which our prime ministers, diplomats and lobbyists have spent their time last week.

Now, I traveled to Glasgow by train, an initiative kindly organized by the volunteers of an organization called *Rail to the COP*. My hopes for the COP were kindled, as the train was packed with activists, engaged scientists, and journalists. To give you a sense of the atmosphere: Andreas Malm's How to Blow up a Pipeline popped up everywhere in conversation, all laptops were covered in stickers demanding climate justice, exceedingly strong stories of past climate actions were exchanged. So, here I discovered the first COP26: the conference as an activist space. My fellow travelers were all deeply aware of the urgency of the ongoing climate crisis.

I cannot say the same of the delegates in the *Blue Zone*. For, in the *Blue Zone* I discovered a second version of COP."

For a full read, click [here](#).

Boris van Meurs, S4F

S4F News

Scientists4Future NL is subdivided in many different teams that do their best to pursue local initiatives. Join us in this section to have a look at what everyone has been up to!

S4F Twente: Pursuing the Climate Change Fight

Following the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow, Scientists4Future at the University of Twente saw an opportunity to gather support from its colleagues. Professor Frieder Mugele, UT professor of Physics of Complex Fluids and a member of Scientists4Future, decided to write an [open letter](#) to the executive board and was supported by all S4F Twente. This letter gathered 600 plus signatories and made the [news](#). On the 30th of November it was handed over by a delegation from S4F to the Executive Board of the UT (see image). All members of the EB, including Vice President Macheldt Roos who is responsible for the university's sustainability portfolio, were present and [received the letter with enthusiasm](#). In fact, the UT has already identified an impressive list of [possible steps](#) and started to implement some of the low hanging fruits. Yet, the EB shares the feeling of urgency and the need for accelerated change with a clear roadmap of tangible measures to reach the target. Knowing that there is widespread support in the community, the UT can now increase actions to mitigate climate change at a faster pace and lead by example for other organizations in the region and beyond, including other academic institutions.

Identifying suitable measures is a process that requires an open discussion and will presumably also lead to controversial debates, because some measures will certainly affect our daily habits and manners of operating and will prove challenging. The signatories of the open letter also pledged to support the EB in this process by involving colleagues from staff and students in these discussions. By increasing awareness and involvement amongst all UT members, S4F wants to help seize this growing momentum for change within our organization. After all, who, if not universities, with all their knowledge amassed in natural and social sciences, should be the leaders in demonstrating that true change is possible and that the current threat to our survival can be overcome.



Did you miss out on one of our Webinars? Would you like to see some climate change related science that we attended? If the answer is yes, then this is the channel for you! Please come visit and subscribe to our [YouTube Channel](#) for more information on Scientists4Future and Climate Change!

Last month we had two extraordinary webinars by Frank Biermann and Maartje Janse:

- On October 28, [Frank Biermann](#) from Utrecht University gave a talk on the governance of solar geo-engineering. Solar geo-engineering is the idea that one could block incoming sunlight by releasing particles high up in the atmosphere, similar to a volcanic eruption, thus cooling the climate. Whereas some view this as humanity's "last hope", Frank argued that it can never be done in a fair and democratic way, and we should stop "normalizing" this type of geo-engineering.
- On November 18, [Maartje Janse](#) from Leiden University shared with us a historical perspective on climate activism. Maartje introduced the concepts of 'immediatism' and 'imagination' and vividly elaborated on those using various case studies, including the Anti-Slavery movement and the Temperance movement.
- Coming up is the Future Scientists webinar with Matthijs Schouten on December 16th.

Furthermore, you can find two more stream recordings, on the [EU Taxonomy for Sustainable Finance](#) as well as a hybrid session on [Academic Engagement with Energy Industries](#). Under 'Playlists' you can also find a link to the ['1punt5' explainer videos!](#)

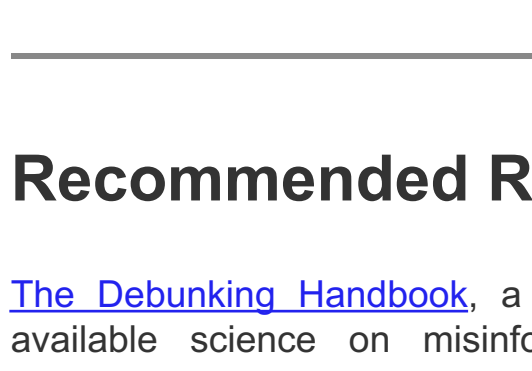
More media

But there's more! You can follow us on Twitter ([@sciforture_nl](#)), Instagram ([scientists4future_nl](#)), Facebook ([Scientists4FutureNL](#)) or Mastodon ([@sciforture_nl](#))!

