

Annual Review 2021

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH EUROPE








© Hanae Takahashi / Friends of the Earth Japan



Staff Away Day 2021. © Friends of the Earth Europe

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Creating space for change



JAGODA MUNIC,
Director, Friends of
the Earth Europe

May 2022

J. Munic



**We campaign for social
and environmental justice
at the heart of the EU**



**We unite more than 30
national groups and
thousands of local groups
across Europe**



**We are part of Friends of
the Earth International,
the world's largest
grassroots environmental
network.**

We had hoped that 2021 would allow us to put Covid-19 behind us. That was not to be. Wave after wave of the pandemic has taught us many things – about patience and adaptability, organising effectively remotely, the strength and connectedness of Friends of the Earth's grassroots network, and the centrality of solidarity in response to global challenges.

The pandemic has shown how Friends of the Earth's vision and narrative – of interconnected environmental and social justice – is more vital than ever. Indeed, the inequity of access to life-saving Covid-19 vaccines epitomises the injustice at the root of the struggle for a fairer world.

We have seen that 'building back better' is not a given. After two years, the rich have become richer and the poor poorer whilst little has been done to address the climate emergency.

Minds are now, rightly, consumed by the horrific illegal war Putin has waged on Ukraine. War is the worst thing that can happen to people and nature. We call for 2022 to be a turning point, away from armed conflict, and away from the fossil fuel era has fuelled conflicts worldwide.

Fierce public campaigning will be needed to gain support for the just solutions – and the inevitable trade-offs – to the multiple interlocking crises we face and to build back fairer, sustainable, peaceful societies.

One vehicle for such campaigning is the European Green Deal. We continued to look at Green Deal proposals through a justice lens and to advocate for progressive policies. A pre-requisite for this must be the removal of obstacles. Our [Fossil Free Politics campaign](#) is exposing perhaps the biggest barrier; the stranglehold of fossil fuel corporations.

At the same time, we have witnessed some previously overlooked issues, like energy poverty and agroecology, start to get the public and political attention they deserve. And [Young Friends of the Earth Europe have been bringing the voice of youth into the Green Deal debate](#) and opening-up space for transformational and just policy proposals.

Another important truth revealed by the pandemic, is that governments CAN act fast and implement society-wide changes when there is political will. This learning must be transferred to the climate crisis. The [new IPCC reports](#) makes it devastatingly apparent that too much time has been wasted and the only pathways that remain out of climate catastrophe are exceedingly difficult. We need systemic changes to decrease inequality and increase sustainability. This means abandoning the fallacy of market solutions and so-called 'green' or 'sustainable' growth, as we have advocated in our ['7 sparks to light a new economy' paper](#).

Learning is a principle we seek to apply internally, as well as in what we demand of others. Last year, we trained [local organisers to implement community renewables projects across Europe](#). And we hosted discussions on intersectionality, focusing on gender and racial justice – and developed new alliances in doing so.

Friends of the Earth Europe will continue to learn and to be at the forefront of creating the space for change.

Campaign Highlights 2021

Future of Europe



System:Reset

YOUNG FRIENDS OF THE EARTH EUROPE

The Young Friends of the Earth Europe network finalised its two year long SYSTEM:RESET project! It aimed at building platforms across Europe to bring people from under-represented communities into decision making at different levels.



SystemReset project final meeting. © Young Friends of the Earth Europe

Together they developed collective visions for a socially just and ecologically sound future.

The project empowered 3300 young people and brought awareness to 150,000 European citizens. Youth across Europe had the opportunity to gather, learn, and share through workshops, meetings, youth hubs, discussion evenings, online trainings, actions and camps. All these activities were organised by the different Friends of the Earth groups who led the programme in nine countries.

As part of the project, eight activists travelled to Glasgow to participate in the COP26 UN climate talks. Young Friends of the Earth Europe was inside

and outside the conference. For two weeks, they followed the negotiations, organised and took part in actions, and showed solidarity with local and global communities and those who were excluded from this space.

Young Friends of the Earth Europe concluded the SYSTEM:RESET work by publishing their own youth proposal for a Green Deal for Europe. This paper presents visions that were collected during this two-year pan-European project. It presents the future young people want and demands for the urgent intersectional transformation that is needed in our society.

Solidarity - more than a buzzword



Photo exhibition: "From Scotland to Sarawak: Global stories of climate resistance" in Glasgow, COP26. © Megan Barclay / Friends of the Earth

In an uncertain world, rocked by climate breakdown, Covid-19 and other crises, Europe has a responsibility to respond with solidarity. Solidarity is more than a buzzword. We believe it means stepping up, with deeds and not only with words, to change things for the better.

We set out to stimulate conversations about EU solidarity and how to strengthen it. We worked with a young Irish artist to bring to life real stories which encapsulate solidarity. From Poland to Palestine, and from Bosnia to El Salvador, we shared inspiring true stories of solidarity. At the same time Friends of the Earth member groups in 8 countries organised 47 different events around the theme of solidarity. Over the course of 9 months our project succeeded to reach over 9 million people.

We brought the message of solidarity to the UN COP26 climate talks where our illustrated stories featured in an exhibition in a gallery in Glasgow, and helped bring the voices of those under-represented at the conference.

Campaign Highlights 2021

Climate justice and energy



Real zero, no 'net zero'

We were at COP26 as part of Friends of the Earth International's global delegation. Despite the restrictions, the climate movement was strong and visible on the streets of Glasgow.



