

# About ideas for actions

This is a list of proposals for actions, both well-known and new. It's not meant as a how-to, but as an inspiration for further research. In its current stage, this document is rudimentary at best. Ideally, it should become a practical effort collecting the knowledge and creativity of many seasoned activists, so if you have practical experience or theoretical background knowledge about actions or want to add more, please don't hesitate to do so.

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## Blocking and disrupting

### Critical Mass

	direct action of meeting at a set location and time and traveling as a group through city or town streets on bikes. Sometimes called an “organized coincidence”, with no leadership or membership. The routes of some rides are decided spontaneously by whoever is currently at the front of the ride. The disorganized nature of the event allows it to largely escape crack down by police who may view the rides as forms of parades or organized protest. the only requirement is a “critical mass” of riders, enough to occupy a piece of road and exclude drivers of motorized vehicles. Authorities have difficulty of coordinating with the riders, due to the lack of leadership. Because Critical Mass takes place without an official route or sanction, participants in some cities have sometimes practiced a tactic known as “corking”. This tactic consists of a few riders blocking traffic from side roads so that the mass can freely proceed through red lights without interruption. Corking allows the mass to engage in a variety of activities, such as forming a cyclone or to perform a “die-in”.
Details	
Number of people & Planning effort	16+ No planning except mobilization
Materials & Costs	Bikes, flags No additional costs.

further reading

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Critical\\_Mass\\_\(cycling\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Critical_Mass_(cycling))

## Swarming

details This tactic is a favorite of Extinction Rebellion. “Swarms” of ideally 30+ people each block a crossroads for about 5-7 minutes, disband into smaller affinity groups and travel to the next target on different routes, coordinating via Signal messenger (or similar).

12+

number of people & planning effort

Organize an action training or partake in one for inexperienced groups, otherwise no planning effort except mobilization.

\* training is vital => working affinity groups, coordinated disbanding, possibly hand signals

\* banners should be used to make the blockade seem stronger and transport the message

\* cookies and leaflets for motorists can help create a peaceful image

\* requires people who are familiar with the town in every affinity group

materials & costs

banners, leaflets, cookies

No additional costs.

further readings

from minute 5:00 on —> [www.youtube.com/watch?v=b6ZPAmbPkXA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b6ZPAmbPkXA) – Roger (XR UK) explains the tactic of swarming as he thinks it to be ideal. Your behaviour to police and passengers and the exact usage of this tactic may vary.

## Bike swarming

details like Critical Mass, but blocking all lanes with a small number of bikes. Motorists can get very aggressive. Some motorists will try to get around the bikes by driving over walkways and lay-bys, risking running you over. Some will threaten you with physical violence, but so far there were no attacks.

number of people & planning effort

10+

No planning effort except mobilization.

materials & costs

bikes, flags

No additional costs.

further readings

- <https://bikeportland.org/2012/02/29/pdx-bike-swarm-pumps-up-awareness-at-tour-de-petro-67981>
- <https://carbusters.org/2012/02/26/the-bike-swarm-the-cavalry-of-the-occupy-movement/>

## Gehzeuge

details The name of this action is a pun. The German word for “vehicle” is Fahrzeug, literally “driving gear” or “driving stuff”. Gehzeug then means “walking gear” or “walking stuff”.

Possibly unique to German-speaking countries, this originated from an Austrian city planner who used a loophole in the law that allows carrying things on the street instead the walkways if they would obstruct them. He “invented” a wooden frame that’s the size of a car and is carried by two people on shoulder straps to slow down motorized traffic. Motorists get very aggressive. Cops have been known to lie about the legal situation and inspect activists to scare them.

number of people & planning effort 2+  
No planning effort except mobilization.

materials & costs Gehzeug  
No additional costs.

further readings

- [https://wutimbauch.files.wordpress.com/2008/01/gehzeug\\_folder.pdf](https://wutimbauch.files.wordpress.com/2008/01/gehzeug_folder.pdf)
- [http://www.fairkehr.net/wp-content/uploads/Folder\\_Gehzeuge\\_2009.pdf](http://www.fairkehr.net/wp-content/uploads/Folder_Gehzeuge_2009.pdf)

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## Die-In

Activists theatrically “die” in a public space to draw attention to an issue. Often, protestors occupy an area for a short time instead of being forced to leave by the police.

details In the simplest form of a die-in, protesters simply lie down on the ground and pretend to be dead, sometimes covering themselves with signs or banners. The point of a die-in is to disrupt the flow of people on a street or sidewalk to grab the attention of passersby. In more complex forms, fake blood or blood-stained bandages are sometimes used, In other cases, protesters have surrounded the “bodies” in chalk outlines to symbolize that the organization being protested against has “murdered” people. Sometimes, part of the protesting group makes speeches about what is being protested while the rest of the group lies on the ground. Works aswell in privately owned spaces like malls – security can act aggressively and try to hold people captive until the cops arrive, though.

number of people & planning effort 6+  
Low planning effort.  
\* People need to be mobilized and have an action consensus: signals for death and revival, contextualization via outreach or leafleting, whether or not to actively block spaces etc.

materials & costs Leaflets, banners, flags or similar to establish context.  
No additional costs.

further readings [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Die-in](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Die-in)

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## mechanical blockage of doors

details nailing doors shut, sealing locks with adhesive spray, expanding foam and much more ways. Your creativity is not limited. Targets might for example be town halls, party

offices, corporations etc. It's easy & fast, but annoying as fuck and can disrupt the business as usual quite effectively if well planned and scouted.

number of people & planning effort	1-2 Low planning effort. Requires scouting beforehand. Otherwise you just need a target and an idea of how to close it down.
materials & costs	board and nails, adhesive spray, expanding foam, superglue (depending on method), tools. Potentially masks for your own security, for example if cameras are in the area. No additional costs.
further readings	haven't found anything online... pls add if you know sth.

