



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.

4<sup>th</sup> September 2019

# WHAT IS EXTINCTION REBELLION?

Extinction Rebellion is an international movement that uses **nonviolent civil disobedience** in an attempt to **halt mass extinction** and minimize the risk of **social collapse**.

# 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.

# EXTINCTION REBELLION

## U.S. DEMANDS

### **#1 Tell The Truth:**

We demand that the Government tell the truth about the climate and wider ecological emergency; that it reverse all policies not aligned with that position and work alongside the media to communicate the urgency of change, including what individuals, communities and businesses need to do.

### **#2 Act Now:**

We demand that the Government act now to halt biodiversity loss, enact legally binding policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2025, and take further action to remove the excess of atmospheric greenhouse gases. Furthermore, it must cooperate internationally so that the global economy runs on no more than half a planet's worth of resources per year.

### **#3 Citizens' Assemblies:**

We demand a Citizens' Assembly to lead the government on decisions regarding climate and ecological justice, as the government clearly cannot be trusted to make just decisions without such leadership.

### **#4 Climate Justice:**

We demand a just transition that prioritizes indigenous sovereignty and the most vulnerable people; establishes reparations and remediation led by people of color and poor communities in compensation for years of environmental injustice; establishes legal rights for ecosystems to thrive and regenerate in perpetuity and repairs the effects of ongoing ecocide to prevent the extinction of humankind and all species of animal and vegetable life, in order to maintain a livable, just planet for all.

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.

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 one 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.*



# XR NYC ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES

## **SLOW DOWN YOUR YES**

Don't say you're going to do something if you can't do it.

## **“THREE PIRATE RULE”**

Three people who have been through the 101-level XR training can create XR messaging. The demands and philosophy of XR began in London, but its soul is everywhere.

## **PRODUCTIVE & REGENERATIVE MEETINGS**

Movements fail or succeed based on the quality of their meetings. Activists who are too eager to talk and too impatient to listen have slowed down many movements. We strive for productive and regenerative gatherings:

- Actively listen to others. When someone makes a point, repeat what you heard, and summarize.
- Small meetings are best: ideally between 6 - 15 people and not longer than two hours.
- Regenerative practices, including check-ins and check-outs, are the manna of this movement.

## **NO PUBLIC CALLING OUT**

Issues with individuals must be reconciled in person, or via an audio or video call, not over text or email. Praise in public, correct in private. Facilitators and coordinators may set limits or ask a person to leave if they are actively disrupting a meeting or event.