

Corona and climate justice crisis

A summary of By2020's European Calls and working groups

This document is a summary of the strategy discussions on the By2020-platform about how we, as climate justice movements, can adapt to the new context of COVID-19 and lock-downs. Many thanks to each and every group and person that has been a part of these discussions!

Table of contents:

- [SUMMARY](#)
- [CURRENT SITUATION ANALYSIS](#)
 - [Main issues](#)
 - [Main topics](#)
 - [SWOT-Analysis](#)
- [OBJECTIVES](#)
- [NARRATIVE](#)
- [BAILOUTS](#)
 - [General thoughts](#)
 - [Ongoing mobilizations](#)
 - [Link-collection](#)
- [ONLINE ACTIVISM](#)
- [OFFLINE ACTIONS](#)
- [RADICAL SOLIDARITY](#)
 - [Connection](#)
 - [Networks](#)
 - [Communication](#)
 - [Actions](#)
- [TIMING](#)
 - [Focusing on coordination or on getting back to the streets?](#)
 - [Trigger moments](#)
- [CALENDARICAL OVERVIEW](#)
- [CAMPAIGNS](#)
 - [Strikes](#)
 - [Targets](#)
 - [Solutions](#)
 - [Networks and Resilience](#)

SUMMARY

Coordination:

- Organize ourselves
- Build a stronger network, both within the movement as well as with other movements (e.g.: unions and indigenous communities)
- Connect with non-climate responses (e.g. the care networks that have been created)
- Practical project: common organizing around post-lock-down strategy, narrative, and tactics
- Protect and support each other against repression

Strategy:

- **The decisive point of intervention will be the bailouts - we should plan and rest for that**
 - Bailouts can happen during or after lock-downs!
 - Bailouts require a political process - that can be targeted
- Focus on social justice, community power and radical solidarity - Putting care and life into the centre
- Target fossil fuels economy and bailouts: Don't bail out what's killing us / The system is failing us
- Foster the idea of not going back to normal because we need to treat every crisis as a crisis / Reset the system
- Focus on solutions and enacting them (shift power): just transition, people's bailout, new economic model, Glasgow agreement, care-economy, sharing economy
- Online actions
- Offline actions:
 - Framing a return to the streets -> slowly get back to the streets, gradual escalating tactics from 1 person to small groups
 - Getting back to the streets has to be perceived as safe and responsible and should be combined with a strong narrative that probably goes beyond "only" climate
 - Tenacity, determination towards escalation using low number but creative tactics
 - Strikes (e.g. rent, debt, or mortgage strikes as well as general strikes)

Please take into account:

- *We need to aware of and do self-care as well as organizational-care; that is the only way to be resilient*
- *The timing will be different in different regions, and restrictions will be lifted slowly, keeping some in place; each regional has to adapted to their context.*

CURRENT SITUATION ANALYSIS

Main issues

- Being aware of what others are doing
- Common narrative and objectives (during and after confinement)
- Reflect collectively how to take action during confinement time (Online activism and offline activism)
- Coordination
- Solidarity organizing
- Digital security

Main topics

- Bailouts and (false) solutions
- Economic crisis
- Inclusive / social justice
- Repression
- Solutions, point to what need to be done and that this system has failed

SWOT-Analysis

• Strengths

- Strong narrative around climate justice
- Strong coordination networks
- We have a good knowledge on the [shock doctrine](#) in our movements
- We are planning strategically
- If we show ourselves, it can create alternative news
- Radical thinking - system change is not reform, it's a transformation
- Self-organizing
- Community & human focus

• Weaknesses

- We have less action powers in the current situation (i.e. financial difficulties)
- It's difficult for younger activists (less freedom, exams, etc)
- Our own agendas have been heavily disturbed and need to be adapted

• Threats

- The opposition will come out strong after the crisis - there will be a strong "finally back to normal"-narrative

