

11/08/2022



ORGANISED > CRIMINALISED

XR UK MESSAGING ON STRIKES

As the [cost of living crisis](#) is escalating week on week, the movement to [refuse to pay energy bills](#) is gaining momentum and workers from an increasing range of industries are voting to take strike action for livable wages and secure jobs. [Railway and tube staff](#), [bus drivers](#), [communications workers](#), [warehouse workers](#) and [postal workers](#) are among those striking or staging protests in recent weeks.

At the same time, the UK just recorded it's hottest ever temperature, and Extinction Rebellion is seeing a spike in interest from people who have decided now is the time to step-up and take action – over 1000 people registered for our last *Open Call*, and the 'Welcome to XR' sessions have seen a significant increase in attendees.

In this context we need to speak clearly about the common interests of striking workers and the environmental movement.

XR STANDS WITH WORKERS STRIKING FOR LIVABLE WAGES & SECURE JOBS

As a movement XR UK seeks to stand in solidarity with workers striking for livable wages and secure jobs.

The current surge in strike action takes place in the context of what is commonly referred to as a 'cost of living crisis', but which should perhaps be called a 'cost of living scandal'. As significant numbers struggle to afford their energy bills, and vulnerable people, the elderly and families with young children face a very real choice between heating and eating, record profits are being published by energy companies. The world's five biggest energy companies had combined [profits](#) of just under £50bn up to August this year, with BP bringing in just under £14bn and Shell just over £20bn.

The same government whose plan to tackle the climate crisis was recently found to be [criminally inadequate](#) pours [billions of taxpayers' money](#) into the fossil fuel industry each year, and has presided over a decline in conditions and [real terms pay](#) for people in many of the industries we rely on for our health, wellbeing, education and the basic infrastructure of our society.

ORGANISED > CRIMINALISED

Remember when the home secretary [called](#) the thousands of people who make up XR UK 'organised criminals'? Well now the government is trying to [criminalise striking workers too](#).

By voting to allow agency workers to [cover](#) for striking staff the Government are undermining legal strike action. By changing the conditions the government will see new forms of protest emerging, like the [Don't Pay](#) campaign which is gaining momentum.

In the same vein, over the last two years the British Government has sought to undermine the right to protest in the UK by using the [PCSC Act](#) and the forthcoming [Public Order Bill](#) to place conditions on protests in order to render them ineffective.

Extinction Rebellion and striking workers are both regularly charged in the media with 'stopping ordinary people getting to work', but it's becoming increasingly clear that the public support is far greater than the media coverage might lead us to believe. At the end of June, pollsters Opinium [found](#) 45 per cent of the public now say they support RMT strikes, with just 37 per cent opposed. Recent climate [polling](#) by Ipsos found that 8 out of 10 people in the UK are concerned about the climate crisis and over 50 percent think government plans are inadequate.

THE FIGHT FOR FAIRNESS

By criminalising strike action and protest at this critical historical moment, the UK Government is helping workers and the environmental movement to understand our common interests.

Historically, industry workers and the climate movement have been cast as opponents in an apparent battle over secure jobs vs. emissions reductions. But this does not have to be the case. In some instances unions back the expansion of the oil and gas industry, which XR would not support. But ultimately the 'cost of living crisis' and the 'climate crisis' have the [same roots](#) and this is increasingly widely understood. This is about lives, livelihoods, health, wellbeing and fairness. If we see our cause as the fight for a future with fairness and care for everyone's interests at its heart then it is clear that we are on the same side.

And it's not just the environmental movement making these links - spokespeople for the strikes are [speaking up](#) on the climate and ecological crisis too. Even [aviation workers](#) are challenging their industry to conform with climate science and reject dangerous growth. They're advocating for trade unions to perform [Workers' Assemblies](#). Extinction Rebellion is committed to Citizens' Assemblies, so we know that dialogue between people with different experiences and perspectives deliver better outcomes. We know that we are stronger together.

Though our modes of protest vary, we also have mass participation non-violent tactics in common. Civil disobedience is at the core of Extinction Rebellion's approach to creating change but we also know that our actions are strongest in the context of many groups each playing to their strengths, knowing that ultimately our interests are the same.

[Extinction Rebellion Trade Unionists](#) (XRTU) supported Unite the Union members striking on the picket line at [Fawley Oil Refinery](#) and ASLEF train workers on the picket line in [central Bristol](#).

29/04/2022

FIRST THEY IGNORE YOU, THEN THEY LAUGH AT YOU, THEN THEY LEGISLATE AGAINST YOU...

Follow the link for a statement from XRUK offering some perspective on the PCSC Bill and other repressive legislation which has just been passed by the House of Lords and received 'Royal Assent' yesterday: <https://xrb.link/kK2lFt3i5WL>

02/03/2022

WE WILL NOT BE BYSTANDERS

MESSAGING BRIEFING FOR APRIL REBELLION 2022

Follow the link for the XR UK M&M Team's April Rebellion messaging briefing (useful for spokespeople, media teams and anyone communication about the Rebellion):

<https://xrb.link/yH2XU9E97S8>

08/03/2022

UKRAINE

MESSAGING ADVICE FROM XRUK MEDIA TEAM

NB: This document is intended as a resource to support the movement with messaging and related conversations in light of the Russia/Ukraine conflict. This is not an official XR UK movement positioning statement. XRUK teams - including XR Peace, XR ISN, Political circle, and Media and Messaging - have put together the following notes. This is not intended as an official statement from XRUK, but advice to help with comms channels, or during mobilisation conversations.

CONTEXT

The situation is highly complex, with multiple prominent issues showing us how interconnected and interdependent we are as a human family. Extinction Rebellion seeks to encourage healthy discussion and learning, recognising that there are many perspectives in moments of crisis such as these and we all remain one rebel family able to work together in all our differences. There are multiple perspectives present in our movement and that can often be polarising. Bearing this in mind when communicating about sensitive matters, and trying to be conscious about who you are speaking to and who you are speaking for, will help us all to take care of the whole movement.

Extinction Rebellion is a nonviolent movement and we are committed to solidarity with all people who are impacted by conflict. We are against wars of aggression and imperialism; ours will always be a call for peace and against the destruction and suffering of war. The military industrial complex, globally, causes danger and death and also creates enormous carbon emissions and accelerates ecological destruction. War crimes, and targeting civilians, is always unacceptable.

We face the terrifying possibility of a nuclear war devastating our planet, as the superpowers continue to play war games that could escalate until they reach the destruction of humanity. There is also the looming possibility of global destruction through climate breakdown and the destruction of the biosphere, which we are currently on course for.

SOLIDARITY

XR stands in solidarity with people everywhere calling for peace and justice. XR stands in solidarity with all people who face acts of war and invasion. Our media is biased, and often focuses more on some regions over others, whilst we show solidarity with the people in Ukraine we must be in solidarity with all people suffering through live conflicts such as in Yemen. By decarbonising our economies we can take power back from war mongers and change course, averting or delaying climate breakdown and collapse. Rapid climate action means action in the name of peace and justice. Respecting freedom of expression is important for human rights of all people. XR stands for human rights for all.

RACISM

Globalised racism and the culture of global white supremacy is in clear view, both on borders where people are moving to seek safety and finding themselves discriminated against on the grounds of race, and in the media where a number of reporters have implied that as a white or european country, the violence in Ukraine is somehow more abhorrent than if it were taking place elsewhere.

PEACE

Commitment to stopping the sale of weapons and reducing the military carbon footprint are critical - human beings must stop profiting from destroying life and protect it instead. Working for decarbonisation is also working for peace. Nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament should be a shared ambition for all peaceful people all over the world. XR Peace have further messaging guidance on their site [here](#).

DISPLACED PEOPLE AND REFUGEES

XR calls for the end of hostility and violence, to prevent displacement as far as possible. We appeal to all countries to help all people to find safe haven, and to work together to do so. When people are forced to move they may become 'refugees'. Technically that means a person who is expected to return to their home/country at some time in the future. We use the term displaced people with care, because particularly with displacement through climate breakdown, there may not be liveable land to go back to. We ask those communicating on behalf of XR to use language as sensitively as they can around these nuanced issues.

PROPAGANDA

Propaganda is an integral part of global power dynamics and especially when it comes to war. We appeal to everyone to think critically about what they read, and encourage XR spaces to be spaces for learning, not to shut each other down but to take care to listen and learn about the

variety of perspectives we have in our diverse movement, especially when we are facing complexity and uncertainty.

FOSSIL FUELS

We are living in a world where, geopolitically, most of those in power are operating in a compromised and corrupted way, and a lot of it has to do with fossil fuels, looking at both supply and profit. Early decarbonisation should have already happened. The recent IPCC report tells us in no uncertain terms that the window is closing on adaptation (let alone mitigation). Breakdown is happening in a way that isn't allowing time for adaptation. Many people are talking about the need to transition rapidly and that includes discussing the reliance many regions have on each other for energy supplies in the form of fossil fuels.

ENERGY POLICY

In the UK, and in many other countries energy policy is now brought to the top of the political agenda. We face an ongoing cost of living crisis with fossil fuel companies making record breakingly massive profits. We have failed to insulate homes or make progress on energy efficiency here in the UK and experts are expecting an especially difficult winter later this year unless bold effort is made in the name of protecting the vulnerable and the poor.

The government's net zero commitments are being called into question, with some politicians and think tanks calling for a referendum on net zero, claiming that net zero will exacerbate the cost of living crisis and British people "can't afford" to address climate change. Johnson is suggesting that we give ourselves a 'climate change pass' to increase fossil fuel expansion. We need to decarbonise and to do so as fast as possible.

The reality is, net zero need not exacerbate the cost of living crisis, indeed the opposite.; Net zero is not unaffordable even according to the UK's own [OBR](#) (and indeed it will cost more to delay); that the relatively modest upfront public investment it calls for should be funded by the broadest shoulders; that Russian gas represent a tiny proportion of our energy imports and fossil fuel independence would not address the cost of energy (because the global market sets the price, not where it's produced); that new fossil fuel development won't make any difference to current prices because it won't come onstream for decades; that the quickest and cheapest way to reduce energy bills is insulation and renewables; that arguing for a 'climate change pass' involving new fossil fuel development is trying to make up for decades of failure to prevent millions of deaths from pollution and climate breakdown by building in decades more failure and more millions of deaths from pollution and climate breakdown.

FOOD

Ukraine is a breadbasket - this conflict will impact global food systems. Ukraine is one of the top ten biggest exporters of wheat in the world. In 2010 Ukraine's agriculture failed and there was a following cascade of social unrest including the Arab Spring. Though we are already seeing some effects on supply chains, we don't yet know the full extent this war will reap on food supplies. The 6th IPCC report states that climate change is already affecting "all dimensions of

food security". IPCC scientists are highly confident that the number of people at risk of "hunger, malnutrition and diet-related mortality" will keep increasing. The climate and ecological crisis is already starving people. More than half those who live in food insecurity are in countries affected by conflict. Because conflict and war can be both the cause and the effect of food shortages.

