



Dear {{voornaam}},

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

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Webinar series #1, with Paul Behrens

Save the date! On May 6, 16:00, we will kick-off our brand new webinar series Future Scientists. The first session is titled *Futures from the Frontiers of Climate Science* and our first speaker is Paul Behrens from Leiden University.

Abstract

Averting global environmental catastrophe will require an unprecedented political, social, and technical response. Yet there is still hope. Paul will talk about his new book which uses interleaving chapters of pessimism and hope – on subjects like energy, food, climate, economics – to outline just how much is to be done to achieve a hopeful future and how this scenario would involve actively building a healthier, happier and more fulfilling world. He'll describe the vital concepts we all need to know for the future, the main lessons from his research for the book, and the critical areas in which change is required. The talk will be followed by a live Q&A through Mentimeter.

Speaker

Paul Behrens is an author and academic in environmental change at Leiden University. His popular science book *The Best of Times, The Worst of Times: Futures from the Frontiers of Climate Science*, came out in late 2020. His environmental research has appeared in leading scientific journals and his work on science communication has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Scientific American*, and the *BBC*.

Team Webinars



5-month KlimaatHelpdesk mensiversary

On 30-10-2020, Scientists4Future NL and the Utrecht Young Academy launched the KlimaatHelpdesk, a platform where anyone can ask questions about climate change and have them answered by scientists. In the five months since the official launch of the KlimaatHelpdesk we have published 80 questions on the website and another 80 questions are currently being handled. To answer and review all these questions, we get help from over 200 experts with expertise in a wide variety of research fields, including physics, economy, geography, psychology, history, and biology. In addition to our team of editors handling the questions, we have also set up teams making illustrations and animations of the answers, or handling our social media. Check out our website for published questions and answers. If you have a question that has not been answered yet, you can submit it through our website.

More is coming! We will have our first live event on May 17, 2021. Two lectures will be [streamed live and recorded at Tivoli-Vredenburg](#), in answer to KlimaatHelpdesk questions about CO2 and sea level rise by Appy Sluijs and Marjolijn Haasnoot. On top of that, we are currently exploring the idea of a sister Helpdesk covering biodiversity-related question in collaboration with Naturalis.

We already received quite some media attention, but you can still help us to spread the knowledge and to reach more people by following, liking, retweeting and sharing. Do you have an expertise in climate change or a related field and would you like to answer incoming questions, or would you like to become part of our team? Please introduce yourself by sending an email to info@klimaathelpdesk.org. At the moment we are especially looking for volunteers for our communications team!

Team KlimaatHelpdesk

Greenify my pension fund 1 - FLOOR ft. Pakhuis de Zwijger

Cultural platform FLOOR of the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences (HvA), together with Pakhuis de Zwijger, organized a series of three livecasts about pension funds with interesting discussions and speakers. Especially the second and third livecasts focus on the issue of pension funds' investments in the fossil fuel industry. How to ensure that pension funds can be organized in a fair and sustainable way for both people and the earth and who should influence or determine this? You can watch the discussions on [the website of Pakhuis de Zwijger](#).

Lisette Klok (HvA)

Greenify my pension fund 2 - ABP, go fossil free!

On 8th March 2021, all University Boards in the Netherlands, including the boards of universities of applied sciences, received a letter in the name of Scientists4Future NL and the Dutch Young Academies. Together, they called on the Executive Boards (EB) to make a case for a fossil-free pension for their employees.

The ABP pension fund manages the pensions of all staff of Dutch research and applied universities, among others, and currently has at least €17 million of investments in the fossil industry. In their letter the scientists ask the EB, together with other research and applied universities, the VSNU and the Vereniging Hogescholen (applied universities organization), to ask ABP to cut out all investments in fossil energy businesses by December 2024 and to invest the money that becomes available in initiatives that contribute to the climate crisis. They also wish the universities to encourage ABP to set up an independent commission to evaluate whether the investment portfolio of ABP is consistent with the 1.5 °C goal of the Paris accord. More information about this initiative and the letter can be found [on our website](#).

Team ABP fossil free

Klimaat coalitie

On March 14, the [Climate Alarm](#) rang in more than 40 cities across the Netherlands to draw attention to the climate crisis and to wake up our political leaders. The campaign was a [resounding success](#). More than 30,000 people came into action at the same time, and at 3:00 PM a deafening signal was sent out in [Nijmegen](#), [Haarlem](#), [Amsterdam](#), [Den Bosch](#) and [many other places](#). S4F NL supported the national call and was involved in organizing the multitude of local actions.