## Lock-On

details	<p>A Lock-on is a technique used by peaceful protesters to make it difficult to remove them from their place of protest. It often involves improvised or specially designed and constructed hardware. This is a science of itself, and there's a variety of practical ways to do it. In addition to chains and glue there are several specialized devices, including tripods and tubes or pipes with handholds built in to link a person to an object or to create chains of people. Other common hardware includes padlocks, U-locks, bicycle locks, lockboxes. A possible combination with exposure to great heights like trees or buildings is very effective. The protester can choose between a type that will allow them to willingly remove themselves or a type that requires machinery to remove them. The more different materials used in layers, the more difficult the technical removal gets. Some Lock-ons can take hours or days to fully be removed. Cops may get rough removing you – better have the press present.</p>
number of people & planning effort	1+ Low to high planning effort, depending on the complexity of your Lock-on. You need a target and an idea of how to best lock on. Good Lock-on's can take a week or two to build! And organizing aswell as moving a car for example can be quite a task, too.
materials & costs	Chain, lock, glue, car batteries, bitumen, concrete, cables, steel, cloth or preferred device/material. If you are planning to build a proper one, it can be very useful to wear nappies during the action!!! No additional costs.
further readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lock-on_(protest_tactic)">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lock-on_(protest_tactic)</a></li><li>• <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GManC_QJCh0">www.youtube.com/watch?v=GManC_QJCh0</a> – this is quite a complex Lock-on. You can roughly see details in the close-up pictures.</li><li>• <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RrE4vaGKyPc">www.youtube.com/watch?v=RrE4vaGKyPc</a> – 7 different standard techniques explained plus experience with police reaction (JUST FOR UK)</li><li>• <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VegbAk5wGs8">www.youtube.com/watch?v=VegbAk5wGs8</a> – not exciting to watch through, but as an example how big the effort can be to remove you ^^</li><li>• <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1j5Mgb094Y4">www.youtube.com/watch?v=1j5Mgb094Y4</a> – close up removal of a medium complex “sleeping dragon” (Lock-on chain)</li><li>• <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HzfIrACHnPI">www.youtube.com/watch?v=HzfIrACHnPI</a> – Greenpeace combining sleeping dragon with gateway Lock-on.</li></ul>

## highway blockade

details	<p>The idea is to shut down a main traffic route for enough time to create a huge disruption and get massive media attention. Therefore it is essential to have a detailed plan set beforehand. This explicitly includes a well prepared press strategy that is aiming to take up as much space as possible and to receive public sympathy at least to a possible degree. Furthermore, depending on the tactic of blockage, you need a reliable communication system and your group must be organized (everyone exactly knowing what to do). There are 3 ways of blocking: First, stopping traffic from aside the road and enter the highway with a mass of people (can be combined with e.g. Lock-on's). Second, same as above but only blocking the road with prepared obstacles so you need less people. Third option see next action ("Hangout").</p>
number of people & planning effort	<p>First option: ~30+ Second option: ~ 7+ Medium to high planning effort. Scouting and detailed preparation beforehand NECESSARY.</p>
materials & costs	<p>action phones or walkie talkies, reflective vests, warning triangles, possibly bengal lights, banners, cookies, leaflets, press release, possibly pre-built obstacles No additional costs.</p>
further readings	<p>just some very violent or too-big-to-stop videos on youtube, but nothing strategically useful... pls add if you find sth.</p>

## Hangout

details	<p>This is a special form of highway blocking. Activist(s) with climbing experience hang from a bridge or similar, blocking a street or freeway. This is not a physical blockage (which would put the climber in danger) since they don't have to hang low enough to actually pose any risk of coming into contact with vehicles. Rather, (and this has to be checked within law per country) there is a defined height at which objects (or, in this case, persons) forces authorities to stop traffic because they officially cause danger to traffic. You might want to call the cops yourself because cars won't stop driving until they force them, anyway. Doing this as a coordinated action in many places at once would be especially effective since there is only a very small number of cops trained in climbing actions and one could easily overload their capacities.</p>
number of people & planning effort	<p>MINIMUM 1-2 (per target) =&gt; one blocker and one buddy that stays safe on the bridge and communicates with police. Low to medium planning effort. Scouting and detailed preparation (especially of press work) beforehand NECESSARY. You have to research the height at which you have to hang so the cops must shut down traffic.</p>
materials & costs	<p>climbing gear, walkie-talkies or action phones for communication with your buddy, banners, cookies, leaflets, press release No additional costs.</p>
further	<p>very new tactic, so no reception – pls add if you find sth.</p>

readings

## meeting disruption

details	Use your creativity to effectively disrupt the meetings of your favorite fossil fuel corporation or other evil empire – sing, dance, rant, strip, piss on their tables. Make loud music, lock-on to the table of decisions, block the entrances or door ways. Just pay attention that your media image is not totally destroyed for public and be aware that such a disruption (especially if you block passaging) can lead to serious accuses by police! If you are very conscious about IT – there could always be a possibility to place a trojan if you're already in the room... or be creative about some other fancy disruptive stuff... just thoughts, not meant to encourage anything, obviously!
number of people & planning effort	1+ (technically works with any number of people) Low to medium planning effort. A good research of event details might be vital to a succesful operation and in case it's possible, scouting the building beforehand will give a huge advantage and security.
materials & costs	depends on your plan of action, generally banners, cookies and leaflets
further readings	Despite the fact that there are very few creative and encouraging examples online and you can easily come up with better and more disruptive ideas, here a list of examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="http://code-rood.org/en/shell-must-fall/">code-rood.org/en/shell-must-fall/</a> – this is an example of a mass mobilization to squat and block an annual meeting of one of the worlds biggest companies.</li><li>• <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mSzLhb72z3A">www.youtube.com/watch?v=mSzLhb72z3A</a> – one example for crashing a meeting and taking up discussion space</li><li>• <a href="https://fox13now.com/2019/04/24/inland-port-meeting-canceled-amid-protests/">https://fox13now.com/2019/04/24/inland-port-meeting-canceled-amid-protests/</a> – video and press release of an example in the United States</li><li>• <a href="https://www.rheinpfalz.de/lokal/artikel/berlin-aktivisten-stoeren-pressekonferenz/">https://www.rheinpfalz.de/lokal/artikel/berlin-aktivisten-stoeren-pressekonferenz/</a> – some press release, unfortunately in german...</li></ul>

