

Dear {{voornaam}},

This is the Scientists4Future NL newsletter of January 2022. To subscribe, click [here](#). To unsubscribe, use the link at the bottom of this email.

In this newsletter:

- Editorial: New Year's Propositions
- S4F Looking Back
- S4F News
- S4F in the Media
- KlimaatHelpdesk: A Monthly Question
- S4F Research
- S4F in Education
- Recommended reading: We are the weather by Michiel in 't Zandt
- Get involved!
- Upcoming events

New Year's Propositions

Dear {{voornaam}},

2021 was a difficult year for the climate change fight: the multiple restrictions put in place because of the pandemic made it more difficult to organize symposia, events or demonstrations to the scientists advocating for avoiding the worst effects of climate change while there is still time. We were there, and we pledge to you that this year we will continue to be there, offering you content and resources to battle climate change, demonstrating with you to make politicians and policy makers hear us and act accordingly. We will keep informing you to the best of our ability on the advances we make in this fight, trying to reach as many people as possible, making every word and action count.

We will be there. We hope you are there with us.

Happy New Year.

Laura Claret Fernández
Head Editor of S4F Newsletter

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.

2021: A complicated year with some good outcomes on the climate fight



In this complicated year, several milestones were accomplished.

The pressure of several environmentalist groups (Fossilvrij NL, Extinction Rebellion, Gemeente Amsterdam, FNV Schoon Pensioen, etc.), including S4F, managed to get the pension fund ABP to divest from fossil fuels within the next two years. ABP [announced on October 26th](#) that they would divest from the fossil fuel industry. Together, S4F NL and these pressure groups drew attention to ABP's investments in the fossil fuel industry, resulting in this great piece of news.

Similarly, a [letter](#) sent in July to Dutch political party leaders and Tweede Kamer members focused on trade and export called for the government to stop encouraging fossil fuel related export activities via export credit insurances. Via these insurances, our government stimulated export of goods and services and would have paid the export company if the foreign buyer failed to pay. 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).

Besides these milestones, we have been present in several demonstrations to fight climate change and urge our politicians into climate action. In addition, we have been organizing seminars, webinars and educational events with teachers to provide them and you with the tools necessary to keep fighting climate change. We have also kept organizing ourselves in work teams to put pressure in areas like peat-free pot soil, and will continue to do so in other relevant areas.

In spite all the challenges of the year, and because of your support, we have managed to keep the fight alive!

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!

Person of the Year: Lisette Klok and Peter Roessingh

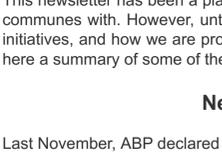
From S4F NL we want to send heartfelt congratulations to Lisette and Peter for being persons of the year! Their contribution in the fight against the investment of ABP in fossil fuels has earned them this distinction from HvA and UvA, respectively. You can find the links [here](#) and [here](#) for Lisette's and Peter's full news article, respectively. Keep up the good work!

Climate Action, Impacts, and Resources

Our colleagues from Scientists4Future Delft have recently written a blog post in their [webpage](#) related to take for the climate change fight. From getting your own (mini-scale)solar panels to investing sustainably, they [give suggestions](#) for keeping the green action going.

We are on track for about 2.7°C of warming by 2100. But what does that actually mean? In another blog post, Scientists4Future member Fabian [discusses the climate impacts](#) that are already here today and those that lie ahead if we continue on our current path. Fabian also curates [a list of resources](#) on the climate emergency that you might find useful.

S4F in the Media



Come visit 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!

This month we had an extraordinary webinar by Charlie Gardner on the role of scientists in the fight against climate change. To rewatch the webinar, click [here](#)!

Furthermore, you can find, under 'Playlists', a link to our ['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!

KlimaatHelpdesk: A Monthly Question (Dutch)



The [KlimaatHelpdesk](#) was created by S4F-NL and the Utrecht Young Academy with the aim of becoming the go-to platform for trustworthy and accessible information related to climate change. Everyone can submit questions, which will be answered and peer-reviewed by experts. Google has picked up on this, and the answers on the KlimaatHelpdesk are now automatically used to provide immediate answers to Google search queries. With over 125 answers on the KlimaatHelpdesk, this is an important step in making it easy for people to receive answers to their questions on climate change.

With the aim of showing you what the KlimaatHelpdesk can be, we will be posting a different question every month in this section, with the link to its answer. We hope you find it interesting!

This month's question:

Wat zijn belemmeringen voor wetenschappers om activistisch te zijn? Antwoord [hier](#).

Are you interested in contributing to the KlimaatHelpdesk? You can become a volunteer in the editorial, website or communications teams. Check out [klimaathelpdesk.org/vacatures](#) for more information.

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.

Next steps for ABP fossil free

Last November, ABP declared it will divest from fossil fuel companies within 2 years! This was great news and a big signal to other pension funds such as PFZW, the pension fund for healthcare professionals.

