

XR MILTON KEYNES - NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2023

Email:

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**extinction
rebellion**

Website:

rebellionmk.earth

GREENPEACE CLIMATE VOTER GROUP IN MILTON KEYNES

“I’m a Climate Voter” **GREENPEACE**

From Sheila Thornton:

“We have a Greenpeace Climate Voter group in Milton Keynes ready to start having conversations on the doorstep with people about how the climate crisis will feature in their voting intentions next year.

So if you can find a couple of hours every now and again to meet with others and canvass a street or two, we would love to hear from you. Full training is given, a group coordinator makes sure we are paired up, have access to a method of recording (on paper or an App) and is there for support along the way.

To find out more please email me (sheila.thornton946@gmail.com) and I'll try to answer your questions. I have canvassed in Birmingham and St Albans and can honestly say that I enjoyed it, and learned a lot!”

Sheila

COMMUNITY ACTION MK - CLIMATE CHANGE INFO

For a whole host of local information and resources <https://communityactionmk.org/climate-change/>

CLIMATE CAFE - SATURDAY 25TH NOVEMBER - GREEN FAIR, NETWORKING AND SPEAKER

Green Fair

Dreamin’ of a green Christmas?

Saturday 25th Nov 2-4:30pm doors 1:45pm **FREE ENTRANCE**

The Old Bathhouse, 205 Stratford Rd, Wolverton MK12 5RL

**Green stalls - eco friendly gifts for sale
networking and refreshments**

Speaker: *Sandra Hayes (energy consultant)*



NEXT XRMK MONTHLY MEETING

Monday 13th November from 7:30-8:30pm on zoom - please email XRMK to receive the zoom link.

NEXT XR OUTREACH

Saturday 25th November 2pm-4:00pm at the MK Climate Cafe Green Fair - details above.

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THE DUTCH FOSSIL FUEL PROTESTS - DOES PROTEST WORK?



At the start of September, the Dutch government confirmed that it had spent around €46.4 billion directly or indirectly supporting the use of fossil fuels. In response, protestors from Extinction Rebellion, Greenpeace & other orgs blocked the main road in The Hague leading to Parliament. They threatened to stay until subsidies were lifted, & to come back every day if the police removed them.

10,000 people were initially involved over a weekend. Over the following days and weeks, as we have seen in the UK, police used increasingly aggressive tactics to try and break the protests. By mid September, thousands of people were still protesting and 2,500 had been detained. However, people kept returning to the streets after release and were joined by others, encouraged to join the protests.

A daily routine took hold in The Hague, with protesters blocking the road at noon and the police spraying them with water cannon and using painful techniques to remove them. Demonstrators used umbrellas to shield themselves and called for the government to end all fossil fuel subsidies. Meanwhile, the police were secretly urging the government to negotiate, in the face of growing support for the protests.

Rob Jetten, the Dutch climate minister, told the Financial Times that reforming the tax system and cutting subsidies was “crucial” to delivering a clean transition, and that governments should “redesign the rules of the market”. Two weeks and 6000 arrests later, the government finally agreed to come up with a plan to phase out fossil fuel subsidies. A majority of Dutch MPs requested Prime Minister Mark Rutte's outgoing government to come up with a concrete plan to phase out subsidies to fossil fuel industries, estimated at around €42-49.5 billion.

Lucas Winnips, of Extinction Rebellion said, “After a month of daily protests and more than 9,000 arrests, the Dutch Parliament has asked the Cabinet to come up with scenarios for a phaseout of fossil fuel subsidies. During this campaign, we achieved a transformation, I think, of Dutch society, with three-quarters of the people now wanting a phaseout of fossil fuel subsidies, and a third of the people wanting an immediate stop to fossil fuel subsidies.”

Sieger Sloop - Dutch actor & activist said, “Two years ago, nobody talked about fossil fuel subsidies here. Now it’s one of the biggest topics in the media. That gives me hope”. 27 days of protests. 25,000 brave protestors. 9000 arrests. 73% of the Dutch public are now in favour of abolishing fossil fuel subsidies.

This is how civil resistance works. This is why it matters.

If not now, then when? If not you, then who?