

# BEYOND THE CRISIS

**This strategic document offers guidance,  
opens a space for dialogue and aims  
to enable our movement to continue  
to develop in a decentralised way.**

This strategy was developed in an  
open process organized by:

**The Strategy Stewardship circle,  
a subcircle of Political Strategy and Change  
and Future of Democracy.**

**Rebels from all circles and from all  
over the Netherlands participated  
in the creation of  
this document.**



# INTRODUCTION

**Together we rise up to protect the planet and its inhabitants.**

Like you, we worry about the future of our families, friends and communities. We are in the middle of a climate and ecological meltdown and witness to the ongoing destruction of communities and the living world across the planet.

**The corona crisis has been a warning and a wake-up call for society.**

Climate breakdown, Covid-19, racial injustice – all are symptoms of a toxic system that is driving us to extinction – a system built on economic inequality, extraction, the destruction of nature, and exploitation. We cannot carry on like this.

**In 2019 we declared a rebellion. With bold and creative actions we managed to gain the attention of the media and started changing the public debate. In 2020 we will decisively shift Dutch public opinion and align with other movements to start building a new world.**

The corona crisis has a major impact on society, our lives and our action-oriented movement. Instead of organising a large-scale action week in spring, we have used the imposed break to reflect on who we are and where we want to go as a movement. This strategy is the result of this reflection.

Whether you're a seasoned rebel or have just participated in your first action, this short document is for you. It aims to give focus and inspiration to our movement and our fight for climate justice. We recognize it is not an end point; as the world changes, our movement and strategies will change with it.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the creation of this strategy. Your diverse perspectives have brought this strategy to life and given it direction.

**Together we rise up to face these interlocking crises.**



## PURPOSE

Awakening to the reality of climate and ecological breakdown, we use mass civil disobedience with the strength of a growing movement, aligning with other movements and networks, to demand rapid change and prefigure new systems that helps life on earth thrive.

## VISION

We imagine a future where humans no longer cause irreparable harm to themselves and their surroundings, but where communities joyfully work together, recognising ourselves as part of Earth and respectfully playing our part in her ability to be resilient, adaptive and regenerative.

## MISSION

We organise creative, peaceful and disruptive actions meant to force our government to take the necessary measures for a just and democratic transition out of the climate and ecological crisis. In our individual and collective actions we aim to embody a regenerative culture and work on the world we would like to live in.



## THEORIES OF CHANGE

Specifically, we contribute to bottom-up, networked pressure, in order to drive top-down, democratically mandated transformation. We integrate different forms of activism and pursue change on levels from individual to systemic, all of which need sustained attention by the movement.

*In the following year we will focus on:*

- ~ **Actions to put pressure on institutions**
- ~ **Integrating social justice in our movement and in our perspective on system change**
- ~ **Living and showing regenerative, resilient and democratic alternatives to business as usual**
- ~ **Actively participating in a movement of movements**

In striving towards these goals, we acknowledge that there is no one correct answer, or one way to get it right. Our approach embraces difference, acknowledging that different approaches reinforce each other instead of standing in conflict; **we aim to turn 'either/or' into 'both/and' by connecting actions, approaches, and policies with mutual care and solidarity.**

# FOCUS SUMMER 2020 - SUMMER 2021

## DIRECT ACTION

*We will let 10.000 people participate in the movement, celebrating all roles and contributions, and will move 50% of the population to see the Climate & Ecological Emergency as their top priority.*

*To achieve this we will:*

- ~ **Pressure institutions** through a Mass Rebellion in the Autumn and a Mass Rebellion in the Spring;
- ~ **Support mobilisation** in local communities and support local campaigns e.g. local government climate emergency plans, air pollution, aviation expansion, coal, oil and gas;
- ~ **Streamline our action planning** through an open-source 'Living Timeline';

## SOCIAL JUSTICE

*We strive to create a just world for all. Because it's the right thing to do and because we recognize you can't stop ecocide and the climate crisis without changing the systems that cause them.*

*To achieve this we will:*

- ~ **Align our processes and culture with our vision for the world;** we strive to embed Social Justice in our current practices, actions and organization, especially around issues of leadership, power and privilege. Social Justice will become an explicit part of the Heading for Extinction talk and our outreach efforts.
- ~ **Take our supporters on a learning journey;** organize education on existing power structures and encourage and facilitate reflection on power dynamics and the intersections of different struggles and positions.
- ~ **Actively communicate the importance of climate justice;** understanding and communicating the links between ecocide, the climate crisis and social justice;
- ~ **Organize actions on climate justice and social justice;** together with existing groups already doing the hard and necessary work.

## SHOWING ALTERNATIVES

*We won't wait for our demands to be met, but enact them, and showcase the culture and systems the future will need.*

*To achieve this we will:*

- ~ **Work on a regenerative, resilient and democratic culture** in our own movement, leading by example.
- ~ **Support local groups and XR Communities** in showcasing different positions and solutions on the biodiversity and climate crisis.
- ~ **Push for a Citizen's Assembly** to break the gridlock and inaction of the current political and economic system and achieve common-sense policy.
- ~ **Lead the conversation on system change;** talking about the underlying causes of the crisis to expose the power of the corporate media and the economic systems that destroy life on earth and offer alternatives which disrupt the business-as-usual hold on power.

# MOVEMENT OF MOVEMENTS

*We will grow Extinction Rebellion NL's connection to, and understanding of its role in relation to wider movements for change, building stronger relationships and partnerships, co-creating new stories and visions of the future.*

*To achieve this we will:*

- ~ **Reach out to climate justice groups and other social movements**, not only based on our demands but equally on our principles and values, finding common ground as a basis to work with other movements.
- ~ **Learn to be more humble** and not instrumental in our intention for collaboration. We still have a lot to learn. We should do so by firstly acknowledging that there are already groups struggling on the frontline, and act in solidarity with them.
- ~ **Amplify the voices and concepts of other movements.** Extinction Rebellion NL supports groups/movements, especially those that have less visibility. Standing alongside and learning from other communities, particularly those marginalised, indigenous and local.

*Let this be a guide for focus and a source for inspiration in the stories we want to communicate to the streets and in our conversations we have about the movement and our activism.*

