



Friends of
the Earth
Europe

IMPACT

REPORT

2024

We shaped

20

coalitions of NGOs fighting for justice

We mobilised more than

400

organisations to demand an exit to the Energy Charter Treaty

We made and gifted

52

friendship bracelets to MEPs



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A LITTLE BIT ABOUT US

Who are we?

Friends of the Earth Europe is the largest grassroots environmental network in Europe, uniting more than 30 national organisations with thousands of local groups. We have spent decades fighting for a sustainable and just world.

Our Brussels office coordinates our network's joint campaigns, and pushes for action by the EU to protect people and planet. We have won key battles on climate, food and farming, resource use and curbing corporate power at the EU level and beyond.

We are the European arm of Friends of the Earth International, a global federation uniting over 70 national member organisations, some 5,000 local activist groups, and over two million supporters around the world.

Our Executive Committee 2024

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place in Malta in May. The following members to the Executive Committee (ExCom) have been elected or re-elected at that occasion:

Marilin Eessalu from Estonia (Chair), Cathérine Mollière from France, Tihomir Dakic from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Anna Kárníková from Czechia, Ákos Éger from Hungary, Martin Galea De Giovanni from Malta, Sara Mariza Vryonidi from Cyprus.



HELLO FROM OUR DIRECTOR



MATILDA FLEMMING
Director

Power to the people, care for the planet - now more than ever

At Friends of the Earth Europe, we will remember 2024 as the historic year when an enormous political backlash against environmental and climate ambition materialised in Europe.

The most right-wing EU institutions ever were elected and sworn in, and hard-right forces spread their venom in traditional and social media. Yet, it was also a year of resilience and resistance: we forged unique NGO alliances, strengthened our European network and our collaboration with groups in the Global South, and celebrated key wins, such as the downfall of the Energy Charter Treaty.

Bridging the gap between institutions and people

Our network played a vital role in bringing climate, environmental, and corporate accountability issues into the public debate. We hammered home our demands for environmental justice with media and decision-makers, and our “people over profits” message, backed up with crucial evidence on corporate capture of EU policy processes. We connected with and supported our member groups and helped bridge the gap between EU institutions and European citizens, ensuring that the fight for environmental justice remains a collective, bottom-up effort.

Exposing and blocking a climate action killer

Major polluting energy corporations have used the little-known Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) for decades to block climate action. Friends of the Earth Europe has exposed the scandals resulting from this harmful treaty. Our powerful campaigning, including mobilisations and touring our giant inflatable dinosaur ECT-Rex across the continent, has helped make the treaty a thing of the past.

Over a million people signed our petition, and 400-plus civil society organisations joined our statement against the ECT. As a result, countries including France, Germany, Spain and the UK announced their exit, followed by the EU green lighting its withdrawal, acknowledging the treaty's incompatibility with climate objectives.

Advocacy and a photo show flagging energy poverty

Energy poverty rose to the top of the political agenda following the EU-wide energy price crisis. Together with the Right to Energy Coalition, we played a key role in advocating for long-term structural solutions to energy poverty. Our work ranged from bilateral meetings with MEPs and Commission officials to organising a three-day event in the heart of Brussels and producing a thought-provoking photo exhibition.

“Powerful encounters”, an exhibition that shows the fight against energy poverty through a positive and empowering perspective and features people from across Europe, was launched at the European Parliament and since then has travelled to six countries. Addressing energy poverty remains a priority in the new EU Commission and Parliament cycle.

Leading with care, collaboration and courage

All this happened 2024, when Jagoda Munic was still at the helm of our organisation. We truly appreciate her contributions to the European and International Friends of the Earth networks! She led us through major European crises - the pandemic, and the Ukraine war, while making sure we stayed closely connected to our political values.

At the start of 2025, I took over the role of Director at Friends of the Earth Europe. I aim to lead with care, collaboration, and courage as core principles, and will work to build our resilience in these challenging times. A warm thank you to our amazing network - staff, members, volunteers - who work on an everyday basis for environmental justice to become reality, weathering manifold challenges!

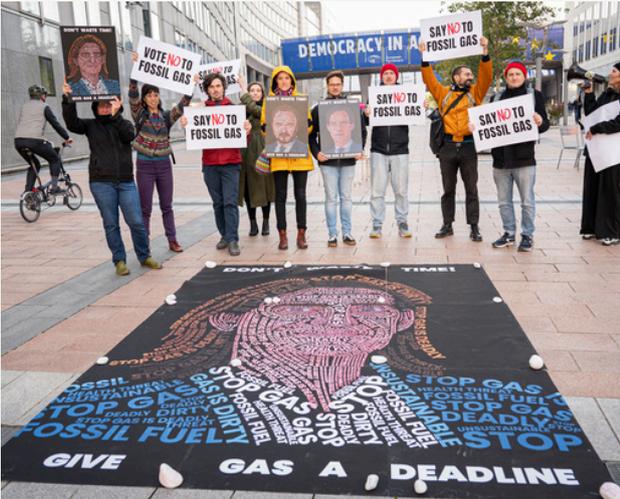
Matilda Flemming

Director

Friends of the Earth Europe

CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS

CLIMATE JUSTICE AND ENERGY



Our climate justice and energy team is campaigning for an energy system overhaul that will deliver clean, affordable and sustainable energy for all – especially the most vulnerable in our society. Our main goals are an end to energy poverty, a final deadline for the use and extraction of gas, as well as more access and support for renewable energy communities.

Friends of the Earth member groups involved in this work: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, The Netherlands, Malta, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the UK.

OPENING THE DOORS ON ENERGY POVERTY

The Build Better Lives campaign focused on making sure the newly elected MEPs and Commissioners make deep building renovations their priority during their mandate and to popularise home renovations, particularly for the energy poor, across Europe. We launched an [open call](#) to Commissioner Jorgensen urging him to deliver building renovations that are affordable, accessible and sustainable for all citizens, accompanied by a social media campaign.

Even more spectacularly, we launched the exhibition [“Powerful Encounters, picturing an end to energy poverty”](#) in the European Parliament in Strasbourg together with our partners from Spain and Bulgaria. The exhibition facilitates a dialogue between people who are faced with energy poverty and the viewer through pictures and audio fragments.

It tells a story of creativity and empowerment by letting the people portrayed talk about the solutions they deem necessary to put a stop to energy poverty. Our exhibition was shown in several places in Spain, Belgium, Bulgaria and Portugal, where it even made the evening news.

Friends of the Earth Europe also coordinates the Right to Energy coalition which unites NGOs and trade unions campaigning for equal access to affordable energy for all citizens. In 2024, the coalition expanded with the acquisition of two new members and organised the annual [right to energy forum](#), an annual event for mobilising, strategising and planning an end to energy poverty. For the first time in its 5-year history it included two satellite events organised by members of the coalition. 2024 also saw the conclusion of the Energy Performance in Buildings Directive, a priority issue for the coalition, which saw a number of measures addressing energy poverty.