- Boost fossil fuel economy / prioritize economic recovery / more consumption and productivism when the quarantine is over
- The inequality will increase during and after the crisis
- Restrictive laws & normalization of militarization
- Fear of congregations: less citizen participation
- A lot of people are scared and will remain scared to do actions after the lock-down
- Be stuck in a bubble / get weaker (if we are only online, stop for too long, we won't be able to mobilize)
- Food shortage and crisis that will affect the activists and communities

- **Opportunities**

- Coordination and network building: Reach out to and support the groups that are being the most affected, workers, migrants, women, parents, etc.
- Linking the health crisis with climate crisis. Climate crisis' scenarios of collapse are way worse (problem: fear-messaging)
- Now people are more in touch with their feelings and mental health. People start to feel more empathy with people who suffer it daily, now they feel it themselves. There's also uncertainty about the future.
- The system has stopped, now we can reset it in a new way (without a fossil economy)
- People feel vulnerable and have worries => Change in people's awareness of what a crisis is, realizing that Europe can face these kind of situations as well; people don't feel "untouchable" any more, people feel that business as usual doesn't work.
- Isolation is an opportunity to talk about connectivity and care
- Talk about the importance of citizen's responsibility, solidarity and the decrease of consumption, de-growth
- With this crisis it's easier to notice the problems/weak spots within our system

OBJECTIVES

- Intensify and expand coordination
- Focus on solutions, ways to move further, social justice, and care
- Target fossil fuels economy and companies:
 - Show dirty economic actors
 - Target global Care Drainers (destroying healthcare system and ecosystem).
 - Expose the Care Drainers / damage their reputation / connect various contexts / support collective care practices
- Expand our reach:
 - Get people into actions towards local community, solidarity and sharing economy ("Re-discovering our neighbours")

- Pulling a lot people into our narrative and systemic worries

NARRATIVE

[BM] = From Brussels Meeting

Targeting the fossil economy

- Economic crisis / **the system is failing us** / capitalism has failed us
- No bailouts to companies, save people / **don't bail out what's killing us** / we mustn't bail out the bad guys / the fossil industry can not be rescued with public money [obvious demand: only companies who commit to a drastic reduction of emissions get tax money]
- Naming the problem (fossil fuels + power-holder's inaction) to make clear that the problem aren't individuals, isn't consumption / the fossil era is ending – but how is up to us (60%) [BM]
- We want to pose a moral question: which side are you on? [BM]

Corona as turning point

- Treat every crisis as a crisis
- We can't go back to normal
- No future without change (70%) [BM] => demand to shift power
 - Reset the system / reset but with measures towards climate justice
 - Demand new societal and economic priorities
 - People before Profit + end of social contract: value of lives + anger & disappoint on power-holders
 - **Power has to shift** so [we, the people] are rising up for life and justice – are you? [BM]

Solutions

- Another world is possible, let's do it / Bold New World
- Just Transition/ Green jobs - Jobs for the climate
- Opportunity to abandon fossil economy, by using the system change to push for a just transition towards a green future
- Re-enforce importance of public services and public investment
- Local solidarity / building social contracts between people themselves instead between people and the state

Inclusiveness and intersectionality

- Strengthening **social justice** aspects and not solely focusing on climate
- Together we are stronger / **community** solidarity and power
- Climate has to be at the core of the narrative but aspects of justice need to be part as well [BM]

Care

- Putting care and life into the centre / strong emphasize on care instead of disruption

- Relationship between the care crisis (due to covid-19) and the ecological crisis. An emergency requires building-up community, care... We do not want militarization or a “strong state”
- Care-Framing (70%) (eco-feminism: **put life at the centre**, care-economy, taking care of earth,taking care of your children, contrary: carelessness) [BM]

Militarisation and repression:

- Counter the bad way of dealing with a crisis with examples of community response, mutual aid schemes popping up in many neighbourhoods.
- **Democracy-frame** [BM] + right to public space (even outside of corona, but especially now only existent as an economic space) as possible attack lines

