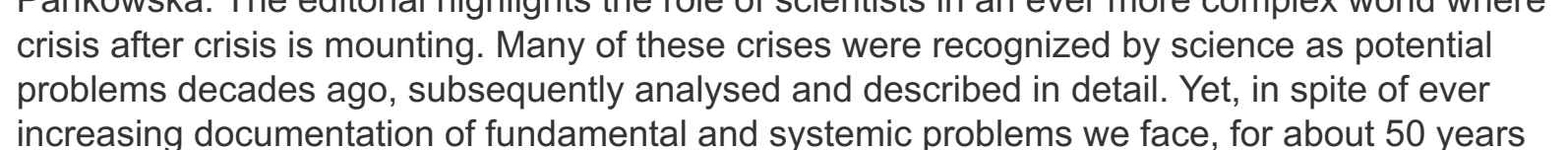


Dear {{voornaam}},

This is the Scientists4Future NL newsletter of September 2022, this month coordinated by **S4F Amsterdam**. To subscribe, click [here](#). To unsubscribe, use the link at the bottom of this email.

## In this newsletter:

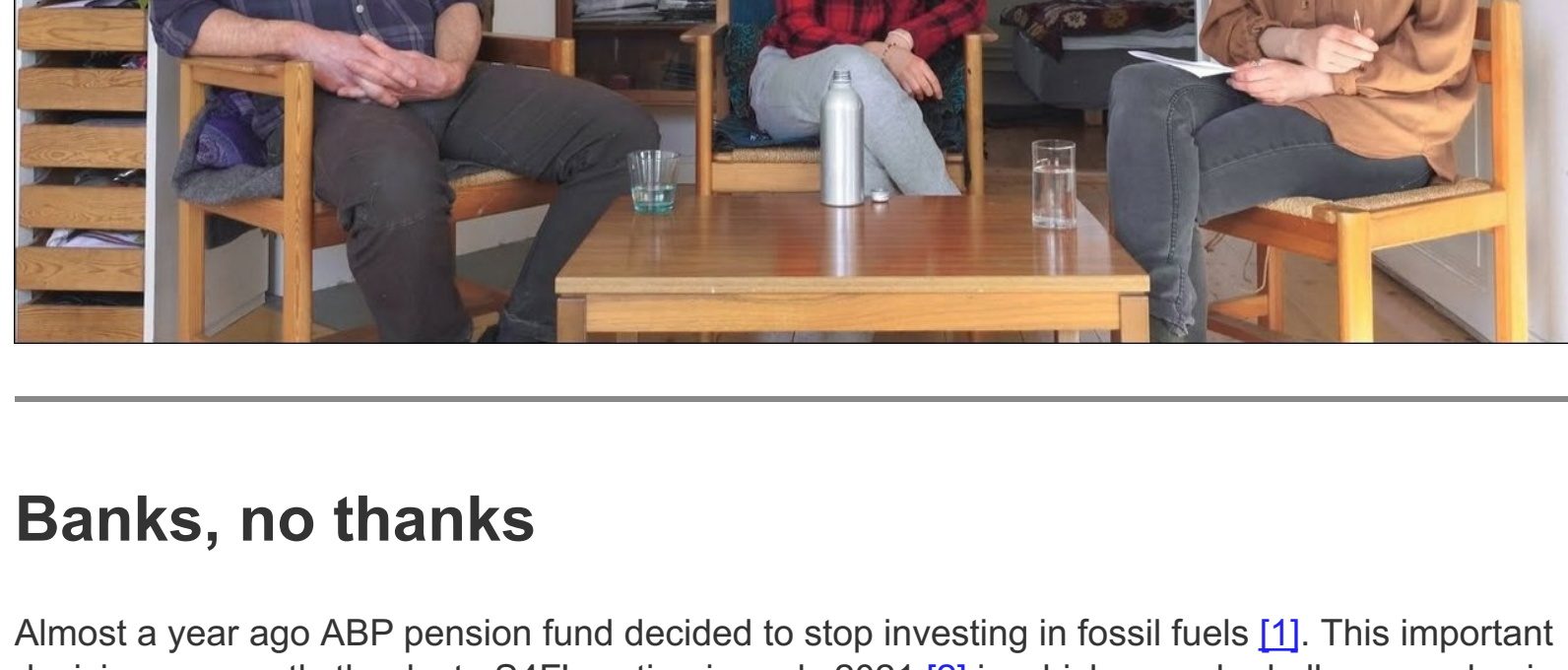
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## Editorial

