

REBEL HANDBOOK



The Extinction Rebellion global network is coordinating a non-violent rebellion against government inaction in response to the climate emergency and the mass extinction of life we are now witnessing.

The arctic could be ice free in the summer within 5 years, and with carbon already emitted in the atmosphere yet to feed into additional warming, it looks like the 2°C temperature limit set by the Paris Agreement is locked in and due to be passed within the next decades.

We are facing an existential emergency and yet global CO2 emissions are still going up and governments, including our own, are committing a crime against humanity by refusing to take the emergency action that is now vitally necessary.

Conventional campaigning has failed. Carbon emissions have increased by 60% since scientists first warned of ecological collapse in 1990.

IT'S TIME TO REBEL

The plan

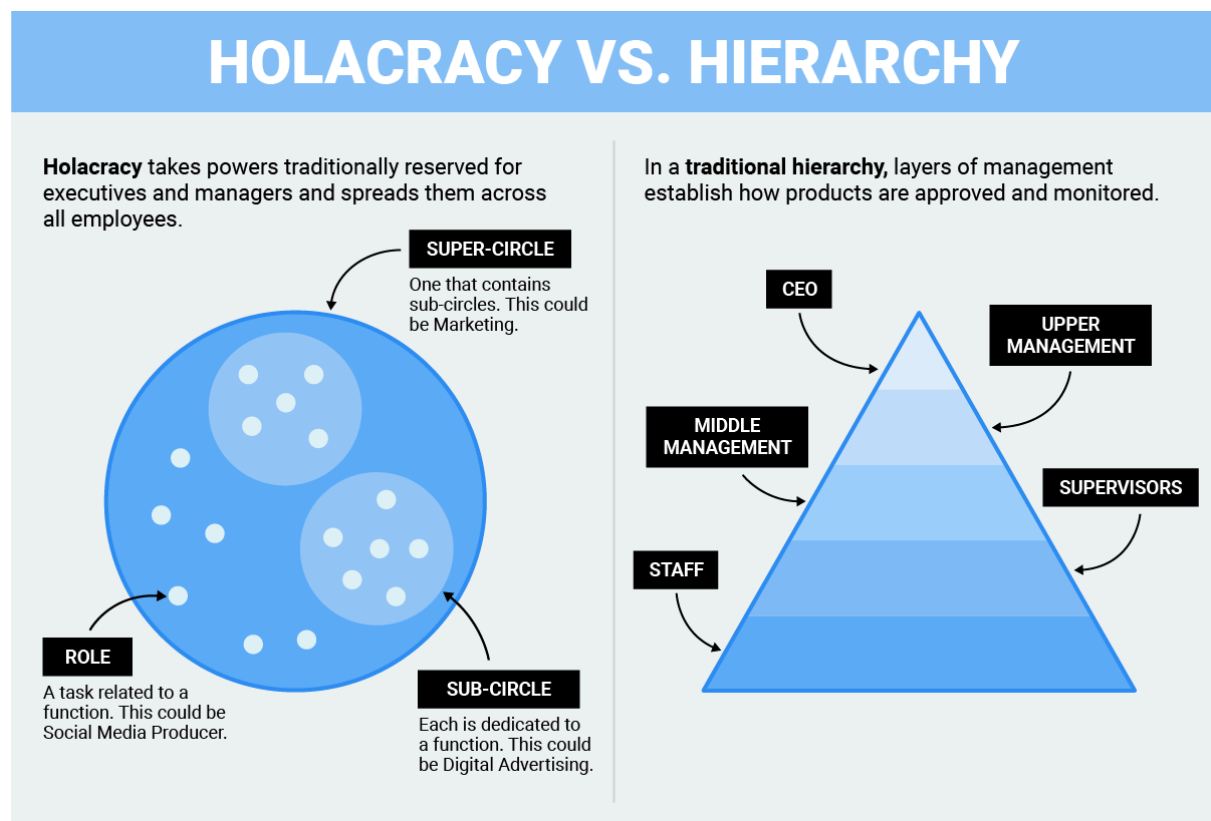
Extinction Rebellion began in the UK as one mass mobilisation organised by the group Rising Up. The rebellion has gone global and we have a plan for Aotearoa.