## “What’s that smell?”

details	Use a stink bomb or liquid to disrupt objectionable meetings – do this by walking in, drilling a hole into a window frame and squirting some liquid in with a syringe, using the air ducts or whatever else the locality allows. If you have knowledge of programming, you can easily build something like a mouse trap with automatic timer and place it in a meeting room beforehand, that smashes a vial with liquid at a set time. You might even be able to hide your construction within a requisite that does not draw anyone's attention – not even if police is searching through the room for explosives. One incredibly smelly option to make a stink bomb, that I can't find online: Just fill a coconut with a little bit of salt water or let it swim in salt water for a couple days. Let it rot but pay attention it doesn't dry out. After some weeks should be ready to throw.
number of people & planning	3+ (one person scouting for police around, two buddies to place the item) Medium planning effort.

effort	
materials & costs	stink bomb or liquid, lockpick and tools depending on location No additional costs.
further readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://www.amazon.com/butyric-acid/s?k=butyric+acid">https://www.amazon.com/butyric-acid/s?k=butyric+acid</a> – this is a liquid that lots of people used before. You can just buy it online, but maybe do it via Tor Browser and let it send to a safe address, just in case</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Stink-Bomb">www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Stink-Bomb</a> – 4 ideas for self-made stink bombs</li> <li>• <a href="http://howtorevenge.com/articles/make-stink-bomb/">howtorevenge.com/articles/make-stink-bomb/</a> – another how-to also chemically explaining what makes the smell</li> </ul>

## Occupation

details	<p>Occupy a piece of land that's about to be ravaged for commercial interests. These kinds of occupations are popular right now and get massive support from the public. There are several ongoing occupations, the most famous of course being the Hambacher Wald in Germany or the ZAD near Nantes in France. You can also use this tactic in smaller scale for a one-day occupation, for example of streets or buildings. A very efficient tool for any occupation are constructions like tripods or rope barricades (more info in "further reading") that keep standard riot police at distance and forces them to call for special teams. NEVER use any occupation material and tactics when you are not a 100% how to SECURILY use this. There is a real threat of dying in an occupation and it is fucking essential, that only people climb or set up infrastructure, that KNOW HOW TO DO! Also it is essential to always have people in the occupation, that can rescue a person from any place within 15 minutes!</p>
number of people & planning effort	10+ High planning effort.
materials & costs	building materials and tools for barricades; ropes and tree beams or steel posts for tripods, tree houses etc.; probably climbing gear and ropes to travel between different buildings. High costs, few is possible to dumpster-dive. Often, occupations rely on a broad network of public donations by supporters.
further readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://www.christian-bock.net/projects/hambach-forest-occupation/">https://www.christian-bock.net/projects/hambach-forest-occupation/</a> – journalist blog, giving a broad overview on the forest occupation in Hambacher Wald</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-6CyfztLSQg">www.youtube.com/watch?v=-6CyfztLSQg</a> – example for a field occupation (unfortunately in german)</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=URPdngoCBzA">www.youtube.com/watch?v=URPdngoCBzA</a> – example for house occupation in Dublin</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sROsd8pYQiA">www.youtube.com/watch?v=sROsd8pYQiA</a> – here you can see how a tripod is generally built. Although this guy does NOT SECURE HIS KNOT before wrapping the rope around the beams...</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ggCsFA6v-KI">www.youtube.com/watch?v=ggCsFA6v-KI</a> – fishermans knot (to secure a rope and stop it from slipping through)</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bUBIvWf-Udc">www.youtube.com/watch?v=bUBIvWf-Udc</a> – clove hitch (basic knot to tie beams together or to bind them to trees – main knot for most constructions. ALWAYS</li> </ul>



secure with a fishermans knot!)

# Communication

## permanent graffitis

details	Ecologically problematic because of propellants and chemical cleaning, alternatively use stencils and apply paint with a fire extinguisher (you can empty some models and refill them with paint), paint roller or paint bomb. You can also install your own graffiti wall, for example by wrapping plastic foil or cloth around two trees. Instructions for different techniques you can find below in “further reading”. To get graffiti cans, DO NOT buy car paint in a hardware store. Real cans are cheaper AND have a way better quality. If you don’t have a can shop close, you can buy them online (example links in further readings).
number of people & planning effort	1+ Low planning effort.
materials & costs	see above No additional costs.
further readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="https://mtlcounterinfo.org/how-to-fill-fire-extinguishers-with-paint/">https://mtlcounterinfo.org/how-to-fill-fire-extinguishers-with-paint/</a> – example how to refill a fire extinguisher (colour and size defers from country to country – there are more ways and more kinds of fire extinguishers that work, but still not everyone. Better do a skillsharing with knowledged people)</li><li>• <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=df5lQVCy7Pw">www.youtube.com/watch?v=df5lQVCy7Pw</a> – how to make a wax paint bomb</li><li>• <a href="https://c8.alamy.com/comp/F14CYM/graffiti-artist-with-spray-can-painting-a-troll-onto-plastic-wrap-F14CYM.jpg">https://c8.alamy.com/comp/F14CYM/graffiti-artist-with-spray-can-painting-a-troll-onto-plastic-wrap-F14CYM.jpg</a> – graffiti on plastic foil between trees</li><li>• <a href="https://www.montana-cans.com/">https://www.montana-cans.com/</a> or <a href="https://www.molotow.com/en/">https://www.molotow.com/en/</a> – probably the two websites with best value for your money</li></ul>

