



extinction
rebellion

REBEL

STARTER PACK

We are facing an unprecedented global emergency. The government has failed to protect us. To survive, it's going to take everything we've got.

This document provides a brief introduction to Extinction Rebellion, along with links to more detailed information about the movement and suggestions for how you can get involved.

28th October 2019

WHAT IS EXTINCTION REBELLION?

Extinction Rebellion is an international movement that uses **nonviolent civil disobedience** in an attempt to force institutions to act on the climate emergency, and minimise the risk of social collapse.



On **31st October 2018**, we assembled on Parliament Square in London to announce a [Declaration of Rebellion](#) against the UK Government. We were expecting a couple of hundred people. Instead, 1500 came to participate in peaceful civil disobedience. The energy was contagious!

On **15th April 2019**, we [declared the Emergency](#), taking direct action on the streets in cities across the world from Auckland to Accra, Mexico City to Vancouver. In London alone we had over 1000 arrests in a two week period!

On **7th October 2019** we [declared the Truth](#), gathering with our communities across cities, countries, and continents, to rise up and rebel for our deep love of life and the need to protect it. In the UK, Extinction Rebellion and allied movements peacefully shut down sites in Central London, with direct actions across the capital for two weeks. 1800+ brave rebels were arrested in London alone. Thousands of others joined on the streets or in remote capacity worldwide to demand that the government tell the truth!

We are now active in over 60 countries with 400+ local groups working to build our movement.

WHY DO WE NEED TO REBEL?

We will not be led quietly to extinction by the elites and politicians. Conventional campaigning has failed. Carbon emissions have increased by 60% since 1990.

We will work together with love, compassion, honour, resilience, and peace, using nonviolent civil disobedience in the spirit of all those who fought for our freedoms before us.

We call on every one of you, regardless of your political beliefs, to join us in fighting for the survival of life on earth.

Watch our [Heading for Extinction](#) talk.

94 ACADEMICS SUPPORTING OUR DECLARATION OF REBELLION SIGNED AN OPEN LETTER TO THE GUARDIAN SAYING:

“We will not tolerate the failure of this or any other government to take robust and emergency action in respect of the worsening ecological crisis. The science is clear, the facts are incontrovertible, and it is unconscionable to us that our children and grandchildren should have to bear the terrifying brunt of an unprecedented disaster of our own making.

We are in the midst of the sixth mass extinction, with about 200 species becoming extinct each day. Humans cannot continue to violate the fundamental laws of nature or of science with impunity. If we continue on our current path, the future for our species is bleak.

Our government is complicit in ignoring the precautionary principle, and in failing to acknowledge that infinite economic growth on a planet with finite resources is non-viable. Instead, the government irresponsibly promotes rampant consumerism and free-market fundamentalism, and allows greenhouse gas emissions to rise.”

This was followed by a Second Open Letter signed by (among others): Dr Vandana Shiva, Naomi Klein, Noam Chomsky, Prof AC Grayling, Philip Pullman, Dr Rowan Williams, and Bill McKibben.

WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE?

We have three demands:

1. TELL THE TRUTH

Government must tell the truth by declaring a climate and ecological emergency, working with other institutions to communicate the urgency for change.

2. ACT NOW

Government must act now to halt biodiversity loss and reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2025.

3. BEYOND POLITICS

Government must create and be led by the decisions of a Citizens' Assembly on climate and ecological justice.

This is an Emergency and we will do what we believe to be necessary.

We are completely nonviolent, our actions are done in full public view and we take responsibility for them. We have an Action Consensus which outlines how we work together on actions. The Rebel Agreement gives specific details.

We are about political change, not personal change (though we welcome the latter).

Follow up questions

What would it mean for the Government to tell the truth?

Is it possible to reduce carbon emissions to net zero?

What is a Citizens' Assembly?

HOW DO WE ORGANISE?

We organise in small groups. These groups are connected in a complex web that is constantly evolving as we grow and learn.

We are working to build a movement that is participatory, decentralised, and inclusive.

The structure aims to empower anybody to act as part of XR, so long as they agree to follow our ten core principles (see next page). You can read our [Self-Organising System](#) for more information.

We are seeking a balance between being able to act quickly in response to fast-changing situations and being able to integrate the collective wisdom of multiple perspectives when needed.

Here is a [Visual Representation](#) of the Working Groups and Strategy Groups that are organising at a UK-wide level.

There are almost two hundred [Local Groups](#) across the UK, each of which is building its own structures with different working groups.

And we are creating a network of Affinity Groups: small teams of about 8-12 people who work together and support each other at actions, working in line with our [Action Consensus](#).

OUR PRINCIPLES & VALUES

Any person or group can organise autonomously and take action in the name and spirit of XR so long as the action fits within XR's principles and values. In this way, power is decentralised, meaning that there is no need to ask for permission from a central group or authority.

- 1. We have a shared vision of change** *creating a world that is fit for the next 7 generations to live in.*
- 2. We set our mission on what is necessary** *mobilising 3.5% of the population to achieve system change – such as “momentum-driven organising” to achieve this.*
- 3. We need a regenerative culture** *creating a culture which is healthy, resilient and adaptable.*
- 4. We openly challenge ourselves and this toxic system** *leaving our comfort zones to take action for change.*
- 5. We value reflecting and learning** *following a cycle of action, reflection, learning, and planning for more action. Learning from other movements and contexts as well as our own experiences.*
- 6. We welcome everyone and every part of everyone** *working actively to create safer and more accessible spaces.*
- 7. We actively mitigate for power** *breaking down hierarchies of power for more equitable participation.*
- 8. We avoid blaming and shaming** *we live in a toxic system, but no one individual is to blame.*
- 9. We are a nonviolent network** *using nonviolent strategy and tactics as the most effective way to bring about change.*
- 10. We are based on autonomy and decentralisation** *we collectively create the structures we need to challenge power. Anyone who follows these core principles and values can take action in our name.*

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

LEARN MORE ABOUT XR

Watch our Heading for Extinction talk [online](#), view our latest news online [here](#), or come along to one of our [events](#). You can also find us on Social Media: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#).

ORGANISE WITH YOUR LOCAL XR GROUP

XR is a decentralised organisation rooted in self organising principles. Help build our grassroots movement by spreading the XR message in your community. Join an affinity group, organise actions with your local rebels, and attend training sessions.

[Here](#) is a local group map, including contact details, [join your nearest one here](#).

VOLUNTEER WITH A UK WORKING GROUP

These organising roles require a more significant time commitment (minimum one day a week, unless a specific skill is offered). We are working to build a platform for rebels to directly find ways to organize with national working groups. In the meantime, if you have significant capacity to help out, [sign up through this form](#) and we will be in touch as soon as we can to integrate you into your new role!

**COME AND JOIN US. REBEL FOR LIFE.
FOR THE PLANET. FOR OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURES.
THERE IS SO MUCH TO BE DONE.**

**DO YOU COMMIT
TO NONVIOLENCE?**

**DO YOU AGREE
TO FOLLOW OUR
PRINCIPLES?**

**IF SO YOU ARE
EXTINCTION
REBELLION AND
YOU CAN ACT
IN OUR NAME.**

More questions?

[Know the facts](#)