FERTILISERS

The cost of [fertilisers](#) is already skyrocketing, the war could lead to even more price increases. Russia is the world's top producer of many fertilisers. This helps us to see the interconnected nature of our global problems, and the enormous dependence we have on fossil fuels for all aspects of our industrialised food systems.

CLOSING NOTE

This moment brings into stark relief that there are several ways that humanity can be destroyed, through nuclear destruction or through the destruction of our biosphere. The work for peace needs all people and all nations working together in internationalist solidarity. The UK Rebellion is coming up in April where we will show that we won't be complicit in the harm that is ongoing, we will continue our urgent work for change.

We must all stand together in defence of all life, and for just peace.

07/12/2021

KILL THE BILL

PULL TOGETHER

DEFEND THE RIGHT TO PROTEST

This edition of the XR UK rolling messaging resources looks at the PCSC Bill ahead of amendments in the House of Lords this week.

THE TOP 5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE BILL

>>>The Bill would expand **stop and search** by giving police the powers to carry them out 'without suspicion' in protest contexts. We already know that stop and search is used disproportionately against black and other marginalised communities and this would make it worse.

>>>The Bill brings in **10 year sentences** for undefined "seriously annoying" acts - the definition to be defined by Home Secretary not Parliament - and the introduction of **unlimited fines** for blocking "national infrastructure"

>>>The Bill would allow police to enact wide reaching **surveillance on individuals** who may be associated with forms of nonviolent protest that have been heavily implicated by the new sentencing guidelines. There are concerns from many communities that the bill is intended to allow deep surveillance, leading to pre-emptive actions against individuals. Those who are implicated will also have unclear routes for defence and appeal.

>>>The Bill is an attempt to **bypass parliament**. For instance Clauses 54(4) and 55(6) give the Home Secretary unconstrained powers to produce regulations to define what constitutes "serious disruption to the activities of an organisation..." or "...to the life of the community" under the Public Order Act, with little or no involvement of Parliament.

>>>The Bill is a prime example of **government overreach** (more in the 'What does the Bill mean for XR?' section below)

BRIEFING ON NEW AMENDMENTS TO THE BILL

Briefing from XR UK Political Circle: <https://xrb.link/l704on28>

WHAT DOES THE BILL MEAN FOR XR?

The introduction of the PCSC Bill makes it even clearer that XR are not the real criminals, instead it's those fighting climate action with increasingly authoritarian legislation.

We always knew that success would bring with it repression from the government and other actors who have a strong interest in maintaining the status quo. In fact, government overreach and repression is a key part of how nonviolent movements make gains. When they start making moves that the courts can't stomach, the police are uncomfortable enforcing, or the public are galvanised against, we start making big wins.

That means we have to stick our course, keep growing our numbers, stay humble and stay committed. The Bill, while it may make our lives very difficult, tells us that we are being effective. As our operational space in the UK changes we will need to remain strategic, creative and smart. Recommended reading: Blueprint for a Revolution!

It is essential we vocally oppose the Bill now and stand in solidarity with all those coming together to Kill the Bill...

WHAT CAN I DO NOW?

Kill the Bill action, 5pm Wednesday 8th December: <https://xrb.link/uB2H5w7wD>

Digital Rebellion tools: <https://digitalrebellion.uk/policingbill>

Tweet sheet: <https://xrb.link/Xk1342H7G>

Whatever happens we will not be deterred from action, and we know when the government cracks down on XR, more people will come and support us. So start getting your group ready for April 2022 and share the April 2022 [crowdfunder](#).

01/11/2021

COP FAILURE IS A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY

THE MEDIA MUST HOLD WORLD LEADERS TO ACCOUNT

KEY LINES & RESOURCES FOR SPOKESPEOPLE

The primary goal of COP26 is to limit average global temperature increases to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

The world is currently experiencing the effects of 1.2°C increase in global heating, including extreme and often fatal [flooding](#) in China, Germany, Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the UK, as well as the world's first climate induced [famine](#) in Madagascar.

The likely consequences of going above a 1.5°C rise include whole areas of the planet becoming [uninhabitable](#) and an increased risk of simultaneous [multi-breadbasket failures](#) - in other words, unprecedented displacement of peoples and crop failures of staple foods on a global scale.

The IPCC's 'Code Red For Humanity' report [stated](#) that all scenarios now take the world past 1.5°C by 2040, possibly sooner.

The IPCC [says](#) that in order to avoid breaching 1.5°C global emissions would need to fall by 45% by 2030. However, UN [analysis](#) shows the Nationally Determined Commitments, or NDCs, submitted by the nations of the world ahead of COP26 amount to a 16% increase in emissions by 2030. This is a catastrophic failure on the part of the UK government as the COP hosts, as well as other historically polluting and high polluting nations.

We have [emitted](#) more carbon since governments have been meeting to address the climate crisis than in the entirety of human history beforehand.

In this context COP26 is all but bound to fail, leaving those who have presided over the process guilty of crimes against humanity.

For a quarter of a century these meetings have concluded with the media saying ‘progress has been made, campaigners say not enough.’ That cannot happen at COP26. The media have a duty to do their job. They must form an analysis of the situation, delving beyond presenting the views of different parties to the reality of what has been achieved and what the consequences are for ordinary people. If they fail to do so they continue to be guilty of the same crimes against humanity as the world leaders who have gathered at 25 previous COPs, claiming progress in spite of a complete failure to stop emissions rising.

There are solutions to the crisis but the world has to admit this isn’t working before they have a chance of being taken up. As American writer and activist James Baldwin said: “Not everything that is faced can be changed; but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”

- Plan B COP26 - KEYNOTES FOR JOURNALISTS
https://docs.google.com/document/d/12T19lwmElwPGFFc8GIYyLQSy4Ea-BGk_tuKYX0HOAIA/edit
- Ramping Up for COP26! with Matthew Phillips <https://pca.st/p8avefu5>

15/06/2021

CUT THE CRAP, END THE BULLSHIT & FREE THE TRUTH!

This edition of the rolling messaging is a resource for spokespeople, M&M teams and anyone having conversations with the public over the weekend of Free the Press actions.

THEY WANT US DIVIDED

Four unelected, tax-avoiding billionaires control the majority of our news. They use their wealth and influence to manipulate our democracy so they can make vast sums of money for themselves and their friends. They profit from the same oil and gas industries that are driving the world towards runaway climate change and social collapse.

How do they get away with it? They use their papers to sow mistrust and division. It’s divide and rule powered by strategic racism, and it keeps us suspicious of each other rather than demanding a truly free press.

But we don’t have to play their game. If we refuse to be pitted against each other they are powerless.

PEOPLE DESERVE TO KNOW

Just this month the Committee on Climate Change said the government is [failing](#) to act to protect people from the risks of the climate crisis. In May the International Energy Agency [advised](#) all investment in new fossil fuel projects should stop by the end of this year.

Clearly we are standing at an historic crossroads with profound implications for everyone's daily life, so where is the public discussion about what this means for how we live? The media could be facilitating a nationwide conversation about how we deal with this crisis. Instead...

DEADLY BUSINESS: DENIAL, DOUBT, DELAY & GREENWASH

- Despite the scientific consensus on human caused global heating the Daily Mail still carried climate denying articles such as one by David Rose in 2014 which read "No, the world ISN'T getting warmer"
- For the most part denial has turned into delay, distraction and sewing doubt. When unprecedented wildfires engulfed Australia in 2019/2020 Murdoch owned media in the country made false [claims](#) about the fires being no bigger than in previous years and deliberately cast doubt over global heating as a major cause of the scale of the fires.
- As it has become increasingly illigitame to publish outright opposition to climate action, there has been a turn towards greenwashing. In the absence of the full facts about the CEE, 'green' editions of national papers present people with solutions that don't match up with the scale of the crisis.
- The papers politicise the climate and ecological crisis, encouraging readers to see it as a leftwing agenda, discouraging engagement with the crisis and preventing the conversation about how to meet the challenge from including everyone.
- The covid crisis has given us an example of what emergency reporting could look like, with daily updates on impacts nationally and globally. Why isn't that happening with the climate and ecological crisis? Because of vested interests in our media.
 - Rupert Murdoch, owner of the Times, the Sunday Times and the Sun, sits on the board of Genie Oil and Gas
 - All the major national papers rely on advertising revenues from fossil fuel companies or other carbon intensive industries. Former chief political commentator at the Daily Telegraph, Peter Osborne, [quit](#) because of the influence the advertising department was having on editorial decisions.

WHAT FREE PRESS??

We can expect to be accused of attacking the pillars of democracy, obstructing the free press and shutting down debate. If we had a genuinely free press in the UK we would not be taking action against the four billionaire owners of the majority of our newspapers.

Why we don't have a free press in the UK:

- Just three companies (News UK, Daily Mail Group and Reach) [dominate](#) 90% of the national newspaper market.
- When you look at individual ownership, four unelected tax-avoiding billionaires own the majority of our news, with three of them [controlling](#) an estimated 68% of national newspapers. They use their media empires to influence policy and even swing elections. Prominent among those billionaires is Rupert Murdoch, owner of the Sun and the Times, who also sits on the board of Genie Oil and Gas.
- From the point at which Boris Johnson became Prime Minister in July 2019 to the end of September 2020, three billionaire press owners, and their representatives, had more [meetings](#) with ministers than all the rest of the UK media combined.
- Rupert Murdoch's News Corp was top with 40 meetings with MPs between July 2019 and September 2020. We don't know what was discussed at these various meetings, because no minutes were taken.
- No one has won a general election in the UK without the backing of Rupert Murdoch since 1979.
- A YouGov [survey](#) commissioned by Extinction Rebellion in September 2020 [found](#) that:
 - *Only a minority of adults in the UK think that we have a free press.*
 - *When given information on the ownership of our press, half of adults in the UK think we don't have a free press, without this information a third of adults in the UK actively say we do not have a free press.*
 - *Most people think the press ownership concentration is unacceptable.*
 - *In addition, 48% of people think the UK press generally pays too little attention to climate change.*
- In September 2020, the Council of Europe issued the UK government media freedom [alert](#). The alert was issued for threatening press freedom when the government blacklisted a group of investigative journalists and denied them access to information. Russia and Turkey were both issued with warnings in that same week.
- You can't have a proper debate about the climate and ecological crisis as a nation if the media aren't doing their job to communicate the latest science to people and explain its potential implications for all of our lives.

Listen to Tim Crosland's [interview](#) on BBC Radio 4 following the printworks action in September 2020.

27/04/2021

TWO YEARS AND GOVERNMENT HAVE DONE NOTHING...