We are building a large network of groups around the country over the next two to three years to carry out a series of escalating rebellions against the New Zealand government – which is taking us down the road to extinction due to its refusal to take emergency action on climate breakdown, extreme inequality, and ecological collapse.

Representatives from the local groups meet regularly to make national strategic decisions and to discuss issues raised in local groups.

The structure

Below is an infographic explaining Holacracy which is a method of decentralised organisational governance. Decision-making is distributed throughout a holarchy of autonomous yet symbiotic teams rather than being handed down a managerial pyramid.



It is important to know that Extinction Rebellion is not a top-down structure where someone tells you what to do. Nor is there consensus based decision-making where lots of people sit around a table for hours deciding everything. The most efficient and empowering structure is to take best of both worlds: there are basic aims and ways of working which everyone

follows and within these limits, people take on roles and responsibilities and run them as they see best.

Specifically, there is a coordination group which includes two members from each working group and which makes sure that the whole show is kept balanced, making decisions which affect the whole operation. Working groups are independent to pursue the aims of the rebellion in their particular areas –media and messaging, outreach and training, action and logistics, Regenerative Culture (people support)

Demands and aims

We have three demands:

1. The Government must tell the truth about the ecological emergency, reverse inconsistent policies and work alongside the media to communicate with citizens.
2. The Government must enact legally binding policy measures to reduce carbon emissions to net zero by 2025 and to reduce consumption levels.
3. That participatory democracy with citizen assemblies be established, prioritising those most affected.

During our Week of Action in Wellington 5th - 9th October 2019 we aim to create enough social disruption to create a national conversation about what exactly humans are doing to the planet and a serious debate on our moral responsibilities to the next generation to break the silence on the dire criminality of the present of inaction.

5TH - 9TH OCTOBER
EXTINCTION REBELLION WEEK OF ACTION
WELLINGTON
CALLING ALL REBELS TO OUR CAPITAL CITY

We invite you to watch Marcus from Extinction Rebellion Ōtautahi Christchurch delivering the the Extinction Rebellion to talk in order to further understand why we are demanding these three things and why we are using the strategy of civil disobedience:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LDWdH9YIfJY>

How to get involved

This rebellion is going ahead. People around the nation are already resolved to make a stand. We may fail or succeed but what is important now is that we act. Success will depend upon how many people join the rebellion. We need YOU.

Due to the severity of the crisis and the urgency in which we need to act we may be compelled to take non violent actions that risk arrest. Social movements in the past have brought about profound political change by being resolute in the face of potential arrest and even prison. All of those risking arrest are have chosen to do so and have taken part in our non violent direct action training. All actions have clearly designated risk zones so no one accidentally gets arrested.

But just as important are the many support roles in this process – promoting the rebellion on- and offline, organising our media communications and messaging, providing personal support for those on the front-line, fundraising, and administrative work. There is room for everyone in this rebellion.

Organisation is distributed horizontally in a manner that enables the global Extinction Rebellion demands, principles, and commitment to mass civil disobedience to be universally coherent whilst ensuring national mobilisations are specific and relevant. There is a national coordinating group meeting weekly and local groups popping up all around the country. These groups and the people in them are free to operate in a manner that best works for them aligned to the holacratic model.

1. Join your local Extinction Rebellion Group - see extinctionrebellion.co.nz to see if you have one.
2. If not, get together with a friend to launch a group in your local town - the second half of this handbook will talk you through how to go about this!
3. Start preparing to be in Wellington from October 5th - 9th

Launching a local group

Local groups are the main way we hope to achieve change. It is how members of the rebellion will feed into important decisions and how actions are delivered. We urge you to join your local group, or if you don't have one, to launch one! Here's a step by step process to do this.

The pathway to establishing a local group might look something like this.

