

Dear {{voornaam}},

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

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## Re-introducing Team Nijmegen

We are proud to announce that the Nijmegen team is getting back in business, with two of its members coming back for help and support, which has facilitated the creation of this newsletter. We have also joined a Radboud University initiative to make our labs greener by increasing the temperatures on our low-temperature freezers (from -80 to -70 degrees), and we are actively looking for solutions to increase the percentage of waste that can be recycled in our labs. However, our team is still small, and even though we are dedicated and hard-working, we would be delighted to welcome new people to the team!

If you work at Radboud University and would like to do more towards the Climate Fight, please get in contact with us! You can send an email to [contact@scientists4future.nl](mailto:contact@scientists4future.nl) or directly to us at [l.claret@science.ru.nl](mailto:l.claret@science.ru.nl).

## Looking Back: Global Climate Strike 24 September



**Time is up. We need climate action NOW! On Friday September 24th, FridaysForFuture organized another global climate strike, and we were there!**

On September 24th, around 20 scientists and members of S4F NL joined a climate strike organized by Fridays for Future the Netherlands, some of them after being informed about it in this newsletter (thank you for the support!). There was an estimated 3,500 strikers, with a very cross-sectional participation that included everyone, from school children and students to grandparents. After a short warm-up at Jaarbeursplein, we marched through Utrecht singing and chanting, proudly carrying the S4F NL banner. Most of the marchers were dressed in blue to give a feeling of Utrecht being flooded by climate concern. After the march, there was a series of talks, as well as live music. S4F NL's own Arthur Oldeman gave an excellent speech which summarized the recent IPCC report - and still managed to end on a hopeful and positive note!