BUT ORDINARY PEOPLE WON'T BE BYSTANDERS.

This week's edition contains messaging resources for spokespeople, social media and press teams for the two year anniversary of Parliament declaring a climate emergency. If you are messaging Rebellion of One this is intended for you!

Contents:

- **CHEAP WORDS AND EMPTY PROMISES IN THE FACE OF EMERGENCY** - responding to the 2035 announcement
- **THIS GOVERNMENT THINKS LIVES ARE CHEAP** - making the case that they aren't going to save us
- **ORDINARY PEOPLE DO THE RIGHT THING IN THE FACE OF EMERGENCY** - showing that hope lies in ordinary people
- **THE VIRTUE OF DISOBEDIENCE** - speaking about breaking glass

CHEAP WORDS AND EMPTY PROMISES IN THE FACE OF EMERGENCY - RESPONDING TO THE 2035 ANNOUNCEMENT

Saturday the 1st of May marks two years since the UK Parliament declared an environment and climate emergency. Last week the government [announced](#) tougher emissions targets, including reducing emissions by 78% by 2035 compared with 1990 levels, and finally including aviation and shipping in their emissions calculations.

But, there are multiple problems with this:

- **THE WORDS AND THE FACTS DON'T MATCH UP** - the first problem is that this is another promise about what will happen in the future. If you look at existing plans it's clear that talk is cheap and they are not actually doing anything:
 - **The Committee on Climate Change** - the body tasked with monitoring government progress on reducing admissions - said in its progress [report](#) last June that the UK has failed on 17 out of 21 progress indicators, falling further behind in many areas and that just two of 31 key policy milestones have been met over the year since parliament declared emergency.
 - In December last year, **the National Audit Office** [found](#) that the UK Government is predicted to fail to meet its existing climate targets and said that a radical reassessment of priorities was needed.

- **THERE'S NO PLAN TO GET THERE** - the second problem is that even if they were serious about this new target they are yet to provide any plan for getting there.
- **IT'S TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE** - the second problem is that this new target is part of a plan to reach net zero emissions by 2050.
 - **Former Chief Scientific Advisor to the Government Sir David King** signed a [letter](#) in February along with other top scientists telling Boris Johnson that we need to reach net zero by around 2030.
 - In February this year **chief executive of the Environment Agency Sir James Bevan** [said](#) that the UK is hitting worst case environmental scenarios that if left unchecked would collapse ecosystems, slash crop yields, take out the infrastructure that our civilisation depends on, and destroy the basis of the modern economy and modern society.
- **IT GAMBLES ON TECH THAT DOESN'T EXIST YET** - the third problem is that the calculations behind this announcement rely on taking large amounts of carbon out of the atmosphere using technologies that don't exist to operate at that scale.
 - *Climate Scientist Professor Kevin Anderson says "Negative-emission technologies are not an insurance policy, but rather an unjust and high-stakes gamble. There is a real risk they will be unable to deliver on the scale of their promise."*

THIS GOVERNMENT THINKS LIVES ARE CHEAP - MAKING THE CASE THAT THEY AREN'T GOING TO SAVE US

An [article](#) in the British Medical Journal in February called the UK Government's handling of the Covid pandemic 'social murder'. Now we are hearing [reports](#) that Boris Johnson said he would rather see "bodies pile high" than take the country into a third lockdown.

While the Government makes headline-grabbing announcements about new targets and 10 point plans, in the courts, they have been [arguing](#) that they don't have to comply with the Paris Agreement when it comes to large infrastructure projects like the expansion of Heathrow airport.

This government seems to think that lives are cheap, they have displayed quite clearly to us that they will do cost-based analysis on saving lives weighed against the economic cost of saving them.

Where does that logic lead us?

ORDINARY PEOPLE DO THE RIGHT THING IN THE FACE OF EMERGENCY - SHOWING THAT HOPE LIES IN ORDINARY PEOPLE

There is a failure of accountability in Government but ordinary people are deciding they will not be bystanders.

Last week a jury decided that members of Extinction Rebellion on trial for criminal damage to the Shell HQ building in London's Waterloo in April 2019, were [not guilty](#). When ordinary people are faced with the scale of damage being caused to life on earth by companies like Shell they know that is the greater crime, not the actions of those trying to draw attention to it.

On Saturday 1st of May, the two year anniversary of Parliament's declaration of an environment and climate emergency, hundreds of people around the UK

THE VIRTUE OF DISOBEDIENCE - SPEAKING ABOUT BREAKING GLASS

Points to emphasis are:

- Non violent civil disobedience, including damage to property, is undertaken with the hope that it will bring injustice into public view and allow ordinary people to make their own judgement about the cause, be that suffrage, civil rights or the fight against climate and ecological breakdown.
- Accountability is part of this process, we take these actions knowing there will be personal repercussions and we are willing to face the consequences in order to bring the truth into public view.
- These actions are proportional to the threat of the climate and ecological emergency and the lack of action by the UK government and financial sector.

Simon Bramwell, 49, cofounder of Extinction Rebellion and defendant in the Shell 7 case, said after the jury reached their verdict: *"It is a significant victory for the truth of these times, when despite the letter of the law, jurors can clearly see that a broken window is a just response to a breaking world."*

"How fitting that this comes after Earth Day and the two year anniversary of the death of environmental lawyer Polly Higgins, founder of the Stop Ecocide campaign, to whom we dedicated our non violent direct [action](#) against Shell. With today's verdict, it is clear who the real climate criminals are in the climate and ecological emergency. 'Shell knew' as we wrote."

See the embedding non-violence circle [statement](#) on property damage for more on this.

12/04/2021

'SHELL 7' JURY TRIAL BEGINS TODAY

IT'S TIME TO TELL THE WORLD THAT SHELL KNEW

The jury trial of seven people (including two Extinction Rebellion co-founders) charged with £25K worth of criminal damage for an action at Shell's London HQ on 15th April 2019, the first day of Extinction Rebellion's April 2019 Rebellion, began at 11.30am today at Southwark Crown Court in London.

This is only XR's second Crown Court trial, heard before a jury of peers, rather than a judge or lay panel sitting alone in the magistrates' court. At our first Crown Court trial (the DLR 3, December 2019) the jury convicted, but delivered their guilty verdict "with regret".

As the trial takes place over the next week let's make some noise about Shell...

SHELL KNEW ABOUT GLOBAL HEATING

In 1991, Shell produced a public documentary on global warming called Climate of Concern. [It warned that trends in global temperatures](#) raised serious risks of famines, floods and climate refugees. But in the quarter century since, Shell has continued to invest heavily in fossil fuels.

SHELL KNEW ABOUT GAS FLARING, OIL SPILLS AND POLLUTED WATER AND HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN NIGERIA

This [report](#) from ActionAid details how Shell has had to compensate over 15,000 people affected by oil spills in Bodo, Nigeria. The report describes how Shell has continued to drill for oil and gas despite knowing its activities will devastate yet more lives through both environmental destruction and global heating.

SHELL KNEW WHAT THEY WERE DOING TO KEN SARO-WIWA & THE Ogoni 9

Ken Saro-Wiwa and fellow activists were arrested and executed for peacefully protesting against the destruction caused by Royal Dutch Shell in the Ogoniland region of Nigeria.

In 1995 Shell was complicit in the court case that resulted in the execution of these 9 activists who led a peaceful campaign against Shell's exploitation of their region. Shell has been accused of bribing and coaching witnesses, as well as providing false evidence during the case.

Read more in this Amnesty International [report](#) into Shell's complicity in the murder of the Ogoni 9.

SHARE/FOLLOW

XRUK press release:

<https://extinctionrebellion.uk/2021/04/12/extinction-rebellion-versus-shell-crown-court-trial-begin-s-today-shell-knew/>

Twitter account for the defendants: https://twitter.com/shell_knows

XRUK tweet: <https://twitter.com/XRebellionUK/status/1381539773035257857>

XRUK Instagram post: <https://www.instagram.com/p/CNkTwSrHRuJ/>

09/03/2021

WHEN DID IT BECOME A CRIME TO CARE?

+BRAVE WOMEN DISOBEY IN THE DOCK

++AN EXTREMELY PROGRESSIVE TALK

Nurses get a clap and a 1% pay rise, but if they dare protest the UK Government gives them a £10,000 fine. A nurse was [fined](#) on Sunday for organising a socially distanced protest for NHS workers to come out against the government's "insulting" 1% pay rise proposal.

When did it become a crime to care?

Black Lives Matter took to the streets to protest police violence and disregard for the lives of black and brown people. Now, along with Extinction Rebellion, they are the subjects of an [investigation](#) by the UK Government trying to pin an extremist label on people exercising their right to protest.

When did it become a crime to care?

Extinction Rebellion blocked the distribution of several national newspapers for one day to highlight the misinformation and climate delayism coming out of the Murdoch press every other day of the year. We demand the people be told the truth about the climate and ecological emergency, because without access to information there is no democracy. Now a new [legislation](#) is being proposed to restrict protest.

When did it become a crime to care?

BRAVE WOMEN DISOBEY IN THE DOC

On Friday two brave women glued themselves to the dock at London Magistrates Court while live streaming their testimony.

They were both given 14 day penalty prison sentences and are currently on remand in HMP Bronzefield. Support them by retweeting [this](#) and [this](#), by sharing their quotes and using **#DisobeyTheDock**.

Tracey Mallaghan, 44, mum of 3 said: *"I am here today as an angry mum fighting for my kids. All children should have a chance at a future on a habitable planet. Our establishments are facilitating social murder and ecocide.*

"The courts are failing us, I don't do this out of contempt but out of love. Love and trust that if we stop arguing amongst ourselves, if we stop fearing change more than festering in this toxic system, the next generation stands a chance of righting so many wrongs."

Sally Davidson, 33, South London, said: *"I am choosing to disobey in the dock today to ask London City Magistrates Court to not only say they agree with the science about the climate crisis but to act like it is real by allowing the defence argument of necessity to be heard in activists' trials.*

"In the last few years the UK has seen soaring temperatures, towns preparing to be decommissioned from rising oceans, wildfires and rising deaths from toxic air pollution. This is all happening against a backdrop of the highest courts in the UK giving the green light to large carbon intensive infrastructure projects, such as plans for the third runway at Heathrow, a new coal mine in Cumbria, and the vanity project that is HS2.

"I hold the UK courts to be complicit in our government's failure to act urgently and proportionately on the climate and ecological emergency."

Watch the full live stream [here](#).

AN EXTREMELY PROGRESSIVE TALK

Watch Gail Bradbrook [speak](#) at the Oxford Society for Question Extremism.

We know following the announcement of the [investigation](#) of XR and BLM that extremist accusation is going to keep being levelled at us. Gail does a great job here of shining a light on the ridiculousness of that accusation and putting it in context, both of the climate crisis and the current political landscape.