This month newsletter is hosted by Team Amsterdam and produced with the help of Paulina Pankowska. The editorial highlights the role of scientists in an ever more complex world where crisis after crisis is mounting. Many of these crises were recognized by science as potential problems decades ago, subsequently analysed and described in detail. Yet, in spite of ever increasing documentation of fundamental and systemic problems we face, for about 50 years disappointingly little progress was made towards structural solutions. Instead, as beautifully described in [this paper](#): "The i-Frame and the s-Frame: How Focusing on Individual-Level Solutions Has Led Behavioral Public Policy Astray", the focus has been on shifting responsibility to the individual and designing ways to help the individual make better decisions within the system, instead of changing the rules of the system. There are many reasons for this, that range from the traditional attempts to separate scientific facts (what is) from policy decisions (what ought to be done) to straight manipulation by powerful parties acting in their own self interest. In any case we now have arrived at a point where we as scientist we are faced with very hard questions about our role. Can we simply keep documenting the pending disasters and put the ball fully in the court of the politicians, or can we be more proactive? [In a recent double interview](#) climate scientist [Kevin Anderson](#) and activist Greta Thunberg discuss climate communication, the role of scientists, democratic responses, and the root causes of the climate crisis. There is a lot food for thought found in this 33 min [video](#). Even more drastic strategies can also be chosen, the book reviewed below by Anne Urai proposes "class war" as a possible valuable instrument. This newsletter documents a number of initiatives by S4F NL that the concerned reader might use as inspiration or guidance for taking position in these worrisome and complicated times.

Peter Roessingh



## Banks, no thanks

Almost a year ago ABP pension fund decided to stop investing in fossil fuels [\[1\]](#). This important decision was partly thanks to S4F's action in early 2021 [\[2\]](#) in which we asked all our academic institutions to urgently request ABP to stop investing in the fossil fuel industry. We think it is time to build on this success and make a coordinated academic effort for a sustainable banking and insurance sector. Dutch universities take great efforts to become more sustainable. At the same time, they are customers of banks and insurers that still invest tens of billions in the fossil fuel sector [\[3\]](#), a sector whose plans are incompatible with the Paris 1.5°C target. On average, two-thirds of the investments of insurers in the energy sector also go to fossil fuels. Of the nine largest insurers active in the Netherlands, none exclude fossil investments [\[4\]](#).

We are preparing a letter to all universities and universities of applied sciences asking to take steps such as

- (1) open a coordinated dialogue with our house banks and insurers;
- (2) consider doing financial management via a sustainable bank or insurer;
- (3) prepare sustainable guidelines to be used as selection criteria in tenders for bank and insurance contracts; and
- (4) make a public statement about the steps being taken.

If you have suggestions how S4F can operate effectively in this action, or if you want to know more, please contact Lisette Klok [\[email\]](#)