Firstly, get in touch with Lucy (either Lulu Astral on Facebook or lulasticblog@gmail.com) who will help you with the bits and pieces of system stuff you need to set a group up. Once you've done this the primary way we request local groups to begin is with the XR Talk:

1. Deliver the XR talk

Delivering the talk should be the first move made in a local town. This way it is clear from the very start what XR is about and how we plan to rebel. In towns that haven't begun with the Talk they have spent multiple meetings discussing things such as the effectiveness of NVDA. Launching with the Talk draws out the rebels and gets them all on the same page to begin with!

a) Pre-talk

- Put a few feelers out amongst your friends. Can you find one or two who can help you get the Talk off the ground?
- Book a venue. We have found cafes are often keen to offer up an evening as a space; alternatively, classrooms or community centres all might be keen to support XR.
- Create a public Facebook event. It's fine for it to simply be under your personal profile for now, but if you do want to set up a public Facebook page for your local town then you can host the Facebook event in there AND ask our main Facebook page to be the co-host. Either way, make sure you message Extinction Rebellion Aotearoa on Facebook so we can share your event with our members.
- Print out flyers and put them along your high street, in the library and community centres.
- Speak to local people and organisations and ask them to attend.

b) At the Talk

- Deliver the talk using the presentation below.
- Have a discussion afterwards about how XR might look in your local town. Take note of any great ideas.
- Collect email addresses and postcodes (we need both of these for our database).
- Put feelers out for anyone keen to help launch the group.
- Make sure you have someone (it could be you) willing to type up the email addresses and postcodes.
- Schedule your next meeting.

c) Post-Talk

- Set up a public Facebook page for your local group e.g. "Extinction Rebellion Taupo". You will create events in here that people can see and invite people too, including your meetings and actions. Always add Extinction Rebellion Aotearoa as a co-host for your events.
- Set up a private Facebook Group too. This is for discussing and planning and connecting although do not share any plans for illegal activities on here!
- *Always make sure you have two admins on your Facebook accounts!*
- Email everyone who came, pointing them to the page and group and reminding them of the next meeting.
- Make sure you have someone who is tapped into the Interim National Coordinators team, who can attend fortnightly meetings and feedback to your group. Facebook message the Aotearoa page to receive that invitation.

d) Resources for the Talk

- The script for the Talk:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KTI5IK1Lav_ae9VWNQbY-B-q7KF4jlkCO4xN5NwSxv0/edit?usp=sharing
- The accompanying slides:
<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1XEM4Vis0r5pHEap0A7Zv31gBxZNtZcWVMxoY92RGveg/edit?usp=sharing>
- Flyers which you are welcome to download and edit to use when promoting your Talk:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1GgUrsqnKF8qpi24_NN2RXCdruXhNMw1D
- Resources to use if you would like to have information available at your Talk in the form of panels:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/14wy3E8xrre2QfYShLjeFYlgcx0ncmNI6>

2. Meetings

We suggest you have fortnightly meetings as a local group in order to plan and deliver the rebellion in your local area. See below for some ideas, but also know that you are the ones who know your town best and are infinite sources of creativity and imagination!

3. National Coordinators group

Make sure at least one representative from your group is able to participate in our regular National Coordinators meeting on Zoom or Jitsi and the strategy planning channel on Mattermost. **Get in touch with Lucy or Rowan to learn how to get on Mattermost. This is a really important step.**

4. Ideas for activities

As mentioned, we have a Global Week of Action kicking off between 5th - 9th October. We expect there to be mass civil disobedience and Non-Violent Direct Action. We are aiming to make sure all rebels attend Non Violent Direct Action Training between 5th and 6th October before we begin action on the 7th.

In the meantime we suggest you start dipping your toe in the waters of disruption! Here's a list of things other groups are doing around the country.

a) Draw the Line

We have a campaign launching in August in the run up to the Week of Action. It's called Draw the Line and is about us making a stand, showing visually with a bright magenta stripe, the line that should not be crossed. It can be done on a huge scale but also just with a couple of people. It might be across coal train tracks or a rising sea level. Check in on Mattermost or the National Coordinators team for more info on this.

b) Ask your local council to declare a climate and ecological emergency if they haven't already.