BAILOUTS

General thoughts

- **Bailouts will be the decisive points of intervention - we should plan and rest for that**
 - Bailouts require a political processes - these can be targeted
- No bailout to what is killing us
- Public aid must go first to help those most affected and front line people who desperately need it, such as: those who can't pay their rent or bills during the crisis; to health and care workers struggling to protect us; to develop local food sovereignty; and abroad to endangered indigenous peoples and grassroots communities protecting biodiversity all over the world. To stop this crisis, we need care not dividends. Any aid to businesses must be compatible with the ecological and social transition that is more urgent than ever.
- Campaign to impose strict social and climatic conditions on government and financial programs, credits and "aid" to revive the economy. Promote energy transition, social spending on health, relocation, reduction of inequalities, etc. Blacklist aid to climate-destroying companies or make it conditional on rapid change.
- There are different types of bailouts to react on:
 - The immediate bailouts that are happening now
 - Longer term for "economy recovery" bailouts
- Open questions:
 - What about food system and livestock bailout?
 - What are our demands?
 - No bailouts, or bailouts with conditions, and what should these conditions be?

Ongoing mobilizations

- In Sweden some workers/climate groups are having "progressive shock doctrine" meetings
- Rent strikes, debt strikes, mortgage strikes
- People's Bailout:
 - [Just Recovery framework](#) from 350

- Work being done base on 350 Just Recovery framework + Shell Must Fall/Code Rood proposal. Contact: info@code-rood.org
- A people's bailout shouldn't be just temporary demands. Some of it is temporary: e.g. protective gear. Others are not: debt, decent jobs, etc. Use corona as a hook and have demands that focus on recovery. We need to have a focus on investment on public health, social care. It isn't just about energy infrastructure
- Work mode:
 - European level: narrative, common tactics, solidarity between groups;
 - Local level: targeted demands
 - On top of that: collaboration on EU demands. This is a good way we can connect locally by targeting local MEPs.

Link-collection

- *Since 19 September, four months before the start of the pandemic, the US "Fed" has organised the distribution of thousands of billions to private banks threatened with bankruptcy by the bursting of this new speculative bubble ([link](#))*
- [CADTM](#) -Committe for abolition of Third World debt
- [Open Letter](#) published by the Stay Grounded Network
- [petition](#) to sign and share
- From Germany [in German for now]:
 - [Petition](#)
 - [Demands](#)
 - [Press release](#)
 - [Green Marshall Plan](#) by Greenpeace
 - [Digital campaign](#) in Germany started by XR - #bailouttheplanet - here is the (GERMAN) proposal with a [plan for a whole action week](#). Could be easily copied for other countries.
- IMF [COVID policy database](#)
- OECD [policy tracker](#)
- [DEVEX](#)
- [Bailout-overview](#)
- [Investopedia](#)
- EU [State Aid tracker](#)
- OECD [tax database](#)
- [Taxfoundation](#)
- [Lobby efforts Influence Map](#)
- [Restrictions](#)

ONLINE ACTIVISM

Apps and tools:

- "Block Fossils Out" browser extension - is on hold (launch in May/June)
- Slovenia: Geo-tag, tag their location digitally for strikes? Like they did for NODAPL, people tagged themselves in standing rock.
- New [tool for digital manifestations](#)

"Artivism" tactics:

- "Brandalism" online, hijacking certain companies i.e XR: "google stopped funding climate deniers."
- Design with memes [tactics used in reputation attacks mode]
- Deepfake videos of heads of state telling the complete truth
- Be creative (use art) and give emotions/faces
- Cultural hacking practices
- Podcasts
- Story-telling to change people's perceptions (for example of what is normal etc.)