## non-permanent graffitis

details	<p>We would like to encourage you to use an environmentally friendly method of street art. Unfortunately, that generally means, that they can be destroyed or washed away quite easily...</p> <p>The most common ways are paintings with usual street chalk or spray chalk (like graffiti but washable and less chemical, links in further readings). Then there is an amazing method, that was only recently invented: moss graffiti. It is very easy to make at home, stays on walls for ages (unless someone destroys it) and actually GROWS there! Also, it is possible to use only vegan ingredients (link in further readings).</p>
number of people & planning	1+ Low planning effort.

effort

materials  
&  
costs

Depends on method.  
No additional costs.

further  
readings

- [www.wikihow.com/Make-Moss-Graffiti](http://www.wikihow.com/Make-Moss-Graffiti) – how to make moss graffiti (it's very easy)
- <http://allthingschalk.com/spray-chalk/> – a website with links where to buy spray chalk (most normal graffiti stores sell it) and a how-to for homemade

## Fun with dumpsters!

details

- Push a store's dumpsters (with all the food that they throw away) right into the store and let it stand there. Dumpsters are usually found behind the store (when they are not locked away), where the trucks get (un)loaded. This is not very effective but generally a good method to get positive public attention if you support this action with some banners, leaflets, non-permanent graffiti. You can try to take out the food in public and give it away to people standing around. It is probably well-known, that stores dump a lot of food. But actually seeing it with your own eyes might change peoples perspective and radicalize them, if the public perception is generated and supported by strong messages.
- Go dumpster diving in an organized way, all over your city, in one evening. Then get it to a very crowded place in public (e.g. market place) the next day to exhibit the amount of food and give it away to passengers. Support your action with other action forms and tools as in the first example.
- Dumpster dive at Fast Fashion stores and pile the clothes that you will find up in front of their entrance.
- Block a store's entrance with dumpsters. This might be different to the other examples, because it is definitely illegal and will probably cause police to enter the game. But therefore, it is way more disrupting and effectively disturbing business as usual! It generally works the same way as the first example, but you close down the entrance of a supermarket for visitors (make sure there is only one or you close all of them down, if that is your aim) and only let people get outside the building. Since this action is directly disrupting the daily life of civilians, we recommend to strongly think about the external impact to society and have a good strategy to gain positive attention at least from progressive parts of our society. Also, as a single action, this might not be very efficient. So it would probably be wise to connect with other groups and plan this action in a coordinated way. It does not need a lot of preparation but a set time and a media strategy, so it might actually be tactically smart within any wave of actions. Alternatively to getting arrested by cops, you could also think of masking up (please in multiple colours), locking the dumpsters to the entrances with chains (and open them, so people can see the edible food) and leave the place just before or in that moment, when the cops arrive. Maybe have something prepared beforehand, that explains your action with a positive framing, that people will notice, even when no one is there to tell them anymore.

number 1+

of people No planning effort, if you already know places to go to for dumpster diving. If not, it's

& planning effort	probably the easiest way to ask other people that might know or to use one of these “sharing is caring” groups on social media (if there is one in your area), where people can give away hints and infos.
materials & costs	materials to support your action, like leaflets, banners, chalk or whatever else you come up with. No additional costs.
further readings	We don't think someone has done that before... so no further readings except from skillsharing how to dumpster dive... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.wikihow.com/Dumpster-Dive">www.wikihow.com/Dumpster-Dive</a> – a guide for dumpster diving but contains every important detail</li> <li>• <a href="https://www.reddit.com/r/DumpsterDiving/comments/iwwri/defeating_locked_and_inaccessi_ble_dumpsters/">https://www.reddit.com/r/DumpsterDiving/comments/iwwri/defeating_locked_and_inaccessi_ble_dumpsters/</a> – some advise on how to get into differently locked dumpsters</li> </ul>

## Critical fun with dumpsters!

Block a store's entrance with dumpsters. This might be different to the other examples, because it is definitely illegal and will probably cause police to enter the game. But therefore, it is way more disrupting and effectively disturbing business as usual! It generally works the same way as the first example, but you close down the entrance of a supermarket for visitors (make sure there is only one or you close all of them down, if that is your aim) and only let people get outside the building. If you want to stay and get evicted, it is probably wise to start just before the shop is opening or just before the big mass of customers is arriving.

Since this action is directly disrupting the daily life of civilians, we recommend to strongly think about the external impact to society and have a good strategy to gain positive attention at least from progressive parts of our society. Also, as a single action, this might not be very efficient. So it would probably be wise to connect with other groups and plan this action in a coordinated way. It does not need a lot of preparation but a set time and a media strategy, so it might actually be tactically smart within any wave of actions. Alternatively to getting arrested by cops, you could also think of masking up (please do that in multiple colours), lock-on the dumpsters to the entrances with chains (and open them, so people can see the edible food) and leave the place just before or in that moment, when the cops arrive. Maybe have something prepared beforehand, that explains your action with a positive framing, that people will notice, even when no one is there to tell them anymore.

1+

number of people & planning effort	It is probably wise to scout your place beforehand, to make sure you know where to lock-on the dumpsters or which entrances there are. If you don't know where to find a store that constantly dumps a lot of edible food, it's probably the easiest way to ask other people that might know or to use one of these “sharing is caring” groups on social media (if there is one in your area), where people can give away hints and infos.
materials & costs	materials to support your action, like leaflets, banners, chalk or whatever else you come up with. Possible costs of a court case or bail (money you have to pay to get out of prison), if cops arrest you.

further readings We don't think someone has done that before... so no further readings except from skillsharing how to dumpster dive... (see above)

## subversive leaflets

details Design supermarket leaflets to look like the original but carry info of your choice, e.g. detailing the social and ecological cost of advertised products, then replace the originals at the market with your version.

number of people & planning effort 1+  
Medium planning effort.

materials & costs leaflets  
Printing costs.

further readings generally works like ad busting, just you have to create a full new design at home, so look below for inspiration

## Ad Busting

details Creatively redesign an existing advertisement to carry a better message. Glass cases generally have a master key, ask your local direct action collective for a copy or look around "sharing is caring" groups on social media. The two main methods are to just comment a poster with a black marker or to replace certain passages and images with printed alternatives by glueing it on. You can find inspirations in "further readings".

number of people & planning effort 1+  
low planning effort.

materials & costs craft supplies  
No additional costs.

further readings

- <https://ad-busting.tumblr.com/> – inspiration for the black marker method
- [www.wikihow.com/Adbust-an-Advertisement](http://www.wikihow.com/Adbust-an-Advertisement) – a guide for the replacement method

## renaming streets

details Know a street named after some colonial "hero" or other representative of our broken system? Use your arts and crafts supplies to rename it, maybe to honor an activist or just an abstract concept. Works best with pre-designed stickers that copy the design of the real sign you want to replace.

number of 1+

people & planning effort Low to medium planning effort.

materials & costs craft supplies  
No additional costs.

further readings There is no need for further information and nothing to find immediately.