Please make time to watch!

THIS ISN'T WORKING - IT'S TIME FOR THE UK GOVERNMENT TO ASK FOR HELP

In the last week:

- Sir David Attenborough [told](#) the Security Council that our current course risks the “collapse of everything that gives us security” including “food production, access to fresh water, habitable ambient temperature, and ocean food chains”
- The emissions reduction targets [submitted](#) by nearly half of countries under the Paris agreement, would result in only a 1% reduction in carbon by 2030, compared with the 45% cut recommended by the IPCC
- The Budget revealed that not only will the government cut £1bn from net-zero spending intended to help insulate homes as part of the ‘Green Homes Grant’ scheme, they are also continuing to allow airports to expand, new coal mines to be built and investment to flow from the UK’s banking and financial sector to new fossil fuel projects

There is no longer any argument that urgent and transformative action is needed on the climate and ecological crisis, and yet it is clearly still not happening.

If you aren’t able to do something you ask for help. In January this year the UN People’s Climate Survey [found](#) that 81% of people in the UK think that the issue is a “global emergency.” It’s time for the UK government to ask for help by inviting the people to the table and empowering them to make the difficult decisions needed to address this crisis. Instead of continuing down this deadly path they could create and be led by the decisions of a Citizens’ Assembly on climate and ecological justice.

>>> Read XR UK’s [statement](#) on the Budget: *‘This isn’t working – it’s time to ask for help’ – Extinction Rebellion UK statement on the Budget*

DISSECTING THE BUDGET FANTASY - further analysis of the budget from members of the Political Circle [here](#).

>>> Read XR UK’s [statement](#) on the NDC announcement: *THIS IS NOT WORKING: Extinction Rebellion statement on the UNFCCC report*

PROGRESSIVE EXTREMISTS: PREPARE FOR HATE WITH LOVE
+CONNECT WITH UK M&M TEAMS

++RACE CLASS ACADEMY TRAINING MATERIALS

The 'Progressive Extremists' narrative: Since the launch of the John Woodcock appointed [inquiry](#) into 'left-wing' extremism two weeks ago, the framing that progressive groups are organised and dangerous is gaining steam in the mainstream media and beyond. This is primed to be the new stick to beat us with, that although the government now claims to agree that the climate crisis is happening, that organisations like XR are only out there to push an anti-democratic agenda and we need to be stopped.

While the government uses this as further ammunition in the culture war, set on further dividing the UK public, it's crucial that we prepare ourselves for more of this to come. Great ways for local and regional groups to tackle this narrative is by:

- Sharing the stories of who we are, use humour, share personal testimonials from rebels to show our followers that we're a bunch of ordinary people worried about the future
- Talk about this in your groups to make sure people understand what and why this is happening so that people don't panic

All in all, we shouldn't be surprised by this growing narrative. It's all part of the process of change. After all, first they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win!

>>> Read XR UK's [statement](#): *Extinction Rebellion to UK Special Envoy for Countering Violent Extremism, John Woodcock – 'Why not give us a call?'*

Wanna feel more connected to UK M&M? Join the new Telegram channels!

📞XRUK M&M Broadcast📞

To keep up to date with and boost XRUK M&M content for sharing, saving, and commenting on from your regional /local /personal channel. This could be messaging docs, press releases, social posts etc: https://t.me/joinchat/G_0L35bSS0NwI9g-

🌟Live Action Content Channel🌟

Open chat for sending content in live from XR actions: photos+/videos+/short description only - not for generic content or conversation: https://t.me/joinchat/RWMno9xAsITN_HMN

RACE-CLASS ACADEMY TRAINING RESOURCES

This four part [online workshop](#) is developed by Ian Haney-Lopez, author of *Dog Whistle Politics* and *Merge Left*. It's a really easy to use resource, made up of short videos and discussion points, that you could work through with your M&M team!

See last week's resources (below) for more details.

HOW TO FLOP AT COP- LOCK UP CLIMATE LAWYERS AND IGNORE THE PARIS AGREEMENT

+FLOW LIKE WATER: NEW CONTENT SHARING SYSTEM

++RACE-CLASS ACADEMY TRAINING RESOURCES

Locking up a climate lawyer: On Friday February 12 the UK government applied to send Tim Crosland – a lawyer and director of climate litigation charity Plan B, who has previously worked for various governmental organisations including the National Crime Agency – to prison for breaching the Supreme Court’s embargo on the judgement to allow the expansion of Heathrow airport. If convicted Tim could face up to two years in prison.

Ignoring the Paris Agreement: The Supreme Court’s decision to allow the expansion of Heathrow airport to go ahead rests on an argument that temperature limits set by the Paris Agreement in 2015 are not relevant. This sets a precedent that the climate agreement can be ignored, not just in the UK, but also internationally.

Resources from making a noise about Tim’s case:

[XRUK Press statement](#): *Is this what you call ‘world-leading’? Government applies to send climate lawyer to prison in the year UK to host UN climate summit*

Plan B’s [FAQs](#) - a great resource for anyone writing social media posts about the case

FLOW LIKE WATER: NEW CONTENT SHARING SYSTEM

!!👏Hey folks! 👏!!

UK M&M are trying to find better ways to stay in touch with the rest of the movement and streamline the way we get content for platforms. Please check out the following 4 options below and follow the Telegram chats to stay in touch!

🗣️**XRUK M&M Broadcast**🗣️

To keep up to date with and boost XRUK M&M content for sharing, saving, and commenting on from your regional /local /personal channel. This could be messaging docs, press releases, social posts etc: https://t.me/joinchat/G_0L35bSS0NwI9g-

🌟Live Action Content Channel🌟

Open chat for sending content in live from XR actions: photos+/videos+/short description only - not for generic content or conversation: https://t.me/joinchat/RWMno9xAsITN_HMN

📄XRUK Submission Form📄

For XRUK groups and circles to use to suggest items, content ideas, XR actions or events, that could be scheduled on XRUK social media channels:

<https://xrb.link/u83uxe7bMx8>

📷Photo Archive📷

High Quality photos of XR actions can be uploaded to the media archive, find out how here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1r9PG-lyWVRDcuizXKITwrAy15nIsuV94GmJ0wlnzhPw/edit?usp=sharing>

🙏Please allow room for teething problems, the process might not be perfect to begin with!😊

With love & rage 🥰❤️💪

UK M&M 😊

RACE-CLASS ACADEMY TRAINING RESOURCES

This four part [online workshop](#) is developed by Ian Haney-Lopez, author of *Dog Whistle Politics* and *Merge Left*. It's a really easy to use resource, made up of short videos and discussion points, that you could work through with your M&M team!

See last week's resources (below) for more details.

RACE-CLASS ACADEMY: A STRATEGY FOR LIBERATION FROM OUR CULTURE OF DIVISION

+Euston, we still have a problem

++'Why not give us a call?' Response to new investigation of XR

+++New accounts to follow

Race-Class Academy: A strategy for liberation from our culture of division

This four part [online workshop](#) is developed by Ian Haney-Lopez, author of *Dog Whistle Politics* and *Merge Left*. It's a really easy to use resource, made up of short videos and discussion points, that you could work through with your M&M team!

Haney-Lopez is an academic who's research looks at how to message around inequality - particularly issues of race and class - in a way that engages a broad range of people by explicitly naming the fact that groups have been divided and pitted against each other. His work is very US focussed but it has some important elements for XR in the UK, especially given that we have the likes of [News UK TV and GB News](#) on the horizon.

Further reading and watching:

- *"López describes his last two years of research with union activists, racial justice leaders and statisticians,"* Ian Haney-Lopez in conversation with Alicia Garza from Black Lives Matter in the US: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=daHZbDbT12w>
- *"We can't be afraid to establish a base that is larger than the people we feel comfortable with."* - A Black Lives Matter Founder on Building Modern Movements: <https://www.newyorker.com/books/under-review/a-black-lives-matter-founder-on-building-modern-movements>
- *"We undermine how easy it is for us to become the people that we dislike"* - Ayashat Akanbi on cancel culture: <https://www.doubledown.news/watch/2020/21/january/the-problem-with-cancel-culture>

+Euston, we still have a problem

>>>See last week's messaging resources (below) for all the reasons HS2 is one among many bad ideas the UK government is standing by in this COP year.

Extinction Rebellion to UK Special Envoy for Countering Violent Extremism, John Woodcock – 'Why not give us a call?'

>>> XR UK [response](#) to the [announcement](#) in the Telegraph on Sunday that a new probe has been set up to investigate groups including Extinction Rebellion. More on this from the Guardian [here](#).

New accounts to follow:

XR UK LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/extinction-rebellion-uk>

TruthTeller.Life on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/TruthTellerXR>

>>> More on TruthTeller.life in last week's resources (below).

HS2 IS A BAD IDEA.

+TREE PROTECTORS PODCAST

+Truthteller.life LAUNCH

HS2 is one among many bad ideas the UK Government is standing by as they prepare to host the COP26 climate summit.

What role can XR media channels and spokespeople play?

Extinction Rebellion has an important role to play maximising the impact of the brave actions being taken at the camp in Euston.

Many of those in the tunnels are under 20 years old. We can keep asking why young people feel the need to take such dangerous actions? Don't allow their decisions to be dismissed as teenage rebellion. They join many young people taking action in desperation to defend their future. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

The people at the camp and in the tunnels have forced a conversation around HS2. Now that the public eye is on HS2 we can use our channels to push hard on all the reasons why this project is a bad idea!

Things HS2 won't do for you:

- It won't be carbon neutral. Ever. By HS2 Ltd's own [calculations](#) the project won't be carbon neutral for [120 years](#) - that's its entire predicted lifespan.
- It won't help to "level-up" the country. In fact a [study](#) by the New Economics Foundation found that HS2 will serve wealthier passengers and deliver more benefits to London than the North.
- It won't offset emissions through attracting people away from cars or domestic flights. The Department for Transport's own [figures](#) suggest only 1% of passengers are likely to be people who would have flown, and only 4% of people who would have driven.

Things HS2 will do for you:

- Destroy internationally protected wildlife [sites](#), including trees, plants and animals that are part of ecosystems that have been there for hundreds of years.
- Cost over [£100 billion](#) in public money. That's enough to [fund the NHS](#) in England for an entire year. It's a hell of a lot of public money to be pouring into an infrastructure project that's supposed to be about shaving a few minutes off commutes when large numbers of businesses say they will [shift](#) towards more remote working even after the pandemic.

