

## Scientists4Future-Twente Newsletter – July 2021



Dear supporter of Scientists4Future-Twente,

Since our start in December 2020, about 75 people have signed up on our website to show their support for S4F-Twente: [twente.scientists4future.nl](https://twente.scientists4future.nl). This provides us with a base, ranging from BSc students to full professors, from which we hope to develop some action in the upcoming years! It might be a nice way to find colleagues with similar interests. Lastly, we encourage you to forward this newsletter to any colleagues that might be interested. Enjoy!

### Upcoming Activities

#### Friday 2 July 19:00 - **Science meets Finance: The EU Taxonomy for Sustainable Activities**

For the last event of this academic year, we have been in contact with prof. Andreas Hoepner, professor in finance at the University College Dublin and advisor to the European Commission about the EU taxonomy. We are very happy that we have found two other experts to get us up to date about the impact of this taxonomy: Mathilde Crêpy from the Environmental Coalition on Standards and Daniel Poolen from the Rabobank. Through an introduction to the taxonomy, a panel discussion and a Q&A they will share the implications of this taxonomy. You can join the Zoom webinar directly: <https://utwente-nl.zoom.us/j/82707072115>. The webinar will also be livestreamed to the [YouTube channel of S4F-NL](#). After the webinar, we will close the livestream and provide time to talk to the experts directly.

#### Thursday 2 September 12:00 - **Get to know each other! Campus walk**

We would love to meet you in person, so the first activity we would like to plan after the summer holiday is a physical walk on campus to get to know each other! This is planned on September 2, at 12:00, at the 'Torentje' of Drienerlo, opposite of the Vrijhof. We hope to see you there :-)

#### 11-16 October - **Sustainability Week 2021**

For the third time, the UT will organize the Sustainability Week, in collaboration with ROC van Twente, Saxion Hogenscholen and other partners in the region. During this week, various activities will be organized and as S4F, we are invited to contribute to the program. This can be for example, through organizing a lecture or panel discussion. If you have ideas, there are definitely others within S4F who can help, so please initiate an activity if you feel like contributing or [email](#) us!

## What else is happening?

### Personal stories & blog posts on website

We encourage everyone who supports Scientists4Future-Twente to share why they support the initiative. You can read the stories [here](#). We ask you to share your vision and your envisioned role within S4F. Share your own personal story with us, by [emailing](#) us. In addition, if you are interested in writing a blog post for our website, you can upload it [here](#).

### Fireside chats

This first year, our most popular activity was the weekly *Fireside Chat*, hosted by prof. Theo van der Meer, where generally 5-15 S4F-ers from the University of Twente join to have lively discussions about climate-crisis-related topics after a short introduction - all in a very informal way. After nine successful fireside chats, the next one will be organized in the second half of August. Let us know if you would like to join and/or suggest a topic for a future fireside chat!

Past topics of discussion:

- May 31: the climate case against Shell. Emile Sprenger gave a nice overview of the case and wrote a blog post for on our website.
- June 7: "Why is the academic world so silent about the climate crisis and how might that be changed?"
- June 21: "Do we need a new economy?" During this chat, we discussed alternative economic models. Inspiration: the books from Kate Raworth - Donut Economics, and Naomi Klein - This changes everything: Capitalism vs climate. On YouTube: a lecture by [Kate Raworth](#) and a lecture by [Noami Klein](#)

### Media

We still think that there is animo for the media group, to write texts for news outlets or to make educational videos. However, there currently is no-one who can coordinate this focus group. If you are interested in working with media yourself or coordinate the media group, send us an [email](#).

### Schools

For the schools focus group, we also hope that someone would be willing to coordinate it after the summer holiday. There is one ongoing initiative to provide guest lessons at primary schools during the sustainability week in october 2021. For high schools, we would like to set up a conversation with Pre-U next academic year. If you would like to be involved, please reach out!

### ABP - A fossil free pension for all government and education employees

Together with the Young Academies, Scientists4Future-NL has sent a letter to the university boards of all Dutch universities expressing the need for Dutch universities to speak out against fossil fuel investments by pension fund ABP. But we're not done yet, as this is

probably a project for the long run. Are you interested in this subject, or would you be interested to be the contact person in Twente on this topic? Send us an [email](#)!

### **Support from Green Hub Twente**

We are glad that Jeroen Boerma, from Green Hub Twente, is getting paid for 4 hours per week to support S4F-Twente!

## **What can you do?**

### **Chat with us**

Theo van der Meer is having 1-on-1 conversations with supporters of S4F-Twente. Send a message to [t.h.vandermeer@utwente.nl](mailto:t.h.vandermeer@utwente.nl) if you are interested!

### **Get involved!**

S4F-Twente has a lot of momentum so we are actively seeking more help with organizing our diverse range of activities (and new ideas are always welcome) – please do consider contacting us if you have any time/energy to contribute! You are also very welcome to refer others, who might be interested, to this initiative.

## **Past events**

### **Campus Talks Season 2: Episode 5 - Sustainable Campus**

This time, the online talk show hosted by tech philosopher Peter-Paul Verbeek discussed sustainability initiatives that focus on energy and resources. We like to label our students and staff as 'sustainable', but how sustainable is the UT community really? Joining Peter-Paul Verbeek in the studio is Mirjam Bult, vice-president of the Executive Board. Together, they field critical questions from University Rebellion and other UT students.

Click [here](#) to watch the recording.

### **Future Scientists Webinar #1 Paul Behrens**

"There is no case in which there is any scenario where we should not do absolutely anything we can, straight away." This is one of the key messages from the first Future Scientists Webinar which was organized by S4F NL. Paul Behrens, an assistant professor at Leiden University in environmental change, shared his insights on the connections between pessimistic and hopeful pathways to the future. Can we turn the tide on emissions? Should we worry about overpopulation? Can technological innovations compensate for a delay in social change? Just a few topics that were addressed during the webinar and are discussed in his recently published book 'The best of times, the worst of times: Futures from the frontiers of climate science'.

Click [here](#) to watch this webinar. (English)

## Future Scientists Webinar #2 Jaap van der Stel

"In my lecture, I connect the climate crisis with the emergence of mental health problems. In particular, I focus on the question of what this crisis means for young people (after all, they will be confronted with its consequences in the coming decades). I also try to answer the question of how we can mentally prepare ourselves for this crisis. How do we maintain our resilience? This is an important issue for everyone, and certainly also for scientists who (have to) face the facts."

Click [here](#) to watch this webinar (Dutch).

Greetings, the S4F-Twente newsletter team

Carolina Pereira Marghidan, Erik Kemp & Yuri Engelhardt

[Scientists4Future – Twente – Coalition of concerned scientists](#)



Active local groups in NL:

- Amsterdam
- Utrecht
- Leiden
- Delft
- Twente
- Nijmegen
- Deventer/Zutphen
- Groningen (starting)
- Maastricht (starting)