

NOVEMBER 29, 2019 / 4:27 PM / UPDATED 6 HOURS AGO

Students stage global strikes to pressure U.N. climate summit

3 MIN READ



LISBON/SYDNEY (Reuters) - Thousands of people in Asia and Europe joined rallies demanding more action on climate change on Friday, aiming to force political leaders to come up with urgent solutions at a United Nations conference next week.

Swedish activist Greta Thunberg had been due to join a student strike in Lisbon, but her environmentally friendly voyage across the Atlantic from New York by yacht was hit by high winds, delaying her by a few days, she told social media followers.



Portugal's student movement still expected thousands to join marches on Friday, building on the famous campaigner's imminent arrival to mobilize ahead of the United Nations climate summit in Madrid from Dec. 2-13.

"We wish she'd been here, but the movement has to carry on without her. We've got to send our message and pressure politicians ahead of the climate summit," Marianna Louca, 14, told Reuters in Lisbon.

Friday's climate strikes were expected to take place in 2,300 cities in 153 countries around the world, according to the climate campaign group Fridays For Future (<https://www.fridaysforfuture.org/>).

The protests come as experts warn that global temperatures could rise sharply over this century with destructive consequences after greenhouse gas emissions hit record levels.

Outside parliament in London, protesters flew a giant blimp in the shape of a baby with “Guess my weight in CO2” written on its vest.



Cameroon

Other protests took place in Mumbai, Tel Aviv, Vienna and Frankfurt. In Bangkok, young people chanted: “No more coal, no more oil, keep the carbon in the soil”, and staged a “drop dead” flash mob.



Bangkok

In Warsaw, activists, some in gas masks, waved banners saying: “Save our planet” and “Poland without coal 2030”.



In Berlin, protesters in swimming costumes dived into the chilly river Spree, holding up a white box in a symbolic attempt to rescue the government's climate change package.

Activists protested at Amazon (AMZN.O) sites around France in a backlash against the annual Black Friday shopping event driven in part by environmental concerns.



Athens

Several dozen protesters staged a dawn sit-in outside an Amazon building in the Clichy district of Paris, holding a sign saying: "No to Amazon and its world."



In Australia, students in Sydney and other cities walked out of class, saying more should be done to combat

the country's devastating bushfire crisis, which many see as a result of climate change.

Holding home-made signs, including "The climate is changing, why aren't we?", demonstrators in Sydney accused the government of inadequate action in addressing the bushfire crisis. Smoke from bushfires in New South Wales state formed a haze overhead.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison denies his government is not doing enough on climate change.



Millions Around The World Strike on Black Friday for Action on Climate Change



Participants of the Fridays for Future movement demonstrate at the Global Climate Action Day on Simsonplatz. dpa/picture alliance via Getty I—(c) dpa-Zentralbild
BY MADELEINE CARLISLE

NOVEMBER 29, 2019 TIME

For years, Black Friday has been sold as a holiday day for the consumer. In the 2018, Black Friday resulted in \$6.22 billion in online sales alone, per CNBC. This year, climate activists want people to stop and reconsider such rampant consumption.

Climate protests are taking place around the world this Black Friday to raise awareness about the dangers of climate change. The protests are also timed to demand action during the U.N. climate negotiations, COP25, which will begin in Madrid, Spain on Dec. 2.

Climate activists say more than 80 strikes are happening in the U.S. alone. Protests have already happened in Asia and Europe. In Germany alone, activists say 630,000 turned out.

According to organizers, protesters plan to disrupt large shopping centers in Chicago and hold a march and a rally in Los Angeles called "Don't Shop. Strike!" According to Reuters, organizers expect strikes to take place in 2,300 cities in 152 countries around the world.

Ritvik Janamsetty, a spokesman for climate coalition Earth Uprising, tells TIME he estimates around 2 million people took part in strikes Friday.



