

Extinction Rebellion activists stage die-in protests across globe

Environmental protesters lie on ground at transport hubs, venues and shopping centres

Mattha Busby

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About 300 people join a protest beneath Dippy the dinosaur at Kelvingrove art gallery and museum in Glasgow. Photograph: Extinction Rebellion/PA

Extinction Rebellion supporters around the world have held a series of mass die-ins to highlight the risk of the human race becoming extinct as a result of climate change.

Protesters in France, Australia, **New Zealand**, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Italy, The Netherlands, the UK and other countries lay across the ground on Saturday at transport hubs, cultural centres and shopping centres to demand drastic action to avert environmental collapse.

At the Kelvingrove art gallery and museum in **Glasgow**, about 300 activists lay down beneath Dippy, the famous copy of a diplodocus skeleton which is currently touring the UK, for 20 minutes on the sound of a violin.

Many held handwritten signs with the question "Are we next?", while children held pictures they had drawn of their favourite at-risk animals as part of the event organised by Wee Rebellion, a climate-change protest group for young people in Glasgow associated with Extinction Rebellion.

Twelve-year-old Lida said: "We want to raise awareness about climate change. If we keep carrying on the way we are humans may become extinct, like Dippy." Aoibhin, 7, said: "Lots of animals are dying out because of climate change."

Organisers of the die-in said Wee Rebellion would continue to hold protests until local and central governments committed to zero greenhouse gas emissions within 11 years and established climate citizens assemblies to oversee the changes.



XR Sweden

@ExtinctionR_SV

[#ExtinctionRebellion](#) die-in in central [#Lund](#) today

197

10:24 PM - Apr 27, 2019

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The group said industrial agriculture, overfishing and deforestation could lead to food shortages in the UK and serious flooding in parts of Glasgow.

In Lund, a number of people took to the cobbled streets of the southern Swedish city in the rain, urging people to take greater notice of what they called a looming climate catastrophe.

Meanwhile, in Oslo, about 30 people occupied the floor of a shopping centre. Extinction Rebellion [Norway](#) tweeted: "Full stoppage at Oslo City while we campaigned against the clothing industry's wild environmental degradation. It is the world's second largest polluter after the oil industry."

Earlier, in Melbourne, protesters held placards saying, "You are never too small to make a difference" and "Species go extinct every day" as they lay on the pavement outside Flinders Street station.



[View image on Twitter](#)

Extinction Rebellion Roma

@ExtinctionRoma

124

11:45 PM - Apr 27, 2019

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The actions were part of worldwide celebration at 12.05pm called by Extinction Rebellion Berlin following the protests that began in London in November 2018, which have since spawned a mass movement.

A spokesperson for the group said in a statement: “Our ecosystem is threatened by collapse, which will not only lead to mass extinction of countless species, the loss of soil fertility and more extreme weather but will also bring with it the social crises of famine, war and migration.

“The small efforts we are doing each and every day, [such as] using less packaging, buying organic food and clothes, stopping drinking with plastic straws are clearly not enough. We need our governments to take their responsibilities seriously in order to ensure a future worth living to the inhabitants of our world.”

Extinction Rebellion highlight climate emergency at Glastonbury

Extinction Rebellion

Campaigners joined by indigenous people who have led fight against global heating

Frances Perraudin and Lanre Bakare

Thu 27 Jun 2019 19.20 BST

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A climate change march staged by Extinction Rebellion and Greenpeace on the second day of Glastonbury. Photograph: Aaron Chown/PA

Nearly 2,000 festival-goers have joined climate change campaigners **Extinction Rebellion** to stage a procession across the Glastonbury site, paying tribute to indigenous people who have led the fight against global heating.

Waving flags bearing the extinction symbol, which was seen across central London earlier this year when Extinction Rebellion protests **brought the city to a standstill**, the crowd marched for about an hour in the scorching afternoon sun on Thursday from the festival's park stage to its stone circle.

Speaking to the crowd on the second day of the 49th **Glastonbury festival**, Dr Gail Bradbrook from Extinction Rebellion, said: "[Extinction Rebellion] is not a

protest. It is not a campaign. It is a rebellion. We are in active rebellion against our government. The social contract is broken, the governments aren't protecting us and it's down to us now."

Bradbrook said people were waking up to the climate emergency. "This is not a slow movement of change. It's a shift in the consciousness of each of us.