Global Day of Action for Climate Justice. 100,000 people joined the Climate March in Glasgow at COP26. © Hanae Takahashi / Friends of the Earth Japan

The United Nations climate summit, COP26, brought climate justice campaigners from around the world to Glasgow, Scotland. We were there as part of Friends of the Earth International's global delegation. The conference had been delayed one year by Covid-19, and we were outspoken about the inaccessibility of the talks to delegates from the Global South most impacted by the climate crisis.

Despite the restrictions, the climate movement was strong and visible on the streets of Glasgow. Almost 150,000 people took part in the biggest ever mobilisation for climate justice in the United Kingdom. This was mirrored by marches around the world. We organised stunts inside and outside the

conference venue, and called out, in particular the 'net zero' smokescreen and other greenwashing antics by the countries and industries most responsible for the climate emergency.

This Commission is over-relying on failed market-mechanisms and unproven technofixes to 'clean' our polluting and unfair energy system.

Jagoda Munic, Director
in Forbes

Let's burst the gas bubble



Bursting the gas bubble outside the European Commission, Brussels. © Laure Geerts / Friends of the Earth Europe

We worked to scandalise the use of public funds to support large-scale new gas infrastructure projects in Europe. We helped bring two technical legislative EU processes into the public sphere through on-the-ground actions, petitions, movement-building, and online campaigns. We even received a show of support from Greta Thunberg!

Together with our advocacy work towards the EU institutions these efforts helped to deliver a victory against the public financing of fossil fuels; traditional fossil gas projects can no longer receive public money. The campaign continues to end financing of ALL fossil fuels and to burst the gas bubble once and for all.

If you continue to let the industry set the agenda, then you are going to continue to have gas.

Eilidh Robb, Fossil Fuel campaigner
in the New York Times.

The Right to Energy campaign achieved important milestones in terms of raising awareness of the scourge of energy poverty, expanding the movement, and influencing policymakers. The coalition sent an open letter to the European Commission ahead of the revision of EU legislation on energy performance in buildings.

The letter was signed by more than 40 organisations, including trade unions, social justice groups and allies and listed our demands for alleviating energy poverty across Europe. The letter resulted in a meeting between coalition members and Commission representatives. Five out of seven of the demands are included in the draft legislation.

Successful advocacy for the Right to Energy



Raising awareness for the Right to Energy, outside the European Commission, Brussels.
© Philip Reynaers / Photonews / Friends of the Earth Europe

The Commission's move to extend emissions trading to buildings shows a lack of solidarity. It throws low-income people into high-energy price waters while offering only a swimming float of support to relieve energy poverty.

Martha Myers, Energy Poverty campaigner
in The Guardian.

Organising for the energy transition



Green Energy Cooperative in Croatia. © Zelena Energetska Zadruga

We trained 23 people from 13 different countries to be community organizers for the energy transition. Over a course of 10 online sessions, the participants gained knowledge about European energy policy, and practical skills to be able to set up their own clean energy projects.

The course was unique in the way it brought together technical information on legal structures, financing, technologies and the role of municipalities, with leadership, storytelling, team-building, and other vital organizing skills. Too often community projects fail because communities lack organizing know-how. Now 23 more people are out there making community-controlled renewable and efficiency projects happen all over Europe.

The course was based on FoEE's Handbook – Community Energy: a practical guide to reclaiming power.

There is a worrying omission of Renewable Energy Communities and this threatens to leave community projects without the support they need.

Molly Walsh, Community Energy campaigner
in The Guardian.

Campaign Highlights 2021

Corporate power



Opposition mounts against climate action chiller

The little-known climate-wrecking Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) faced mounting opposition from civil society, MEPs and national governments.



Exit the Energy Charter Treaty action in Brussels. © Friends of the Earth Europe

Leaks from the negotiations to supposedly 'modernise' the treaty revealed that the talks are failing and EU attempts to phase down protection for fossil fuel investments were rejected.

For our first physical stunt since before the pandemic, we brought attention to the ECT by hanging a giant sword of Damocles over bewildered EU politicians to depict how the threat of the treaty is seriously

hampering climate action. More than one million people signed the petition calling on countries to pull out of the treaty. And more than 400 civil society organisations signed a statement asking European governments to withdraw. The campaign for a coordinated exit of both the EU and its Member States from the ECT is going strong.

Helping end harmful gas exports



Say NO to fossil gas – TEN-E action (c) Philip Reynaers / Friends of the Earth Europe

Friends of the Earth Mozambique / JA! is campaigning against big fossil gas projects. Such projects deprive fishermen of their livelihoods, damage the environment and force people to leave their houses. Local people do not benefit as all the gas extracted is exported. The only ones to profit are European companies, such as Total and ENI. And worse, European governments give billions of Euros in subsidies to the companies, despite the need to phase-out all fossil fuels – gas included.

JA! asked Friends of the Earth groups and partners in Europe to help stop these subsidies. National level campaigns have already been successful. Italy, the UK, France, the Netherlands and 16 other countries have committed to phase out subsidies for fossil fuels from their Export Credit Agencies.

Amid record-breaking deforestation, rampant fires, and increased attacks on indigenous people in Brazil, the ratification of the EU-Mercosur trade deal has been put 'on ice'.

Together with a broad coalition of civil society groups both from South America and Europe, we sent several letters to Heads of States and Ministers warning about the damaging impacts of this trade deal. We reiterated our call to stop the deal and to reject cosmetic amendments, in the form of annexes and protocols, which do little to prevent human rights abuses, reduce pesticide use, and protect global biodiversity.