Thousands of demonstrators attend a protest climate strike rally of the 'Friday For Future Movement' in Leipzig, Germany, Friday, Nov. 29, 2019. Jens Meyer—AP
“We are striking because our leaders haven’t been listening to us. They think our voices are ones they can ignore and not take seriously,” 16-year-old American climate activist Maya Arengo said in a statement. “They don’t understand that we, the youth, are terrified for our futures and we won’t stop fighting until our futures are secure.”

Thunberg rose to prominence in 2018 when she started striking from school on Fridays to demand action on climate change in her home country of Sweden. She has since launched a movement called Fridays for Future, inspiring millions of people around the world to strike from school or work on Fridays to demand movement to fight the climate crisis.

In September, Thunberg and other activists led a global climate strike, which drew millions of people around the world to protest and demand action to fight the coming climate catastrophe. Those same organizers have planned protests around the world on Black Friday, hoping to raise awareness of the days ecological impact and demand climate action from COP25 in Spain next week.



Greta Thunberg



@GretaThunberg

In September 7,5 million people around the world took to the streets. Tomorrow we’re doing it again. Everyone’s needed. Everyone’s welcome. Join us! [#FridaysForFuture](#) [#ClimateStrike](#) [#schoolstrike4climate](#)

29.1K

9:01 AM - Nov 29, 2019

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[6,799 people are talking about this](#)

Ice Cream company Ben & Jerry’s, whose owners are known for progressive politics, tweeted out a map of strikes in the U.S.



Ben & Jerry's



@benandjerrys

STRIKE TODAY! Climate change is the biggest threat to our future. Youth across the US will lead a [#ClimateStrike](#) today & Dec 6 to demand legislative action to combat the climate crisis.

Learn more and join a strike:

[https://](https://strikewithus.org)

strikewithus.org

/



31

6:10 AM - Nov 30, 2019
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[See Ben & Jerry's other Tweets](#)

Reuters reports that thousands of people in Asia and Europe have already taken part in the protests.

According to social media, protests took place across the U.K., including in London, Belfast, Bristol Brighton and Plymouth.



Jake Woodier
@JakeWoodier

Massive turnout in London for the [#ClimateStrike](#)



1,560

2:24 AM - Nov 30, 2019
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508 people are talking about this



Bayview Media
@BayviewMedia

#climatestrike Belfast @Muscaill8



54
2:26 AM - Nov 30, 2019
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37 people are talking about this



Extinction Rebellion Bristol
@XRBristol

Bristol is out in force! #ClimateStrike #FridaysForFuture @BristolPost



146
1:31 AM - Nov 30, 2019
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[59 people are talking about this](#)



Bill Simpson
[@crickbar](#)

Great energy at an [@XRbellionUK](#) [#ClimateStrike](#) march in Plymouth today. [#wakeuptoclimatechange](#)



1
4:33 AM - Nov 30, 2019
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[See Bill Simpson's other Tweets](#)



BBC Sussex



@BBCSussex

Climate protesters are outside Churchill Square shopping centre in Brighton. [#climatestrike](#)



38

1:59 AM - Nov 30, 2019

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32 people are talking about this

Protestors in Australia have also turned out. The the country has been hit by a series of devastating wildfires.



School Strike 4 Climate

@StrikeClimate

People as far as the eye can see! Thanks for showing up for those impacted by fires and the climate crisis Sydney! [#ThisIsClimateChange](#)



870

1:12 PM - Nov 29, 2019 · Sydney, New South Wales

[Twitter Ads info and privacy](#)

412 people are talking about this



Fridays For Future Sydney
@ff_Sydney

Sydney, Australia Climate Strike #FridaysForFuture @GretaThunberg #ClimateEmergency #ClimateAction



292

3:29 PM - Nov 29, 2019
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98 people are talking about this



Small But Mighty Kids Change the World
@KidsOutFront

Australia is On Fire, and So Are We! #ClimateStrike #FridaysForFuture #SchoolStrike4Climate
<https://twitter.com/claudiagallos/status/1200259664904015874>

...
Claudia Gallois
@claudiagallos

Huge crowds at the #schoolstrike4climate on #springst Melbourne. Sitting in solidarity with bushfire survivors. They're calling on immediate action on climate change from PM @ScottMorrisonMP and Premier @DanielAndrewsMP #ThisIsClimateChange



121
7:32 AM - Nov 30, 2019
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50 people are talking about this

Greenpeace Philippines tweeted video of climate protestors in Manila.