HS2 isn't the only bad idea that this Government is standing by. In the year that the UK is hosting COP26 climate summit they are:

- Granting [planning permission](#) for a new coal mine in Cumbria, which the government's own climate advisors, the Committee on Climate Change, have said will compromise the UK's legally binding carbon budgets and undermine the UK's leadership of the COP26 climate summit.
- Financing a major [gas project](#) in Mozambique to the tune of over [\\$1bn](#) in public money despite pledging earlier this year to end the use of public money for overseas fossil fuel projects.
- Allowing Drax to [proceed](#) with the construction of a gas power station in North Yorkshire despite the planning inspectorate [telling](#) ministers the project would "undermine the government's commitment, as set out in the Climate Change Act 2008, to cut greenhouse emissions."
- Allowing Heathrow Airport to [proceed](#) with the construction of a fourth runway despite a previous ruling that the expansion was illegal because it failed to take into account the UK's climate commitments, specifically its commitment to the 2015 Paris climate accord.
- Delaying the Climate Bill - which is designed to replace EU rules following Brexit - for the third time since work began on it in July 2018, despite [warnings](#) from environmental groups that the delay would leave the UK without vital laws to restore nature and tackle climate change and damage its credibility in upcoming climate negotiations.
- Removing essential [accountability](#) in our democracy by bringing in legislation that will have a chilling effect on protest in the year running up to the UK hosting the COP26 climate summit.

Podcast

Episode 19 - [Tree Protectors](#)

In this episode Dr Larch Maxey from HS2 Rebellion, at present risking his life in a tunnel below Euston Square, talks about what motivates his work; well-beloved writer Robert Macfarlane reads *Heartwood* his powerful poem against tree felling; there are recordings of interviews with Indigenous protectors of the Amazon Forest and we end with a brilliant XR scheme to save over 700K oak trees.

The XR podcast has now had 1/4M downloads.

Retweet here: <https://twitter.com/XRebellionUK/status/1356559478943084544?s=20>

@RobGMacfarlane,

#ecocide #StopHS2 #HS2Rebellion
#SaveTheOaks

XR's TruthTeller: Whistleblow for the Planet

Launch on Sat 6 February

[TruthTeller.Life](#) is our whistleblowing project to help employees at planet-damaging companies anonymously disclose what they know.

We're making direct approaches to insiders at target companies and asking them to share previously undisclosed information exposing greenwashing or environmental harm. As well triggering leaks - which we'll publish safely and anonymously in collaboration with trusted news outlets - we want to send a warning to any company damaging the planet, or lying about its carbon reduction plans or other green credentials, that it is at imminent risk of public exposure.

The initial launch on Saturday 6 February is focused on London, with a second wave on 20th February across the regions. It features boldly designed subvertising, flyposting and letterbox calling cards that target the heart of the British establishment. We'll follow up with digital ads directed towards employees at a number of fossil fuel, banking and finance companies in the first instance (other industries to follow) and a social media campaign to engage with employees where they are.

TruthTeller is a new type of direct action, with experimental tactics designed to be safe during the pandemic. We'll also use targeted street actions once we're able to do so.

In addition, we'll be pressuring companies to adopt and promote policies to provide support and protection to whistleblowers. Ultimately we hope that by encouraging people to reveal what they know, it will empower others to do the same, such that whistleblowing becomes seen both as a moral duty and a democratic right.

Potential whistleblowers can visit www.TruthTeller.Life for detailed instructions on how to contact us safely.

More information about the TruthTeller project is in our [briefing doc](#).

A 10 POINT PLAN & A SPYCOPS BILL

- **NEW:** Extinction Rebellion [Statement](#): UK Government's 'Ambitious New Climate Target' for an 'Oven-Ready' World

THE 10 POINT PLAN

What is it? The Government's [10 point "plan"](#) announced last week is their apparent grand plan for a "Green Industrial Revolution." The announcement pledges a meager extra £0.8 billion a year of funding for the climate. According to Ed Miliband, the Shadow Business Secretary, it amounts to "*at best, £4 billion of new money over several years*". That compares to:

- £27 billion they confirmed in August for investment in the road network
- More than £100 billion for HS2
- £16.5 billion that was announced the following day in increases for military spending

Meanwhile the Government continues to fund fossil fuel projects overseas, confirming in July £1 billion in export finance for a new gas project in Mozambique with the weak justification that "*it is not known for certain whether the Project will displace renewable energy potential or lower carbon solutions*".

However, many are heralding the new 10 point plan as reason to celebrate how far we've come. But the reality is, **we're being played**. These gradual steps in the right direction are an excuse to keep people quiet. They're not even following their own Climate Change Committee's

[suggestions](#) to reach their 2050 targets, instead inventing their own milestones. **Just a look at where the money's really going reveals where their priorities lie.**

The truth is, this government is failing and they have nothing under control. But these inadequate pledges will be used as a smokescreen to say they have it all in hand. **It is crucial that our messaging speaks to this.**

COMING UP: THE 'SPYCOPS BILL'

What is it? The Covert Human Intelligence Sources (Criminal Conduct) Bill, aka the 'Spycops Bill', targets groups like Extinction Rebellion and Black Lives Matter who are effectively shifting the Overton window in the UK, but it is being framed by the government as a measure to protect undercover police officers. It's part of a global shift towards increased surveillance of those engaged in organising and social change by [corporations](#) as well as governments.

This [piece](#) by Shami Chakrabarti in the Guardian lays out the possible implications of the Bill.

What does this mean for XR? Well it certainly doesn't mean we're going to start our own version of the Spanish Inquisition. We always knew that success would bring with it corporate and state infiltration alike, there are too many vested interests in business as usual for them to just leave us to get on with breaking the law in peace.

One of the most powerful impacts of infiltration of social movements is the spread of mistrust and secrecy, that drive divisions between us. Our strength and resistance to this has been built into XR through our open organising, our focus on mass participation, and our commitment to nonviolence. Our openness and our kindness have created a movement where people have felt welcome, including the occasional Daily Mail journalist undercover ;).

Most importantly, we will not let this Bill affect our conviction that we have nothing to hide as human beings who are non-violently doing everything we can to prevent the total devastation of the species and the planet.

That said we do need to loudly condemn what this government is trying to do to anyone who dares to care. Civil disobedience is a cornerstone of democracy, and we oppose the criminalisation of the right to protest. We also understand how the law impacts on groups and communities differently as an oppressive institution, and can only begin to imagine the potential impact this kind of Bill will have on the safety and security of the wider movement for change, our fellow activists, and communities who are most impacted by the institutional racism and injustice of policing in this country.

We oppose the Bill.

The problem: A key problem at the moment is that there is virtually no opposition to the Bill from either the Conservatives or Labour. So, Extinction Rebellion need to make a big noise about it - especially at key “news moments” like the upcoming debate and vote in the House of Lords - so MPs feel the pressure to stick their necks out and oppose it.

The news hook: The Bill is due to be debated and voted on in the House of Lords before Parliament goes into recess at the end of the month. The debate and vote in the House of Lords will provide a news hook for us to get comments on the Bill into national newspapers and ride the tide of conversation about it on social media.

XR UK M&M are preparing a statement to release at that point. You will be able to find it on the website [here](#) when it has been released.

NOTHING IS UNDER CONTROL

FAILURE / ACCOUNTABILITY / HINDSIGHT

Key dates:

- December 9th - The Committee on Climate Change 6th Carbon Budget - more detail [here](#).
- December 12th - Fifth Anniversary of the Paris Climate Agreement - Boris Johnson will [co-host](#) a Global Climate Summit with the UN.

Opportunities:

XR UK M&M are working towards two key dates in December. We will share more developed and specific messaging over the next two weeks.

The CCC’s recommendations for the 6th Carbon Budget on the 9th of December and the Global Climate Summit Boris is hosting with the UN on the 12th will be moments of media focus and therefore opportunities for XR to get a message out beyond our bubble. It is worth noting that the event on the 12th will be covered by political correspondents, not just climate correspondents, so there is a specific opportunity to tap into broader narratives around government failure and to introduce messaging around the systematic underpinnings of that

failure (i.e. the inability of our current systems to make the scale of changes the crisis demands and the case for upgrading our democracy).

Below is some of the work we have done so far which should give an idea of the approach we are taking.

Messaging:

'Take back control' was the slogan that won Brexit for the leave campaign. Four years on and, regardless of how you voted in the referendum, it's plain to see that this government has absolutely nothing under control.

Many are heralding their 10 point plan as reason to celebrate how far we've come. But the reality is, they're trolling us. These gradual steps in the right direction are an excuse to keep people quiet. Just a look at where the money's going reveals where their priorities lie.

We, the electorate, are being played. Five years on from the signing of the Paris Climate Agreement, and emissions are still rising year on year globally. 1.5 degrees has become our impossible dream. But the government will aim to appease us on the 5th anniversary by saying how much they are doing and will do to fix things. This is a lie. The truth is, they're in a mess and they have no idea how to get control of anything.

Just look at how they are handling the pandemic - can you imagine the state of their climate plan?

The world is watching. They have the next year to prove that they're taking climate seriously. It's going to take some concrete action and not just hollow words.

How can local M&M and Actions teams work better together?

XR Nottingham have designed this brilliant [form](#) for Actions teams to fill out to request M&M support. You might want to use it as a template for something similar in your local group.

HONOUR THEIR SACRIFICE / CLIMATE CHANGE MEANS WAR

Below are a set of social media resources for steering the conversation started by yesterday's action.

STATEMENT on today's [Daily Mail article](#) about Donald Bell:

<https://extinctionrebellion.uk/2020/11/12/extinction-rebellion-stands-by-donald-bell-and-all-veterans-who-suffer-from-ptsd-we-call-on-the-government-to-act-now-to-prevent-climate-wars/>

Short film with Donald Bell:

- YouTube: <https://youtu.be/Jj8kFAPuHHk>
- Downloadable file: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1lbf-LQyY1Bmlj3uQVgZrJB5UzoK-UvY?usp=sharing>

Ministry of Defence Report:

- **A changing climate: Exploring the implications of climate change for UK defence and security** <https://bit.ly/3eWWToD>

Research commissioned by the Ministry of Defence published in June this year points to a “growing recognition that climate change may aggravate existing threats to international peace and security.”

The report, which is titled ‘A changing climate: Exploring the implications of climate change for UK defence and security’, advises the Ministry of Defence on how to prepare the British Armed Forces for the effects of escalating climate change, including increased unrest and conflict resulting from shrinking food and water resources and the displacement of peoples. The report recommends that the Ministry of Defence alter the design of war games and strategic training exercises to account for “multiple simultaneous large-scale disasters” resulting from climate change, and to “support interoperability across the Armed Forces, emergency services, police, fire services and coastguard.”