## Global Demonstration 6 November

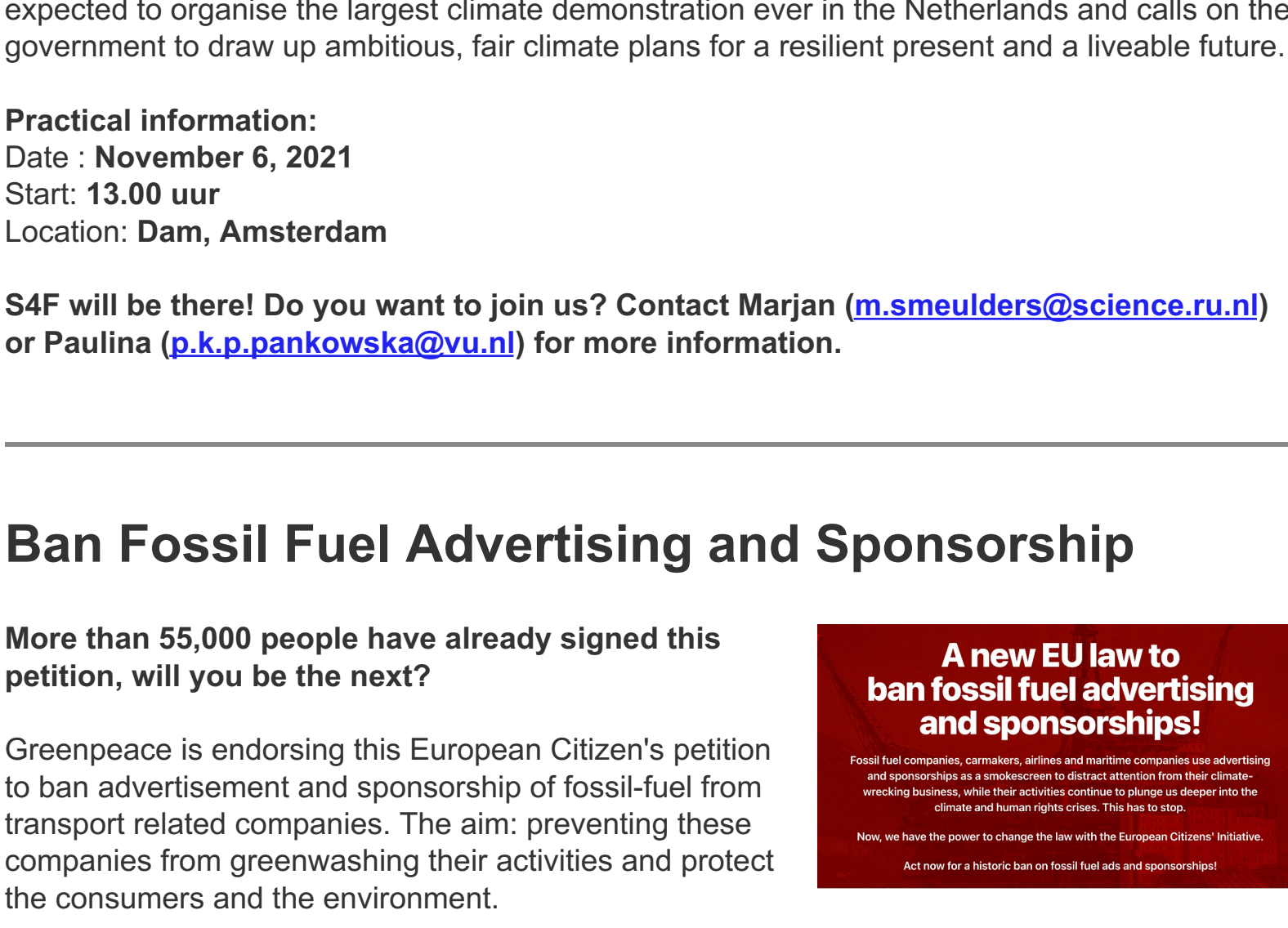


Foto: Marianna Knoljema

The latest [UN climate report](#) published in August confirms the results from the 2018 IPCC Special Report on the risks of crossing global warming of 1.5°C ([SR1.5](#)), and calls for urgent, drastic and large-scale action. Despite the fact that the consequences of the climate crisis also affect the Netherlands, the current Dutch climate goals fall far short of what is needed to prevent very serious climate disruption. On 6 November 2021, the Climate Crisis Coalition is therefore expected to organise the largest climate demonstration ever in the Netherlands and calls on the government to draw up ambitious, fair climate plans for a resilient present and a liveable future.

### Practical information:

Date : **November 6, 2021**

Start: **13.00 uur**

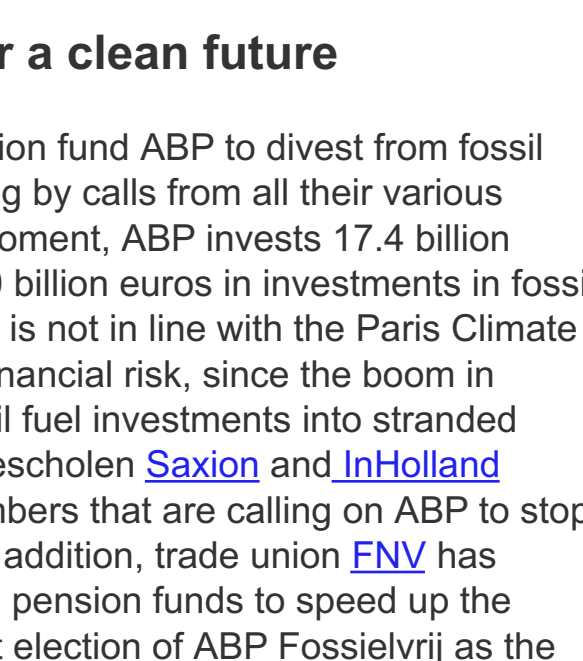
Location: **Dam, Amsterdam**

**S4F will be there! Do you want to join us? Contact Marjan ([m.smeulders@science.ru.nl](mailto:m.smeulders@science.ru.nl)) or Paulina ([p.k.p.pankowska@vu.nl](mailto:p.k.p.pankowska@vu.nl)) for more information.**

## Ban Fossil Fuel Advertising and Sponsorship

**More than 55,000 people have already signed this petition, will you be the next?**

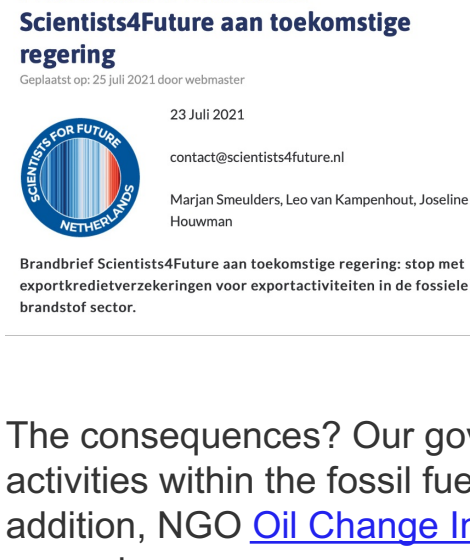
Greenpeace is endorsing this European Citizen's petition to ban advertisement and sponsorship of fossil-fuel from transport related companies. The aim: preventing these companies from greenwashing their activities and protect the consumers and the environment.