Greenpeace Philippines



@gpph

HAPPENING NOW: [#ClimateStrike](#) in Manila supporting the call for [#climatejustice!](#)



360
7:58 PM - Nov 29, 2019

[Twitter Ads info and privacy](#)

148 people are talking about this

Activist Lucky Tran tweeted video of protests she says are from Tokyo:



Dr. Lucky Tran



@luckytran

· 11h

Replying to @luckytran

[#ClimateStrike](#) in Manila, Philippines with thousands demanding climate justice



Dr. Lucky Tran



@luckytran

The [#ClimateStrike](#) movement is growing in Japan with a big turnout in Tokyo today



20

3:20 AM - Nov 30, 2019

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[See Dr. Lucky Tran's other Tweets](#)

Per social media, protesters also turned out in Denmark, India, Bangladesh, Austria, Germany and Belgium.



SussiLillelund
@SussiLillelund

Jumping for future in Copenhagen at the [#ClimateStrike](#) @Fridays4future



17
1:53 AM - Nov 30, 2019 · Copenhagen, Denmark
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[See SussiLillelund's other Tweets](#)



Greenpeace India
@greenpeaceindia

In India, the government produces energy by polluting the city. All the waste is burned to produce energy and what's leftover is waste, toxic fumes and more emissions. [#FridaysForFuture](#) outside incineration plant, New Delhi [#ClimateStrike](#)

Via [@johnpauljos](#)



223
9:20 PM - Nov 29, 2019
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119 people are talking about this



Giorgio Gotra
@GiorgioGtr

Right now, in Brussels! #ClimateStrike #FridaysForFuture #ClimateEmergency



7
3:29 AM - Nov 30, 2019
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[See Giorgio Gotra's other Tweets](#)



Lisa Göldner
@lisagoeldner



Berlin right now! We will never give up on our beautiful planet

#ClimateStrike #NeustartKlima #FridaysForFuture



870
2:27 AM - Nov 30, 2019
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245 people are talking about this



Greenpeace Austria
@GreenpeaceAT

Unser „traditionelles“ Zeitraffer zum #Klimastreik!@ViennaForFuture komprimiert auf 33 Sekunden! #FridaysForFuture



132

3:00 AM - Nov 30, 2019
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32 people are talking about this

<https://twitter.com/Shantan60786029/status/1200304567126122501?s=20>

Thunberg has planned to take part in a student strike in Lisbon, per Reuters, although her zero-carbon emissions sailboat crossing the Atlantic from New York was slowed down a few days by high winds. Protests took place in Portugal Friday.



Telma Laurentino
@TelmaLaurentino



We are many and we traded [#BlackFriday](#) by [#FridaysForFuture](#) in the streets of [#Lisbon!](#) [#ExtinctionRebellion](#) [#ClimateStrike](#) [#ClimateAction](#) [#ClimateEmergency](#)



8
3:39 AM - Nov 30, 2019
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[See Telma Laurentino's other Tweets](#)

According to the Associated Press, protestors near Paris blocked one of Amazon's warehouses to protest over-production. They reportedly had signs that said: "Amazon: For the climate, for jobs, stop expansion, stop over-production!"

“The planet burns, oceans die, and we still want to consume, consume, and therefore produce, produce – until we eradicate all living things? ... We will not betray our children for a 30% discount!” also reads the manifesto of protestors around Paris, per the AP.

Some French lawmakers have proposed banning Black Friday because it causes “resource waste” and “over consumption,” the AP reports.

In an article posted on the website Project Syndicate, Thunberg, and activists Luisa Neubauer and Angela Valenzuela called for a strike next Friday as well. “To the leaders who are headed to Madrid, our message is simple: the eyes of all future generations are upon you. Act accordingly.”