Hashtags

#RemembranceDay
#ClimateConflict
#ExtinctionRebellion

Files/links

- Action images: <https://show.pics.io/11-11-20honour-their-sacrifice> (credit TheLightscaper)

- Video for Twitter: <https://xrmedia.ddns.net/index.php/s/RZZB2LHp5BEeXcb>
- Video of the action:
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/v85I7g8I5kw4702/AAAFcMoAvfNfcuQ2JVekSFEVa?dl=0> (credit StopPressFilm)
- 4 min video file:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1lbf-LQyY1BmlIj3uQVgZrJB5UzoK-UvY?usp=sharing>
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1AHEa-2-x2XKE7iBggg_XrV4Lfr7rzVv2?usp=sharing
- 4 min video YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/Jj8kFAPuHHk>

Sample tweets

THREAD 1

1.1 [Image from action]

Today, #RemembranceDay, British Army veteran and member of #ExtinctionRebellion, Donald Bell, called on the government to honour the sacrifice of those who gave their lives in past wars by acting to prevent #ClimateConflict. <https://bit.ly/3pfAA2d>

1.2 [Twitter Video]

British Armed Forces veteran, Donald Bell, explains why he took action:

1.3

Climate change means war.

Research commissioned by the Ministry of Defence, published in June this year, points to a “growing recognition that climate change may aggravate existing threats to international peace and security.” <https://bit.ly/3n7t33C>

1.4

The report predicts temperatures will rise well beyond the recommendations of 2016 #ParisAgreement & advises the Army to prepare for effects of escalating climate change, inc increased unrest & conflict resulting from shrinking food & water resources & the displacement of ppl.

1.5

Today we call on the government to act to avert these risks and prevent #ClimateConflict. We need a government that will act to protect all those affected by climate change, now and in the future. We demand a #Citizens'Assembly on climate justice to achieve this.

THREAD TWO

2.1 [4 min YouTube Video - <https://youtu.be/Jj8kFAPuHHk>]

Here's a chance to hear from British Army veteran Donald Bell about why he chose to pay his respects at cenotaph yesterday with a warning that 'climate change means war.'

#RemembranceDay #ClimateConflict #ExtinctionRebellion

2.2 [image from the action - this one?]

<https://show.pics.io/11-11-20honour-their-sacrifice/preview/5fabbc67f26df300198c0fb9>

1.3 @DefenceHQ are preparing the British Armed Forces for the effects of escalating #ClimateChange. Surely the public deserves to know that government departments are preparing for disaster, when they could be working to mitigate it? <https://bit.ly/3eWWToD>

Sources of copy:

Press release:

<https://extinctionrebellion.uk/2020/11/11/honour-their-sacrifice-extinction-rebellion-veteran-pays-respects-at-the-cenotaph-with-banner-warning-climate-change-means-war/>

Spokes doc:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WgcDItAgUpD_HqPOiQ0zF2NWwPf973bJkyHac4H6rDQ/edit?usp=sharing

2nd-7th November - US ELECTION

HOPE DIES / ACTION BEGINS

VS

THANK FUCK. BUT STILL FUCKED

The US election, regardless of outcome, will affect us all. Regardless of who wins, there will still be so much work to do. Below are talking points to support either outcome.

Trump win:

~~HOPE DIES, ACTION BEGINS.~~

- ~~● Extinction Rebellion UK sends solidarity and strength to our friends in the US facing another 4 years of Donald Trump. We hope everyone remains safe. Turbulent times lie ahead.~~
- ~~● The repercussions of this result affect us all. It is wrong to say Trump doesn't have a climate plan. He does. His plan is to continue to hand huge contracts to his friends in the oil and gas lobby and exacerbate the problem, to make himself and his friends richer and abandon everyone else to the ruin he is helping create. We do not have another 4 years to waste with the Arctic methane deposits — the [‘sleeping giant’](#) — are beginning to thaw.~~
- ~~● We need to confront violence and hate with non-violence and collective action. Now more than ever, civil disobedience is what is needed. There is no looking back, everyone must become an activist and step into this moment.~~
- ~~● Electoral representative democracy has failed and is on its deathbed. We need an upgrade of democracy that's fit for purpose that supports a healthy, safe and sustainable existence for all people and nature. A massive swathe of America has been failed by their democratic process — the US itself is a living breathing advert for Citizens Assemblies, participatory democracy, with or without the climate emergency.~~
- ~~● Reach out to your loved ones, talk to people in the street, and get ready to step into this moment and get organised. We cannot wait for world leaders to save us. We are our only hope.~~

Biden win:

THANK FUCK. BUT STILL FUCKED.

- Thank fuck for that. Our chance of changing things is slightly higher than it was yesterday. But only slightly. Let's remember, because the President elect is a bit better than the current president, this is still a very low bar.

- What we're seeing in America is the collapse of democracy and social breakdown in action. This isn't going away. This will only increase as the planet warms.
 - Today's result makes it clear that public concern for the climate has massively risen over these last four years and is now widespread. But we can't be fooled by the promises made, nor that they will be enough. Promises are about to be broken and our hopeful clinging to them will delay collective action.
 - The incoming president of the United States must go above and beyond any current commitments or statements to live up to the task we are now facing. The Arctic methane deposits - the ['sleeping giant'](#) - are thawing and Joe Biden's plan will not do enough to slow this. We stand with the countless movements out there who are pushing politics to be more than 'not fascist', and who are instead demanding that we radically change the way we do things to confront the many crises we now face.
 - Civil disobedience is what is needed now to turn the tide. There is no time to rest, everyone must become an activist and step into this moment.
 - Electoral representative democracy lies in ruin. We need an upgrade to democracy that's fit for purpose. Huge swathes of America have been failed by their democratic process - the US itself is a living breathing advert for Citizens Assemblies, participatory democracy, with or without the climate emergency.
 - So reach out to your loved ones, talk to the people around you, and get organised. This is the moment to ramp up the pressure, not take our foot off the gas.
-

15th-30th September

TELL THE TRUTH
EXPOSE THE LIES

Since the end of the most recent phase of rebellion we've seen some improved climate

coverage and some targetted attacks - both encouraging evidence that we did a good job on the streets and from home during the September Rebellion.

See our statement on Zion Lights, Michael Shellenberger and the Breakthrough Institute [here](#).

We've also seen some positive coverage of XR, for instance this [piece](#) by George Monbiot in The Guardian and in this [episode](#) of Start The Week on BBC Radio 4 which took a historical look at the civil disobedience of the suffragettes.

THE REBELLION DOESN'T STOP HERE

TruthTeller

The time for silence is over

[TruthTeller.Life](#) is an XR-affiliated project to help people with insider knowledge about the Climate and Ecological Crisis blow the whistle.

We're encouraging anyone with any revelations, however large or small, to anonymously share what they know via the website.

The information they hold might reveal:

- Efforts to cover-up environmental destruction
- Attempts to prevent positive action on climate change and biodiversity loss
- The true scale of the threat of ecological breakdown, or
- The fragility of our global systems to climate shock

We hope that if enough people have the courage to break ranks, we will reach a tipping point where whistleblowers feel safe to share information that the public has a right to know.

Breaking the silence, and encouraging others to follow, could be their courageous contribution at this historic moment.

www.TruthTeller.Life

- Freeze The Press

FOR SHARING ON SOCIAL CHANNELS:

Three essential programmes for XR folks:

- [Extinction: The Facts](#), David Attenborough's latest documentary, does an excellent job of giving the public a no-holes barred look at what we are doing to the planet, and the implications for human beings. This [list](#) of screenshots and quotes can be used to promote the film through social channels.
- [The Rise of the Murdoch Dynasty](#) on BBC Iplayer is also worth promoting in the aftermath of XR's actions at News Corp's printing presses.
- [How They Made Us Doubt Everything](#) is another important programme from the BBC. It delves into how the tobacco industry, and now the fossil fuel industry, have manipulated scientific uncertainty to sow doubt, allowing them to continue to profit unabated by increased regulation.

And:

- Rebellion Illustrations from Ams [here](#) :).
-

Rebellion Day #4

WE REFUSE TO BE BYSTANDERS

"Issues of grave injustice must be successfully and sufficiently dramatized in order to arouse mass interest and mass enthusiasm preparatory to reaching a crucial decision. This requires not merely an intense consciousness of the issues involved, but also an emotion crisis in the life of the community."

-Krishnalal Shridharani on Gandhi's campaigns in War Without Violence

The media love the drama of our actions, but we are not here to draw attention to ourselves. We are here to bring the drama of the climate and ecological crises to the doorsteps of power so it can no longer be ignored.

It's time to pivot away from us, our tactics and the police and their tactics. We're here because everything is at stake and to be human in this moment is to resist. Let's remind people of why we are here:

- We're here because the government are failing to do what's necessary about the biggest risk to life we have ever faced > **WE REFUSE TO BE BYSTANDERS**
- We're here because by preparing for 4 degrees our government is signing a death sentence for much of the global south > **WE REFUSE TO BE BYSTANDERS**
- We're here because when government exposes its population to deadly risk, rebellion is the only thing that makes sense > **WE REFUSE TO BE BYSTANDERS**
- We're here because our civilisation is at a crossroads. After the pandemic we're scared for how we will cope in a future of shocks that we are not prepared for (the climate and ecological emergency). But we also act in hope for a future where we learn from our mistakes and change > **WE REFUSE TO BE BYSTANDERS**

We know that wheat yields in the UK this year could be down by almost a third, with the worst harvest since the 1980s. In Syria, an [intense three-year drought](#) contributed heavily to a food crash, which combined with other complex pressures to bring about the country's collapse.

We know that we are careering towards what's called a blue ocean event, the melting of all the sea ice in the Arctic during the summer months, within the next two decades, at which point it is not possible to predict what will happen to our weather systems. That may well be the point of no return.

So we rebel. We put everything on the line. We throw everything at the only thing that has transformed societies quickly in the past - civil disobedience.

Because we will not stand by without doing everything we can.

CEE BILL UPDATE: 33 MPs are now supporting the Bill from all parties represented in Parliament except for the Conservative Party.

Make use of this [Why We Must Act Now](#) document for the science relating to food, housing, security, health and civilisation.

MASS CALL TO THE STREETS TO GIVE SAFE PASSAGE TO GIVE SAFE PASSAGE TO



[CONTENT ON THE WAY]

Rebellion Day #2

We want democracy but all that's on the menu is #EtonMess

A day of actions focussed on government, parliament and the lobbyists and think tanks on Tufton Street:

- *Hello Prime Minister* - XR blocks Boris Johnson's arrival to PMQs
- Caroline Lucas MP tables the CEE bill
- Connection between media lobbyists and parliament is exposed at action with Mark Rylance and Ruth Padel.

TruthTeller.Life

XR appeals to anyone with insider information about the climate and ecological crisis to share it through the whistle-blowing website www.TruthTeller.Life

If anyone can shed any light on how lobbyists, think tanks or PR firms in particular are misleading the public, www.TruthTeller.Life can help them anonymously disclose what they know.

