

Scientists4Future-Twente Newsletter – September 2022



Dear supporter of Scientists4Future-Twente,

Welcome to the September-2022 edition of the S4F-Twente Newsletter. We are happy that you are supporting us. Reach out to people that share your concerns: meet us in one of the activities that are described here!

Please find in this Newsletter:

- Open Letter to the Executive Board: Follow up - Reducing your plane travels and rethink UT policies with us
- Contacts between S4F and regional politicians
- Student Energy Crisis: information and support lecture
- S4F lectures at primary and secondary schools
- Fireside chats: 14 September and 26 October (online)
- S4F webinars
- GreenLabs
- S4F-Twente lunch meetings
- Students for Future Enschede – petition
- Global Climate strike
- Articles worth reading
- A book worth reading
- Calendar
- Interesting links

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

Faculty boards have been asked to promote the train map and promote train travel over flights, and to discuss criteria and reasons for travelling of employees. You could ask your management how they deal with these issues and show your engagement with this topic!

Contacts between S4F and regional politicians

S4F tries to intensify their contacts with regional politicians. This summer we talked to the aldermen of Losser (Jaimi van Essen) and Enschede (Niels van den Berg). During the discussion with Niels van den Berg, he promised to install an advisory committee, that will advise the city council and the city government on climate-related issues.

Student Energy Crisis: information and support lecture

Europe is in the middle of an energy crisis that affects us all. Prices of fuel, gas and electricity are rising to unprecedented levels. For students, this means a rise in energy costs that could be around €1000 per student per year. The good news is that these rising costs also mean that the impact you can have on your bill increases as well. So acting now to save energy is essential.

The key to successfully keeping your bill as low as possible is cooperation and knowledge. For this reason, Nando Tolboom, PhD-candidate and co-founder of start-up Realised, organises an information and support lecture for students about what measures

you can take to keep your energy bill in check. Join in on **Tuesday 13 of September, 12:45 in Waaier 2** to learn what you can do. The lecture is supported by the University of Twente, housing associations: De Veste, SJHT, and Plaza, and the Energieloket Enschede.

S4F lectures at primary and secondary schools

S4F has teamed up with Pre-U on the [lecturing at schools](#). Several of our scientists are involved and the subjects of their lectures are recently communicated by Pre-U-junior to primary schools in the region.

Fireside chats (online)

About once a month we organise a [fireside chat](#). This is an informal meeting of supporters of S4F-Twente. We discuss actual topics. You are welcome to join!

Our next meeting is this Wednesday, **14 September, 20:30-22:00 (online)**, and will be about how to affect 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 **26 October** (20:30-22:00, online) will be about climate anxiety, with guest speaker Wendy Greenspun, PhD. She is a clinical and climate psychologist in NYC, specializing in the treatment of climate distress. She published an interesting [essay](#) about it. Please note that the date of this chat has changed from 12 to 26 October.

S4F webinars

Through their website, you can look back interesting S4F-Netherlands [webinars](#) on youtube. The next webinar is on Thursday 15 September by [dr. Paul Raekstad](#), University of Amsterdam, Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences. He will talk about "The Social Science behind Civil Disobedience".

GreenLabs

Last week, Green Labs UTwente started the pilot of plastic recycling in the laboratories at the Zuidhorst building, which means that there are now additional PMD bins in the labs. By this measure, we want to reduce residual waste production in the labs.

Rolf Slaats (S&T), who spoke at one of our fireside chats, initiated the process. He is in contact with Asito/people from campus & facility management and was involved in placing the bins.

There is also a bigger, general waste station outside the labs downstairs next to the side entrance of ZH building, where it is possible to distinguish different types of plastics (Styrofoam vs plastic film vs PMD vs hard plastics and other waste).

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](#) that we always start this newsletter with.

Students for Future Enschede – petition and pitches

[Students for Future 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 alumnus of the UT? Please sign the petition to let the executive board know that they need to take responsibility and speak up in the public debate by sending an open letter to the city council of Enschede."* Get involved by signing and sharing their [petition](#).

Join the action! Several UT-based climate- and ecological grassroot groups will introduce themselves to the academic community on **Thursday 22 September, 12.30 at the O&O Plein**. Students for Futures, Vegan Student Association, University Rebellion and Scientist Rebellion will give brief pitches about their backgrounds, aims and methods. BE THERE to get to know them & learn about their collective demands for the UT that will inform upcoming actions and events.

Global Climate Strike

The next [global climate strike](#) is on Friday 23 September (#FridaysForFuture). The goal of the movement is "to put moral pressure on policymakers, to make them listen to the scientists, and then to take forceful action to limit global warming". Through the link, you can find where strikes are held, in the Netherlands and worldwide.

Articles worth reading

The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) published an interesting [article](#): "Climate Endgame: Exploring catastrophic climate change scenarios", written by Luke Kemp (Cambridge, UK) *et al.* Authors claim that it is time for the scientific community to grapple with the challenge of better understanding catastrophic climate change. *"There is ample evidence that climate change could become catastrophic. We could enter such "endgames" at even modest levels of warming. Understanding extreme risks is important for robust decision-making, from preparation to consideration of emergency responses. This requires exploring not just higher temperature scenarios but also the potential for climate change impacts to contribute to systemic risk and other cascades."*

Another article worth reading is from [Nature](#) and deals with the growth of methane in the atmosphere.

A book worth reading

"Duurzame energietechniek" – Bram Entrop *et al.* This is a very accessible yet technical book (in Dutch), explaining the history, current systems and regulations, and possible futures of energy systems in the Netherlands. It has separate chapters on different energy generation, storage, conversion, and distribution technologies.

The book quantifies its statements so we are not left with a feeling of A is better than B without knowing why, as it provides insights into the details of why, how much, how long, and other limitations of each option. The book was revised in 2020 and the information is as up-to-date as can be on the current energy transition.

Calendar

- Tuesday 13 September, 12:45: [Student Energy Crisis](#): information and support lecture (Waaier 2)
- Wednesday 14 September, 20:30-22:00 (online): [Fireside chat](#) on how to influence UT sustainability policy
- Thursday 15 September, 16:00-17:00 S4F-NL [webinar](#): "The Social Science behind Civil Disobedience" by dr. Paul Raekstad
- Friday 16 September, 12:30-13:30: S4F-Twente lunch meeting, Waaier canteen
- Thursday 22 September, 12:30-13:30: protest and pitches at O&O plein (see above)
- Friday 23 September: Global climate strike
- Saturday 1 October, afternoon: S4F lecture and participation in discussion session VVG, Almelo (see the previous Newsletter)
- Monday 3 October, 12:30-13:30: S4F-Twente lunch meeting, Waaier canteen
- Friday 21 October, 12:30-13:30: S4F-Twente lunch meeting, Waaier canteen
- Wednesday 26 October, 20:30-22:00 (online): [Fireside chat](#) on climate anxiety
- Monday 7 November, 12:30-13:30: S4F-Twente lunch meeting, Waaier canteen
- Friday 18 November, 12:30-13:30: S4F-Twente lunch meeting, Waaier canteen
- 21-25 November: [Sustainability Week](#), organised by the UT, Saxion and ROC van Twente.
- Tuesday 29 November 2022, 19:30-21:00: [The future of our climate](#) - UT Studium Generale met prof. Maarten van Aalst

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, Maarten Arentsen, Yuri Engelhardt, Lena Heinrich, Evert Houwman, Gertjan Koster, Theo van der Meer, Frieder Mugele, Nando Tolboom, Karina Vink – 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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