"It is a collective shift. It involves facing grief and trauma and undoing our numbness and our narcissism and our indulgence that we have in this privileged western society."



Wisdom Keepers in the Green Fields at Glastonbury. Photograph: Alicia Canter/The Guardian

The procession was part of a push to have environmental issues front and centre at this year's festival. This includes the well-publicised ban on single-use plastics on site with vendors having to strictly adhere to the policy, and attendees have been encouraged to bring their own water bottles and fill them up at one of the 800 taps on site.

Rosie Rogers, an activist from Greenpeace, told the crowd there was a long way to go in the fight against climate change but that she was "hopeful".

"I feel hopeful that all of us in all of our different movements and identities can come together and truly unite for what is the fight of our life to defend this planet," she said. "And I also feel truly grateful for the brothers and sisters all

over the world, especially those in the global south, the Amazon and other places, who have given so much to protect this planet.”

US philanthropists vow to raise millions for climate activists

Fund donates £500,000 to grassroots Extinction Rebellion and other groups, with promise of more to come

Matthew Taylor *Environment correspondent*

Fri 12 Jul 2019 08.00 BST

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Striking school students marching along Whitehall from Parliament Square in June. Photograph: Guy Smallman/Getty Images

A group of wealthy US philanthropists and investors have donated almost half a million pounds to support the grassroots movement **Extinction Rebellion** and school strike groups – with the promise of tens of millions more in the months ahead.

Trevor Neilson, an investor and philanthropist who has worked with some of the world’s richest families, has teamed up with Rory Kennedy – daughter of Robert Kennedy – and Aileen Getty, whose family wealth comes from the oil industry, to launch the **Climate Emergency Fund**.

Neilson, who has worked with figures such as Bill Gates and Richard Branson, said the fund was inspired by Swedish teenager Greta Thunberg and the

Extinction Rebellion protesters in the UK in April.

Neilson said the three founders were using their contacts among the global mega-rich to get “a hundred times” more in the weeks and months ahead. “This might be the single best chance we have to stop the greatest emergency we have ever faced,” he told the Guardian.

The new fund has the author and environmentalist Bill McKibben, who set up [350.org](#), and David Wallace Wells, who wrote international best seller *Uninhabitable Earth*, on its advisory board.

The money will initially be used to support school strike and Extinction Rebellion groups in the US, but will also be available to help “seed” similar groups around the world.

It offers tiers of funding to support different-sized groups, from teenage activists wanting money for leaflets and megaphones, to funding for salaries and offices for established groups in big cities. It has already committed some of the fund to support Extinction Rebellion groups in New York and Los Angeles.

Neilson, who co-founded investment company IX investments, said although he had been a longtime backer of environmental projects, it was only when he was forced to flee his house in California last year during a wildfire that he realised that radical action was needed.

The Guardian view on the climate emergency: a dangerous paralysis

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“Something about throwing my two-year-old and wife in the car and evacuating from the worst fire in the history of southern California brought the issue into a new type of focus,” he said.

He said the new fund would back non-violent legal action. “It will provide resources to grassroots activists who seek to disrupt in a non-violent way [and] to demand that governments declare a climate emergency and put in place policies to address this crisis.”

He said that most “of the world’s biggest philanthropists are still in a gradualist mindset”, adding: “We do not have time for gradualism.”

“History shows us that change comes from the people. It is grassroots movements throughout history that force governments to act when government

is resistant.”

A spokesperson for Extinction Rebellion welcomed the move, saying: “It’s a signal that we are coming to a tipping point. In the past, philanthropy has often been about personal interest, but now people are realising that we are all in this together and putting their money forward for our collective wellbeing.”

Extinction Rebellion protester convicted of public order offence

Angie Zelter, 68, wanted judge to take ‘urgency of the climate emergency’ into account

Matthew Taylor

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Angie Zelter at Oxford Circus before her arrest in April. Photograph: Angela Zelter

The first person to face trial over the **Extinction Rebellion** protests in April has been found guilty of a minor public order offence for blocking a road in central London.

Angie Zelter, 68, was given a conditional discharge at Hendon magistrates court on Tuesday after being arrested for lying in the road near Parliament Square on 17 April. She had been taking part in protests in which **thousands of**

people blocked key sites across the capital over 10 days to highlight the escalating climate emergency.