Mass mobilization tactics:

- Twitter storm, create websites where you can debunk the narrative of the opponent [tactics used in reputation attacks mode]
- Use different platforms (not only FB)
- Clicktivism
- Petitions
- Sending e-mails to target (mass mobilization)
- [Documentation on the demonstration](#) (unfortunately in German...) Example for flooding social media starting 26:25. People pick a company, institution, etc. to criticize and then all people choose a platform (twitter, Facebook, mail etc.) and write a message to the company/institution so for a while our message is the core message on their channels
- Asking people to post photos with posters on their social media

Tactics that required technical knowledge:

- Hack messaging to create wave of concern of the bad move of the opponents [tactics used in reputation attacks mode]
- Cut link between opponents and allies online [tactics used in reputation attacks mode]
- Encrypted information device, for people who have info can send anonymously (whistle-blowers)
- Shut down websites

OFFLINE ACTIONS

See [this toolkit](#), where you can find offline actions designed to be done in a short period of time and by few people, or taking into consideration social distance.

Note: Mass mobilizations works because numbers get attention and empower people. However, there are other ways/tactics that do this: tenacity, determination (ex: instead of having 1000 people at the same place we could have 10 people rotating and have a protest for a longer period of time, hunger strikes, vigils, etc.).

RADICAL SOLIDARITY

Connection

- Connecting different mutual aid groups (e.g. [Covid entraide France](#))
- Some mutual aid groups are connected to farms to get food and others help people who can not get the shops
- Connecting with unions at local/regional level and at European level (European trade union network)
- Connecting with indigenous communities
 - Burning question: as CJ movements, are we connected enough to indigenous communities? Many are collapsing because elders and first line doctors in their communities are dying and because they are not at all protected by colonial states. Many are very willing to do webinars to explain the situation!
 - Daiara Tukano from the Tukano first nation is speaking English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese and is willing to talk (in a safe space webinar). Same as few others. I can help to connect guillaume_durin@protonmail.ch
 - I'm interested in co-hosting webinars, planning several now and have connections to Sapmi indigenous justice movement (Northern Europe) karl.andreasson@greenpeace.org

Networks

- (Ongoing, France) Mutual aid initiative: "[Covid entraide France](#)" was created to make mutual aid groups visible, by providing different tools such as a map (more than 560 referenced groups), toolboxes or thematic threads for exchanges. The will is that these groups will continue after the end of the crisis. [Some key fundamental principles](#). For more information, or to join Telegram chats: nestor56@riseup.net
- (Ongoing, UK) – [Covidmutualaid](#): **Mutual aid** initiative.
- (Ongoing, Spain) – [Frenalacurva](#): **Mutual aid** initiative.
- (Ongoing, Germany) – [Seebrücke](#): **Radical solidarity** and raising voices of migrants and be able to come to Germany and have somewhere safe to stay.
- (Ongoing, Belgium) - There is lots of talk around **health workers struggle / anti-austerity** taking the streets post Corona. [Facebook](#)(Ongoing, Belgium) - There is lots of talk around **health workers struggle / anti-austerity** taking the streets post Corona. [Facebook](#)
- [Effort to start coordinating solidarity brigades](#).

Communication

- Raising voices of migrants
- Close working relationships with Indigenous groups with a relationship based off what they want from the campaign or protest as opposed to what we want from them
- Encouraging activists to take responsibility to engage with post-colonial narratives and draw all the links between colonialism and environmental justice in a historical context
- Include in narratives:
 - Neocolonialism
 - Tailored for the agricultural business
 - Food security and food safety undermined
 - Oppression of indigenous people (e.g. Bolsonaro in Brazil) [BM]

Actions

- Need for utopian and solidarity actions to empower people and make them feel that another world is possible
 - Workers going on strike--> need solidarity + trade unions -> see if we can coordinate and establish long-term relationships and discussions with them.
 - Possibility for us to connect with farmers about the situation
- Social shock measures proposals, as food banks for migrants, domestic workers: Plan de Choque Social in Spain (social shock plan/measures), covering prisons, migrant, housing, work, health, agriculture, education...measures from the collectives, trade unions, which should be the ones being established.

TIMING

Note: Timing will be different in different countries, and restrictions will be lifted slowly, keeping some in place. We need to think of different scenarios and develop action strategies for those.