PUSHING A DEADLINE FOR GAS EXTRACTION

In 2024 we continued to campaign for an end to the use of fossil gas in Europe by urging decision-makers to stop relying on costly distractions such as Hydrogen and Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS), and demanding a clear and tangible deadline for the gas phase-out.

We [analysed the election manifestos of the major political parties](#) and rated their ambition to tackle the gas issue. We launched one of the best performing [social media campaigns](#) of the year. We continued to directly call out to decision-makers through an [action outside of the EU Parliament](#) around the time of the Commissioner hearings, demanding the Commissioner-elect to prioritise tangible action for climate through a gas phase-out date, as well as [an opinion piece](#) on the day of Teresa Ribera's hearing asking whether competition and decarbonisation can ever go hand in hand.

This work was underpinned by several reports that detailed why decision-makers must invest their decarbonisation efforts into a full gas phase out instead of buying into hyped up distractions such as [hydrogen](#) and [LNG](#) and how they can [shape a fossil-free future instead](#).

TOWARDS A FUTURE OF CREATING AND SHARING ENERGY

Friends of the Earth Europe coordinates the Community Power coalition, comprising 40 like-minded organisations focusing on the subject of renewable energy from a wide variety of angles.

In 2024 we expanded the coalition and collaborated on a briefing to set the agenda for the Citizens' Energy Package, as well as a comprehensive assessment of the EU's National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs), which are comprehensive strategies for Member States to contribute to the EU's Climate ambition.

We also launched a successful social media campaign around the Olympics, using the sports event as a fun hook to raise awareness for all the inspiring work that's being initiated by citizens all across the EU when it comes to community energy, including the fabulous winners!

FOOD, FARMING AND NATURE



Our Food, Agriculture and Biodiversity programme is campaigning for a fairer, healthier food system for people and nature based on food sovereignty, where local communities and farmers control the food we eat and how it's grown – not big corporations.

Friends of the Earth member groups involved in this work: Armenia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, EWNl,

France, Germany, Hungary, Malta, The Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

I CHOOSE GMO-FREE

To increase public and political support for maintaining a precautionary approach to the use of the new generation of GMOs (and other emerging agricultural technologies), including their release into the environment, we ran a wide campaign and communication outreach on new GMOs.

Although the EU Commission stated in 2022 that only so-called 'sustainable' new GMO crops would be promoted, its legislative proposal instead aligned with the misleading claims of industry lobby groups, disregarding strong arguments from civil society, farmers, and the food sector in favour of keeping all generations of GMOs strictly regulated and labelled. We engaged with media and decisions makers, highlighting the impacts of deregulating new GMOs on climate, the environment and corporate control.

TOWARDS A PESTICIDE FREE EU

In 2023, despite the push from civil society, the EU officially abandoned the plans for a regulation aimed at achieving binding pesticide reduction, an outcome largely driven by an intense lobbying campaign from the pesticide industry.

Learning from this setback, we maintained an active coalition of European organisations and scaled up our efforts to expose corporate capture, shedding light on how big corporations influence policy-making at the expense of people and planet.

In the lead-up to the 2024 European Parliament elections, we intensified this work by scrutinising candidates' position on pesticide policy, revealing who stood with farmers, citizens and nature, and who sided with the pesticide lobby. At the same time, we continued to build and amplify narratives around alternatives to pesticide use and the need for a just transition away from pesticides.

FIGHTING FACTORY FARMS

Over the past few decades, the food system in Europe has become increasingly dominated by factory 'farms' that confine tens of thousands of animals into tightly packed facilities. We put our focus on strengthening grassroots resistance. We worked to connect communities and NGOs resisting the expansion and building of animal factories, creating spaces to strategise, exchange knowledge, and share tools to be more effective in campaigning on the ground.

RESOURCE JUSTICE AND NEW ECONOMIES



Friends of the Earth Europe campaigns for resource justice, resource use reduction and to galvanise collective action from governments and people to redesign an economy that serves the wellbeing of all people and our shared planet.

Friends of the Earth member groups involved in this work: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denmark, Estonia,

France, Germany, Malta, The Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

RESOURCE USE AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY

In 2024, we continued to push for sustainable resources management and a circular economy based on sufficiency. To raise it on the political agenda, we sent an [open letter](#) to European and national decision-makers, signed by more than 100 organisations. We also provided constructive input to the Belgian Presidency, so that during the Environmental Council meeting on 17th of June 2024, the Environment Ministers from Member States adopted ambitious conclusions regarding sustainable resource use.

After adoption of the [Critical Raw Materials Act](#), we scrutinised its implementation and have raised concerns regarding socio-environmental risks, bringing them under the attention of the European Commission by providing [evidence on the impacts by mining projects](#). We gave a voice to grassroots organisations at local level through various communication activities, thus bridging the gap between the EU institutions and European citizens.

TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

Since 2022, Friends of the Earth Europe led a coalition with three NGO partners, which aims to achieve a paradigm shift towards a sustainable economy beyond GDP.

In 2024, we facilitated the international collaboration between organisers of country-level Beyond Growth conferences, sparked by the European Parliament Beyond Growth Conference in 2023.

Via civil society gatherings, webinars, joint letters, joint campaigns and publications, we promoted alternative economic solutions, co-created with a large variety of civil society actors, thus helping to mainstream beyond growth thinking among decision-makers and a wider public.

Lastly, we have nudged over 40 civil society organisations through various alliances and networks, and worked with Friends of the Earth member groups from ten European countries, thus enabling a common understanding of sustainable economies. As a result, many within (and outside) our network have incorporated critical perspectives on economic growth in their daily work and organisational strategies.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE



Our Economic Justice team is campaigning to hold European companies accountable for harms they are causing around the world, to expose and counter balance industries' lobby power in Brussels and to keep European institutions and member states from entering or launching toxic trade deals.

Friends of the Earth member groups involved in this work: Austria,

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Malta, The Netherlands, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden and the UK.

SENDING A CLIMATE ACTION KILLER ON THE ROAD TO EXTINCTION

The Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) had been used by major polluting energy corporations to block climate action since the 1990s.

Through relentless campaigning, including mobilisations and touring a giant inflatable dinosaur - the ECT-Rex - across the continent, we exposed this harmful deal and contributed to finally sending it towards the past. More than one million people signed our petition, and over 400 organisations joined our statement demanding withdrawal.

As a result, a wave of countries, including Germany, France, Spain, and the UK, announced their exit – many of them with climate action as a central argument. And finally, in 2024, the EU officially announced its withdrawal.

CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY DUE DILIGENCE: TUG-OF-WAR FOR JUSTICE

In 2024, after a prolonged process marked by massive corporate and conservative political resistance, the EU adopted the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD).

The final law includes crucial provisions on corporate liability, access to justice for affected communities, and an obligation for companies to implement climate transition plans in line with the Paris Agreement. This legislation, although still falling behind what is needed, would be a good step towards empowering citizens impacted by corporate negligence to seek justice and hold businesses accountable for their contributions to climate change, pushing them to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

(Spoiler alert: Most of these obligations have been put on ice with a proposal from the European Commission to significantly weaken CSDDD early 2025.)