We published investigative reports on how [ethanol imports by European chemical companies](#) and [meat products sold in European supermarkets](#) are linked to deforestation and human rights violations in South America.

Under pressure trade deal put 'on ice'



Say No to EU-Mercosur. © Friends of the Earth Europe

The era of European companies being allowed to wreck the planet and destroy livelihoods with impunity is coming to a close.

Jill McArdle, Corporate Accountability campaigner
in The Guardian.

Overwhelming public support for EU Due Diligence law – poll



Oil spill, Nigeria, (c) Milieudefensie

Over 80 percent of citizens from multiple EU countries want strong laws to hold companies liable for overseas human rights and environmental violations. People affected by such corporate driven abuses must be allowed to take the companies responsible to court in Europe, according to the vast majority of people surveyed.

Those were the [findings of an opinion poll](#) we commissioned ahead of the European Commission's draft proposal for a new human rights and environmental due diligence law. The findings came on top of half a million signatures collected by civil society groups to demand a strong law.

The draft law, known as Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence, was finally published in early 2022. For the first time in the EU, parent and lead companies will be liable for harms by their subsidiaries and suppliers. However, the proposal leaves gaping loopholes to allow corporations to escape liability – which we are now campaigning hard to close.

The EU is now working on an accountability framework to address environmental harms and human rights by business. This must include liability for the harm caused by companies and access to courts for victims of human rights violations and environmental crimes.

Audrey Changoe, Trade campaigner
in BBC.

Fossil fuel conflict of interest avoided



FROM COP21 TO COP26 FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY CAPTURE OF CLIMATE POLITICS

Since 2015, the year of COP21, six of the biggest EU fossil fuel companies - Shell, BP, Total, Equinor, Eni and Galp (and 5 of their lobby groups*) - have:



Crossed the **revolving door** at least **71** times: cases include top-level positions in governments and international institutions.**



Spent more than **€170 MILLION** lobbying the EU.



Had **568** meetings with top level officials from the EU Commission (more than 1.5 meetings a week!)

Our Fossil Free Politics campaign proved how much its work is needed by exposing the shocking level of infiltration by the fossil fuel industry inside government bodies and international institutions. Fossil Free Politics exposed dozens of cases in which former fossil fuel industry employees obtained high-level government positions, and vice versa. We also exposed hundreds of lobby meetings between fossil fuel industry lobbyists and government officials.

With our coalition partners we successfully campaigned against the appointment of Natalie Tocci, a board member of fossil fuel giant ENI, as a special advisor to the European Commission. We stepped in to point out this undeniable conflict of interest. After months of research and public pressure, Ms Tocci's appointment was revoked.



This blind pandering to fossil-fuel interests undermines the Paris Agreement and the European Green Deal.

Paul de Clerck, Economic justice campaigner
in the Green European Journal.

Campaign Highlights 2021

Food, farming and nature



'Meat Atlas' exposes devastating industry

Our trailblazing Meat Atlas revealed the ties between European meat consumption, industrial animal farming, and the global climate and biodiversity crises.



Meat Atlas. © Heinrich Böll / Friends of the Earth Europe

Our trailblazing Meat Atlas revealed the ties between European meat consumption, industrial animal farming, and the global climate and biodiversity crises. The publication showed how industrial animal farming is responsible for up to 21% of climate-damaging emissions. It also exposed how 20 meat and dairy firms emit more greenhouse gas than Germany, Britain or France.

The comprehensive and graphical report, produced together with Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, hit the headlines worldwide. It generated more than 350 media articles in 35 countries. It underscored our call for a transition to nature-friendly food and farming in the EU Farm to Fork Strategy and other policies.

Debate over the deregulation of a new generation of GMOs remained strong this past year. As the European Commission prepared a new consultation which could result in the rewriting of EU GMO laws, we were heavily critical of the study it released suggesting that current GMO legislation was 'not fit for purpose'. We published an [investigation](#) showing the Commission's study was biased towards biotech companies and pointing to the industry's sustained campaign to win exemptions for new GMOs from safety checks.

Together with 161 other organisations, we wrote to Vice-President Timmermans to call on the Commission to keep GM food risk-assessed, traceable and labelled. This is to protect the rights of farmers and consumers to choose what they plant and eat. We published briefings setting-out [why new GMOs won't help fight climate change](#) and [what lies beneath big agribusiness' push for deregulation](#). Opinion is still divided between ministries and countries, and we continue to build-up the movement for a GMO-free Europe.

Keeping (new) GMOs out off our fields and off our plates



The European Commission promised a sustainable food system with its Farm to Fork strategy, but it seems to be trying to let in a new generation of genetically-modified crops onto our fields and plates without safety checks and labelling.

Mute Schimpf, GMO campaigner
in EUObserver.

More than 1 million signatures for bees and farmers



1.2 million citizens signed the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) '[Save bees and farmers](#)'. The petition calls on the EU institutions to phase-out synthetic pesticides by 2035, to restore biodiversity, and to support farmers in their transition to environmentally-friendly farming practices.

This success was the result of intense mobilisation from a cross-sector alliance of civil society organisations covering the environment, health, farming and beekeeping. With this broad coalition, and over a million citizen's voices, we now ask the European Commission and Parliament to turn the campaign's demands into law.



Celebrating signatures for a pesticide free Europe. © Liga para a Protecção da Natureza

Campaign Highlights 2021

Resource Justice



The economy is designed, and we can redesign it!

A common vision for an environmentally and socially just economy.