Now we move forward! The S4F ABP workgroup has identified our next target: It is time for our higher education institutes to demand their banks and insurers to go fossil free and start investing in the fair energy transition that is required to keep us below 1.5°C temperature rise. To get this project off the ground, we need your help! To combine efforts, we are compiling an inventory of all the Dutch higher education institutes, their banks and their insurers. We also want to get in touch with the institutes sustainability officers to discuss what action has already been taken towards banks and insurers. So please [check the list](#) and add the details for your institute if still missing! It will help us enormously to share this job between many. Thank you!

Turfrij project: Protecting our peat and biodiversity

[Turfrij](#) 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

Benaderbaar voor get geven van een gastles op en middelbare school?

Ik ben Anneke, gepromoveerd meteorologe, en nu docent natuurkunde HAVO/WVO bovenbouw. Op de maandagen werk ik op de WUR om de wetenschap rondom duurzaamheid en klimaat de klas in te krijgen. Ik heb dit voorheen drie jaren in Utrecht gedaan bij de vakgroep Geowetenschappen.

Ik ben op zoek naar Nederlandstalige promovendi, postdocs, UD' en professoren die het leuk vinden om een paar keer per jaar een gastles op een middelbare school te geven. Ik heb dit zelf tijdens mijn PhD ook gedaan; leerlingen worden door een 'gast' veel meer geprikkeld dan door hun vertrouwde docent.

Sta je hier voor open, meld je dan met naam, onderzoeksthema en expertise bij mij (anneke.vandeboer@wur.nl). Ik ben van plan vervolgens een stukje over deze thema's en mogelijke gastlessen in een landelijke docentennieuwsbrief te plaatsen met mezelf als contactpersoon. Uiteraard kun je vervolgens bij verzoeken altijd nog nee zeggen als het toch niet blijkt uit te komen. Wie weet tot in de klas!

Recommended Reading: We are the Weather

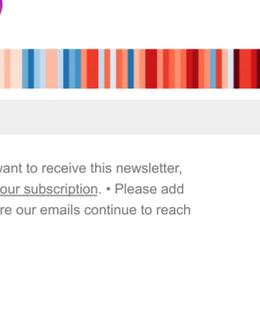
What can I do to save the planet? As Safran Foer states in his book "We are the Weather": saving the planet begins at breakfast, and to be more precise with your choice of that breakfast. It is Safran Foer's second non-fiction book after "Eating Animals" which I discussed in a previous newsletter.

Of course we are not going to save the world by just changing our diet, and this is not at all the tone of the book. However, the book focuses on the small change that we can make, which has far-reaching impacts on the climate crisis: we need to eat less animal products. "We cannot keep the kind of meals we have known and also keep the planet we have known. We must either let some eating habits go or let the planet go. It is as straightforward and as fraught as that."

I found it once again a good refresher that eating cheese and eggs, also animal products, has a large climate impact too. To put it into perspective, a serving of cheese has twice the climate impact compared to poultry and eggs only have half the impact of pork (cheese: 2,45 CO₂-equivalents; pork: 1,72; poultry: 1,26; eggs: 0,89).

There definitely is dispute on the climate impact of food production, and especially of animal agriculture. But whether the very conservative 14,5% or rather the shocking 51% (reported by the Worldwatch Institute) of total greenhouse gases is the amount that is emitted by animal agriculture should not be the discussion we're having. As Safran Foer states, by making "a collective act to eat differently" we can make a huge impact. The book is not necessarily trying to persuade the readers to go vegetarian or vegan and with that it differs from his earlier work "Eating Animals". "We are the Weather" actually forces us to understand we have no other option than to consume less animal products, and that is also the strength of this book. And yes, there are small sacrifices involved, but significant impacts are the reward. One step at a time, starting at breakfast.

By Michiel in 't Zandt



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

Scientist Rebellion is organizing a weekly talk series throughout **February and March** on "The Role of Scientists on a Planet in Crisis". The first speaker is Prof. Tim Lenton, who will talk about "Positive tipping points to avoid climate tipping points". The first event takes place on Wednesday, 2nd of February, 20:30 CET, and you are very welcome to join! For more information about the talk series, click [here](#). To sign up for Tim Lenton's talk, click [here](#).

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

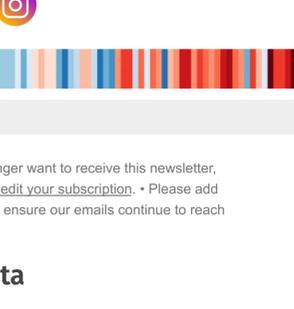
March 2nd Symposium: Een beter milieu begint bij jezelf - toch? (see [here](#))

Local groups

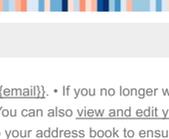
- Amsterdam
- [Utrecht](#)
- Leiden
- [Delft](#)
- [Twente](#)
- Nijmegen
- Deventer/Zutphen
- Groningen (starting)
- Maastricht (starting)

[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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