FIREWALL AGAINST FOSSIL FUEL LOBBYISTS

Our research on the European Commission's interactions with fossil fuel lobbyists led to a first Public Hearing to investigate fossil fuel companies' undue influence on the European Commission's energy crisis response. In a historic first, politicians from different political parties jointly formulated the need for a conflict-of-interest framework at the EU level to keep fossil fuel lobbyists out of climate and energy decision making processes (i.e. the European Green Deal), in line with the WHO Tobacco Control Framework. The Fossil Free Politics campaign pushed for an end to the practice of bringing fossil fuel lobbyists on official delegations, such as COP, through written statements and letters to governments, media work and a civil society sign-on letter to the EU Climate Commissioner. The EU Commissioner, unlike the previous year, brought no fossil fuel lobbyists on the official delegation for COP29.

SUPPORTING AFFECTED COMMUNITIES IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

European politicians and citizens are increasingly aware of the harm caused by (European) corporations in the Global South and the urgent need for legislation to end corporate impunity.

Together with African and European partners, we exposed the devastating impact of extractive LNG projects in Mozambique, amplifying affected communities' voices in Europe and bringing front line representatives to Brussels.

We also kept opposing the EU-Mercosur trade deal in its current shape, in close collaboration with groups in Mercosur countries. We secured EU media coverage for them, launched joint declarations, press releases, and digital campaigns. This enhanced visibility for their work and perspectives, strengthened mobilisation, and allowed us to respond swiftly to developments on EU-Mercosur trade policies.

SOLIDARITY WORK



We support grassroots activism by carrying out solidarity work with our member groups, grassroots organisations and impacted communities in Europe and around the world.

Friends of the Earth member groups involved in this work: Armenia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, EWNl, France, Hungary, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Poland, Scotland, Spain, Switzerland and Sweden.

In 2024, we sent out 11 solidarity calls, which were answered by 16 member groups from our European network. To tighten the collaboration between our member groups, we organised regular regional meetings and strengthened our capacity through a context analysis process on the criminalisation of social movements, carried out with our allies and based on the experiences and testimonies of our member groups.

As a result, together we exposed and denounced European activities and investments that are driving deforestation, contributing to environmental and human rights defender violations, and shrinking civic space in the Global South. In particular, we supported Ugandan activists and project-affected people who were criminalised for protesting against TotalEnergies's EACOP project. We organised a successful hybrid press conference with European and Ugandan journalists and raised awareness among Members of the European Parliament.

We internationalised the scandalous arbitrary arrest of José Iván Arévalo Gómez, a defender of Indigenous communities in El Salvador, and the violence against the Rempang communities protesting the Eco City project in Riau, Indonesia. We also continued our efforts to support Friends of the Earth Palestine/Pengon, and to denounce the ongoing genocide in Gaza.

As a highlight, we organised a webinar with our comrade from Pengon and MEP Mounir Satouri on the environmental and human rights crisis in Palestine. It was a great success, with 200 attendees.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT



Young Friends of the Earth Europe (YFoEE) is a grassroots network of young people and youth organisations working for social and environmental justice on a local, national and European level.

Friends of the Earth member groups involved in this work: Austria, Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, England, Wales

and Northern Ireland, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, The Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Scotland, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

Our youth empowerment program had a fresh start at the end of last year, when Alva Rödström joined our team as the new Young Friends of the Earth Europe coordinator. Her arrival marked the start of the Young Policy Academy project, that will be the backbone of YFoEE's work in the coming two years.

The project aims to strengthen the involvement of young people in democratic life, their engagement with decision makers, and ultimately help them to contribute to a sustainable Green Europe for all.

The project consists of youth focused and participative trainings and activities, both on and offline. These are delivered on the European and local level, thanks to the involvement of six partner organisations from all over the EU and beyond.

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



ARMENIA

vocal in actions and media events, with the final press release quoting us on health and chemicals.

PROTECTING PLATZERTAL FROM A HYDRODAM

In our support for an energy transition that respects nature, we campaigned against a hydroelectric dam in Platzertal that would destroy a whole valley including a moor that captures a lot of CO2. The campaign target was to raise awareness about the destructive nature of the dam and to encourage local residents to write letters to their public authorities. More than 10,000 letters were sent to regional authorities during the course of the campaign. We also organised several actions and presented ways to the make energy transition environmentally friendly.

Finally, the energy corporation TIWAG decided to delay the application for an Environmental Impact Assessment, and the head of the regional province announced an evaluation. The fight will go on!

PROPELLING THE PLASTICS TREATY

We participated in the fifth session of the negotiations on the new UN Plastics Treaty in Busan, Republic of Korea. We also joined two events hosted by KFEM/Friends of the Earth South Korea - the 'Human Sign and March event and the mobilisation event by KFEM.

We also met with the representatives of the South Korean Parliament, and were



AUSTRIA



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BELGIUM (FLANDERS AND BRUSSELS)

CONFRONTING BIG POLLUTERS

We organised multiple in-person and online actions against big polluters, including Indaver, Ineos and Utebel.

We have been expanding our campaigning against companies that are based along the two most important rivers in Belgium, the Scheldt and Yser.

Their activities lead to dumping PFAS ("forever chemicals") in the North Sea, which is terrible for the environment and also affects the small-scale fishers who

use the most polluted areas, the first three miles from the coast, to catch their produce.

The Belgian authorities announced in 2024 that they want to sue Utebel for a series of harmful environmental impacts. This will become an important lawsuit and we hope it will lead to a conviction. We are also working on water issues such as floods and adaptation plans.

TRAINING ON CAPITALISM, PATRIARCHY & ECOFEMINISM

We have been promoting ecofeminism on the one hand and de-growth on the other, but without necessarily linking these two alternatives to the current system.

In 2024, we created and organised a day of participatory training on these themes to allow the public to understand how capitalism and patriarchy, two systems of domination, contribute to the destruction of nature and the oppression of women.



© Amis de la Terre Belgique

BELGIUM (WALLONIA AND BRUSSELS)

The day was a great success with good participation and inspiration for future campaigns.



© Centar za životnu sredinu

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

DEFENDING THE RZAV RIVER

By the will of the people, the Rzav River has been defended and is now flowing freely! The concession agreement for the construction of two small hydroelectric power plants has been terminated.

This decision represents the culmination of several activities that peaked a few years ago when the citizens, through protests, defended this river from the construction of seven small hydroelectric plants along its course. We supported the fight of citizens and local communities

from the very beginning: besides highlighting the harmful effects of these projects through a campaign, we also conducted biological research with the aim of proving the high biological value of the area.

LANDMARK LEGAL VICTORY AGAINST WASTE INCINERATION

We successfully challenged the illegal waste incineration activities of Ecosafe Ltd. in Devnya, Bulgaria—a town already burdened by severe pollution.