Focusing on coordination or on getting back to the streets?

Analysis on going back on the streets soon

- **Advantages:**
 - Riding the wave of frustration
 - Possibility of introducing alternatives
 - Possibility of intersectionality
 - Coming out = self-empowerment for the movement
 - Possibility to focus more on small group actions and more disruptive actions
 - Disruptive actions could however be perceived negatively as well!
- **Disadvantages:**

- Could be seen as irresponsible
- First big march could quickly become a new contagion spread (human cost + hurting the movement also)
- Expectations could lead to disappointment (danger of investing efforts in organizing and getting a renewed lock-down)
- Traditional mass mobilisation is basically impossible until there's a covid19-vaccine / or the curve is very low at least or high level of herd immunity
- High risk of media ignoring our actions / covering them way less
- Bigger risk of fines & repression
- Risk of public spaces being controlled and repressed becoming normal

Analysis on focussing on coordination and strategy

• **Advantages:**

- We're all going through the same thing => concrete coordination possibility!
- Thinking through our plans for the autumn
- Everyone, especially the media is focused on corona
- Coordination & Strategy allow for more
 - Strategic thinking
 - Rest for ourselves
 - In-advance planning

• **Disadvantages:**

- Some European countries are already well coordinated!
- Risk of not going back to the street: Waiting until the autumn could be too long - risk of loosing momentum and organisers
- Not acting as soon as de-confinement starts would leave us without agency/influence
- Solutions/Reactions to Corona possibly being enacted before we can act

Conclusions

- A comeback doesn't have to be all or nothing! We can slowly get back to the streets and save some capacities for strategy and coordination
- Comeback **has** to be perceived as safe and responsible and with a strong narrative
- If we wait too long, we risk loosing agency and momentum
- Get back on the streets soon, but organizing actions that take into account all safety measures (few people and creative actions or mass mobilization with precautions needed if you can have a message that will not negatively influence public opinion)

Trigger moments

- The decisive point of intervention will be the bailouts

- Introduction of rescue packages, rescuing sectors involved with fossil fuels/extractivism
- We should plan and rest for that
- Bailouts can happen during or after lock-downs!
- Bailouts require a political process - that can be targeted
- Portugal: Empregos para o Clima (Jobs for Climate) made three scenarios:
 - 1) Austerity where state saves both private & public;
 - 2) State takes on the role of the economy;
 - 3) State runs out of money
 - => Planning can be done for all scenarios and action adapted accordingly
- Food shortages

CALENDRIAL OVERVIEW

April & May

- Some stuff happened on the 22th April, lots on the 24th April
- May is still uncertain
- Campaigns around people's bailout as well as debt/mortgage strikes
- Keep on organizing around post-Corona narrative/tactics

Summer/Autumn

- June 5th (Friday) global environment day, June 20th world refugee day and European Meeting on 18th and 19th June -> could be a timing for coordinating actions around radical solidarity actions + real solutions and adapting the tactics to each local context. returning wave, no one it's keep it behind
- September: some groups are planing big systemic marches (not only climate)
- Idea from Brussels: Occupy places of power and hold assemblies - We want to take back the power on climate action; Objective: taking up space and offering it to other struggles => intersectionality
- Glasgow Agreement (November)
- Stop Ports/Airports/Fossil Fuels (still not sure when and if so)
- Climate camps (still not sure when and if so)
- A couple of months before first forest fires but probable big droughts and fires over summer. If we have coordinated and talked about which actors are key, we have an opportunity to connect both narratives and make it in public.