We want to inspire action to wholly transform the current dominant growth-based, capitalist, neoliberal economy. And to dismantle the power structures maintaining and driving it. This economic system is at the root of the destruction of our shared planet and of people.

Over more than a year, we led a bottom-up process of interactive webinars and workshops with our members all over Europe, to develop seven transformational ideas for a new economy for Europe.

It is not a utopian 'blueprint' or manual, rather a broad and inspiring vision. We broke down this vision of a new economy into seven parts – seven interdependent areas which together can transform

our economy to sustain life within Earth's limits. Now we want to galvanise collective action from governments and people to redesign an economy that serves the wellbeing of all and our shared planet.

Read our [7 Sparks to Light a New Economy](#).

The Von der Leyen Commission's plan for a circular economy is out of touch with the reality and urgency of the planetary emergency... because it is written to satisfy the demands of endless economic growth, over the needs of people and the natural world.

Meadhbh Bolger, Resource justice campaigner in Euractiv.

Making the case for cutting consumption



FoE Sweden end ecocide stunt (C) Mose Agestam

Resource consumption, at the systemic not individual level, is a fundamental yet under-addressed question in discussions about the transition to sustainable economies. We went some way to filling that gap with [our report on the myths of so-called 'green mining'](#).

The European Commission's plans for a green and digital transition will lead to a continued increase in the demand for materials and a large number of damaging new mining projects – both inside and outside the EU. We advocated for the green transition to tackle the root causes of the broader climate and environmental crises. And as an urgent first step, we pushed for the EU to set a material footprint reduction target of 65%.

Our recommendations attracted attention from civil society and EU and national policy makers, as well as researchers and industry. The case for cutting EU resource consumption is getting harder to ignore.

Member Highlights 2021



STOP AKW Krško nuclear plant!



Stop AKW Krško! © GLOBAL 2000

AUSTRIA

Friends of the Earth Austria / GLOBAL 2000 and Friends of the Earth Slovenia / FOCUS joined forces to fight for an environmental impact assessment of the Krško nuclear power plant. Working with their partners and supporters, Friends of the Earth Austria got both Austrian and Italian politicians to advocate for a shutdown. They started a petition, visited the plant, and initiated direct actions for a future-friendly energy transition. Their efforts are bearing fruit: the approval is delayed, the plans are being carefully reviewed. The struggle is not over. Not until we finally say "Bye Bye AKW Krško!".

1



Check the banks out

GLOBAL 2000 Banken-Check 2021



Banken-Check 2021. © GLOBAL 2000

AUSTRIA

Friends of the Earth Austria / GLOBAL 2000 published their first Bank Check, an important tool for environmentally conscious consumers. This guide takes a look at banks' commitments to sustainability. Is money invested into renewable energies or used to finance a nuclear or coal-fired power plant? Unfortunately, the report revealed that none of the featured banks is seriously acting in the sense of a socio-ecological transformation. Empty promises won't fool us!

2



A question of solidarity



Déjoue ton assiette. © Les Amis de la Terre

BELGIUM (BRUSSELS AND WALLONIA)

As part of the project 'Europe in Solidarity', Friends of the Earth Belgium Wallonia / Les Amis de la Terre gave the opportunity to young adults to question members of the European Parliament. The youth participants took part in workshops and discussions. They explored local food and agriculture, climate transition, ecofeminism, and other subjects. At the end of each session, the participants could make a video for MEPs. The citizen's journey allowed everyone to understand better the global context and the role of the European Union – an essential step toward active citizenship.

3



Spring of the Sana River protected



BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

Friends of the Earth Bosnia and Herzegovina / Centar za životnu sredinu celebrated a long-awaited decision to grant the Sana river protected status as a Natural Monument. Their fight to win protection for the river began when it was announced that a hydro power plant would be constructed on it. The hydro station was built in the end, but Friends of the Earth Bosnia and Herzegovina never gave up. With determination, they obtained new protected area status and stopped plans for more devastating projects on the Sana River.

4



Rivers protected



BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

Friends of the Earth Bosnia & Herzegovina helped protect the local brown bear population through the first-ever genetic research project into the species. Nature diversity in the region is under threat from political, economic and environmental pressures. There is an urgent need to understand and preserve species and habitats, and promote a traditional way of life in which humans and animals coexist. The research project resulted in a new plan to manage and monitor the brown bear population.

5



Multiplying zero waste cities



Candidate for zero waste city. © Zelena akcija

CROATIA

Friends of the Earth Croatia / Zelena Akcija has been working on the issue of waste management since its formation. With its help, seven local municipalities on Krk Island acquired the candidacy status for 'Zero waste city' – a first step towards full certification of best practices in the European Union. Friends of the Earth Croatia have already assisted the City of Prelog (and 11 neighboring municipalities) to obtain the status of the first Croatian 'Zero waste city'. The journey is not over: the aim is now to make Krk the first zero waste island in Europe!

6



The right to clean air



Info campaign in Sofia with an art installation made by "DestructiveCreation". © Za Zemiata

BULGARIA

Sofia city authorities cannot stay inactive regarding air quality! Friends of the Earth Bulgaria / Za Zemiata, with three partner civil society organisations, and three local citizens, filed a class action lawsuit against the town with the help of four lawyers, 155 donations from individuals, and numerous supporters. Four years of legal proceedings later, the court acknowledged that the municipality had allowed excessive emissions of fine particulate matter which had led to health risks for residents. The municipality is now obliged to take specific effective measures to improve air quality. This campaign raised public awareness of the poor air quality in the city and showed that citizens can, through collective action, enact their rights to clean air and a clean environment.