*The Fossil-free-finance group*

## S4F letter against gas extraction under the Wadden Sea

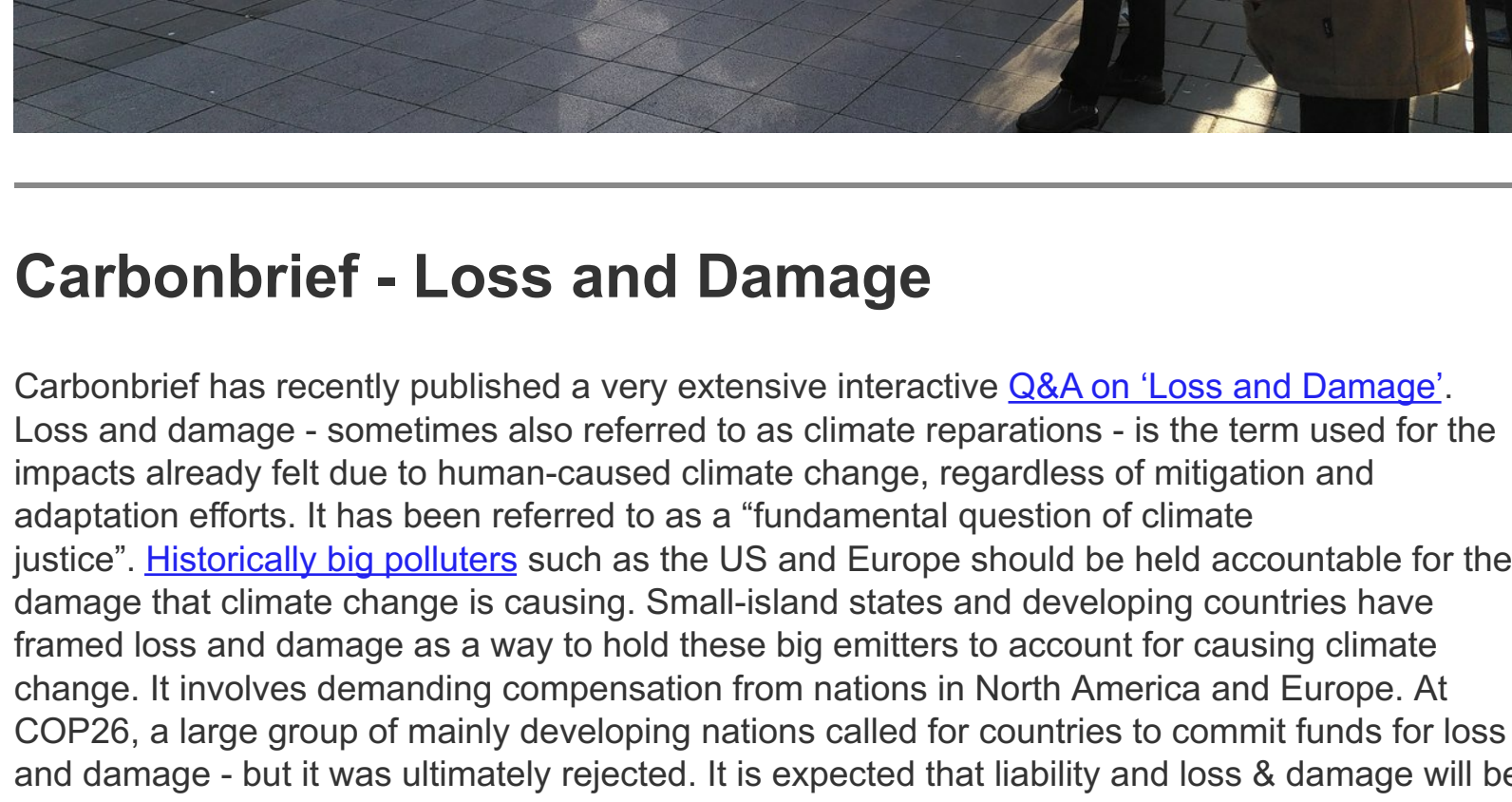
We recently reached out to all S4F newsletter subscribers to inform them about a letter we were writing to warn the government that granting a permit for gas extraction from under the Wadden Sea is an environmental risk which could pose a great danger to this UNESCO World Heritage Site. The letter was in support of the [call from the International Union for Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\)](#) to revoke the draft permit for the extraction of fossil fuels under the Wadden Sea. The letter also drew on the [independent legal advice of the Waddenacademie](#) that a permit is in conflict with the Natura 2000 regime.

[The letter](#) received in just one week 372 signatures from scientists and academics in the Netherlands, including a wide range of Wadden Sea experts. We delivered the letter by email on 21st September to minister Van der Wal (nature and nitrogen), state secretary Vijlbrief (mining) and minister Rob Jetten (climate and energie) and are awaiting a reply.