.

## Changing Booth PSA

details Pretend to try on clothes at a store, then redecorate the changing booth with some enlightening facts about the social and ecological repercussions of this company's policies. Make sure to do some research and think of specific messages targeting the clothing industry in general or the particular store you've chosen for this action.

number of people & planning effort 1+  
Low planning effort.

materials & costs permanent marker, lipstick, ...  
No additional costs.

further readings maybe get inspirations from adbusting (see above)

.

## sketches and pranks

details Enact a performance highlighting the absurdity of everyday situations. Examples: Biotic Baking Brigade, The Yippies (Youth International Party), Eugene Anarchists for Torrey, The Clown Army. If you are planning a sketch in public, you will probably want to meet as a group in advance a couple times to write your script and come up with creative ideas. You can also improvise, if you feel comfortable, but if you haven't done anything like that before, we recommend to take some time. Most necessary skills you need are creativity and humor.

number of people & planning effort 1+  
Medium planning effort. The more planning you put into your performance, the more impressive it gets.

materials & costs Depends on the performance, but generally you can find requisites in free shops or at friends' homes.

further readings

- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Youth\\_International\\_Party#Early\\_Yippie\\_actions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Youth_International_Party#Early_Yippie_actions) – a very vague inspiration around the history of “The Yippies” actions
- [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ivwzbZIN-hE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ivwzbZIN-hE) – a Biotic Baking Briade background video
- <https://earthfirstjournal.org/store/product/earth-first-direct-action-manual-third->

[edition/](#) – if you want to buy a guide, here is one for pranks and many more for diverse actions

- [www.youtube.com/watch?v=UeQWRsQ8GnI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UeQWRsQ8GnI) – Eugene Anarchists for Torrey sketch
- [www.youtube.com/watch?v=FonGIajQCnk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FonGIajQCnk) – an example for a clowns army sketch to climate change
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clandestine\\_Insurgent\\_Rebel\\_Clown\\_Army](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clandestine_Insurgent_Rebel_Clown_Army) – wikipedia article to the Clowns Army
- there is probably hundreds of examples for that online. Just do some research for your inspiration.

## lectures / presentations

details Try to reach people who aren't already in on it and make them listen. It takes some time to research valid facts and structure your presentation. To be effective, you should take some time to think of your audience and who you want to reach, so you are not sitting in front of an empty hall. You can also hold a speech or a more detailed presentation in public (with or without permission), to get a broader audience without actually mobilizing them. How to prepare a lecture: you can find standard advises online everywhere. For pre-made lectures or content advise, you can ask local NGOs like Greenpeace, BUND, activist initiatives like queer collectives or climate justice groups or you can contact student collectives at universities.

number of people & planning effort 1+ Medium to high planning effort.

materials & costs if needed: a room and a beamer; leaflets and other mobilization tools. Most universities actually pay a set amount of money for every lecture (you can ask the student council for further informations)

further readings just find your own as described in details

## Direct Democracy

These methods are prohibitively planning intensive, usually ineffectual by themselves, require massive participation, and should therefore only be considered in the context of a focused, diverse campaign with a clearly defined goal. In the right context, such campaigns can be more effective in reaching a concrete goal, f.ex. shutting down single fossil fuel power plants, than any direct action or civil disobedience we can do with our current mobilization capacity.

## letter writing

details Something bad happens – you make people write letters to the people who made it

happen. Which condemn whatever happened and build up public pressure onto the “decision makers”.

number of  
people &  
planning  
effort      100+  
High planning effort.

materials &  
costs      Depends.

further  
readings

.

## mass petition

A petition is a request to do something, most commonly addressed to a government official or public entity. In the colloquial sense, a petition is a document addressed to some official and signed by numerous individuals. A petition may be transmitted via the Internet.

details      Because laws differ from country to country and even from town to town, we won't be able to supply a sufficient amount of information here. Maybe, if someone has time for that, we will try to research all the web sources at least for every country in Europe and list them in further readings. But for now, you will have to do that specific research on your own, if you plan to start a mass petition.

number of  
people &  
planning  
effort      thousands of people  
High planning effort.

materials  
&      Depends.

costs

further  
readings

.

## open letters

details      Comment on something and use your network to make famous people (or people that have a certain value in your case, e.g. the parents of a victim) sign the letter as well. Obviously, you don't want to “make” parents of a victim sign anything – but for that case you could maybe encourage them to actually write that letter themselves. Generally, this method requires a strong public media channel or press alliances, so actually someone gets to know about that letter and it can build public pressure.

number of  
people &  
planning  
effort      Can work with very few people if you are using a good network and the case + supporters are valid enough.  
planning effort can vary a lot as well.

materials      Depends.

&  
costs  
further  
readings

## Non-Cooperation

Like the methods of Direct Democracy, these are very planning intensive and require massive participation. However, they can be effective by themselves. For example, in 1920, a massive general strike of just a few days ended a monarchist military coup that had displaced the elected government of the Weimar Republic.