7



Teaching municipalities to reduce waste



Plan to improve recycling and sorting. © Hnutí DUHA

CZECHIA

Friends of the Earth Czechia / Hnutí DUHA has been motivating municipalities to reduce their waste for many years. To assist the village of Veselíčko, they performed analyses and prepared a plan for the mayor to improve recycling and sorting. Together with NGO Zero Waste Europe, they developed materials to help towns to implement zero waste strategies. They aspire to expand their project to many municipalities and companies across Czechia in the years to come.

8



Degrowth summer school



Degrowth Summer School. © Estonian Green Movement

ESTONIA

Is degrowth the answer to unrestricted development? The Degrowth summer school, organized by Friends of the Earth Estonia / Eesti Roheline Liikumine, asked this question. During four days, 30 participants exchanged views with recognised experts on the logic of eternal economic growth and on the possibility of a democratically-led reduction of production and consumption. The discussions focused on solutions and existing projects that bring us closer to environmental sustainability, social justice, and prosperity.

9



Climate hearing goes viral



ESTONIA

Madis Vasser, an advocacy expert from Friends of the Earth Estonia / Eesti Roheline Liikumine, had the opportunity to question Estonia's climate targets in the Parliament. The discussion was brought about by a petition launched by Friends of the Earth Estonia and two other organisations calling for urgent climate action. The groups believe that the country's targets are too modest given that it has declared a climate emergency. A part of the hearing went viral, attracting attention for the wrong reasons, when a Member of Parliament failed to ask his question and was seen on screen smoking in bed. Although concerning, this episode had the upside of reaching more people with the debate and introducing them to the concept of swift climate action.

10



Victory for breathable air



FRANCE

Friends of the Earth France / Les Amis de la Terre achieved a historic victory in its fight for breathable air. The French state was fined 10 million euros for failing to comply with European air quality standards in several metropolitan areas. Every six months, the amount of the fine will be re-evaluated and enforced until the government finally complies with the standards. This sum is set to be donated to public bodies and organisations who aim to reduce air pollution. According to estimations, air pollution causes 48,000 to 100,000 premature deaths in France every year. This is an important battle, and the win is a great step towards cleaner air in France.

11



Bank industry on the spot



FRANCE

Société Générale, one of the largest banks in France, withdrew from two highly polluting projects in Canada following tireless campaigning by Friends of the Earth France / Amis de la Terre and ANV-COP21. But despite this significant decision, the company is still carrying out similar projects in the US. The struggle is far from being over! Meanwhile, Friends of the Earth France intends to push French banks to undertake steps towards the development of carbon-free energy.

12



The Rioni river: safe for now



GEORGIA

Friends of the Earth Georgia / The Greens Movement of Georgia took an active role in proceedings surrounding the the Namakhvani Hydropower plant. The plant threatens the safety of the population and pristine ecosystems. Campaigners identified risks and shortcomings of the plans, analysed environmental decisions, and organised protests. They made information regarding the project available to the public, which was previously kept in the dark. And with help from the Friends of the Earth network, they created a petition addressed to the Georgian government calling for construction to be cancelled. Due to the sustained protests and pressure the 90% shareholder, Turkish corporation ENKA, pulled out. The construction plans have been shelved. The river is safe – for now.

13



The Rioni river. © Greens Movement of Georgia

10,000 kilometres for climate justice



HUNGARY

Nearly 7000 people joined the World Climate March campaign to promote climate justice before the COP26 climate talks in Glasgow. In Hungary alone local activists walked more than 10,000 kilometres! Friends of the Earth Hungary / Magyar Természetvédők Szövetsége echoed the message through their young climate ambassadors who participated in COP26 and reported about it the media.

14



Two harmful projects down, one in the balance



Lake Balaton. © FoE Hungary

HUNGARY

Thanks to determination from Friends of the Earth Hungary / Magyar Természetvédők Szövetsége, nature and local communities are protected. They took legal action to stop destructive construction projects near the precious Lake Balaton. With other NGOs they put an end to the development of fossil fuel drilling in a national park, near residential buildings. And, as a consequence of their complaint to the European Investment Bank, a bank is rethinking its loan for the expansion of Budapest Airport.

15



World-leading Climate Law



FoE Ireland wins a Climate Law. © FoE Ireland

IRELAND

After a 14 year campaign led by Friends of the Earth Ireland, Ireland passed a strong climate law, which has been described as an example of international best practice. The Act for Climate Campaign spanned seven Ministers for the Environment, five Governments and nine drafts. It involved hundreds of partner organisations and allies, and thousands of supporters. The final text is a testament to the perseverance and commitment of Friends of the Earth Ireland's staff team and supporters, who succeeded in the face of agribusiness and other polluting interests lobbying.

16



Just Transition Champions training programme



Just Transition Champion Training Programme. © FoE Ireland

IRELAND

Friends of the Earth Ireland initiated the Just Transition Champions training programme for community and youth work practitioners working with marginalized communities. Working with Community Work Ireland, as part of the System:Reset project, the programme equipped the participants with the knowledge, skills, and tools to empower young people to engage with climate justice. Youth multiplier workshops took place across Ireland with various communities. The story is to be continued: Friends of the Earth Ireland partnered with two other organisations to expand the training programme into a three-year project!