The initiative needs 1,000,000 signatures in one year to be considered by the European Council. For more information on this project and to sign the petition, click [here](#).

Similar initiatives in the Netherlands have already managed to get Amsterdam and The Hague free from fossil-fuel advertising (see [here](#) (English) and [here](#) (Dutch), respectively).

## Trouw's Sustainable 100



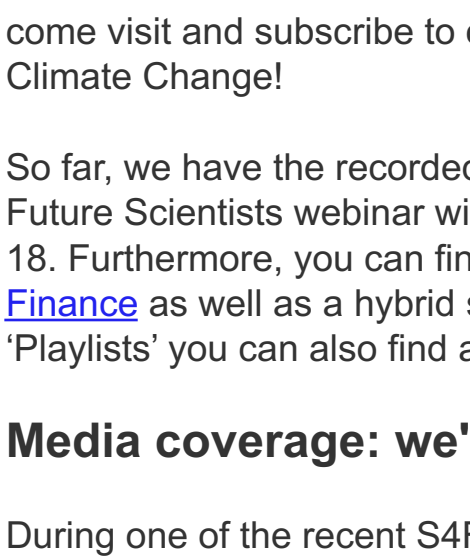
ABP Fossilvrij (#1) and Klimaathelpdesk (#36) were elected into the Sustainable 100, a ranking of the Dutch newspaper Trouw that highlights considerable efforts undertaken towards a more sustainable future. Originally started by members of Scientists4Future NL and the Utrecht Young Academy, the Klimaathelpdesk aims to provide a reliable and

comprehensive databank of simple, science-backed answers to complex questions. Our scientists are also heavily involved in the ABP Fossilvrij campaign. Currently, the pension money of Dutch teachers, academics, and civil servants is being invested in fossil fuels. ABP Fossilvrij aims to steer ABP, the Netherlands' largest pension fund, away from fossil fuel investments.

Congratulations on your well-deserved spots in the [Sustainable 100!](#)

## S4F Research & Involvement

This newsletter has been a platform for initiatives that Scientists4Future endorse, supports and communicates with. However, until now we have not shown how involved we actually are in these initiatives, and how much work goes on behind the scenes to promote our fight against climate change to the highest level. Find here a summary of some of the initiatives that we've been putting work on.



### A clean pension for a clean future

The pressure on our pension fund ABP to divest from fossil fuel companies is mounting by calls from all their various member groups. At this moment, ABP invests 17.4 billion euros out of their total 500 billion euros in investments in fossil fuel related activities. This is not in line with the Paris Climate Agreement and poses a financial risk, since the boom in renewables may turn fossil fuel investments into stranded assets. Recently, the hogescholen [Saxion](#) and [InHolland](#) joined the list of ABP members that are calling on ABP to stop investing in fossil fuels. In addition, trade union [FNV](#) has announced it will pressure pension funds to speed up the

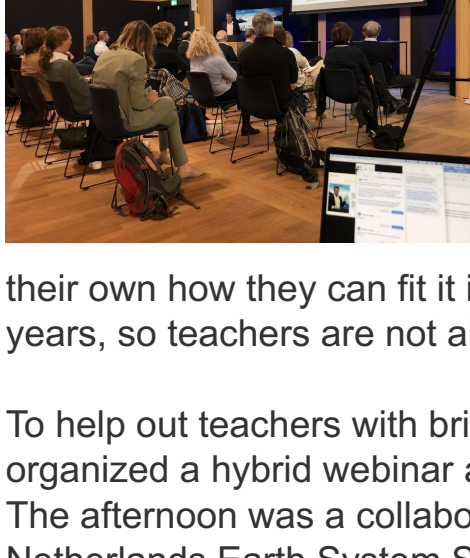
transition to sustainable investments. Finally, with the recent election of ABP Fossilvrij as the number 1 of [Trouw's sustainable top 100](#), we hope that ABP will soon follow the metal and technology pension fund [PME](#) and sell all fossil fuel related investments.