The letter was reported on by a number of news outlets including [BNN Vroege Vogels](#) and [Omrop Fryslan](#). On the 23rd of September two members of parliament, Tjeerd de Groot and Faissal Boulakjār (both from D66) [submitted a formal written question](#) in parliament to minister Van der Wal and state secretary Vijlbrief to ask, amongst other questions, whether the ministers were aware of our letter and how our concerns will be taken into account in the decision-making process for the permit.

We thank everyone who supported this action as well as those who provided interesting and thought provoking feedback. Indeed, all emails we received on the topic were read carefully and considered.

The group [Scientist Rebellion NL](#) are also campaigning on the subject of new fossil fuel extraction in the Netherlands. On 28th September at 4pm they organised a legal demonstration outside the EZK ministry in The Hague (Bezuidenhoutseweg 73) to demand that the permit for gas extraction from under the Wadden Sea is not granted. There were speeches from experts in the Wadden Sea and in energy transition policy. Additionally there was nautical singing from ["Utrecht aan Zeemanskoo"](#).

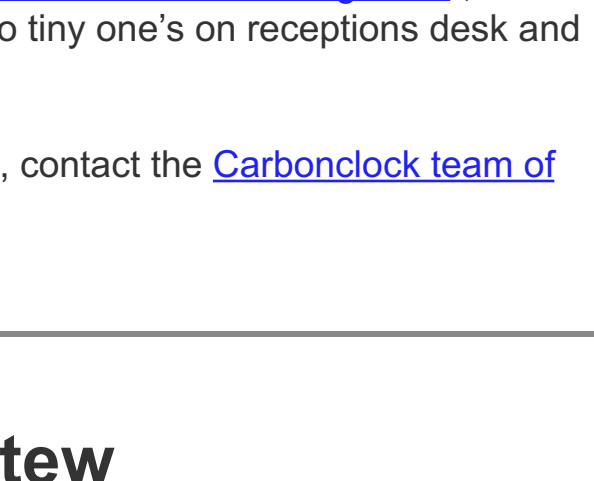


## Carbonbrief - Loss and Damage

Carbonbrief has recently published a very extensive interactive [Q&A on 'Loss and Damage'](#). Loss and damage - sometimes also referred to as climate reparations - is the term used for the impacts already felt due to human-caused climate change, regardless of mitigation and adaptation efforts. It has been referred to as a "fundamental question of climate justice". [Historically big polluters](#) such as the US and Europe should be held accountable for the damage that climate change is causing. Small-island states and developing countries have framed loss and damage as a way to hold these big emitters to account for causing climate change. It involves demanding compensation from nations in North America and Europe. At COP26, a large group of mainly developing nations called for countries to commit funds for loss and damage - but it was ultimately rejected. It is expected that liability and loss & damage will be one of the dominant themes at [COP27](#), the next round of UN climate negotiations taking place in Egypt in November. Read more in the [Carbonbrief article!](#)

## Carbon clocks everywhere!

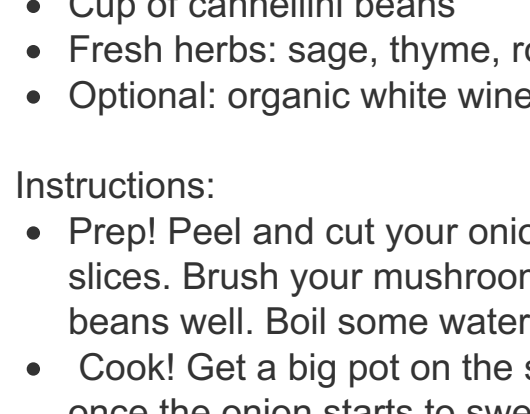
The IPCC has been crystal clear, if we want to keep global warming below 1.5° C the available carbon budget is limited. It is easy to calculate how long it will take before that budget is exhausted. At the current rate of CO2 emission (and for a 67% chance of success) it is somewhat less than 7 years.