17



Youth camp at Majjistral Nature Park



Youth Nature Camp. © FoE Malta

MALTA

As part of System:Reset, Friends of the Earth Malta together with Generation (Change?) hosted a youth camp at the beautiful Majjistral Nature and History Park. More than 20 young people from all areas of Malta came together to participate. The activities covered team-building tasks and discussions on sustainability-related topics and allowed everybody to think about the role they can play in tackling the climate crisis. By the end of the weekend, the group had not only learned more about nature and the environment, but had also found hidden interests and passions.

18



Victory against Shell



Milieudefensie wins revolutionary lawsuit. © Milieudefensie

NETHERLANDS

In a world first, a judge forced a polluting company to align its business plans with the goals of the Paris climate agreement! This story comes from the huge win in the Climate Case against Shell. Friends of the Earth Netherlands / Milieudefensie started to build the case in 2018 – together with six other organisations and more than 17 000 co-plaintiffs. The oil and gas company now has to reduce its CO2 emissions by 45% by 2030. Because of this victory, more climate cases are following in other countries to hold big polluters responsible, and the lawyer Roger Cox was nominated for the Time people of the year.

19



Justice for Nigerian farmers



NETHERLANDS

Justice at last. After a 13-year long legal battle, Friends of the Earth Netherlands / Milieudefensie won an historic court case against Shell. The judge ruled that the multinational oil and gas company has to pay compensation to four Nigerian farmers who represent a community whose land and livelihoods were wrecked by an oil spill. Shell also has to clean up its mess in the affected area – which is still contaminated all these years later. It was the first time in history that a judge held the head office of a multinational corporation responsible for damage done by its subsidiaries abroad.

20



People power wins over Cambo!



Stop Cambo at the UK Government's COP26 hub. © Colin Hattersley / FoE Scotland

SCOTLAND

People power forced the oil giant Shell to pull out of plans for the huge new Cambo oil field off Scotland. For the first time, the Scottish Government said no to a new oil and gas project in the North Sea. Opposition to the oil field took many forms: 90,000 people writing to the UK government, creative demonstrations right across the UK, huge media attention, and scientists, climate groups and politicians speaking out against the proposal. This is a big win for the campaign but the work for Friends of the Earth Scotland isn't finished yet. The project must be officially rejected and the UK Government must stop giving licences out to new fossil fuel projects.

21



A historic win for water



Movement for Drinking Water. © FOCUS

SLOVENIA

When the Slovenian government introduced a new Water Act through an undemocratic and non-transparent law-making process, Slovenian civil society responded in force. The proposed Act endangered the sea, streams, rivers, lakes, drinking water, and important wildlife spots, by allowing construction on and next to water. Friends of the Earth Slovenia / Focus joined the Movement for Drinking Water, a coalition of NGOs, civil-society organisations, and experts against the planned Act. They became one of the 32 official organisers of a referendum campaign. The coalition mobilised grassroots communities to collect signatures and to encourage participation in the referendum. The result was a landslide! 86% of people voted against the harmful Act. It was the first such high-profile campaign run on a low budget, and the high participation of younger voters was especially encouraging. A historic win for water!

22



The potential of energy communities



SPAIN

Friends of the Earth Spain / Amigos de la Tierra launched a new report showing the potential of local energy communities. The research shows that if local communities were to produce and use their own renewable energy, they could cover 100% of electricity demand of the domestic and tertiary sectors in Spain, which equates to 60% of the total electricity demand. Thanks to this work Friends of the Earth Spain is now one of the main references for community energy in Spain, and the Spanish community power coalition, which comprises dozens of organisations, is stronger than ever.

23



Iconic education centre given World Heritage Cristal award



Education and visitors' Centre Aletsch. © Pro Natura

SWITZERLAND

After several months of renovation work, Friends of the Earth Switzerland / Pro Natura's iconic education and visitors' Centre Aletsch re-opened. The centre is situated in Riederalp, right next to the famous Aletsch glacier and forest, one of the oldest and most remarkable nature reserves in Switzerland. While keeping its old charm and beauty, the centre has become an example of an energy resilient building. UNESCO World Heritage Swiss Alps Foundation awarded the project by the 'World Heritage Cristal', recognising its contribution to sustainability. The new attractive exhibition space now displays an innovative presentation about climate change, glacier melting and the energy transition. Visitors, the nature centre is waiting for you!

24



Activists meet indigenous youth from Brazil



Txai Suruí, Greta Thunberg, and activists in Stockholm. © Lovis Aarøe / Jordens Vänner

SWEDEN

At the COP26 climate conference in Glasgow, Txai Suruí, a representative for the indigenous youth of Brazil, was invited to give an opening speech. In it she talked about the difficult situation of the indigenous peoples in the Amazon. Subsequently, Friends of the Earth Sweden / Jordens Vänner invited Txai Suruí and her team to their country for a programme of meaningful conversations with activists. The trip ended with a talk with Greta Thunberg in Stockholm. Following these events and exchanges, one demand stood out: people must be invited to take part in the decisions that affect them.

25



For sustainable public pension funds



SWEDEN

According to the law, public pension funds must invest responsibly to promote sustainable development. Still, in Sweden, the funds invest in companies that are accused of human rights violations and contribute to environmental and climate damage. Friends of the Earth Sweden / Jordens Vänner, together with 22 other Swedish civil society organizations and 3000 individuals, submitted a formal complaint to the UN Human Rights Council regarding the Swedish public pension fund. So far the campaign has resulted in media coverage, meetings with parliamentarians, and increased public pressure and awareness. Campaigners are determined to get the public pension funds invested responsibly.