Our legal action led to a landmark court ruling that annulled an unlawfully issued permit. The permit had allowed the company to burn hazardous waste without an environmental assessment. The case exposed serious systematic failures in environmental governance, particularly the misuse of “salami slicing” to bypass regulations. This victory sets a precedent for stricter oversight. It ensures industrial pollution in Devnya faces proper legal and environmental scrutiny, strengthening environmental justice and public health protection.



© Ivan Donchev

BULGARIA



© Zelenia Akcija

CROATIA

WINNING THE BATTLE IN VRGINMOST - FOR NOW

We organised the “Justice for Vrginmost” campaign in collaboration with the citizens' initiative “Stop Phaten Plastic Recycling”.

The campaign aimed to stop the environmental damage caused by the Phaten Plastic Recycling plant, demand accountability from institutions that had ignored the issue, and secure compensation for the community. Key

demands included the immediate closure of the plant and the remediation of the damage. After months of struggle, the plant was finally shut down, but the issue is not fully resolved. The company left behind contaminated soil and water, and local residents remain concerned about their health. Despite numerous reports, institutions failed to take action to clean up the site.

ENERGY CAFÉS AS COMMUNITY SPACES

We launched Cyprus’ first Energy Café to tackle energy poverty and build public support for energy democracy. With high energy costs and limited citizen participation in energy decisions, people had the opportunity to learn about community energy solutions and share their struggles.

Over 70 participants joined in Nicosia and Limassol, forming local groups and exploring the idea of energy communities. The cafés sparked collaboration between citizens and municipalities, and helped shift the narrative from individual responsibility to collective action. This initiative strengthened public support for systemic, fair and community-led energy transitions.



© Friends of the Earth Cyprus

CYPRUS



© Petr Zewlakk Vrabec

CZECHIA

FIXING THE FOREST LAW

For 29 years, Czech Forests have been threatened by the forest monoculture plantations. The Ministry of the Agriculture has planned to amend the Forest Law and allow for their repetitive planting and financing, contrary to the EU Forest Strategy and scientific considerations.

We organised a protest in front of the ministry, prepared a set of 57 legislative amendments and shared them with the

government. We have also gained support from 380 scientists, ministries and country governments. To achieve a good forest law, there were also five additional amendments prepared and submitted. The Forest Law development in the Parliament became a key discussion topic before the elections.

DEFENDING THE DEFENDERS

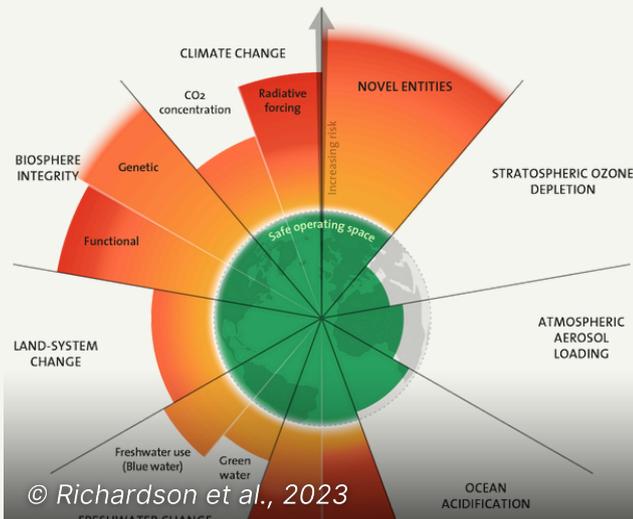
Across the world governments are tightening laws and prosecuting activists for exercising basic human rights such as freedom of speech and assembly. In Denmark, hundreds of activists are being prosecuted by the state for their environmental activism.

In 2024, we released a report that investigates this repression and criminalisation of activists, highlighting the legal and psychological impact of the repression activists face. The report shows how the repression has a “chilling effect” on activists and that police violence and court cases deter activists from organising. We also co-organised a demonstration against repression of activists with other climate and nature movements, Palestine solidarity groups and animal rights organisations.



© unwisemonkeys/NOAH

DENMARK



ESTONIA

ADVANCING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

We tackled the lack of political and societal engagement with planetary boundaries in environmental policymaking. Although the concept is widely discussed, countries struggle to define their “fair share” due to data limitations and methodological complexity.

Our solution was to publish and present a report summarising existing methods for calculating national shares of planetary

boundaries, highlighting the need for clear principles and political courage to address global environmental justice. We launched the report at the Estonian Ministry of Climate, where it sparked strong interest. The aim is to generate political will and allocate resources to integrate fair share calculations into national policy, enabling more responsible and ambitious environmental action in Estonia.

SUCCESSFUL MOBILISATION AGAINST THE FAR-RIGHT

In France, after the dissolution of Parliament in early summer 2024, we mobilised quickly together with other organisations and media, to raise public awareness on the many dangers of a government led by the far-right.

In the weeks leading up to the legislative elections, we supported calls for rallies against the far-right, signed opinion columns, spoke in public events, communicated on social media and mobilised our members to remind that the far right will never be compatible with social justice nor with sustainable societies. We have avoided the worst in these elections, but we will continue to fight against the dangerous spread of far-right ideas in our country.



FRANCE



© Friends of the Earth Germany

GERMANY

HISTORIC CASE FOR BETTER BIODIVERSITY LEGISLATION

The pace of species extinction and the destruction of nature is even more dramatic than the speed of the climate crisis. We are the first organisation in the world to bring an action before a supreme court for better nature conservation legislation.

Together with several individual plaintiffs, such as the well-known actor Hannes Jaenicke and conservationist Christof

Martin, we have lodged a constitutional complaint with the German Federal Constitutional Court. The complaint is intended to oblige the German parliament to enact a comprehensive statutory biodiversity protection concept. This includes an immediate halt to biodiversity loss and coordinated steps to restore biodiversity.

WINNING CIVIL AWARD FOR MEAT-FREE DAY CAMPAIGN

Together with partners, we won the Civil Award for the most successful civil advocacy project in Hungary in 2024. Our "Meat-Free Day in Public Catering" campaign aimed to introduce weekly vegetarian meals in schools, mobilising 12,000 children in interactive programs.

As a result of the campaign the ministry has changed catering legislation to oblige public catering companies to implement a minimum bi-weekly meatless day. This initiative made the idea of eating less, but better-quality, meat part of public discourse. The project highlights sustainability and shows that delicious and nutritious meals are possible without meat.



© Friends of the Earth Hungary

HUNGARY



© Friends of the Earth Ireland

IRELAND

CANVASSING FOR CLIMATE ACTION DURING ELECTION

We worked hard to push climate up the political agenda during Ireland's General Election. We organised a Climate Justice Day of Action where people from across the country went out into their communities to urge neighbours, friends and the wider community to speak up for climate action.