There are few methods as powerful as a carbon clock to drive the urgency of our situation home. S4F NL is joining the [Climateclock.world](#) project that is aiming to run carbon clocks wherever possible, from monumental ones like [the one in New York and other big cities](#), to smaller one's for instance in all Dutch University buildings, to tiny one's on receptions desk and in shop windows.

If you are interested you can join the carbonclock S4F team, contact the [Carbonclock team of S4F](#)

## Vegan recipe - Hearty vegan stew



A perfect meal to help you accept that meteorological autumn has begun! With lots of fresh, seasonal vegetables and herbs. Get your veggies at the local farmer! Some of the included veggies such as carrot and fava beans, and herbs like sage and thyme are in season right now!

Ingredients (serves +-2):

- 2 medium onion
- 4-5 cloves of garlic
- Large handful of button mushrooms
- 2 medium carrots
- Large handful of red or purple potato (i.e. roseval)
- 3 big leaves of cavolo nero (or 'palmkool' in Dutch)
- Cup of cannellini beans
- Fresh herbs: sage, thyme, rosemary, bayleaf
- Optional: organic white wine

Instructions:

- Prep! Peel and cut your onion and garlic. Wash your carrot and potato (don't peel!) and cut in slices. Brush your mushrooms and halve them. Wash and chop the cavolo nero. Wash the beans well. Boil some water.
- Cook! Get a big pot on the stove top, get to medium heat and add oil. Add onion, and garlic once the onion starts to sweat (you don't want to burn your garlic). Once the onion gets translucent, add the mushrooms and a pinch of salt. Leave the onions and mushrooms to brown, stir regularly. At this point, you can deglaze with a white wine. Add the carrot, potato, cavolo nero and herbs. Stir and add boiling water until everything is just covered in water! Add a proper pinch of salt now. Crank up the heat until it boils, then turn down to a simmer for about 15 minutes, or until the potatoes are done.
- Finish! Finish with salt and pepper to taste, a squeeze of lemon and some fresh parsley. Serve with a fresh slice of sourdough bread from your favorite local baker.

Enjoy!

Arthur Oldeman (Instagram: [@aartsnoms](#))

## Book recommendation

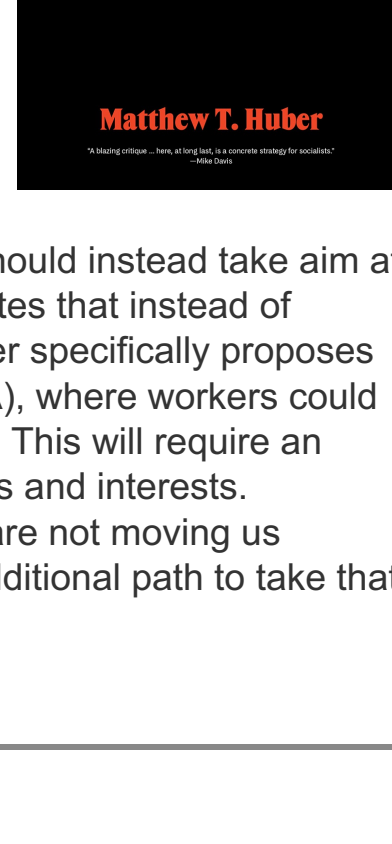
'[Climate Change as Class War: Building Socialism on a Warming Planet](#)' by Matthew Huber.

Review by Anne Urai

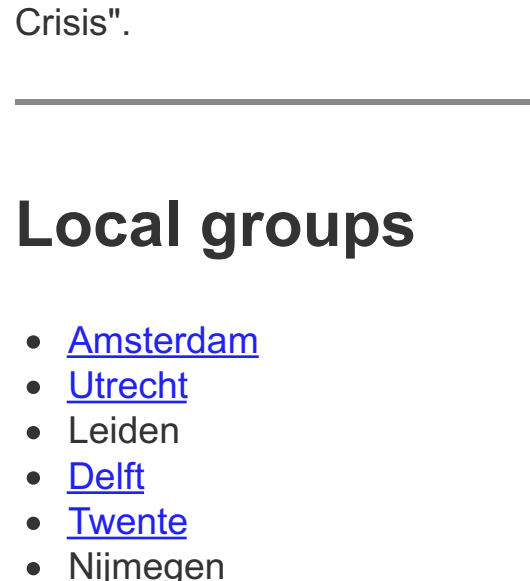
Discourse on climate tends to put a strong focus on our consumption as individuals in the marketplace. This is especially the case within the 'professional-managerial class' (which includes journalists, policy makers and yes, scientists), where climate-conscious lifestyle choices are used as virtue signalling. This class of people is heavily overrepresented in climate action, and often works towards providing information or designing policy rather than mass movement building.