26



Climate Info Kit



RUSSIA

Friends of the Earth Russia / RSEU created a Climate Info Kit for people interested in climate-friendly solutions in sectors such as transport, waste management, and renewable energy. The kit examines solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change. It also includes examples of successful solutions from Nordic countries, which have similar climatic conditions to Russia. The Info Kit has proved really popular and has become a well-used source of advice for those who wish to promote climate-friendly solutions.

27



Young info kit co-authors present the Climate Infokit to school students. © RSEU

In the name of the Ministry



LUXEMBURG

Friends of the Earth Luxembourg / Mouvement Ecologique and other national NGOs published an announcement in the largest national newspapers in the name of the Ministry of Sustainable Agriculture. The spoof announcement stated that, because of massive loss of biodiversity, the next plan farming in the country would focus solely on sustainable action. All countries must submit a 'national strategic plan' for their implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy. The announcement definitely got the attention of the Luxembourgish government – which took the groups to court for the illegal use of the ministry's logo! Let's hope that political actors address the substantive sustainability arguments and recommendations put forward, not only their branding.

28



3.300

young people empowered by the Young FoEE SYSTEM:RESET project in 2021

23

people trained to be community organisers for the energy transition in 2021

1.2 million

citizens who signed the 'Save Bees and Farmers' citizens initiative

93.342

visits to our new website in 2021

1.740

mentions of FoEE in the press in 2021

Our Funding 2021

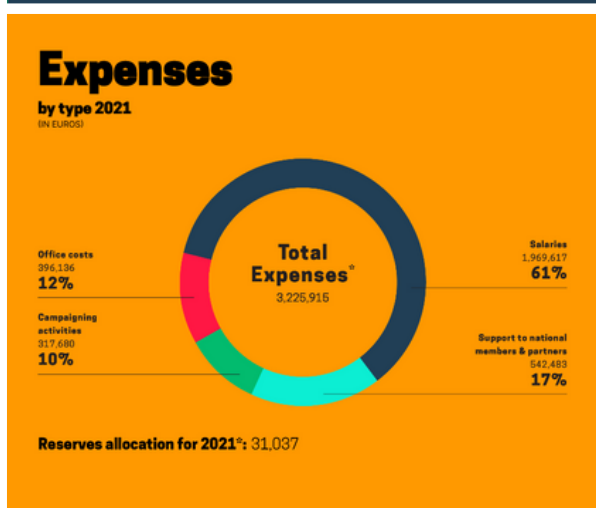
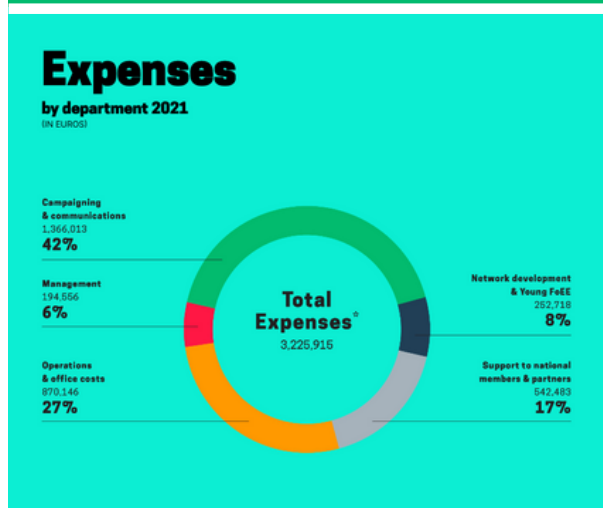
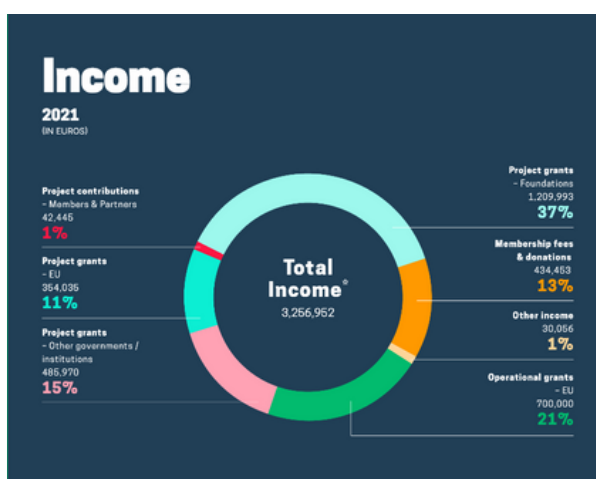
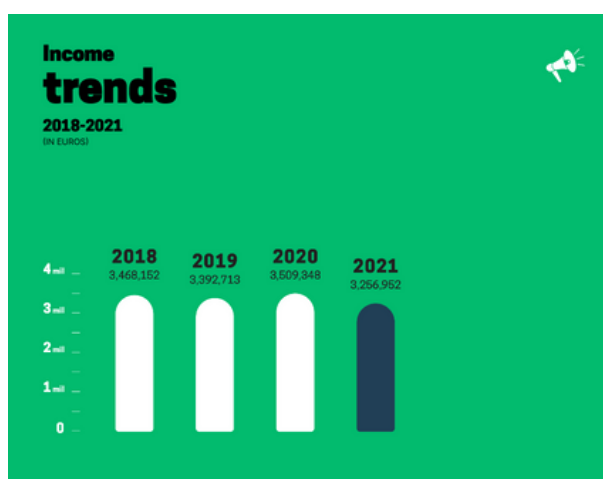
Financial information 2021

Our income remained stable in 2021 compared to recent years, although we saw a slight decrease compared to 2020.