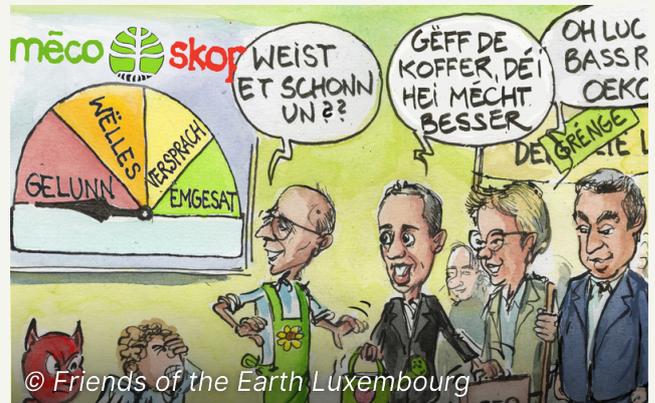
We produced resources and digital campaigning tools, such as a climate

pledge that individuals used to engage election candidates. We hosted a Climate Hustings to grill all the main political parties on climate action. It was also a chance for voters grappling with the cost of living and other intersecting crises to probe parties on how climate policies would improve their lives and tackle inequalities while curbing pollution.

MECOSKOP, A GOVERNMENT WATCHDOG

In 2025 – a few months after the new government took office in Luxembourg – the Mouvement Ecologique launched the website "[Mecoskop](#)". The goal: to monitor the government to see whether it is fulfilling the goals it has set for itself.

The Mecoskop addresses 77 positive promises from the coalition agreement and tracks their implementation status. It graphically shows whether implementation of a measure has begun, whether it is somewhat advanced, very advanced, or even implemented. The goal: to encourage governments to keep their promises and to give anyone interested the opportunity to follow the government's work in the area of sustainable development. The press also enjoys using our "barometer".



© Friends of the Earth Luxembourg

LUXEMBOURG



© Friends of the Earth Europe

MALTA

HOSTING THE EUROPEAN ANNUAL MEETING

In May 2024 we hosted the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Friends of the Earth Europe, a significant event for environmental activists across the continent.

The decision to hold the AGM in Malta reflected a commitment to inclusivity and accessibility, bringing together representatives from over 30 different Friends of the Earth groups. Ultimately,

the AGM is where member groups reflect on the successes and challenges of the past year while charting a course for the future. With environmental issues becoming increasingly urgent, these conversations are crucial for aligning efforts and maximising impact.

MAJOR COURT VICTORY AGAINST MINING WASTE

Together with Young Friends of the Earth Norway we have sued the Norwegian government over its permit to dump up to 170 million tons of mining waste into Førdefjorden in the western part of Norway.

The environmental organisations lost the case in the Oslo District Court and appealed to the Court of Appeal. The EFTA Court delivered the judgement in April citing that economic considerations alone are not sufficient grounds to permit pollution of a fjord like Førdefjorden. This is a major victory, and it means that the judgement from the Oslo District Court was wrong. We now look forward to meeting the state in the Court of Appeal to put a final stop to the dumping of mining waste in Førdefjorden.



© Friends of the Earth Norway

NORWAY



© Friends of the Earth Scotland

SCOTLAND

A JUST CIRCULAR ECONOMY LAW

We campaigned for and won a new circular economy law in Scotland! In Scotland, our over-consumption of materials is destroying the planet. We are consuming over double the sustainable limit.

We put pressure on politicians to pass a law to tackle this and make sure that it would do so in a fair way. We did this by encouraging over 600 people to write to

their Members of Parliament. Holding a fashion show protest outside the parliament. Dumping excessive electronic waste on parliament to show the problem. All whilst getting coverage of the issue in the media and approaching politicians. Now, Scotland has a circular economy law that includes a just transition for workers and communities, and a commitment to urgently reduce the environmental impacts of our consumption.

OPTIMISING WASTE MANAGEMENT

We put an end to the plan to build two waste incinerators and two chemical recycling plants within our Citizen Assistance Center, assisting the affected communities to fight against false solutions in waste management. Through our systematic work with municipalities, we have managed to introduce efficient collection of kitchen waste in Úľany nad Žitavou, streamlining the collection of kitchen waste in Partizánske, where we are also mentors of the composting process at the composting plant; introducing the PAYT system for family houses in Žilina and Chocholná-Velčice, alongside changing to a D2D system of waste collection. We have also implemented campaigns for the public, schools and municipalities on the theme of “no plastic”, composting and waste prevention.



© Priatel'ia Zeme

SLOVAKIA



© Focus Assoc. for Sustainable Development

SLOVENIA

PAVING THE WAY FOR ENERGY COMMUNITIES

We supported the Green Hrastnik Energy Cooperative in implementing Hrastnik's second collective self-consumption project, using our pioneering cooperative model based on public-commons partnership and democratic governance.

Eco Fund, Slovenia's Environmental Public Fund, used the example of Hrastnik's first collective self-consumption project as a basis for developing a model for

favourable interests on loans for collective self-consumption projects. On top of that, we launched the Energy Communities Network, bringing together energy communities and supporting actors with an aim to strengthen Slovenia's support framework for energy communities. Our advocacy also secured a new Energy Act requirement for municipalities to plan the establishment of at least one energy community within their Local Energy Concepts.

REVIVE THE STREET, MAKE IT OURS

In the vein of our campaign 'Right to nature, right to city', our local group in Madrid organised a street action in the city centre to reclaim public, green and community spaces throughout the city.

This action was joined by the 'Right to city' platform with dozens of collectives and organisations taking part and helping to make our struggle intersectional. More than 50 people took to the streets to play sports, chat with neighbours at a table, share books, play with children and more, all with the aim to revive and own the street. Through this action we called on the government for pedestrianisation and re-naturalisation of streets, to allow people and nature to gain space from cars and cement and contributed to strengthening alliances across environmental and social justice movements.



© Amigas de la Tierra

SPAIN



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SWEDEN

A SHARED SPACE FOR SOLIDARITY AND ACTION

In October, our national office moved to a new space in Gothenburg. In a time marked by right-wing nationalism with decreased funding and shrinking civic space, our vision was to create a “public living room”, an open and welcoming hub for activists, community groups, and civil society to gather and organise.

We launched it with an opening event attended by around 50 people, featuring

speakers from a wide range of organisations and topics, ending with a shared dinner and open mic. Since then our new space has flourished into exactly what we had hoped: a meeting point and a catalyst for collective action. A local activist choir now rehearses here weekly, we host study circles and monthly soup nights - and local engagement feels more vibrant than it has in years.

NATIONWIDE REFERENDUM FOR NATURE

2024 was the crucial year for the Biodiversity Initiative we launched four years earlier to protect Switzerland’s rich natural heritage and ensure a healthy environment for future generations.

It aimed to safeguard vital ecosystems that provide us with clean air, fresh water, fertile soils, and food through natural processes like pollination. With nearly half of all natural habitats endangered and over a third of species threatened or already extinct, urgent action was needed. The initiative called for stronger protections of natural spaces and the preservation of habitats essential for plants and animals. Although it was rejected by voters on 22 September 2024, the initiative helped spark a vital national conversation about the future of biodiversity in Switzerland.