Defending herself, Zelter outlined the “clear and unequivocal” scientific evidence of climate chaos and the threat ecological breakdown posed to the future of humanity, citing a swath of scientific studies, UN-backed reports and academic papers.

She told the court that although this was only a “dry summary” and a “minute fraction” of the available evidence, it proved that her peaceful civil disobedience was both necessary and proportionate.

Zelter told magistrates that humans faced mass extinction unless governments implemented wide-ranging changes.

Extinction Rebellion protesters block site of London super-sewer

Activists and residents demonstrate in Bermondsey in protest at pollution from lorries

Amy Walker

Fri 19 Jul 2019 09.34 BST

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Extinction Rebellion protesters at Chambers Wharf in Bermondsey, south-east London. Photograph: Extinction Rebellion

Extinction Rebellion protesters have blockaded the entrance to the construction of London's £4.2bn super-sewer project as part of a fifth day of protests.

About 50 activists – including mothers and children from the nearby Riverside primary school – began a blockade to halt concrete pouring at Chambers Wharf in Bermondsey, south-east London, at 7.30am on Friday.

The civil disobedience movement argues that the continuous traffic and parking of mixing concrete lorries at one of the main sites for building the Thames Tideway tunnel will cause huge air pollution.

Heather Mulkerrins, 31, who is protesting at the site with her four children – three of whom have asthma – said she was there to “protect our children ... I am worried about all the dust and pollution from the lorries.”

A spokesperson for Tideway, the company managing the construction of the tunnel, said: “The super sewer is a vital piece of infrastructure, under construction to clean up the River Thames from sewage pollution.

“We are aware of a protest outside our Chambers Wharf site. The police are in attendance and we are monitoring the situation to ensure the safety of our team and the community to minimise the impact on our vital work to clean up the River Thames.”

Extinction Rebellion activists are also expected to demonstrate outside the Daily

Mail's headquarters at Northcliffe House in Kensington in central London on Friday afternoon to demand the media "tell the truth" about the climate crisis.

Others are expected to gather outside the City of London magistrates court on Friday morning in a show of support for 50 activists who have been charged after taking part in protests.

Non-violent disruption by the movement resumed in the capital, Leeds, Cardiff, Glasgow and Bristol on Monday to urge the government to take immediate action to address the climate emergency. They are scheduled to finish on Friday afternoon.

Sixteen Extinction Rebellion protesters were arrested in Bristol on Wednesday after they blocked a main road leading to the M32 motorway.

On Wednesday, a man told BBC Radio Bristol he had been unable to get to the city's Royal Infirmary before his father died because of the blockade.

In a statement, the movement said: "It is with deep regret that we hear of the serious emotional impact on several individuals caught in traffic resulting from one of our protests in Bristol. We would like to apologise and we will be making a full review of events yesterday to minimise the risk of this being repeated in the future."

Police have accused Extinction Rebellion of causing "high-level" disruption and called for courts to hand out tougher sentences to deter activists from causing further disruption.

During 11 days of protests by the movement in the spring, 1,100 people were arrested – most of whom are expected to be taken to court.

Police call for tougher sentences to deter Extinction Rebellion

Met says it is working with CPS on more than 900 cases from environmental protests

Vikram Dodd and Matthew Taylor

Thu 18 Jul 2019 18.04 BST

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Extinction Rebellion protesters stage a 'die in' in Leeds. Photograph: Danny Lawson/PA

Police have accused **Extinction Rebellion** of causing “high level” disruption and called for courts to pass sentences big enough to deter them from causing fresh chaos, as the environmental group braces itself for mass prosecutions of its activists.

Laurence Taylor, the deputy assistant commissioner in charge of protest policing for the Metropolitan force, said last April’s mass civil disobedience, when thousands of activists occupied four sites across London, saw 90 of the people being arrested only to be released and rejoin the protests. Taylor said police were talking to the government about tougher and clearer powers.

“We would like to see, where behaviour crosses those thresholds of criminality, where we have to react and use powers to deal with it, that the type of sentencing that you might receive would, as it does for other offences, act as a deterrent,” Taylor said.

Legal teams representing those Extinction Rebellion supporters arrested so far said they now expect almost all of the 1,100 people detained during **the civil disobedience protests in the spring** to be taken to court – with 50 of them due before Westminster magistrates on Friday.