CAMPAIGNS

Strikes

Rent strikes initiatives exist at least in the UK, Switzerland, Spain, possibly France and Belgium. In the Netherlands and US, there have been calls for a general strike. To ask for or to share contacts, you can send an email to: by2020we@riseup.net

Targets

- **AGMs**
 - [Shell Must Fall](#) (Netherlands)
 - [Galp Must Fall](#) (Portugal)
 - [Fortum Irti Fossiilisista](#) (Fortum Drop Fossils, Finland)
 - [Axe Drax](#) (UK)
 - Others AGMs already targeted or that will be targeted: Crédit Suisse, Ineos
- **Finance and Banks**
 - (Ongoing) Switzerland: Rounds of action targeting Swiss Banks (UBS and Credit Suisse mainly) but also indirectly the main shareholders of Credit Suisse and UBS: BlackRock + Qatar Sovereign Funds, Goldman Sachs, Norges Bank Investment Management, Vanguard Group and several other key players in the global destruction system. Our targets are global Care Drainers (destroying healthcare system and ecosystem). Contact: guillaume_durin@protonmail.ch #carenotdividends #caredrainers
 - There are also [campaigns about finance industry](#) by Reclaim Finance
- Tell the complete truth, XR Belgium
 - National campaign: different actions online and offline. Join the swarm on [Telegram](#). Contact: Majo4future@protonmail.com

Solutions

- **Glasgow Agreement**
 - Substitute institutional impotence for social power through an agreement between social movements and organizations to take matters into their own hands by implementing locally defined plan for massive emissions cuts through civil disobedience and a politics of climate justice. Every Wednesday at 2pm GMT there is a webinar explaining the agreement and how to join. Contact: glasgowagreement@riseup.net.
- **People's bailout campaign**
 - Working being done based on Shell Must Fall/Code Rood Proposal and the 350.org-principles for a [just recovery](#) from covid19. Contact: info@code-rood.org
 - A [working basis of key principles](#) to **push for a #JustRecovery** from 350 with a website and a map, along with an [art kit](#) for everyone to use.
- **Social Shock Plan, Spain**

- Social shock plan/measures covering prisons, migrant, housing, work, health, agriculture, education...measures from the collectives, trade unions, which should be the ones being established. e.g.: rent/mortgage strike. For contact, write to: by2020we@riseup.net
- **Bold New World**
 - Working on a concept called "[Bold New World](#)" and have already done a visioning exercise in Germany during a Hackathon. Methods include Backcasting and the [Three Horizons Framework](#).

Networks and Resilience

- **Upcoming coalition in Europe against SLAPP lawsuits**
 - If you or groups you work with have experience / threatened by SLAPP lawsuits please reach out karl.andreasson@greenpeace.org. Ultimately, we hope to construct an accurate picture of the state of activism across the continent: the trends in legal intimidation and retaliation, the tools being used to suppress critical speech and assembly, and the current capacity of grassroots communities to respond to these threats.
- **#ChangeGoesViral**
 - A broad campaign - concerns about the system, different countries and continents. We use our own networks to spread out the message. We will do different actions.
 - [Facebook page](#), Contact: change Goes Viral@riseup.net
- **Just Recovery Coalition**
 - Just recovery coalition: climate, farmers, unions, people public services, feminist & others; Petition: care not dividends, to fight the banksters Credit Suisse, Blackrock, etc.. attacking relationship in-between them. Did a twitterstorm (success) lots of allies from Europe helped us. Request for 2nd wave targetting AGM banks UBS & Credit Suisse. Twitter account @JustRecoveryCH, jump into the FB Group Just Recovery Switzerland. To connect please use: justrecoverych@protonmail.ch
- **Climate Citizens Convention, France**
 - [Independent instance of 150 citizens proposing measures to the government](#).
- **Post Corona Campaigns**
 - (Ongoing, Belgium + France) - **[Post corona civil movement building](#)** (broader part of society is becoming system critical and vocal. #postcorona movement in Belgium, #coronareset in France.
 - (Ongoing, Austria:) - CoView -19. [Social and Political and watchgroup](#) about Corona.
 - (Post confinement, Belgium, Various Anarchist groups): Postponed, but revolutionary 1st of May manifestation will be preceded by a week of intense agitation. [Facebook](#)
 - (After confinement, Belgium): Working out idea to build a NVDA local farm on symbolic public space in the city - plans to do it in cooperation with agricultural collectives