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SWITZERLAND

A FULL LIST OF OUR MEMBERS

Albania - Eden

Armenia - Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment (AWHHE)

Austria — GLOBAL 2000

Belgium (Wallonia & Brussels) — Les Amis de la Terre

Belgium (Flanders & Brussels) — Climaxi

Bosnia & Herzegovina — Centar za životnu sredinu

Bulgaria — Za Zemiata

Croatia — Zelena Akcija

Cyprus — Friends of the Earth

Czechia — Hnutí Duha

Denmark — NOAH

England, Wales & Northern Ireland — Friends of the Earth

Estonia — Eesti Roheline Liikumine

Finland — Maan Ystävät Ry

France — Les Amis de la Terre

Georgia — Sakhartvelos Mtsvaneta Modzraoba

Germany — Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz Deutschland (BUND)

Hungary — Magyar Természetvédők Szövetsége

Ireland — Friends of the Earth

Latvia — Latvijas Zemes Draugi

Lithuania — Lietuvos Zaliuju Judėjimas

Luxembourg — Mouvement Ecologique

Malta — Friends of the Earth Malta

The Netherlands — Milieudefensie

North Macedonia — Dvizhenje na Ekologistite na Makedonija

Norway — Naturvernforbund

Poland — Polski Klub Ekologiczny

Scotland — Friends of the Earth Scotland

Slovakia — Priatel'ia Zeme

Slovenia — Focus Association for Sustainable Development

Spain — Amigas de la Tierra

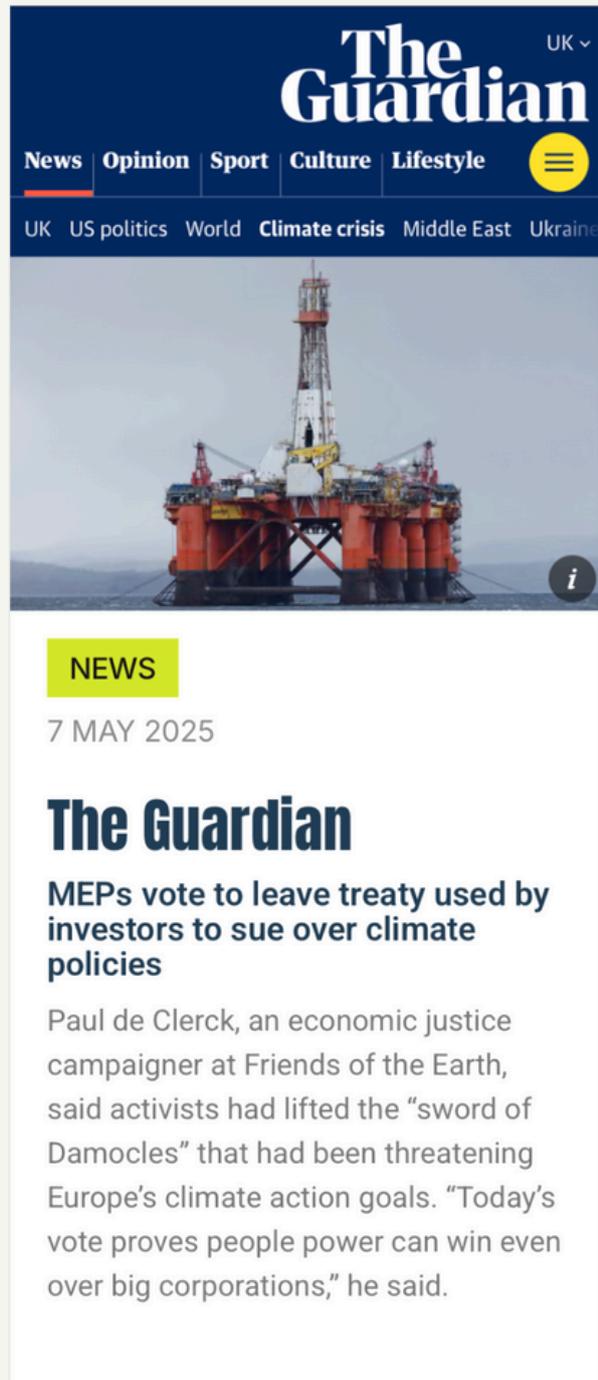
Sweden — Jordens Vänner

Switzerland — Pro Natura

FOEE IN THE NEWS

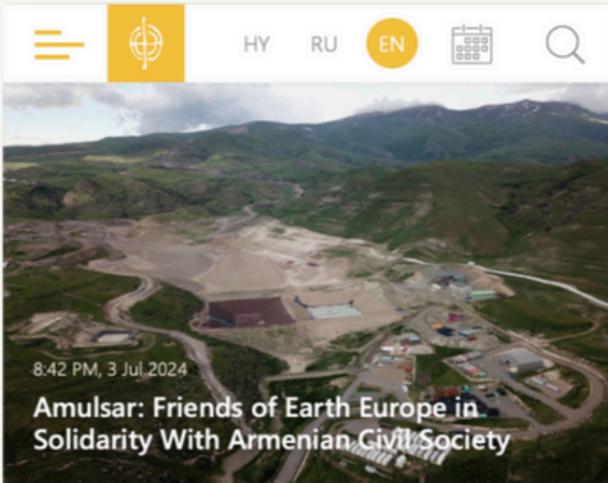


The screenshot shows the Friends of the Earth Europe (FoEE) website. At the top left is the FoEE logo. To its right are 'LOGIN' and 'SIGN UP' buttons, followed by a menu icon. The main content area features a colorful, abstract illustration of a city at night with a glowing lightbulb hanging in the foreground. Below the image is a yellow 'NEWS' tag, the date '7 MAY 2025', and the title 'Foresight Media'. The sub-headline reads 'Lifting people out of energy poverty.' The main text begins with 'The complexity of the phenomenon means that "energy poverty is not easily defined by one indicator because it sits at the intersection of multiple social and economic issues", says Laia Segura with Friends of the Earth Europe, an environmental campaign group. In practice, energy poverty means "being put in the impossible position of choosing between heating or eating," she says.'



The screenshot shows the The Guardian website. At the top right is the 'The Guardian' logo with 'UK' next to it. Below the logo are navigation links for 'News', 'Opinion', 'Sport', 'Culture', and 'Lifestyle', followed by a menu icon. A secondary navigation bar includes 'UK', 'US politics', 'World', 'Climate crisis', 'Middle East', and 'Ukraine'. The main image is a photograph of an offshore oil rig. Below the image is a yellow 'NEWS' tag, the date '7 MAY 2025', and the title 'The Guardian'. The sub-headline reads 'MEPs vote to leave treaty used by investors to sue over climate policies'. The main text begins with 'Paul de Clerck, an economic justice campaigner at Friends of the Earth, said activists had lifted the "sword of Damocles" that had been threatening Europe's climate action goals. "Today's vote proves people power can win even over big corporations," he said.'

FOEE IN THE NEWS



NEWS

7 MAY 2025

HETQ

Amulsar: Friends of Earth Europe in Solidarity With Armenian Civil Society.

Civil society in Armenia is being silenced by Strategic Litigation Against Public Participation lawsuits (SLAPP), abusive legal cases used to intimidate journalists or activists who exercise their freedom of expression and information on matters of public interest.



