



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.

WHAT IS EXTINCTION REBELLION?

Extinction Rebellion is an international movement that uses **non-violent civil disobedience** in an attempt to **halt mass extinction** 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!

The next few weeks were a whirlwind. Six thousand of us converged on London to peacefully block five major bridges across the Thames. We planted trees in the middle of Parliament Square, and dug a hole there to bury a coffin representing our future. We super-glued ourselves to the gates of Buckingham Palace as we read a letter to the Queen.

Our actions generated huge national and international publicity and, as news spread, our ideas connected with tens of thousands of people around the world. The XR project was resonating with a deeply felt need for community and solidarity. “We are the ones we’ve been waiting for,” we chanted!

Dozens of countries now have groups springing up, from the Solomon Islands to Australia, from Spain to South Africa, the US to India.

So what’s next?

We are working relentlessly, building our movement in preparation for the October rebellion in multiple countries that begins on the 7th of October 2019.

So come and join us. Rebel for life. For the planet. For our children’s futures. There is so much work to be done.

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 scientists first warned of ecological collapse in 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:

One That the Government must tell the truth about how deadly our situation is, it must reverse all policies not in alignment with that position and must work alongside the media to communicate the urgency for change including what individuals, communities and businesses need to do.

Two That the Government enact legally-binding policies to reduce carbon emissions in the UK to net zero by 2025 and take further action to remove the excess of atmospheric greenhouse gases. It must cooperate internationally so that the global economy runs on no more than half a planet's worth of resources per year.

Three By necessity these demands require initiatives and mobilisation of similar size and scope to those enacted in times of war. We do not, however, trust our Government to make the bold, swift and long-term changes necessary to achieve this and we do not intend to hand further power to our politicians. Instead we demand a Citizens' Assembly to oversee the changes, as we rise from the wreckage, creating a democracy fit for purpose.

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 non-violent 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?

JOIN US FOR THE OCTOBER REBELLION 7TH OCTOBER 2019

PARTICIPATE IN THE REBELLION

Fill in [this form](#) to let us know how you would like to participate and, if you can, *please book time off work from the 7th October onwards*

VOLUNTEER IN A KEY ORGANISING ROLE

We need skilled and committed volunteers to take on key organising roles in preparation for the October rebellion in multiple countries beginning 7th October. These roles require regular time commitment for most of October: full-time, part-time, or one full working day a week as part of a job share. If you would like to take on one of these responsibilities, please get in contact asap via [this form](#).

VOLUNTEER FOR TELEPHONE OR DATA ENTRY

Just want to do a bit to help; join our [Rebel Ringers](#) group and help us reach rebels when we need a fast response; or join the [Data Entry](#) group who process paper sign up sheets from local groups and actions (placing “Data Entry” in skills)

LEARN MORE ABOUT EXTINCTION REBELLION

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](#).

JOIN YOUR LOCAL XR GROUP

Help build our grassroots movement by spreading the XR message in your community. Join an affinity group, organise in local working group, and attend training sessions to prepare for the international rebellion. [Here](#) is a local group map, including contact details, [join your nearest one here](#).

**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](#)