### General Strike

details

The General Strike is probably the most effective weapon, society ever had and ever will have against state authority. The idea of a general strike is very, very easy: EVERYONE strikes. Not for their own working conditions or higher salaries (or at least not primarily) but for a general attempt to change a certain structure within our system. Or to change the whole system. In most countries in Europe, this is a legal form of striking and e.g. Spain is also well known for making use of that right. However, this form of strike is illegal at least in Germany. So check your national conditions and regional laws. Obviously, a general strike can be more effective than ANY law, because every law depends on a broad tolerance. So if a momentum is there (like nowadays in Germany) people will start the discussion to break that law and if a general strike then actually happens (or happens the third time while the first two times people got arrested), no law can make the people work again...

number of  
people & millions of people.  
planning High planning effort.  
effort

materials  
& Depends.  
costs  
further  
readings

### Student / Pupils' strike

details

Similar to a General Strike. But with the big advantage, that there is no obligation for students to visit Uni every day and only very limited repression for pupils – so there is little to hold them back from striking. In most cases, students and pupils are also not bound to a family life and are often independent from wage labour. In addition, students and pupils are perceived as the next generation of our society and therefore have a strong position for



their arguments. On top of that, students and pupils are, statistically speaking, the most progressive and emancipatory section of our population. So, a students strike is less big and less effective than a General Strike, but therefore much easier to plan and mobilize for.

number of  
people & Thousands of people.  
planning High planning effort.  
effort  
materials  
& Depends.  
costs  
further  
readings

## Farmers' Strike

details Farmers are an extremely essential gear wheel of every society since humanity has settled. If we loose our food supply, we HAVE to listen. And if farmers would strike for global (climate) justice, the governments would not be able to ignore them for long. Especially, if this was a global farmers strike or at least enough farmers would strike. It is not only important but an obligation, that this strike would only run against the industrial nations!! So the only people to suffer could be the citizens of these countries! Otherwise, the governments and economical powers will always find a way to get supply and first of all, those would have to suffer, that are suffering the most already!

number of  
people & Thousands of people.  
planning High planning effort.  
effort  
materials  
& Depends.  
costs

further  
readings

- <https://www.livemint.com/Politics/irVXccT6dSQ8N1NNpImvVI/What-explains-the-Maharashtra-farmers-strike-in-a-bumper-cr.html> – An example of a huge farmers strike in India
- [https://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=3&objectid=12083150](https://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/news/article.cfm?c_id=3&objectid=12083150) – Another one from New Zealand

## “Experts’” Strike

details These strikes can be very different from each other. They have in common, that they rely on people who have a certain expertise within a subject that is related to the cause or whose position is relevant for the business as usual to run. It can therefore be extremely effective but contrary to Student Strikes it is likely to be a huge effort to get such people striking in a sufficient number.

number of Thousands of people.

people &  
planning effort High planning effort.

materials &  
costs Depends.

further  
readings

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## prison strike

details Mainly useful to change conditions within a prison. But combined with other forms of particular strike, this can strongly support the effects. Aswell it would have a strong potential for media attention, if prisoners would strike for something other than their own needs! And prisoners are in a similar position to students, because they have little to loose and no obligations to fulfill. Nevertheless, such a strike could technically be illegal in a lot of countries and therefore require a strong support from outside. Because prisoners cannot lay down any work and their strike is not directly affecting business as usual, it is, similarly to Student Strikes, important that they voice their motivation with public media attention and use other forms of civil disobedience to make that strike harm the system, such as hunger strikes.

number of  
people &  
planning effort Hundreds of people.  
High planning effort.

materials  
& Depends.

costs  
further  
readings

.

## Not paying fees, fines, etc.

details Legal battles extraordinaire. If that's your thing, maybe you'll even win, but it's better to create a platform for a large number of people to do the same thing and get legal assistance. Especially if you can supply an ethical reason or a call for justice as argument for the missing cooperation, this can effect the outcome of a court case. In this case it would be wise to coordinate your strategy with progressive lawyers that politically support your case to come up with a plan, how to guide the court case in that direction. In Germany, for instance, there is a law that allows you to break existent laws if you can prove, that your action is necessary to prevent the society from greater damage (such as climate change).

number of  
people &  
planning effort Please expand!  
High planning effort.

materials  
& Can get quite costly.  
costs  
further  
readings  
.

## Call in sick!

details If it is not possible to arrange an actual General Strike, this might be a method of silent protest, that can get efficient aswell, if numbers are big enough. You could also use this tactic for very specific demands in a very specific place, e.g. within a coal mine company or even as driver of a coal digger. It would also be great if you could (as an “organized group of the willingless”) support your action with press work to gain media attention. And to encourage a broad spectrum of working people to do the same. Maybe this could be a first step to encourage the population to break an law prohibiting General Strikes.

number of  
people &  
planning  
effort Depends on the specific situation and what you want to achieve.

materials  
& Maybe some costs for printing and doing outreach work.  
costs  
further  
readings  
.

## work slowly

details Take all the time you want, take the Slow Movement to your place of employment, and deprive the ruling class of some of their profits while you’re at it. If the “Call-In sick” is not arrangable, this might be your action. Apart from the fact that you are still at work, it works similar to the action above, so you can look here for more details.

number of  
people &  
planning  
effort Depends on the specific situation and what you want to achieve.

materials &  
costs Maybe some costs for printing and doing outreach work.  
further  
readings  
.

# Non-Participation

Like non-cooperation, these require massive participation to be effective. Additionally, they also require the presence of alternative and solidary structures to make up for what is lost (whether that loss be perceived or real).

