

Scientists4Future-Twente Newsletter – May 2022



Dear supporter of Scientists4Future-Twente,

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

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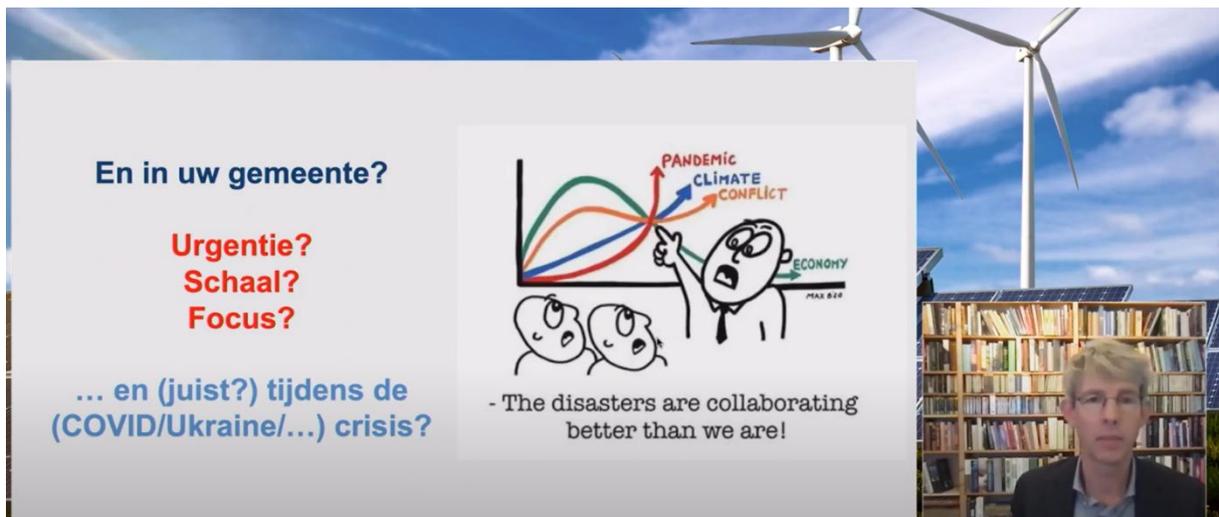
Open Letter to the Executive Board: Follow up

Plans (mentioned in the previous S4F-Twente Newsletter) have been worked out in more detail with several options. The decisions-making process is ongoing. Next week, the UT SEE (Sustainability, Energy & Environment) steering committee will give its opinion. Later on, faculties will be asked and in the first half of July the Executive Board is expected to take a decision. It is still a challenge to come up with targets for CO₂ reduction measures on campus that allow to quantify the results.

S4F and politicians: S4F-Twente in Regionale Energie Strategie webinar

Wednesday night 11 May, a webinar and discussion session for civil servants and city council members of the province of Overijssel, involved in realizing the goals of the [regional energy transition](#), was held (in Dutch). This session was broadcast from studio Say Yeah in Enschede.

Jan Jaap Kolkman, the program manager of the RES-Twente was hosting this evening, which evolved largely around a presentation of Maarten van Aalst (coauthor of several of the IPCC reports, professor at UT/ITC and supporter of S4F-Twente) on the findings and conclusions from the newest IPCC reports. At the discussion table S4F-activists Frieder Mugele (UT/TNW) and Richard Sliuzas (UT/ITC) represented S4F-Twente and from the side of Overijssel politics Martha van Abbema (alderman of Twenterand) and Tijs de Bree (deputy from the province of Overijssel) were present. Questions could be asked online by the audience.



For us, S4F-Twente, an important aspect was that this session offered the opportunity to introduce S4F to many politicians in the region in a short presentation by Evert Houwman (UT/TNW), explaining shortly what S4F is and what it aims to do and achieve. We hope that we will be able to contribute to the political discussion around the climate crisis and the energy transition – as for example by this RES-webinar session.

Over the last year we had mainly contact with local politicians of Enschede. In cooperation with the city hall staff, we will organize an information session in the city council of Enschede soon, which can also be followed by the general public via a live stream. We hope that the presence in this RES-meeting leads to more contacts, also in other councils. After the last local elections there is a great need from the side of the newly elected council members to become informed about many topics, including the energy transition in Twente which already has caused heated discussions, especially as Jan Jaap Kolkman phrased it, about the “W-word” (wind turbines). A clear message from the roundtable was that it is essential to scale up climate actions as quickly as possible while maintaining an inclusive and transparent approach toward all who live and work in the Twente region, including those who may strongly oppose climate action, for whatever reason.

The whole session has been recorded and is available [here](#).

UT Honorary doctorate Debra Roberts

This Friday, 20 May, at the UT Dies Natalis, Dr. Debra Roberts will receive an [honorary doctorate](#). Roberts is a local government practitioner from South Africa and has been identified as one of the 100 most influential people worldwide in climate policy. Roberts is also one of the Co-Chairs of Working Group II of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which focuses on impacts, adaptation and vulnerability.

Her honorary promoters are Maarten van Aalst, Professor of Climate and Disaster Resilience (‘Princess Margriet Chair’, Faculty ITC), Theo van der Meer, Professor of Thermal Engineering (Faculty ET) and Suzanne Hulscher, Professor of Water Engineering and Management (Faculty ET). You are invited tomorrow, Thursday 19 May, to join her lecture during a public event at [Waaier 3](#) from 12:30-13:30.