The [campaign of the University of Amsterdam](#) against these investments has already collected over 1000 signatures. You can help to increase the pressure on ABP to divest by checking if there is such a petition at your institution and sign it, or [start a new one](#) if it does not exist yet.

For more information, check out these upcoming events!

**25th October and 3rd November: [Groen Pensioen webinar](#)** 'Pensioen vergroenen voor beginners' (in Dutch).

**1st november: [Panel discussion](#)** on De klimaatcrisis en ons pensioengeld. Spui 25, Amsterdam (in Dutch).



### No more support for fossil fuel export credits

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 insurances. Via these insurances, our government stimulates export of goods and services and will pay the export company when the foreign buyer fails to pay.

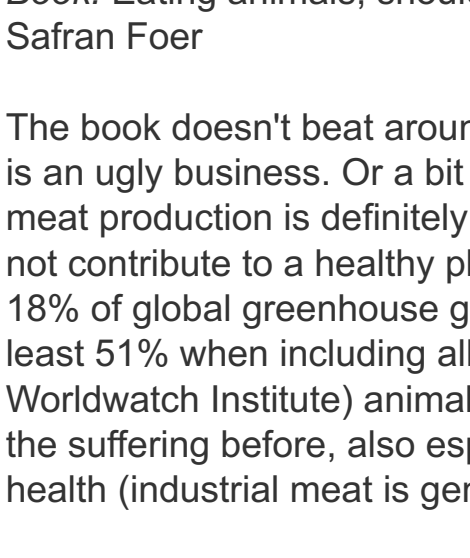
The consequences? Our government guarantees 1.5 billion euros per year worth of export activities within the fossil fuel branch. We will call on our government again prior to [COP26](#). In addition, NGO [Oil Change International](#), [Milieudefensie](#) and [BothEnds](#) are taking a lead in this campaign.

### The buzz from Team Twente

[S4F-Twente](#) is buzzing with activities! Members of S4F-Twente have recently co-organized a webinar with UT Studium Generale – [Trans Europe Express 2.0](#) – and have given several presentations, for example on the CO<sub>2</sub>-footprints in the [Theater College](#), in Openluchttheater Lichtenvoorde.

The [UT climate pilgrims](#), on their way to COP26 in Glasgow, were welcomed by S4F-Twente at the UT campus. On a municipal level, S4F-Twente is in regular contact with various members of the Enschede City Council, from different political parties. Current projects include the planning of guest lectures for Twente4Twente and preparations for an Open Letter to the Board of the University of Twente regarding climate-related commitments. Next month, the UT is awarding an [honorary doctorate to Debra Roberts of the IPCC](#). S4F-Twente can be contacted via [wente@scientists4future.nl](mailto:wente@scientists4future.nl).

## S4F in the Media



### We have recently launched our own YouTube Channel!

Did you miss out on one of our Webinars? Would you like to see some climate change related symposia 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!

So far, we have the recorded streams of three [Future Scientists webinars](#). Coming up are the Future Scientists webinar with Frank Biermann on October 28, and Maartje Janse on November 18. 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!](#)

### Media coverage: we're getting noticed (Team Twente)

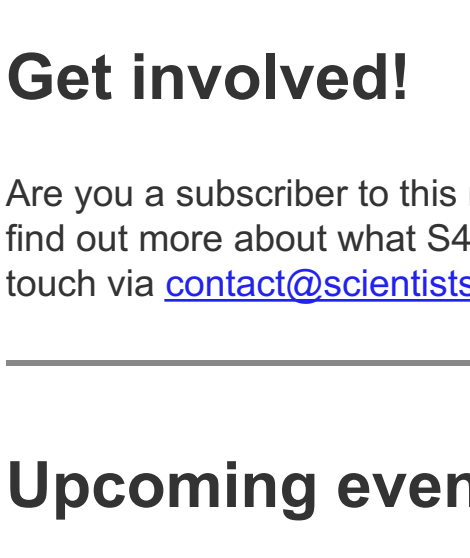
During one of the recent S4F-Twente 'Fireside Chats' (informal online meetings, nearly weekly), UT prof. Maarten van Aalst, coordinating lead author at the IPCC, provided an impressive update on the latest IPCC report – the recording can be watched [here](#). More recently, Maarten van Aalst was [interviewed by NOS news](#) and has answered [kids' climate questions](#) for Margriet. Maarten has also been involved in research that was featured in major media outlets all over the world in September, for example by [The Guardian](#) and by [NOS](#).