In this book, Huber thought-provokingly argues for a different route. He brings a socialist perspective to climate action and argues that we should instead take aim at the capitalist class, specifically industrial production. Socialist theory states that instead of through legislation, real power lies in organizing the working class. Huber specifically proposes union-building in the electricity sector (based on the situation in the USA), where workers could demand rapid electrification through workplace organisation and strikes. This will require an honest assessment of both working classes' unique role, and their needs and interests.

Given that strategies of government legislation and individual behavior are not moving us towards decarbonization fast enough, this book lays out an important additional path to take that is often overlooked.



## Scientist Rebellion Campaign



Scientist Rebellion has launched the #LevelWithUs campaign, asking the scientific community working on climate to share in public what they share with each other in private. They have written a letter outlining their position, which has been signed by hundreds of academics so far. You can support this campaign by signing [the letter](#), too.

If you are interested in learning more about SR and potentially taking part in their actions, you can join the [Scientist Rebellion Netherlands broadcast Signal group](#) or have a look at their [website](#).

## Upcoming events

**6th October: S4F NL webinar**, Paul Raekstad "The Social Causes and Solutions to the Climate Crisis".

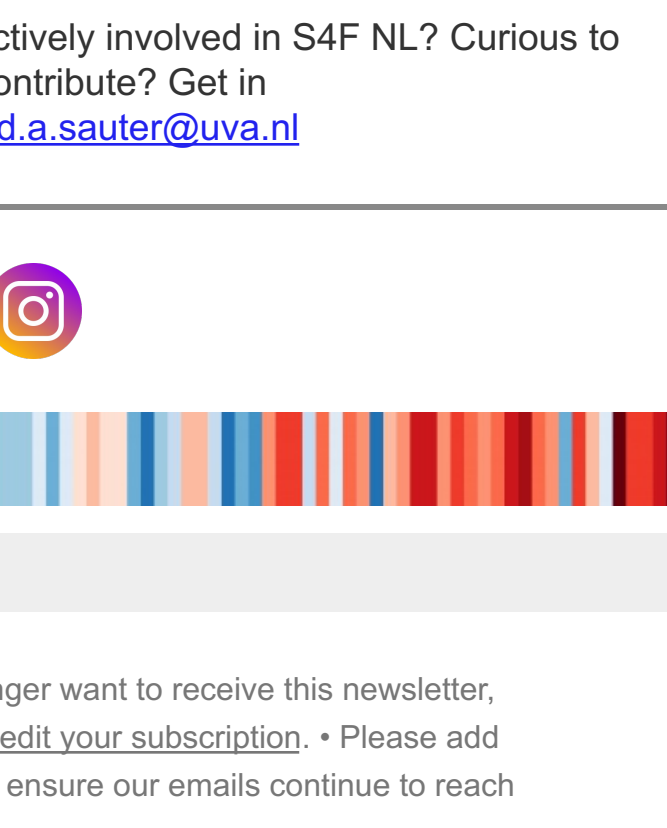
## Local groups

- [Amsterdam](#)
- [Utrecht](#)
- Leiden
- [Delft](#)
- [Twente](#)
- Nijmegen
- Deventer/Zutphen
- Groningen
- Maastricht
- NIOZ (Texel and Yerseke)

[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.

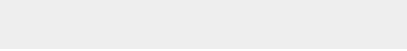
Local S4F-NL groups



Adapted from [original](#)

## 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)



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