FOEE IN THE NEWS



Le Monde S'abonner

Planète Comprendre le réchauffement climatique

PLANÈTE • MÉTAUX, L'INQUIÉTANTE FRÉNÉSIE

Ouvrir de nouvelles mines en Europe, un pari risqué

« Métaux, l'inquiétante frénésie » (2/3). Alors que l'Union européenne n'a cessé de fermer des mines depuis trente ans, délocalisant production et déchets à l'étranger, le continent souhaite désormais développer une « capacité d'extraction » d'au moins 10 % de sa consommation annuelle d'ici à 2030.

Par Perrine Mouterde
Publié le 10 mai 2024 à 06h00, modifié le 10 mai 2024 à 16h30 · 🕒 Lecture 6 min.

🔖 Lire plus tard ➦



ENDS EUROPE

'Dangerous distraction': NGO warns against biodiversity credits

NEWS

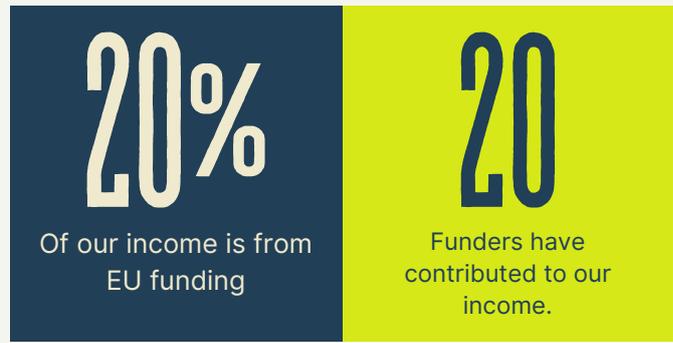
7 MAY 2025

Ends Europe

'Dangerous distraction': NGO warns against biodiversity credits.

Food, farming and nature campaigner at Friends of the Earth Europe Clara Bourgin said the move is a "dangerous distraction" from the real measures needed to address the root causes of the biodiversity crisis. "Turning nature into a simplistic financial asset will only allow destructive activities to continue business as usual," Bourgin added. [According to Friends of the Earth Europe, nature credits are likely to be used for offsetting purposes, which in the past have largely been unsuccessful due to prohibitive costs and the complexity of ecosystems].

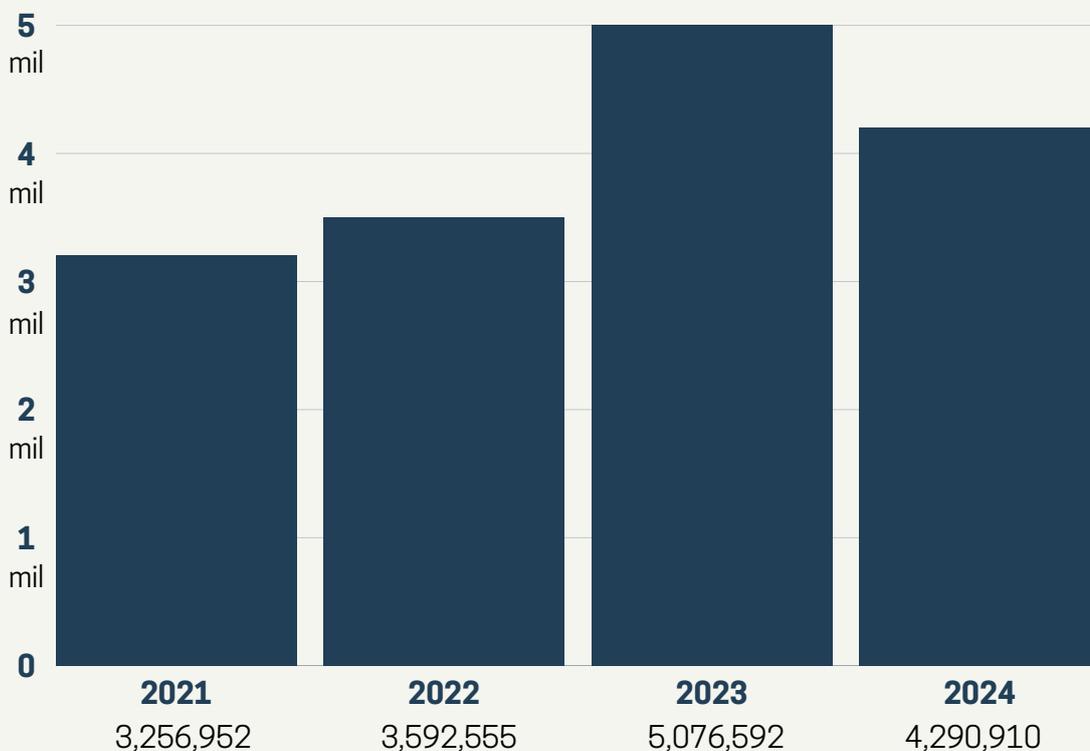
A LOOK AT OUR FINANCES*



In our ongoing efforts to diversify and stabilise our financial resources, we have successfully cultivated a balanced approach to funding. This strategy is essential not only for sustaining our current operations but also for enabling future growth and innovation.

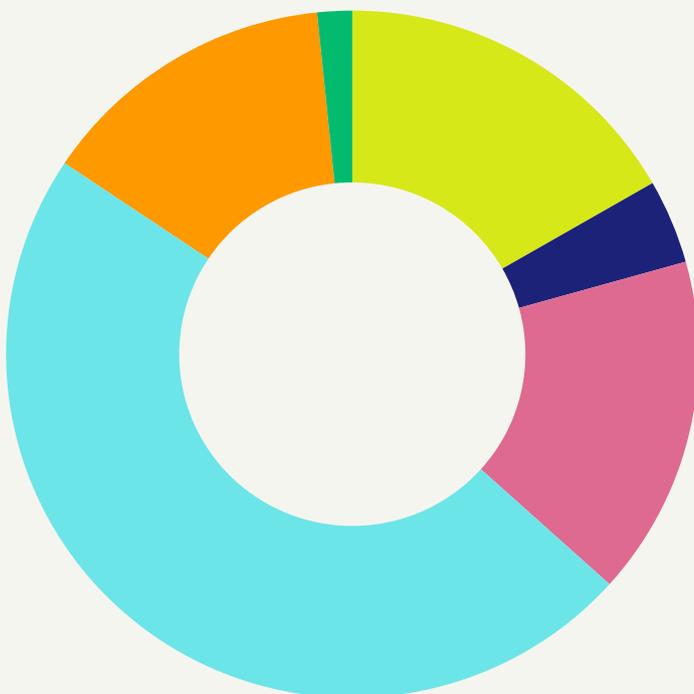
A total of 20 funders, including private, institutional, and EU sources, along with our member groups, have contributed to our income, ensuring that we do not rely heavily on a limited number of funding sources. The majority of our funders have sustained their support for our efforts, enabling us to strengthen our dedication to collaborative initiatives that serve the broader community. FoEE expects ongoing partnership and collaboration in 2025.