### More media

But there's more! You can follow us on Twitter ([@scifuture\\_nl](#)), Instagram ([scientists4future\\_nl](#)), Facebook ([Scientists4FutureNL](#)) or Mastodon ([@scifuture\\_nl](#))!

We hope to (virtually) see you around!

## S4F in Education



### Teach the Teachers

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.

To help out teachers with bringing climate change into the classrooms, Scientists4Future NL co-organized a hybrid webinar and workshop for high school teachers on October 6th. The afternoon was a collaboration with the ['Tipping Points Ahead'](#) program from [NESSC](#) (the Netherlands Earth System Science Centre), and the [KNAW](#) (the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences).

We kicked off with a [webinar](#) led by Leo Meyer (S4F, ClimateContact) and Jack Middelburg (UU), where teachers were updated on topics such as sea level rise (Roderik van de Wal), directions for climate solutions (Heleen de Coninck), tackling climate change internationally (Jaime de Bourbon de Parme) and the national climate agreement (Ed Nijpels). During the workshops, teachers were introduced to ways in which they can bring climate negotiations into the classroom with the EN-ROADS climate policy simulator (Bas Tuenter), and with teaching material and a lively discussion about how we can cool the planet (Bjine Dankert & Claudia Wieners).

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](mailto:contact@scientists4future.nl).

## Recommended Reading

*Book:* Eating animals, should we stop? by Jonathan Safran Foer

The book doesn't beat around the bush: meat production is an ugly business. Or a bit more detailed: industrial meat production is definitely an ugly business that does not contribute to a healthy planet (livestock emits up to 18% of global greenhouse gas emissions, but probably at least 51% when including all factors, according to the Worldwatch Institute) animal welfare (not the killing, but the suffering before, also especially for fish) and human health (industrial meat is generally not good for you).

But does it need to be? Although eating meat has a disproportionately large climate impact and will always include at least a minor form of suffering for the animals involved, consuming less (already a significant climate impact) and from local farms that do significantly invest in animal welfare well beyond the legal requirements does have an effect. Feeding the soon 10 billion people on this planet an omnivorous high-welfare diet might, however, just be impossible.

Although the book does not claim to be an argument for vegetarianism, it gives little to no space not to be. Animals are equals and should therefore be spared. Not that this is a bad message, but the issue is that many would call this sentiment. If you don't share this vision, it is apparently ok to eat animals. Well, then the book "We Are the Weather" that Safran Foer wrote in 2019 is definitely a good read to think some more on the climate impacts.

An eye opener for me personally was how much eating meat is linked to sentiment, to memories of the past. That one dish my mother makes in winter, boeuf bourguignon, a stew with beef, comfort food, the flavors always take me back. I just have difficulties letting that go. **But, in our overpopulated world in which animals are treated legally and socially as commodities, is it even possible to eat meat without suffering for the planet and for animals? The short answer:** no. And I absolutely agree with Safran Foer. Getting there, however, requires me and many others to say goodbye to some good things from the past. Maybe the vegetarian meat industry this winter has a great impact in this transition. I am going to make a twist on my favorite stew this winter. Future proof.

By Michiel in 't Zandt (S4F-Nijmegen)

## 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](mailto:contact@scientists4future.nl) or email Disa at [d.a.sauter@uva.nl](mailto:d.a.sauter@uva.nl)

## Upcoming events

**October 22nd** Local Initiatives Nijmegen

**October 25th** Groen Pensioen Webinar

**October 28th** Frank Biermann Webinar

**November 1st** Panel discussion "[De klimaatcrisis en ons pensioen geld](#)"

**November 3rd** [Groen Pensioen Webinar](#)

**November 6th** Climate Change March Amsterdam

**November 8th** [Symposium biodiversiteit](#), Nicolaas G. Pierson Foundation

**November 15th** [PBL Academy Lecture: Biodiversity from an integral perspective](#)

**November 18th** Maartje Janse Webinar

**December 16th** Matthijs Schouten Webinar

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](#)



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