

BASIC GUIDELINES FOR PLANNING XRA ACTIONS

There are two things that fundamentally define who we are as Extinction Rebellion. First, instead of proposing policy solutions, we call for Citizens' Assemblies made up of ordinary people to make the difficult decisions concerning how best to address and adapt to the climate chaos before us. Second, to achieve our demand for Citizens' Assemblies, we engage in non-violent, disruptive law-breaking and law-bending actions. Our action-based mobilization strategy is what sets us apart from other groups.

As you begin to plan an action, carefully review successful XR actions like London Bridge, [Red Brigades](#), and [Discobedience](#). These actions highlight the climate emergency while disrupting the status quo and creating dilemmas for the 1% and authorities supporting it. They are beautiful, naughty, serious, and fun all mixed together! When you plan an action, put on your imagination cap to design actions that set your XRA chapter apart from other climate groups.

Here are the different planning levels your chapter will go through:

1. **First-level actions.** Purpose: Build chapter identity and confidence. Start small and get a win. Allow new members to experience civil disobedience. Remember, at this stage the goal is not to get arrested. So while the action may be as simple as fly-posting XRA symbols across town, be surreptitious and have a lookout Rebel. After the action, encourage all participants to join up over coffee and celebrate together!
2. **Second-level actions.** Purpose: Grow chapter membership. Second stage actions should be more complex, more creative, and more disruptive. For example, swarm a high-traffic intersection with banners, handing out leaflets and talking to people. Be creatively disruptive, get attention — but at this level, again, your goal is not to get arrested.
3. **Third-level actions.** Purpose: Movement-building. Third level actions may or may not be arrestable actions — that depends on what you decide. At this level, you should have between 30-50 Rebels in your chapter. Extensive and creative planning is required, including media outreach to gain as much public attention as possible.

Continued growth and more members is an essential planning component for this level of action planning.

Whatever your chapter's action level, always consider:

1. Have you planned it appropriately? Will it be worth people's time? How will it look to passersby/on social media? Will you have enough people showing up to pull off what you're planning? What kind of message does the action convey?
2. Who's participating and what is their experience level? Have all Rebels taken the NVCD training? Do you expect new people to be showing up who haven't had training and if so, how will you handle that situation at each action level?
3. What are the risks involved and how will you plan for all possible outcomes? One of the greatest strengths of Nonviolent Direct Action is that it makes it possible for a much wider part of the population to participate: ***Could an 80-year-old grandmother feel comfortable participating in this action?***
4. Is it strictly nonviolent, and how will you maintain nonviolent discipline? Keep in mind that XRA should *never* involve property damage for its own sake. Any property damage should be minimal, repairable, and a result of collateral damage due to a civil disobedience action like a glue-on, lock-on, or spilling fake blood.
5. Have you taken appropriate measures to take care of all participating Rebels?

Finally, when planning your actions, ask yourselves:

1. Is this action something that Gandhi or MLK would have chosen to do?
2. Is it in alignment with XRA principles and values?
3. Does it reflect what sets XRA apart from other climate groups?"

Your answers will tell you whether it's an appropriate XRA NVCD action or not. For some great XRA action ideas as well as a checklist you should complete for all actions, see [XRA How-To: Ten Movement-Building Extinction Rebellion Actions](#).