We hope to (virtually) see you around!

S4F Research

This newsletter has been a platform for initiatives that Scientists4Future endorses, supports and communes with. However, until now we have not shown how involved we actually are in these initiatives, and how we are promoting our fight against climate change to the highest level. Find here a summary of some of the initiatives that our work teams have been researching.



Hurray! ABP is going to divest!

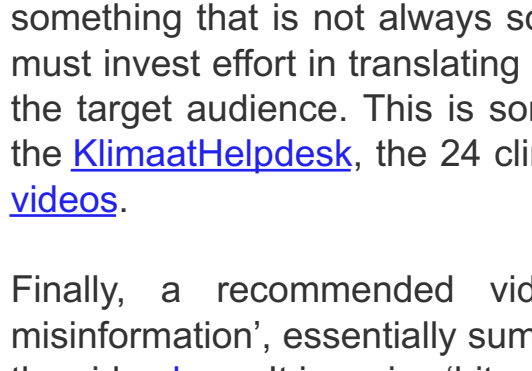
A huge success! Our – and Europe's biggest – pension fund ABP [announced on October 26th](#) that they will divest from the fossil fuel industry. Together with Fossielvrij NL, Extinction Rebellion, Gemeente Amsterdam, FNV Schoon Pensioen, de Rijksambtenaren, de Waterschappen, and many others, S4F-NL drew attention to ABP's investments in the fossil fuel industry. Together, we managed to show the ABP board that the demand for divestment is broadly supported by participants from many different sectors.

In March this year, S4F and all Dutch Young Academies sent out [a letter](#) to the executive boards of 47 Dutch universities and universities of applied sciences, asking them to pressure ABP for divestment from the fossil fuel industry. In response, the association of Dutch universities, VSNU, installed a [committee of expert scientists](#) to advise ABP on the transition towards more sustainable investments. Shortly before the presentation of their first advice and after a chilling new version of the [IPCC report](#), ABP announced that they will no longer invest in the sector and will sell €15bn of HCC by the first quarter of 2023.

We celebrated once, we celebrated twice, we celebrated three times! And we are discussing how we will best continue our ABP campaign. Deforestation and biodiversity might be next!

Interested in joining our campaign and/or do you have expertise on subjects such as deforestation, land use, food and biodiversity, and want to offer your help? Contact us at contact@scientists4future.nl.

S4F project ABP fossil free



No more support for fossil fuel export to tomorrows period!

In July, S4F NL sent a [letter](#) to Dutch political party leaders and Tweede Kamer members focused on trade and export, calling for the government to stop encouraging fossil fuel related export activities via export credit insurance. Via these insurances, our government stimulates export of goods and services and will pay the export company when the foreign

buyer fails to pay.

The consequences? Our government guarantees 1.5 billion euros per year worth of export activities within the fossil fuel branch. But no more! NGO [Oil Change International](#), [Milieudefensie](#) and [BothEnds](#) were taking the lead in this campaign. Their effort, summed up with the efforts of S4F NL, resulted in the government officially announcing the end of fossil fuel export credits. For the news piece, click [here](#) (in Dutch).

Time to celebrate!

Turfvrij project: Protecting our peat and biodiversity

[Turfvrij](#) is an initiative fighting against the use of peat in the Netherlands. Extracting peat is an environmentally disastrous practice for four main reasons:

- It's a fossil source whose oxidation liberates large quantities of GHG
- Extraction irreversibly damages habitats for many (rare) species
- Intact peat bogs act as a sponge for the surrounding areas, preventing floods and droughts
- The land is sagging: historic peat extraction is the main reason large parts of the Netherlands are below sea level today (now we dig wet graves for others!)

Draining peatlands for agriculture is the primary source for peatland degradation in Europe. However, the damage done by peat extraction is still substantial. The Netherlands is Europe's biggest peat importer, primarily for use in its vast horticultural sector.

Our aim: Stopping this destructive practice for private customers and the ornamental sector to fight climate change. Peat use for food production is trickier to tackle but could at least be minimised. In order to raise awareness, we participate in talks, articles, radio and TV interviews, as well as directly lobbying political parties. In July 2021, a motion partly triggered by our work was accepted in parliament. This motion aims to look into a peat ban/minimisation strategy. We're currently following up on this motion, increasing public awareness and staying involved in political discussions.