2024 INCOME TRENDS



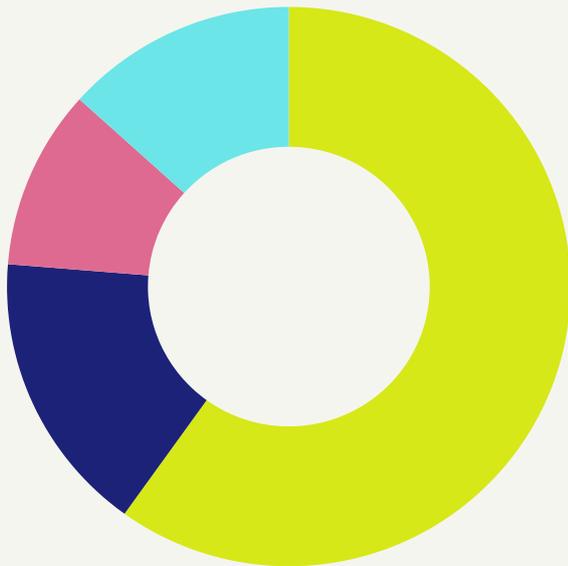
2024 INCOME BY SOURCES

Source	Amount	%
Grants from Private Foundations	€ 2,098,049.15	48,9%
EU Operating Grant	€ 700,000.00	16,3%
Grants from Government/ institutions	€ 671,052.55	15,6%
Membership fee	€ 586,603.47	13,7%
Other EU Grants	€ 166,344.97	3,9%
Other Income	€ 68,860.80	1,6%
TOTAL	€ 4,290,910.94	



2024 EXPENSES BY TYPE

Expense	Amount	%
Salary	€ 2,524,689.78	60,1%
Office costs	€ 683,211.45	16,3%
Subgranting	€ 556,625.30	13,3%
Campaign activities	€ 434,586.30	10,3%
TOTAL	€ 4,199,112.83	



EU Transparency Register no. 9825553393-31

*Figures are rounded to the nearest Euro and may not add up due to rounding. This financial report is currently being audited and will be final on our website in July 2025. Full copies of Friends of the Earth Europe’s accounts are available from the Belgian national bank [here](#). Quote company number 0443.252.089. Details of our funding can be found [here](#).

A NOTE ON OUR FUNDING

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www.friendsoftheearth.eu

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:

EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS



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GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
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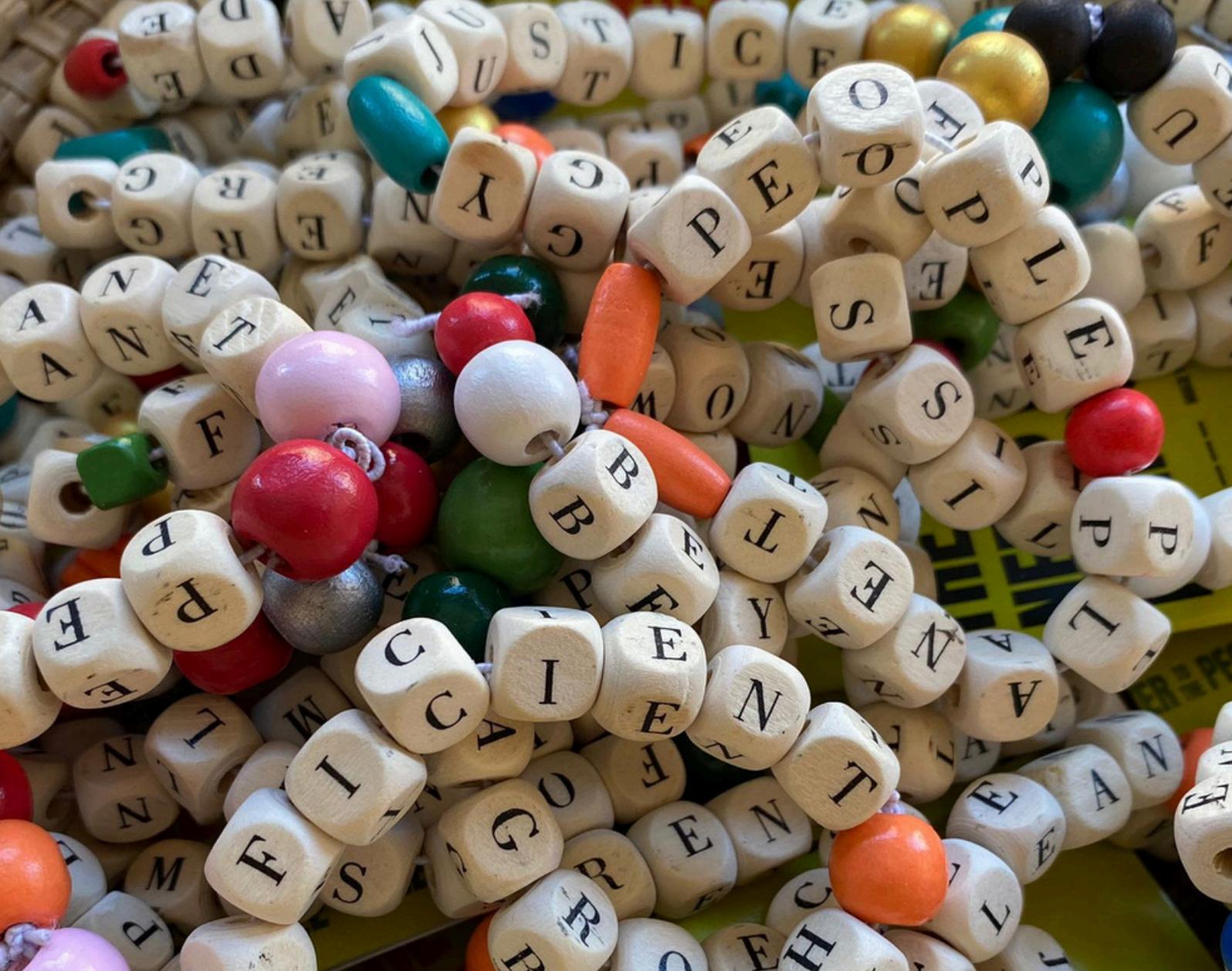
Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation,
Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection

based on a decision of
the German Bundestag

OUR SUPPORTING FOUNDATIONS

Adessium Foundation
Children's investment fund
European Climate Foundation
Fondation Charles Léopold Mayer (FPH)
Funders for Fair Trade Foundation
KR Foundation
Isvara Foundation
Marin Community Foundation
Minor Foundation
New Europe Foundation
New Venture Fund
**Oak Environment Fund (Hosted by Swiss
Philanthropy Foundation)**

Open Society Initiative for Europe
Rockefeller Brothers Fund
Rockefeller Philanthropic Advisors
Wellspring Foundation



**THANK YOU FOR BEING
A FRIEND OF THE EARTH, & TO OUR
STAFF & MEMBERS & ALLIES**



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