Questions that are coming up in interviews so far:

- Why now?
- What about Covid? (See [FAQs](#))
- What's the next ask after the declaration of emergency last year?
- Interest in the CEE Bill (briefing [here](#))
- What do you hope to achieve
- You're all white and middle class

There will be an attempt to make this about whether XR can pull it off or whether we're on the way out. **WE ARE NOT THE STORY.**

Protesting during covid is not the story - see sample answers in the [FAQs](#) doc.

The story is the CEE and catastrophic government failure. Three things we need to be saying over and over today:

1. **Government is failing in its foremost duty - to protect its citizens.** We've known for some time now that this government will not make the necessary changes in time to avert disaster but in June this year it was [confirmed](#) by their own advisers, the Committee on Climate Change (The CCC), that they are neglecting even their own inadequate targets. We've seen during the Covid crisis the kind of deadly delays they are capable of overseeing - tens of thousands of lives lost unnecessarily because they locked down too late. **The social contract is broken.**
 2. **This is an emergency that requires transformation.** A plastic bag charge and a 5p fuel tax aren't going to cut it.
 3. **Democracy is our only hope** - we need a UK-wide Citizens' Assembly made up of ordinary people from around the UK to make the changes needed to protect us all.
-

Rebellion day #1

FAILURE DEMANDS REBELLION

They have failed, there's a massive crisis, that's why we're here.

There will be an attempt to make this about whether XR can pull it off or whether we're on the way out. WE ARE NOT THE STORY.

Protesting during covid is not the story - see sample answers in the [FAQs](#) doc.

The story is the CEE and catastrophic government failure. Three things we need to be saying over and over today:

4. **Government is failing in its foremost duty - to protect its citizens.** We've known for some time now that this government will not make the necessary changes in time to avert disaster but in June this year it was [confirmed](#) by their own advisers, the Committee on Climate Change (The CCC), that they are neglecting even their own inadequate targets. We've seen during the Covid crisis the kind of deadly delays they are capable of overseeing - tens of thousands of lives lost unnecessarily because they locked down too late. **The social contract is broken.**
5. **This is an emergency that requires transformation.** A plastic bag charge and a 5p fuel tax aren't going to cut it.
6. **Democracy is our only hope** - we need a UK-wide Citizens' Assembly made up of ordinary people from around the UK to make the changes needed to protect us all.

QUOTES

THIS IS NOT A FRINGE MOVEMENT - we will override this by pushing the narrative that XR is mainstream now - not the usual suspect spokes, [quotes from the mainstream](#)

Stephen Fry -

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/stephen-fry-extinction-rebellion-writers-rebel-think-tank-lawson-a9681596.html>

"It's now time to take a step back and reflect on all the damage we've already done, the breakdown and collapse that is already happening all around us. Instead of constantly arguing about the way out of the climate crisis, we need to see that anything we do from now on is about limiting the damage to its humanly possible minimum.

"There is no salvation, only responsible action."

- **Climate scientist, Wolfgang Knorr**

"As a children's doctor I show a positive and friendly face to the children and families that I treat in A&E but inwardly I feel sick.

"Scientists are not lying when they say that today's generation of children face the bleakest of futures, due to the lack of action that governments are taking on the climate and ecological emergency. I've seen the graphs; I've read the evidence. We must act NOW.

“The first duty of a government is the security of its citizens. We saw with Covid-19 how the UK government ignored scientists and delayed the lockdown, with fatal consequences. A Citizens' Assembly of ordinary people would have had the wisdom, humility and empathy to listen to experts, read briefings and make sensible decisions.

“That's why, along with many thousands of other rebels across the planet, I am using my democratic right of nonviolent protest to push the Government to cede power to a Citizen's Assembly to make the right decisions to safeguard our children's future.”

- **Pediatrician and member of Doctors for Extinction Rebellion, Alex Armitage**

19th - 26th August

BRING YOUR RAGE TO THE STREETS

Unnecessary excess deaths from Coronavirus, unprotected healthcare workers, rampant and violent stop and search tactics (from teenage boys to MPs), floods that lead to trains derailing, botched exam results. There's not many groups in society left that haven't been catastrophically let down by this government – so let's tell everyone that the door is open, this can be their rebellion too.

Coronavirus > our government is failing

PPE > our government is failing

NHS pay > our government is failing

Exam results > our government is failing

Policing > our government is failing

Floods > our government is failing

The climate and ecological emergency > our government is failing

Democracy is broken. We can not trust the government to protect us from the huge threats we face. They have lost the right to carry on with business as usual, it's time for change. **Join us on the streets to demand a UK-wide Citizens' Assembly.**

[posts on CAs vs current system of government coming soon]

Making the rebellion a success:

We don't want to give money to Facebook to boost our content. That means we need to SHARE SHARE SHARE the rebellion facebook event.

Rebellion FB: <https://www.facebook.com/events/901209047010625>

Crowdfunder: <https://xrb.link/b075IDG6is>

Action Pack:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1ii8qT4ndMPhDESaMpQIXqb3d7tkFyHgWimxsG5uDoxs/edit#slide=id.g910f75cc35_1_25

CEE Bill Framing:

We're really excited about the CEE Bill *and* we need to frame it carefully in our messaging.

The Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill is part of an ecology of change. Extinction Rebellion exists to create the space for MPs to adopt things like the CEE Bill. We capsize the boat in the storm and the Bill is the lifeline the policy world throws to the leaders of the country. We are not there to push the bill itself as our topline message. That's still our three demands.

We can publicly support it, but we should not be talking about it as ours, rather we need to refer to it as something that exists and that we approve of. The Bill has more legitimacy for the establishment with a little distance from Extinction Rebellion. We're there to make life difficult for the government, the Bill exists to make life easy for them.

The Bill has been put together and is being campaigned for by a coalition of activists, scientists and policy experts. You can follow them on Twitter [here](#). Or link to their website [here](#).

This [rousing read](#) about the transformational potential of the CEE Bill is also worth sharing far and wide. And this [piece](#) from one of the architects of the Bill speaks powerfully about intergenerational justice.

Social distancing

This will be different to previous rebellions. We are in the middle of a pandemic. We know this will affect our numbers out on the streets and it will be challenging to rebel safely. We highly recommend anyone attending rebellion to wear personal protective equipment and practice social distancing. We will have covid stewards on the ground with hand sanitiser and PPE. UK Circles have drawn together advice to support rebels to make informed choices regarding actions in the time of Coronavirus.


Rebelling from home


Here are some actions you can share with those who can't be there in person.



- Take action with [Money Rebellion](#).
- Get involved with the [Digital Rebellion](#).

Take action from home! We are well aware that during Covid-19 a lot of people will not be able to join us on the streets in major cities. There are ways to rebel from home that will help push the government to act. Digital Rebellion will target key institutions of power during September to keep the pressure on while we rebel on the ground. As long as you have internet connection or a phone, you can take part! This is a safe and inclusive way to get involved. Get involved on the Digital Rebellion [website](#) where we are currently demanding 10 Downing Street ends fossil fuel investment overseas. The page will be updated with targets to build more pressure in the next few weeks!

 **!!DIGITAL REBELLION: BACK THE CEE BILL!!!** 

 This is an emergency! Call your local MP today - we need their support for the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill!

 This is the system change we've been demanding - we need YOUR MP on board!

  Take action from home: Find everything you need to take part here:
<https://digitalrebellion.uk/cee-bill>

Find out more about the bill at <https://www.cebill.uk/>

9th July - 18th August

**WE WANT TO LIVE
WE CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS
THE SYSTEM IS KILLING US**

**LOVE
RAGE
REBEL**

25th June - 8th July

**WE WANT TO LIVE
WE CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS
THE SYSTEM IS KILLING US**

LOVE
RAGE
REBEL

KEY ASSETT - 'WE WANT TO LIVE' CAMPAIGN VIDEO:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Wzftx1b2-wqg9unvy7yHZu3V47qgWg7M?usp=sharing>

(please use the following credits when sharing:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kDGVgjqPQjz3cKe_9bVsgoCTQ-6LwNgjekCdOGst7rts/edit)

Facebook event - invite everyone you know now!

https://www.facebook.com/events/901209047010625/?notif_t=plan_user_joined¬if_id=1593766518317534

Press release:

<https://rebellion.earth/2020/07/03/we-want-to-live-the-rebellion-returns-to-parliament-on-1-september-amidst-warnings-of-a-4c-world/>

Visual Assets:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1b8RJhvfKerK-a8dt3D8vme6TNM8wgXu6?usp=sharing>

LOVE. RAGE. REBELLION

We take to the streets in solidarity, compelled by:

- Our love for the planet, the environment and all humanity
- Our rage at government incompetence, and business-as-usual's unwillingness to protect anything other than its own material interests
- Our rage that systemic inequality will keep us in suffering, until it eventually kills us all

The system is killing us, the social contract is broken.

We will not stand by and do nothing. We invite everyone to join us in action.

NARRATIVE - use this copy to formulate social posts and other communications

2020 has been a year of tipping points. Everywhere you look, a collective rage and disillusionment is growing.

It is no coincidence we face multiple crises all at once. Climate breakdown, COVID-19, racial injustice, economic inequality – all are symptoms of a toxic system that is driving us to extinction – a system built on injustice, the destruction of nature, and the disproportionate exploitation of black and brown people.

We cannot carry on like this. The system is killing us.

People know the truth: the Government and the corporations it protects are failing to do what's needed to keep us safe. They ignored the warnings about coronavirus and tens of thousands have died so far. Now they're ignoring warnings of a 4°C world from their official Committee on Climate Change, a warning that could result in billions of deaths – with racially marginalised communities, and those in the Global South on the front line.

It's all totally fucked. **The social contract between the Government and its citizens is broken.** We might as well say goodbye to a green recovery and the Paris Climate Agreement. The Government is not coming to save us.

Enough is enough. We have an opportunity NOW as we emerge from the pandemic to change EVERYTHING, but business-as-usual is fighting to regain its hold. We can't let that happen.

Beginning on 1st September, the Rebellion returns to the streets of the UK - On that day the UK parliament starts re-sitting after the summer: but we're not going to let them back in until they agree to start anew with justice, care and life at the heart of it. From the 1st/8th we will peacefully blockade the UK, Welsh and Scottish parliaments until they agree to sign the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill and commit to it being the first bill they debate when back in session.

But that's not all. As a warm up to the Rebellion, on the **bank holiday weekend 28-30 August, local groups around the country are encouraged to hold their own 'Local Rebellion'** in their home towns, to galvanise rebels and raise the alarm about local issues, as a warning to the Government that Rebellion is coming.

We invite everyone who is sick of the lies, injustice, inequality and harm, to join us. In the failed story of unlimited growth, we are told to forget about our power, our community, and our rights

as citizens. But we are more powerful than they know. It's time we start a new story. **One of compassion, community and trust.** One where we reclaim the words "growth" and "value" and give them new meaning. One where ordinary people have a say in their own fate.