We continued to maintain a good balance between funding sources, with EU funding representing 40% of our income. We succeeded to significantly increase the proportion of our income from charitable foundations.

Following an overhaul of our salary system to a new competency-based model, the proportion of our expenses for salaries went up.

A total of 22 funders together with our member groups have contributed to our income. We avoided, therefore, major dependencies on too few funding sources. The vast majority of our funders have continued to support our work and we expect ongoing cooperation in 2022 as well.



EU Transparency Register no. 9825553393-31

* Numbers may not add up due to rounding. All figures rounded to the nearest Euro.

Full copies of Friends of the Earth Europe's accounts are available from the Belgian national bank at www.nbb.be from 1st July 2022. Quote company number 0443.252.089. Details of our funding can be found on our website: www.friendsoftheearth.eu/our-funding.

Our Funding 2021

Our Funders

Friends of the Earth Europe's work would not be possible without the support of our donors. We would like to thank the following institutions and foundations for helping fund our work:

EU INSTITUTIONS



European Commission
Directorate General
Environment (European
Climate Infrastructure and
Environment Executive
Agency – CINEA) LIFE
programme



European Commission
Directorate General
Agriculture
– CAP Info Measures



European Parliament
Directorate
General Communications



Education, Audiovisual &
Culture
Executive Agency (EACEA)
– Youth in Action / Erasmus+



The European Youth Foundation
of the Council of Europe

GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Netherlands



German Environment Agency

Supported by:

Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety

Based on a decision of the German Bundestag



European Climate Initiative (EUKI) of the German Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)

FOUNDATIONS

European Climate Foundation
Fondation Charles Léopold Mayer
Funders for Fair Trade
Grace Foundation
Isvara Foundation
James M. Goldsmith Foundation
Marin Community Foundation
Minor Foundation for Major Challenges
New Europe Foundation
New Venture Fund
Open Society Initiative for Europe
Rockefeller Brothers Fund
Wallace Global Foundation
Wellspring Foundation

Thank you!



A participant at Friends of the Earth France's climate camp. © Revol

Thank you also to our national member groups and to Friends of the Earth International.

MOBILISE! RESIST! TRANSFORM!

Austria, Vienna GLOBAL 2000 | GLOBAL 2000. **Belgium – Wallonie, Namur** Les Amis de la Terre | Friends of the Earth Wallonia & Brussels. **Belgium – Flanders, Gent** Friends of the Earth Vlaanderen & Brussel | Friends of the Earth Flanders & Brussels. **Bosnia and Herzegovina, Banja Luka** Centar za životnu sredinu | Friends of the Earth Bosnia and Herzegovina. **Bulgaria, Sofia** Za Zemiata | Friends of the Earth Bulgaria. **Croatia, Zagreb** Zelena Akcija | Friends of the Earth Croatia. **Cyprus, Limassol** Friends of the Earth | Friends of the Earth Cyprus. **Czech Republic, Brno** Hnutí Duha | Rainbow Movement. **Denmark, Copenhagen** NOAH | NOAH Friends of the Earth Denmark. **England/Wales/Northern Ireland, London** Friends of the Earth | Friends of the Earth. **Estonia, Tartu** Eesti Roheline Liikumine | Estonian Green Movement. **Finland, Turku** Maan Ystävät Ry | Friends of the Earth Finland. **France, Montreuil** Les Amis de la Terre | Friends of the Earth France. **Georgia, Tbilisi** Sakhartvelos Mtsvaneta Modzraoba | Greens Movement of Georgia. **Germany, Berlin** Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz Deutschland | Friends of the Earth Germany. **Hungary, Budapest** Magyar Természetvédők Szövetsége | National Society of Conservationists. **Ireland, Dublin** Friends of the Earth | Friends of the Earth Ireland. **Latvia, Riga** Zemes Draugi | Friends of the Earth Latvia. **Lithuania, Kaunas** Lietuvos Žaliųjų Judėjimas | Lithuanian Green Movement. **Luxembourg, Luxembourg** Mouvement Ecologique | Ecological Movement. **Macedonia, Skopje** Dvizhenje na Ekologistite na Makedonija | Ecologist's Movement of Macedonia. **Malta, Valletta** Moviment għall-Ambjent | Friends of the Earth Malta. **The Netherlands, Amsterdam** Vereniging Milieudefensie | Friends of the Earth Netherlands. **Norway, Oslo** Norges Naturvernforbund | Norwegian Society for the Conservation of Nature. **Poland, Krakow** Polski Klub Ekologiczny | Polish Ecological Club. **Russia, St. Petersburg** Russian Social-Ecological Union | Friends of the Earth Russia. **Scotland, Edinburgh** Friends of the Earth Scotland | Friends of the Earth Scotland. **Slovakia, Banská Bystrica** Priateľia Zeme – Slovensko | Friends of the Earth Slovakia. **Slovenia, Ljubljana** Focus | Friends of the Earth Slovenia. **Spain, Madrid** Amigos de la Tierra | Friends of the Earth Spain. **Sweden, Gothenburg** Jordens Vänner | Friends of the Earth Sweden. **Switzerland, Basel** Pro Natura | Friends of the Earth Switzerland.

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH EUROPE The European network's representative at the heart of the European Union campaigning for sustainable solutions to benefit the planet, people and our future, influencing European and EU policy and raising public awareness on environmental issues.

friendsoftheearth.eu

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