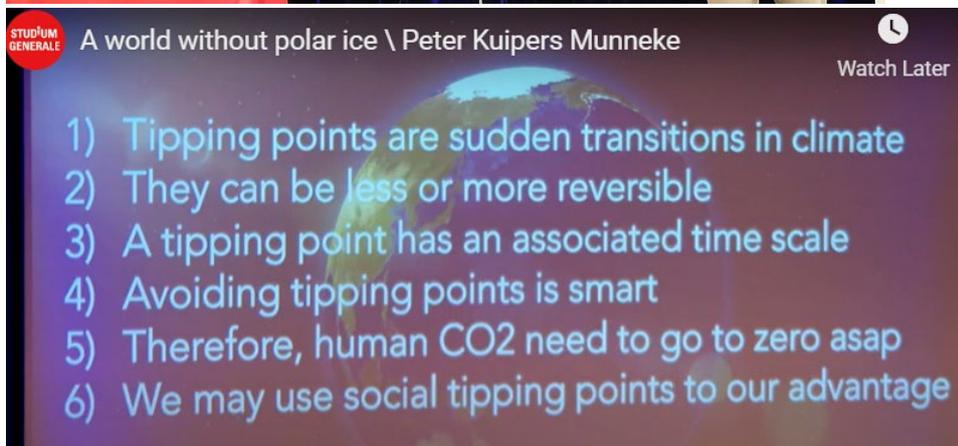
UT Perspectives

UT Perspectives is a new series of talks in which a current theme is discussed. Edition #1 on 26 April was about *Science at the heart of public discours*: "Should we as a university, as scientists, take a stand in public debates? Is it our responsibility to actively speak up, to share our perspectives? Should we actively participate and provide input to discussions on, for example, social media?" A good discussion with relevant questions followed, and Tom Veldkamp, the rector, showed commitment from the board.



Studium Generale: Climate tipping points, and how to avoid them

Glaciologist Dr. Peter Kuipers Munneke (Utrecht University, Institute for Marine and Atmospheric research Utrecht (IMAU), and weatherman for NOS), gave an inspiring lecture at the Vrijhof about climate tipping points. Are we heading towards a world without polar ice? What would be the consequences, and (how) can we still prevent that? He explained a lot of theory about "system earth", and then summarised the recent IPCC reports in two minutes: we have three knobs that we can turn if we want to counter climate change. The first is the amount of sunlight arriving on earth, the second is the brightness of the earth (albedo), and the third and last knob is the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. He explained the role of history in the current earth circumstances, and that next to physical tipping points, there are also social tipping points, because, luckily, norms are changing. You can look back this interesting lecture [here](#).



Webinars

You can look back the previous S4F-Netherlands [webinar](#) from astronomer Simon Portegies Zwart, who leads the interdisciplinary research team on Computational Astrophysics at Leiden Observatory. His main objective is to understand the universe by simulation and to develop the necessary algorithms and tools. His webinar is about how high-performance computer use continues to increase in science, and about its impact on the environment. To minimize the effects, scientists should avoid interpreted scripting languages such as Python, and favour the optimal use of energy-efficient workstations.

The image shows a Zoom webinar slide with the title "Conclusions". The slide contains the following text:

- We spend copious valuable resources (energy/Co2) on scientific computing.
- If we would run
 - At low clock-frequency
 - In parallel (ideally many-core or GPU)
 - optimized code
 - Use optimized (compiled or hand-tuned) language
 - Run on a laptop instead of a workstationIn this way, we can save a factor million in CO2.
- Running single-core Python on a powerful workstation about the worst one can do for the environment

The Zoom logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the slide. A small video feed of a man is visible in the top right corner of the slide.

9 June (see Calendar below).

The next S4F-NL webinar is on

Scientist Rebellion (SR): Global week of protests

Extinction Rebellion is organising a [week of action](#) in Rotterdam between 19-24 May, with a focus on fossil fuel. Scientist Rebellion is taking part during this week as well. There is a (legal) march on Thursday 19 May, 13:30h at Rotterdam Central Station on the Stationsplein.

A book worth reading

A new category in this newsletter: "a book worth reading"! We highly recommend "Less in More – How degrowth will save the world", by [Jason Hickel](#) (2020). His research focuses on ecological economics, global inequality, imperialism and political economy, and this book is a wake-up call. Hickel explains the detrimental effect of focusing on GDP and "growthism" on our natural resources and climate, with historical perspective, and shows transformative ideas to bring our economy back into balance with the living world while building a society where all can thrive. A higher GDP does not make people happier, while it is a dead end for a liveable planet. An urgent book with many references to research data, and it is easy to read without a background in economics or anthropology.

Calendar

- Thursday 19 May, 12:30: lecture by Dr. Debra Roberts in Waaier 3 (see above)
- Friday 20 May, 15:00: UT Dies Natalis, with honorary doctorate Dr. Debra Roberts
- Wednesday 25 May, 20:00: Science Café "[Op naar duurzaam ondernemen](#)" (in Dutch) at Concordia, Oude Markt 15, Enschede
- Thursday 9 June, 16:00: S4F-NL [webinar](#) by Joyeeta Gupta on Climate Change, Environmental Justice and Fossil Fuels

Interesting links

- [Faculty for a Future](#) helps academics who feel a duty of care over Earth's colliding crises to transform research, teaching, and public engagement towards the pursuit of a better future.
- An interesting [column](#) (11 May) of Julia Steinberger about connecting to high-school students
- 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, Maarten van Aalst, Yuri Engelhardt, Erik Kemp, Theo van der Meer, Frieder Mugele, Richard Sliuzas – 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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