Organise a meeting with local city councillors and MPs asking them to sign a "Declaration of Climate Emergency" which commits them drastic action to reduce carbon emission and calls on their political parties to do the same.

If political representatives refuse to engage with us, then we do direct action – noisy occupations of surgeries and meetings, local road blocks, silent vigils outside the council buildings. The political drama created will help to raise the issue in the media and lead to more recruits for the groups and movement leading up to the Global Day of Action.

c) A disruptive act

XR Nelson organised a dramatic funeral march for earth through their town market one Saturday. It was beautifully executed and they had good promotional material. It received a lot of coverage and drew people to their rebellion:

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/climate-news/109811746/activists-hold-funeral-for-planet-earth>

XR Wellington put on a Zombie parade to protest the new airport extension; another great way of being disruptive but not arrestable!

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PO1901/S00044/first-day-of-action-by-extinction-rebellion-poneke.htm>

d) A community event

XR Waihi are using the talents of their group by holding community events in their local park.

e) Fridays for Future

XR Manawatu are out on the streets every Friday as part of the global movement Fridays for Future. They put up signage and talk to people. Having a regular presence in town can be powerful.

f) School Strike

If you have spare time and energy in your group we encourage you to support this excellent global effort for 27th October.

g) Arrestable

You might be a local group with much activism under your belt, such as XR Ōtautahi Christchurch who declared a local rebellion in their town by shutting of the water supply to ECAN! They had already been NVDA trained and had a perfect opportunity (not many locals are fans of ECAN!) and executed this well. Five were arrested.

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/the-press/news/109510593/protesters-turn-off-water-to-canterburys-regional-council-hq>

5. Local promotion

- Put posters and flyers around your town.
- Chalk paint the logo in prominent areas.
- Online promotion: create a Facebook page, Twitter account, website, videos and podcasts etc. and then message local people, following the same methods used nationally. (Contact local group liaison for more info and resources.)
- Media promotion: letters, articles for local papers, magazines etc. Get slots on local/regional radio/TV/online forums.
- Contact local groups and networks: ask them to do the Talk or do a call out (5 minutes slots in their meetings to tell people about the movement/it's actions etc). A

list might include: environmental groups, F&B, mums groups, yoga/health/sports groups, religious and educational groups, Residents Associations, community organisations, young people's groups/networks, gigs/music venues, artists, and events.

Local group coordinators can seek support for others in the National Coordinators group and from each other to see what has worked well and not so well.

If you are doing an event in your local town PLEASE make sure you tell the national team about it, even if it's just a message to the Facebook page. This way they can help promote it. Please also ensure you have someone who can send them photos, quotes and updates from the event while it is happening so we can help you build momentum around it.

6. Media

- Send photos and quotes/ a brief intro to the action to content@extinctionrebellion.nz as soon as you can (either during the action or immediately after!) so we can get them out on the Extinction Rebellion Aotearoa Facebook page and website.
- Make sure you send out a press release beforehand to your local paper. They are quite likely to use it and you have the opportunity to make some powerful statements about extinction! Cultivate a relationship with them if you can.
- Have photos taken and send a statement out to press post-event too.
- Build your list of media contacts or ask in Mattermost for it to be sent out with our mailing list.
- Make sure to share photos on your own Facebook page too to get the news out about your rebellion!

7. Organisation and growth

The organisation of the local group should replicate the general structure of the national organisation: at least two coordinators, a coordination group, and self-organising, autonomous yet symbiotic working groups and subgroups/teams.

The process should start with two people taking on a coordination role. They will organise local meetings which will then create a coordinators group (3-6 people) who are committed to ongoing organisation of the various working groups. The different roles and responsibilities are delegated to these working groups – this can start with 2-3 people taking on the roles and grow from there.

8. Outline for running meetings

Your local meetings exist to inform and inspire new people and then get them into groups to take on roles and jobs so the whole mobilisation can grow quickly. The meetings are not primarily there to work out the nitty gritty of who is doing what and where etc. This can be done in the working groups and affinity groups (AG).