S4F in Education

Teach the Teachers: Chemistry Edition

Climate change will become more concrete as the current generation of high school students grows up. Still, it is a topic that is barely present in high school curricula. For Dutch havo and vwo high school students, climate change is only covered in the national curriculum for geography, an elective course. This means that many teachers who want to include climate change in other courses have to figure out on their own how they can fit it in. And even in geography, climate change is a theme of recent years, so teachers are not always up to speed with the latest knowledge and developments.

At the beginning of November, Michiel in 't Zandt (S4F Nijmegen) gave a lecture on climate change at the Woudschoten Chemie Conferentie 2021. This is a yearly conference for all secondary school teachers in the Netherlands. This year, the whole conference focused on climate change and sustainability, which provided a great opportunity to present about his work in the field of climate change and to talk about societal impacts and Scientists4Future. It was a great opportunity to not only update teachers about the latest science, but also to discuss with them what questions students have and what questions the teachers are struggling with. It is great to be able to support teachers with this challenging topic.

We hope that the afternoon left teachers informed and inspired to include different aspects of climate change into their classrooms. If you have concrete ideas about how scientists can help improve education about climate change, join the S4F-NL Education Team or get in touch with us at contact@scientists4future.nl.

Recommended Reading: The Debunking Handbook

[The Debunking Handbook](#), a summary of the current available science on misinformation and debunking techniques, has been available since 2020. It is now also available in [Dutch!](#) It is co-written by John Cook, creator and developer of [Skeptical Science](#), arguably one of the best sources for climate science and related information together with [RealClimate](#) and [CarbonBrief](#). Find below a summary of the main points of the Debunking Handbook. For more accurate descriptions, including references, check out the handbook itself.

There are a few main points with which the handbook starts:

- **'Misinformation can do damage'**: It is good to realize that misinformation has the potential to cause harm to individuals and society, and it is thus important to protect people against being misinformed. Some definitions are given, for example that disinformation is considered a type of misinformation where there is the intent to mislead, while misinformation in general can also be shared without intent to mislead, or by mistake.
- **'Misinformation can be sticky'**: This 'stickiness' is called the 'continued influence effect'. While corrections (like debunking or fact-checking) may reduce people's beliefs in misinformation, the incorrect information often continues to influence people's thinking and decision making. Still, there are enough opportunities to respond, which are mentioned in the handbook.
- **'Prevent misinformation from sticking if you can'**: If possible, it is best to pre-empt misinformation by means of 'inoculation' or 'prebunking': explaining misleading or manipulative argumentation strategies to people. **Prebunking can be effective!** However, it requires advanced knowledge of misinformation techniques as well as the right timing. More information on prebunking can be found [here](#).
- **'Debunk often and properly'**: 'if you cannot preempt, you must debunk' – this is where the handbook truly starts. Misinformation can be 'unstuck' when explanations are provided of (1) why it is clear that the information is false and (2) what is true instead.

Some important general guidelines are given, among which it states to 'avoid scientific jargon' – something that is not always so easy for us scientists. Related to this, it also stresses that we must invest effort in translating complicated ideas or facts, so that they are readily accessible to the target audience. This is something that we at Scientists4Future have tried to achieve with the [KlimaatHelpdesk](#), the 24 climate facts or [klimaatfeiten](#), as well as with the [1punt5 explainer videos](#).

Finally, a recommended video by John Cook himself, explaining 'How to debunk misinformation', essentially summarizing the Debunking Handbook in a 10-minute overview: find the video [here](#). It is a nice 'bite-sized chunk' that you can easily share with your peers.

Happy debunking!
Arthur Oldeman
Inspired by Daan Reijnders and Christel van Eck

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

Upcoming events

December 3rd Event "A Just Transition: Antiracism meets Environmentalism". Sign up [here](#).
December 7th "Can scientists be activists? An open discussion". Sign up [here](#).
December 13th KNAW Meeting "Academics on Fire". Sign up [here](#).
December 15th Webinar: "Het klimaat verandert: hoe zit het met ons gedrag". View [here](#).
December 16th Matthijs Schouten Webinar
January 18th KNAW Meeting "Science and Digital Technology". Sign up [here](#).

You can find an up-to-date schedule of S4F NL's webinars [here](#).

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 share national and international news regarding the role of scientists in times of the climate crisis.



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

