

Scientists4Future-Twente Newsletter – July 2022



Dear supporter of Scientists4Future-Twente,

Welcome to the July-2022 edition of the S4F-Twente Newsletter. We are happy that you are joining us on this important journey towards a more sustainable future.

Please find in this Newsletter:

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Open Letter to the Executive Board: Follow up - Reducing your plane travels and rethink UT policies with us

On Wednesday 29 June, a meeting was held to consult about scenarios to encourage people to rethink their behaviour when it comes to travelling by plane. Vice-chair of the Executive Board Machteld Roos introduced the topic; Prof. Van Aalst, prof. Schmitz and prof. Mugele emphasised the necessity, the possibility and some options for reducing UT's emissions from flights. The UToday [article](#) "Compensation scenarios for air travel in the pipeline" by Rense Kuipers nicely summarises this initiative.

What you can do? Participate in these initiatives and meetings. More supporters translates to a larger influence! And reconsider when you want to visit scientific conferences: these might be attended digitally, less frequently, or closer to home. Consider attending and watching digital conferences together and make this a wonderful event for you and your research group. And whenever reasonably possible, book a train instead of a flight.

Join us at our S4F-Twente lunch meetings

Every first Monday and third Friday of the month at 12:30 anyone interested in S4F, staff or student, is welcome to join us for lunch in the Waaier canteen. This is an informal meeting where you can exchange ideas and concerns and meet like-minded. We look forward to meeting you! You can recognize us by the stripes ([#showyourstripes](#)) that we started this newsletter with.

Examples of what we discussed in these meetings so far:

- We talked with students from Students for Future Enschede (see next item), who were busy with a petition to send to the Executive Board to request that they demand the Enschede municipality to acknowledge the climate crisis and take serious action.

- Possible use of a sustainability ranking to show that we – as UT – need to step up and are lagging far behind.
- Catering: Why do our canteens still sell meat? When someone orders lunch (paid by the UT), the UT could request that it is vegetarian, or better still: vegan. All single-use plastic should be banned (f.e. coffee cups). Any disposable packaging or cup should be compostable. We keep stressing that the UT should lead by example!

Students for Future Enschede – petition

[Students for Future Enschede](#), who organised a climate march (for climate justice) on 7 June in Enschede, claims that UT should publicly acknowledge the climate crisis: *“UT has the responsibility to use its position as a credible knowledge institution in the public discourse. Now is a critical moment to take up this responsibility. The city council is currently debating what the reality of the climate crisis means for the city of Enschede and how to best communicate this reality to its citizens. The scientific consensus is clear: we are facing a climate crisis, it will affect every region, including Twente and actions must be taken as soon as possible to protect ourselves and future generations as best as we can. Are you a student, staff member, professor, or alumni of the UT? Please sign the petition to let the executive board know that they need to take their responsibility and speak up in the public debate by sending an open letter to the city council of Enschede.”* You can sign [here](#).

Fireside chats

About once a month we organise a [fireside chat](#). This is an informal meeting between supporters of S4F-Twente. We discuss actual topics, online from 20:30-22:00. You are welcome to join!

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 14 September and will be about how to influence UT sustainability policy: what are (y)our ideas, where could the UT play a larger role, how to speed up, what should immediately change, how can we foster sustainable change at the UT?

The fireside chat of October will be about climate anxiety.

S4F webinars

Through their website, you can look back the interesting S4F-Netherlands [webinars](#) on youtube.

The previous webinar was by Prof. Joyeeta Gupta (UvA) on “Climate change, planetary boundaries and the need for an environmentally just approach”. When the audience was asked what their associations are with the term “climate justice”, the below picture was what came up. You can look back this [webinar](#) and learn more.



The next S4F webinar, in September, will be about “The Social Science behind Civil Disobedience” (see calendar below).

New minor

A new UT minor, *Intelligence, Creativity, and Responsible Technological Innovation in Societal Transformations (ICR&TIST)*, will start as a pilot in September 2022. It encompasses 30 EC, and there is still room for four extra students to [join](#). It is a CBL (challenge-based learning) minor aimed at investigating specific societal challenges and creating solutions through research in a multidisciplinary environment. The minor will challenge students to research complex, multi-faceted questions and make a change for a real-world problem.

A book worth reading

“Orwell’s Roses”, by American essay writer, historian and activist [Rebecca Solnit](#), is a book that evolves around writer George Orwell and his admiration of roses. Roses are seen as a symbol of hope, or beauty, but in this book, the writer asks herself if they are also a symbol of cruelty. If you take into account how roses are currently mass produced in an environmentally disruptive way, can we still claim that roses are beautiful? More extensive reviews on this book can be found in [The Guardian](#) and by Jelmer Mommers in [De Correspondent](#) (last one is in Dutch).

S4F lecture and participation in discussion session

S4F has been asked to give a lecture on the Climate Crisis and afterwards to participate in the discussion with members of the Vereniging van Vrijzinnig Godsdienstigen in Almelo. This is planned to take place on the afternoon of Saturday 1 October. There can be 50-100 people present, thus we need the help of a few of you in order to have a S4F-member on every discussion table. If you are interested to participate, please send a message to twente@scientists4future.nl. The VVG-organizer specifically asked also for young S4F-members to give their view!

Calendar

- Friday 19 August, 12:30-13:30: S4F lunch meeting, Waaier canteen (see above)

- Monday 5 September, 12:30-13:30: S4F lunch meeting, Waaier canteen (see above)
- Wednesday 14 September, 20:30-22:00 (online): [Fireside chat](#) on Climate anxiety
- Thursday 15 September, 16:00-17:00 S4F-NL [webinar](#): "The Social Science behind Civil Disobedience" by Paul Raekstad (UvA)
- Friday 16 September, 12:30-13:30: S4F lunch meeting, Waaier canteen (see above)
- Saturday 1 October, afternoon: S4F lecture and participation in discussion session VVG (see item above)
- Monday 3 October, 12:30-13:30: S4F lunch meeting, Waaier canteen (see above)

Interesting links

- Follow us on [Twitter](#)
- [Scientists4Future-NL](#) and their [Newsletters](#)
- [GreenHub Twente](#) and their [Newsletters](#)

We hope to see you soon, through one of the above opportunities,

the S4F-Twente newsletter team – Leonie Krab, Annemarie Dedden, Evert Houwman, Gertjan Koster, Frieder Mugele – twente@scientists4future.nl

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

We encourage you to forward this newsletter to any colleagues that might be interested.

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