9. Working groups

- Outreach and Training: promoting the movement, recruiting new people, integrating them and training them, sorting out the NVDA training and AG formation.
- Media and Messaging: promotion of the movement to local and regional media, online and offline.
- Finance: fundraising and distributing raised money for local activities.
- Regenerative culture: checking in on people (particularly new people) to make sure they feel valued and welcome etc. Ensure meetings are participatory and inclusive, use the mediation process where needed, and ask people to leave the group if they transgress the aims and principles of the movement (eg if they are disruptive or anti-social – racist or sexist etc).
- Arts: create good looking materials, props for actions and performance pieces.
- Action and Logistics: organising and coordinating local direct actions.

Each working group should have a rotating facilitator to ensure that no one person dominates the conversation.

Note: This is a fluid situation so the coordination group should continually review and evolve the structure as the mobilisation grows and be responsible for providing this document to new people at general meetings and online.

Working with others in the wider movement

Tangata Whenua are kaitiaki of Papatuānuku and the beautiful taonga indigenous to this land. We recognise the mana and right to tino rangitiratanga of Tangata Whenua and the importance of environmental integrity to the health and well-being of communities. XRANZ values inclusivity and we acknowledge the intersectionality of various discrimination(s), poverty, and climate change impacts. The foregoing groups are important to local group outreach in whatever way they would like to be involved. Some discernment around how you engage particular groups might be necessary – for example, going straight to asking relatively new refugees to get involved with direct action may not interest them. Be flexible and creative in how you approach and engage different groups. Trade unions might need a different aspect highlighted than the Retailers Association and different again for the local high school Enviro group.

Extinction Rebellion Aotearoa Values (DRAFT)

At our recent digital hui we drafted some values. This is a first stage document but gives you a taste of the things important to XRANZ.

1/ Inclusivity.

We welcome people of all gender, sexual, ethnic, and religious identities as well as all ages, backgrounds and abilities.

2/ Aotearoa specific social justice.

We recognise the mana and right to tino rangatiratanga of Tangata Whenua. We value the principles of Te Tiriti and decolonisation. We acknowledge the intersections of various kinds of discrimination, poverty, and climate change impacts. We acknowledge our place in the Pacific.

3/ Ecosystem understanding.

We acknowledge the interconnected nature and value of all of Earth's life, as well as humanity's dependence on it and part in it.

4/ Systemic change.

We value working towards high-level systemic change with a local, national, and international focus. There is room for action targeting individual behaviours / consumption if this is strategic in creating change.

5/ Evidence -based

Peer reviewed science is the basis of our understanding of climate change and related extinction issues. We value truth.

6/ Urgency.

Conveying a sense of urgency in communication and actions, while being inclusive, is important.

7/ Devolved Power structures.

We value an 'all leaders' non-hierarchical approach where more equitable participation is the goal. We value autonomy and decentralisation. Eco-fascism models / concepts are not welcome.

8/ Nurturing and building our relationships.

We value the trust and meaning that occurs through building personal relationships. We value respectful communication and behaviour.

9/ Non-violence.

We follow the non-violent direct action (NVDA) approach. There is room for non-direct action ideas in XRANZ too if these are strategic in creating change.

10/ Space and time for emotion. We value compassion and the ability to grieve for our changing world and the loss of our fellow people, cultures, flora and fauna. Converting grief and anxiety into action is important.

11/ Kindness, empathy and respect.

We reject 'blame and shame' culture. We acknowledge that no individual has a perfect low carbon lifestyle, and that no one individual is to blame for the climate crisis. We do the best we can while working for systemic change from within a difficult system, and understand we are all on a continuum of personal learning and doing.

12/ Fun.

We intend to enjoy (often if not always) this work and find meaning in it. We value people's energy, time, and need for love. We value the process as well as the outcome.

This Rebel Handbook is a live manual, evolving week on week as the rebellion grows. We will let you know when the next edition makes an appearance.

Meanwhile... Rebel For Life! And see you on the streets in Wellington!