Dear (Government),
This is the ScientistsFuture NL newsletter of October 2021, this month coordinated by **S4F** (Sarah Van Schaik). Scroll down to click **here**. To unsubscribe, use the link at the bottom of this email.

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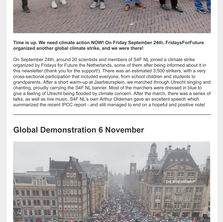
Re-introducing Team Nijmegen

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 Climate Neutral Nijmegen initiative to ensure our labs prepare to crossing the temperatures on our low-temperature freezers (from -80 to -70 degrees), and we are actively looking into the use of our laboratories and equipment that can be reused for other 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@scientistsfuture.nl or directly to us at (claire)@science.ru.nl.

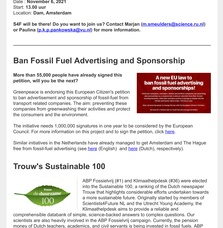
Looking Back: Global Climate Strike 24 September



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 in Netherlands, some of them after being informed about it by our newsletter. Our goal was to show that science is not silent and that there is a very cross-sectoral participation! We included everyone, from school children and students to grandparents. After a short warm-up at Jaarbeursplein, we marched through Utrecht singing and shouting, 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 at Domplein, where S4F NL's Sarah Van Schaik gave a speech on behalf of science, summarized the recent IPCC report - and still managed to end on a hopeful and positive note!

Global Demonstration 6 November



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 step ever closer to our doorsteps, the Netherlands still does not have a climate law that would ensure very serious climate disruption. On 6 November 2021, the Climate Crisis Coalition is therefore expected to organize the largest climate demonstration ever in the Netherlands and calls for the government to make the cut 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) or Pauline (p.b.a.pardoel@uva.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 transport sector.

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 Fossielvrij (#1) and Climate Neutral Groningen (#30) were elected into the Sustainable 100, a ranking of the Dutch newspaper Trouw that lists the most sustainable initiatives that are contributing to a more sustainable future. Originally started by members of ScientistsFuture NL and the Utrecht Young Academy, the Wetenschappelijke Jongeren Raad is now providing a reliable and comprehensive database of simple, science-backed answers to complex questions. Our Sustainable Finance Working Group, in collaboration with Milieudefensie and the Dutch division of Oxfam Novib, raised awareness, and civil servants is being invaded in fossil fuels. ABP Fossielvrij 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 ScientistsFuture endorses, supports and commforms with. However, until now we have not shown how involved we actually are in these initiatives, and how much focus we put on behind the scenes to promote our S4F goals of 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 member groups. At this moment, ABP invests 17.4 billion euros in fossil fuel companies, which is 5 billion euros more than 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 Windland Holland have joined the call for ABP to divest from fossil fuel 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 Fossielvrij as the number 1 of Trouw's sustainable top 100, we hope that ABP will soon follow the metal and technology pension fund PGGM and stop all fossil fuel 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!

Dec 2021 and 6th November Green Pension webinar Pensioen vergroenen voor beginners (in Dutch).
6th November Panel discussion On klimaatrisico's 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 to ask their support for a motion to end fossil fuel export subsidy 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 pick up the government again on this in October. In addition, NGO Oil Change International, Milieudefensie and BothEnds are taking a lead in this campaign.

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The buzz from Team Twente

S4F Twente is busying with activities! Members of S4F-Twente have recently co-organized a seminar with LIT Sterkte, Vrede en Veiligheid, Trans Europe Exchange 2.0 - and have given several presentations, for example on the CO2-footprint in the Theater College, in OpenkortheaterLichtenvoorde.

The 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 Kobra-Pantarei and the preparation of an Open Letter to the Board of the University of Twente regarding climate-related commitments. Next month, the UT is awarding an honorary doctorate Roberto di Pietro of the IPCC. S4F-Twente can be contacted via twente@scientistsfuture.nl.

S4F in the Media

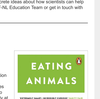
We have recently launched our own YouTube Channel!

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 ScientistsFuture and Climate Change!

So far, we have the recorded streams of three Future Scientists webinars. Coming up are the Future Scientists webinar with Frank Biesbroek on October 28, and Marijke Jansen 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 Antarctic Research with Minderoo Foundation, Under Pressure and Blue Marble.

We hope to (virtually) see you soon!

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 teachers, it is difficult to incorporate climate change in a meaningful way covered in the mandatory curriculum, leaving 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 forced to deal with the latest knowledge and developments.

To help out teachers with bringing climate change into the classrooms, ScientistsFuture NL co-organized a hybrid workshop and workshop dinner for high school teachers in October 2019. 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, Climate Connect) and Jack Middelburg (UU), where teachers were updated on topics such as sea level rise (Roderik van de Wal), permafrost (Jelmer Rozema), tipping points (Peter Ditlevsen), and climate change in the Caribbean (Sue Biggin de Romme) 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 and the EN-ROADS climate policy simulator (Bas Tuerlings), and we shared material and a lively discussion about how we can cool the planet (Bjinse Dankert & Claudia Pfeiffer).

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@scientistsfuture.nl.

Recommended Reading

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

This book doesn't beat around the bush: meat production is not pretty. It is not morally defeated. 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, which is even at least 51% when including all factors, according to the Food Climate Research Network, and uses 30% of all land, but suffering before, also especially for farts) and human health (industrial meat is generally not good for you).

But does it need to be? Although eating meat has a deeply rooted tradition in our society, Safran Foer shows include at least a minor form of suffering for the animal 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 not hurt the planet, the animal, or the consumer. Not to give an unnecessary 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 it does not fit well with the rest of the book, which does not share this vision. It is apparently up 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 and to culture. Not that I think that this should be a reason to continue eating meat, but it is a comfort factor, the feeling we have back. I just have difficulties telling that to **But, to see overpopulated world in which animals are treated legally and socially as commodities, is it even possible to not think about 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 can have a great impact in this transition. I am going to make a twist on my favorite wine this winter. Fancy joining?*

By Michel in 1 Zandt (S4F-Nijmegen)

Get involved!

Are you a scientist/ex-to this newsletter who is not yet actively involved in activities of S4F NL? Curious to find out more about what S4F does and how you can contribute? Get in touch via contact@scientistsfuture.nl or send an email to p.a.saxen@uva.nl

Upcoming events

October 22nd Local Initiatives Webinar
October 25th Groningen Pension Webinar
October 28th Frank Biesbroek Webinar
November 1st Panel discussion "De klimaatcrisis en ons pensioen geld"
November 3rd Green Pension Webinar
November 6th Climate Change March Amsterdam
November 8th Symposium biodiversiteit, Nicolaas G. Pierson Foundation
November 18th Marijke Jansen Webinar *Biodiversity from an integral perspective*
November 18th Marijke Jansen 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

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Laposta