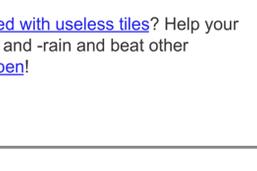


After this blowing start, the climate alarm has grown into a national coalition of citizens and organizations that will continue to focus attention on the ecological and climate crises. During the formation of the Dutch cabinet and in the run-up to [COP26](#), taking place in November 2021 in Glasgow, several new events are planned. Scientists4Future NL will support the coalition and provide them with sound scientific advice about climate change. Interested in helping out? Send an email to contact@scientists4future.nl with the subject "Climate Alarm".

Peter Roessingh (UvA)

Heel Holland wipt!

As summer is approaching, warm days are coming our way, and with a warming climate, heat waves are more likely to occur. Especially urban areas, with little green, tons of concrete and paved streets, are susceptible to become heat islands during heat waves. What's more, paved roads and gardens cannot absorb water fast enough during heavy rain, which can cause streets to flood. Do you have a fully paved garden or is your [street filled with useless tiles](#)? Help your municipality to become more resilient to peak temperatures and -rain and beat other municipalities in the race to zero tiles. Join the [NK tegelwippen](#)!



Muriel Heldring (UL)

Recommended reading & listening

The Ministry for the Future, by **Kim Stanley Robinson**
Imagine applying all the available options to combat climate change at once. Could we still catch a glimmer of hope? Robinson shows that we can in his science-fiction novel *The Ministry for the Future*, which tells the story of an imaginary institute charged with protecting future generations' rights.

After a deadly heat wave, India starts a global geoengineering experiment, while economists slowly but steadily develop frameworks that stimulate carbon removal, and radicalized groups target main spokespersons for the fossil fuel industry. The entire planetary machinery proceeds towards keeping Earth habitable, although even in this optimistic novel this will be no walk in the park. The book is a collage of different perspectives, ranging from that of a carbon atom (!) to survivors of flash floods, all of which explore an element of the bulk of climate science that has built up recently. As such, although it remains a work of fiction, it is a very decent introduction to problems of and possible solutions to global warming. Along its 563 pages, the intricacies of climate science are thoroughly elaborated and linked to politics, aesthetics, and even religion.

But the book's strength is also its main weakness. The pastiche does not synthesize into an overarching plot worthy of the name, which means that reaching the end is quite a struggle. Characters remain as flat as cardboard, entire chapters are written in the choppy grammar of telegrams. As a novelist, Robinson does not reach the virtuosity of colleagues such as Richard Powers. One can therefore best approach *The Ministry for the Future* with the expectation of reading a work of non-fiction seasoned with narrative elements.

Boris van Meurs (RU)



Podcast - How to Save a Planet, by **Dr. Ayana E. Johnson and Alex Blumberg**

How to Save a Planet is a podcast in which the two hosts try to figure out "what we need to do to address the climate crisis, and how to make those things happen". They tackle diverse topics: from kelp farming and how it could be a great help in removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, to an interview with Gina McCarthy, the new US National Climate Advisor, to recycling (and whether it actually works) and vegetarianism, to a listener's question about whether they should buy an electric car or a second-hand petrol fuelled car.

What I like about the show is that the hosts are realistic, always checking facts and figuring out whether something actually helps, but also optimistic. Not in the sense that "we'll be all right", but in the sense that, "there is a lot we can do, let's figure out what works best and do it!". As a result, I have learned a lot from the show without being depressed after every episode, which to me is a real risk when reading, listening or watching anything about climate change.

Every episode ends with a call to action related to the topic: what you, as a listener, can do right now to improve the climate. Some of these are very US oriented, but many are applicable or translatable to the Dutch situation. One call to action that I was able to implement immediately was to switch to the search engine Ecosia ([ecosia.org](https://www.ecosia.org)), which plants trees for every 45 internet searches you do.

All in all, I highly recommend this podcast. It is informative, realistic and still uplifting. I believe everyone should listen to it: maybe that is what we need to actually save this planet.

Loek Spitz (HvA, UvA)

Upcoming events

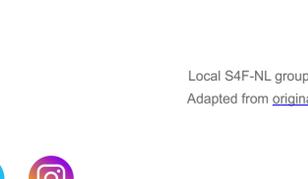
- **6 May Webinar "Futures from the Frontiers of Climate Science"**, with Dr. Paul Behrens
- **17 May KlimaatHelpdesk lectures live at Tivoli-Vredenburg** about CO2 and sea level rise

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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