Together we are powerful. Crisis does not have to mean collapse.

24th June - 1st July

THIS IS THEIR STORY OF REPEATED FAILURE. IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE OURS.

XR COMMENT ON CCC REPORT:

<https://rebellion.earth/2020/06/25/committee-on-climate-change-advises-government-to-prepare-for-apocalypse/>

External events and narratives - The government's advisors on climate, the CCC, will report this Thursday on how the government is progressing in its self appointed goal of reaching net zero emissions by 2050. We can expect the CCC to be pretty [damning](#) on government progress thus far but to be uncritical of the 2050 target itself. In the run up to the announcement on Thursday it would be useful to talk about the problems with 2050. This [guide](#) to 2050 vs 2025 messaging, including quotes from scientists, may come in handy. This [article](#) on 2025 is also worth sharing.

In 2018 the CCC said: *"the government's Clean Growth Strategy will fall short, even taking a "generous" interpretation of the plans and policies it contains, many of which remain undeveloped."*

In 2019 they said: *"We are not on track...having a net-zero target will not magically fix this problem."* [Adding](#) that: *"the UK's climate crisis preparations were being run like Dad's Army and left the population at real risk,"*

A non-binding Citizens' Assembly commissioned last year [reported](#) this week that the government would have broad support from the population for a green economic recovery from the Covid crisis. The [opposite](#) is taking place.

The government's slowness to act on coronavirus led to tens of thousands of [unnecessary deaths](#). The same is now happening with the climate and ecological emergency. Only this time the science is terrifyingly clear: [millions of lives](#) are at stake.

XR Actions

[Inaction = death](#) - On the 25th June, Extinction Rebellion invites everyone to disruptively deliver an 'Inaction = Death' letter to their MP telling them the government has failed on covid and demanding that they don't let it fail on climate.

[XR Professionals Sound the Alarm](#)- On the 25th of June, XR professionals are gathering and sounding the alarm in front of government buildings because the UK Government fails to act on the science and fails to do what's right to protect people and the planet.

Weekly messaging resources: 16th - 23rd June

THEY SAY GO SHOPPING. WE SAY GIVE US A FUTURE.

External events and narratives - this week we've seen the government encourage people to 'get out and shop', with [commentators](#) declaring that 'the speed of recovery will depend on whether people are ready to embrace life as it was previously lived'. We're being told that the power we have is as consumers, and to forget about our power, and our rights, as citizens. We're seeing a desperate attempt to return to 'business as usual' that resulted in dystopian scenes of people donning PPE to queue up outside high street shops.

At the same time a different reality is unfolding, one of people power, public conversations about our shared home and the building of a better future. Conversations about statues and public spaces, defunding the police in favour of services that actually protect the people they are there to serve and prefigurative public spaces and communities popping up in the wake of protests.

The climate movement, including [Extinction Rebellion](#), are [talking](#) about the [relationship](#) between the BLM and climate movements. Personal engagement and education is important and we must not lose sight of the [purpose](#) racism serves in the business as usual world. Please share this video with Ian Haney Lopez - [To Fight Racism, Follow the Money](#).

The social contract is broken for an increasing number of groups - healthcare professionals, people of colour in majority white countries, terrified environmental activists. This government is deadly and larger and larger numbers of people are awake to that reality.

A [report](#) in the Guardian at the weekend revealed that the climate's sensitivity to carbon emissions may be far higher than was previously thought. This comes as the government reinforces its [ban on protest](#) under the Coronavirus Act.

A different world is possible but it's slipping through our fingers. Extinction Rebellion has a vital role to play in this moment. We understand the power of organised disruption / non-compliance / withdrawal of consent.

XR Campaigns

NO BAILOUTS [this section is coming soon]

XR Actions

[The Rebel Trail](#) - press release [here](#).

8th June - 15th June

SOLIDARITY > LISTEN > LEARN

Expressing solidarity with the protests in the US continues to inform our messaging this week, but we will move to looking at systemic racism on a more global scale while continuing to open a space for further listening and learning.

Guidance for speaking from XR platforms:

- Continue to share resources to educate and inform without virtue signalling and taking up the space.
 - Amplify diverse voices and share content from black writers, black content makers etc.
 - Now is a good time to speak about racism beyond the United States - look to [ISN's document](#) on the global context of state sanctioned violence against black people and Afrophobia.
 - Can't stress this enough: **Share less, don't take up space and tone down aggressive posts.** This doesn't mean we have to stand on the side lines and be silent about what's happening. It's about allowing others the podium and not looking like we're simply jumping on a bandwagon.
-

Weekly messaging resources: 3rd June - 9th June

SOLIDARITY

XR UK Statement -

Extinction Rebellion UK stands in solidarity with those in the US mourning and raging in memory of George Floyd and of so many others.

How many final straws will there be?

We stand alongside all those who are fighting for a world where the casual murder of black and brown people is a distant nightmare.

Black Lives Matter.

Guidance for speaking from XR platforms -

- ❖ The work of being an anti-racist movement will take commitment and work from us all. We cannot become anti-racist by posting about what is happening in the States or sharing anti-racist words (although this is some of the work). We can do our best to use our platforms and our voices to begin the work and to be in solidarity with those in the US mourning and raging but be humble, this is just the beginning.
- ❖ Be aware of white fragility and the impulse to make this moment about you/us, about you/us purging our white guilt. We do bear responsibility and we must do better in relation to racism but this is not the moment to explain why XR is or isn't that bad when it comes to racism.
- ❖ Post less, tone it down, don't drown out urgent news, don't barge into conversations where our voice is not needed or welcomed.
- ❖ Use our platforms and our voice to share and repost perspectives that are not XR's. We have a big audience and so can usefully platform black people, POC and anti-racist campaigners.
- ❖ Share any information that is of service to protesters in the States.
- ❖ Do not encourage people to do anything - to donate, to protest, to share etc. This is not our moment to tell people what to do but we can help by sharing up to date information and resources.

- ❖ This is a moment for all of us to educate ourselves. Platform education and resources, eg. <http://bit.ly/ANTIRACISMRESOURCES> and <https://www.instagram.com/p/CA8xhfHprsv/>.
-

CHANGE IS NOW > DECIDE TOGETHER

External events and narratives - the '[Citizen Story](#)' still informs our messaging this week, allowing us to lay the ground for more conversations to come about the third demand:

“Mutual Aid groups could potentially be just the beginning of a whole new relationship between citizen and state, or perhaps the reclamation of a very old one: an idea that government is a verb, something we do together; not a noun, an institution that stands apart. These starting points could grow into new structures and processes that would see us working together to govern ourselves, and would make government as we know it obsolete unless they were to invite us in.”

Local councils in the north are in [revolt](#) against government plans to move out of lockdown and [approval ratings](#) for government handling of the pandemic are falling. A shift in values is taking place, with people waking up to the importance of community and valuing anew the [people](#) who provide essential services.

After several weeks out of the public eye, the tone of recent coverage of XR, as seen [here](#) and [here](#), has been positive.

XR Campaigns - we're still working with the broad #NoGoingBack and #WindsOfChange campaigns and the messaging for the week will use these frames to build towards the CHANGE IS NOW > DECIDE TOGETHER action on the 30th of may.

Podcast -

<https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/extinction-rebellion-podcast/id1456115700?i=1000476520542>

#NOGOINGBACK

#WINDSOFCHANGE

THEY FUCKED UP
THIS IS NOT A DRILL
FLY TODAY, NO TOMORROW
REFLECT, REBEL, RELINQUISH
MORE OF THIS TO COME
NO MORE BABY STEPS
PREPARE TO CARE

CHANGE IS NOW
DECIDE TOGETHER
DEEDS NOT WORDS
WE ACT IN PEACE
THIS IS CHANGE
EVERYTHING WILL CHANGE,
EVERYONE CAN CHANGE

Priority messages to storytell this week

- Stories around the devolution of power and communities rising to the challenge to care for each other
- Visions for the future, see the following podcasts: [The Future We Choose](#), [Beyond Growth](#), [Less is More](#) and Rebel Radio's [Our Positive Future](#) series.
- Stories that link the government's criminal negligence in terms of the CEE and the pandemic
- Stories coming out of CA UK such as [this](#), [this](#) and also [this](#).

XR Actions

[CHANGE IS NOW: DECIDE TOGETHER](#) - Saturday 30th May - The coronavirus has shown us what's possible when the political will is there. Everything can change. It's time for a Citizens Assembly to decide together on how we should live and how we should prepare for further crises so this never happens again.

Comprehensive messaging doc for this action [here](#) and visual identity doc [here](#).

15th - 22nd May

They Fucked Up. No Going Back!

External events and narratives - the [shift from 'stay at home' to 'stay alert'](#) marks a turn from the government framing itself as wartime leaders guiding the nation to victory to placing responsibility, and ultimately blame, with individuals. In [response](#) we rage against their blaming us for the crises of Covid and CEE. They fucked up. They have failed to protect us. We need to plan for planet and human repair. We need a Citizens' Assembly.

This weekend will see the final session Citizens' Assembly UK (CA UK) - the citizens' assembly commissioned by a group of parliamentary select committees last year. The peak press interest is likely to come when CA UK release their report in June or July but we can start building up the conversation around what CAs are, the third demand and CA UK. This [press release](#) and this [open letter](#) outline XR's position on CA UK. More to come on CAs in the next few weeks!

XR Campaigns - rage at the present and visions for our future. Use expressions of outrage and visions of what is possible instead of telling people what to think.

#NOGOINGBACK	#WINDSOFCCHANGE
Rage & Protest We cannot go back to normal, normal was the problem in the first place.	Love & Vision New metrics around health wellbeing and regeneration.
THEY FUCKED UP	DEEDS NOT WORDS
THIS IS NOT A DRILL	WE ACT IN PEACE
FLY TODAY, NO TOMORROW	THIS IS CHANGE
REFLECT, REBEL, RELINQUISH	CHANGE IS NOW
MORE OF THIS TO COME	EVERYTHING WILL CHANGE, EVERYONE CAN CHANGE
NO MORE BABY STEPS	FRUGALITY, HUMILITY, EMPATHY

Priority messages to storytell this week

- Health and wellbeing stories that tie in with winds of change and the cycling actions
- Citizens' Assembly stories that provide an opportunity to point out that this weekend is the final session of CA UK and that we can expect to see their report in the next couple of months

XR Actions

[Reclaim the Streets](#) - No Going Back' to busy, polluted streets as lockdown eases. Press release [here](#).

[Winds of Change](#) - We can all feel it....The wind is turning, change is on the way, let's face, towards it and fill our sails, let's rise up on the winds of change, let's reclaim our future.

[ENDS]