## Drop out!

Drop out of most or all established institutions. This is already being done by full-time activists and will get easier as time passes. You can start by taking part in solidary agriculture projects that are existent in many cities already. Or you can change your bank account to a system-critical provider (such as GLS in Germany) or even store all your money at home and build up a different concept of money exchange (e.g. only using internet platforms for that and only storing the money on a bank account for the limited time of exchange). Or you come together with some others to buy some property and take it away from the free market by establishing a solidary way of usage for unlimited future. Or you even find a way to create a big enough structure for exchange of resources, that you can distance from the whole system of unjust distribution and secure a supply with all necessities for everyone. There are much more possibilities to “drop out” – just be creative!

details  
number of people & 1+  
planning effort High planning effort.

materials & costs None. You’ll actually save money. Although it might be necessary to have access to a certain amount of money and/or whatever resources to kick-off your drop-out in some cases.

further readings

## Boycott

details Organize a boycott against a specific group of products or corporations, ex: animal products, Nestlé/Unilever. Do not boycott Israel (or any nation as such)!

number of people & planning effort Thousands.  
High planning effort.

materials & costs mobilization materials and costs they take

further readings

## money deprivation

details	Keep your savings (if you have any) somewhere other than in a bank account, sell any market shares you may have. You can do this as a tactic to “drop out” (see above) but it can also be a strategy for immediate effect if coordinated with a large enough number of people to actually disrupt the business as usual (because the banks are missing money).
number of people & planning effort	At least several thousands, but probably only really effective when done by millions. High planning effort.
materials & costs	mobilization materials and costs they take
further readings	.

## Alternative and solidary structures

Although we oppose the system, our livelihood depends on it almost completely. It is imperative to create alternative structures to emancipate our movement from state control – to free up time and resources and support full-time activists now, and to counter future repression.

## Squatting

details	Socialize housing space that isn't being used and use it yourselves or offer it to the public. There are two ways: a hidden squat and a public one. In the first alternative, you enter a house silently (usually by night) and install a way to come and leave that is most possibly unsuspecting for other residents. You can choose that option, if you just really need a place to stay and want to avoid trouble with state authorities or if the chance is very high, that police will evict you immediately after they found out. Like this, you save some time to prepare yourself for eviction, maybe build barricades or have another defense strategy. Advantages of a public squat are first of all that you can openly inform media and organize public support immediately to increase pressure on the council. Second, you don't have to prepare so much for a clandestine action and that saves a lot of time! Further readings for tactics and tools are coming soon.
number of people & planning effort	5+ Medium to high planning effort.
materials & costs	furniture, utensils, tools, paint ... Unknown additional costs. Depending on the tactic of occupation you may need to print mobilization materials.
further readings	.

## Dumpster Diving Coop

details	Go dumpster diving collectively and collect the loot in an open space. For example you can rent a cellar space, but often one person within the cooperative might already be able to distribute a functional place that everyone can access. In the end, your dumpster diving coop can look like an actual, little super market and that just feels amazing!
number of people & planning effort	10+ Medium planning effort.
materials & costs	You need a room and it would probably be a good idea to keep your eyes open for shelves, crates, boxes and so on.
further readings	.

## Agricultural Cooperatives

details	“SoLaWi” (in english “solidary agriculture”) is the concept of distributing a fair amount of money to the cooperative, which then is able to buy a piece of farmland and plant vegetables and other tasty food. Obviously, you will have to stick with seasonal supply and cannot have the most exotic fruits at any time. But we have to change that kind of consumerism anyway, so why not start? And you can always buy some stuff on top if needs be. Anyway, in most cases there will be a farmer offering the work to maintain the fields but you could also establish a system of care, where everyone takes part in. When food is ready, it gets distributed to all the people that are contributing to the project. Either you do that in relation to the money each person pays or you come up with a more solidary way of distribution.
number of people & planning effort	10+ High planning effort.
materials & costs	Lots of materials. High costs.
further readings	.

## People’s Kitchen

details	Make large amounts of food, preferably dumpstered, and offer it to anyone on a donation basis. You can either get a big foldable table and serve it on the street (for everyone, including homeless people) like “Food not Bombs” does, or you can use an existent self-organized space and focus on those people who are accessing these kinds of spaces. Another, more complex and sustainable version of a People’s Kitchen would be a kitchen
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collective, that explicitly plans to cook and serve large amounts of food within a political event like an occupation camp (these collectives are essential to any long term protest!). If you do so, it would be stupid not to connect to the existent network of kitchen collectives by contacting one of them (for example “Rampenplan” or “KochKollektiv”).

number of  
people &  
planning  
effort

1+; 5+ if you want to start a kitchen collective

Medium planning effort.

materials  
&  
costs

cooking supplies

Low additional costs. If you want to set up a kitchen collective, you will need to get a huge amount of very big pots and tools. It’s probably smart to contact another collective and ask them to assist you, so you may be able to get stuff cheaper or for free.

further  
readings

- <http://www.kollektiv.kitchen/> – website of the “KochKollektiv” with links to others
- [http://www.eco-action.org/teapot/guide to mass catering.pdf](http://www.eco-action.org/teapot/guide%20to%20mass%20catering.pdf) – a guide to mass catering
- [www.eco-action.org/teapot/publications.htm](http://www.eco-action.org/teapot/publications.htm) – more reading on how to organize a kitchen collective

## Collective toolshed

details

Most households are in possession of half a workshop but no one is using all these tools on a daily basis... so why don’t we save resources and money and install a collective workshop that is open to everyone (or everyone within your peer group)? Another advantage: everyone will then have access to WAY MORE TOOLS. And since you are going to save a lot of money and are also able to share the costs, you can even start to equip your toolshed with extraordinary devices like a screen printing machine or a 3D-printer! It is probably wise to have your communal toolshed in such a central space, that actually everyone can have access to it.

number of  
people &  
planning  
effort

2+

Medium planning effort.

materials  
&  
costs

tools

further  
readings

## Bike sharing

details

Use combination locks to share bikes, maybe have a central space to put them for the next person to lend. You can also paint all your bikes in similar colours so you are able to spot them all over the city and if the sharing network gets big enough, it might be possible one day, that you can just take a bike from nearly any place within the town. If your network is

connected to people with IT expertise, you might be able to come up with some technical improvement, for example using a tracking system that can be accessed via mobile phone (secured with password) or a map. Otherwise, offline strategies to keep track of all the bikes will soon become necessary.

number of people & planning effort 2+  
Low planning effort.  
materials & costs bikes, locks, possibly paint  
further readings

## Collective child care

Provide an alternative to kindergarten and daycare. Make sure you offer the kids something better than the usual toxicity and hierarchy. You can orientate towards concepts of inclusion (there is a huge amount of scientific reading and many practical examples!).  
For instance, activists who are unable to participate in civil disobedience or direct action because a sentence would result in an employment ban could work there. This is easily organized in private homes for small numbers of people, but can be scaled up to resemble ordinary institutions.

1+  
Variable planning effort. Generally, we are stressing to read A LOT of scientific papers that deal with educational problems and strategies! And make sure, someone within your collective child care has professional experience in education and care work! It is, like with climate change, extremely important not to ignore, what science has found out on any topic. And to take care of an educational process is probably one of the biggest responsibilities that one can take on...

Variable materials and costs. Please don't save costs in the first place! For the sake of our next generation...

## Open university

Offer education for education's sake and directly replace our current, failing system of educated stupidity. Like the childcare, this is easily scalable, and can grow organically. Instead of a pedagogical expertise, here you will need an extremely detailed knowledge of certain subjects and you should only offer an alternative to those subjects, that a member of the open university can provide lessons for! Probably this only really works, if you get actual (present or former) professors to change their institution and spend their time supporting a better structure of education (but having less to no wage in return).

1+



people & planning effort Variable planning effort. Generally, we are stressing to read A LOT of scientific papers that contain knowledge for certain subjects! And make sure, someone within your open university has professional experience in education and skill-sharing! It is, like with climate change, extremely important not to ignore, what science has found out on any topic. And to take care of an educational process is probably one of the biggest responsibilities that one can take on...

materials & costs further readings Variable materials and costs. You should somehow guarantee permanent access to a big library.

## Skillshare

details Spread useful skills, be it carpentry or lockpicking. You can organize a workshop for this, e.g. on an occupation camp or in a social center. You can do this unofficially in any situation in which you know something handy that others don't. You can even build a network with other knowledgeable people (on one or more subjects) and try to provide skill sharing on a more systematic level (like the Chaos Computer Club – “CCC” does) and invite people for your self-organized skill sharing event.

number of people & planning effort 1+ Variable planning effort. Ranging from none (if you can improvise) to setting up an organizing structure with information exchange and a lot of computer work.

materials & costs Variable materials and costs. Really depends on the skill you want to share, but in most cases you already have the necessary supplies for something you know very well...

further readings

## Setting up alternatives to governance

details Create parallel structures of organization (citizens' assemblies, council democracy, ...) as a social experiment or concrete alternative to representative democracy. Basically, every autonomous plenary is a legal form of alternative governance. Every anarchist house project comes up with their own set of ideals and guidelines and therefore experiments with new ways of social structures and decision making. Work out the problematic structures before the system fails so we're prepared. To expand the area of effect, you will soon face restrictions by state authorities (starting where your property ends) and will only be able to use your platform as a pilot project or to increase public pressure to the actual decision making structures. Do NOT declare territorial sovereignty or issue papers or otherwise challenge the hegemony of the state in any relevant way, if you don't want to face massive repression. If we would start doing that at some point, it would be incredibly important to do that with such a big mass of people throughout the whole society – and we would need a

very good framing – that state authorities cannot repress us or would fail trying it.

number of  
people &  
planning  
effort

depending on the size of your platform, number of people varies from a household to a couple thousand within a (symbolic) citizens assembly.  
medium to very high planning effort, depending on size (subject-wise AND people-wise)

materials  
&  
costs

No materials and costs, unless you are aiming for a bigger structure – at some point you may need money for mobilization materials.

further  
readings

## Opposing the system from within

These methods of action require activists to hold positions within state or corporate structures. They are often practiced in authoritarian regimes, one famous example being Oskar Schindler. Expect bullying or getting fired if you're caught.

### Blocking info and command structures

details

If your job is including to be a relevant gear wheel in information and command structures of a company or the state authorities, you have a unique position for resistance. Obviously your strength is proportional to the probability of getting fired or caught (and if other people than you would behave differently). A very easy example that is also often demanded by protesters would be the blocking of a command to enforce the deportation of a refugee. A very big example for this strategy would be the plan of Colonel Stauffenberg to assassinate Hitler and take over the propaganda and command structure for the whole country to end WW2 by surrendering. So, if you actually are in such a position and mentally acknowledging the catastrophe of global social injustice and climate change – and if you agree, that the system we live in is mainly responsible for this – and you are willing to oppose this self-destructive system – then please coordinate within your networks, search contact to other activist networks and plan to block the chain of command as effectively as possible!

number of  
people &  
planning  
effort

1+  
Unknown planning effort. Can be a klick, can be a huge, clandestine operation...

materials  
&  
costs

Depending on the amount of organisational effort

further  
readings

## Delaying the execution of orders

details	For details just read above (“Blocking info and command structures”). If you don’t dare to actually confront and reject a direct command, you could at least try to delay it (so for example an activist or refugee can escape, because you are not fast enough in place where you would have to catch them)
number of people & planning effort	1+ Generally no planning effort.
materials & costs	No materials and costs.
further readings	.

## Miscellaneous

### Hunger Strike

details	Stop eating to push for a clearly defined goal, f.ex. a declaration of climate emergency in your city or a “Civil Clause” at your university. A Hunger Strike, like the General strike, is probably one of the most effective weapons in western democratic countries (so far). Any addressed person or structure is under extreme pressure, because they are facing the pre-announced death of civilians for a legitimate demand. Therefore, this tactic only works, if your demands are publicly perceived as legitimate and the radicality of your protest is widely supported. A hunger strike against almost anything can be carried out by very few people. Actually, one person can often be enough to engage a huge movement of support and to achieve a range of goals! Strikers have to do a lot of research on the subject matter and be able to communicate well with the press.
number of people & planning effort	1+ Medium planning effort.
materials & costs	Nothing really... you should have people for emotional support within the whole time of strike.
further readings	.