Dear Extinction Rebels, Affinity Groups and Local XR Chapters of the world,

This is an advice and guidelines document compiled from meetings of ideas collected in London.
It’s not a list of orders or a prescribed method.
The intention is to help spark your creativity and inspire you.

We are sharing some plans and designs from London which you may like and decide to use, or you may have different ideas. This action is yours - provided your plans square with our Principles and Values and the Action Consensus, we invite you to create your own message and make your mark!

With love and rage,
XR London

Artwork & Designs (participatory and decentralised)

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1SU0I7ORhqluQlclJK4JkZcsqIh31GRKM

Please read this document through. It contains advice for affinity groups taking part in this action. It is here to keep you safe, inspired and supported!
Aims of the action:

Paint the Streets is a **full week of breaking laws and social norms** to:

- Use **images and performances** to tell the truth on climate breakdown, ecological collapse, and the injustice of our toxic system and failing governments
- **Raise the alarm** on the environmental emergency
- Remind the world **politics is failing** but there are **solutions and hope**.
- Raise awareness for **April 15th: call to arms**
- Drive people to the website or to search online
- Break the media echo chamber - **reach out** to new audiences
- Shock, mystify, bring hope, stir up anger, or inspire people

Positives:

- **Inclusive** (For those who are housebound: paint your house or social media)!
- Simultaneous action **across the country**
- **Cheeky, naughty, and shocking**
- Builds confidence for **new activists**
- Mostly low-level, safe actions
- **A LOT of fun**

Some things to consider:

- Printing **costs and logistics**
- Considerable design and art work to be done in **short space of time**
- Posters likely to be removed relatively rapidly (so **keep it up** for the whole week)
- Requires people to **wake up very early** to hit rush hour, or **stay up late** to flypost at night
- Fully decentralised to individual affinity groups and results are unpredictable so please read this document thoroughly to stay aware and safe.
- Some actions potentially seen as “vandalism” and may have a **high risk of arrest** especially if private sector buildings are targeted.
- Unclear what **police reaction** will be to some of these actions
- Targeting high-profile locations may **damage our relationship** with them (e.g. close to your office/meeting building or on an institution that supports you)
- Don’t tag over raver posters or spray tags - **could cause conflict**. Organised flyposters/graffiti groups can be territorial or get violent.
2. TARGET IDEAS

Universities, colleges, schools
Public transport - trains, back of buses, bus stops and stations
Busy central areas in cities: town squares, statues, pedestrian areas
Locations with iconic backdrops for dramatic/symbolic effect, e.g. Eiffel Tower in background, London phonebooths, tourist hotspots, statues (make careful choices)
Government buildings
HQs of organisations we want to galvanise support from (Greenpeace, WWF, Amnesty)
HQs of corporations we criticise e.g. BBC, Cuadrilla, biased media
Companies linked to fossil fuel industry and fracking e.g. HSBC, Barclays
On the floor in a place where lots of people get an aerial viewpoint e.g. a square surrounded by skyscrapers
Places people are queueing/slowed down and have time to read your message
Places with high pollution levels/ecocide
Replacing ferry flags
Billboards/ temporary walls of construction sites (poster designs together)
Localised designs - mention the specific borough/neighborhood
Give artwork to Tate Modern/museums/art galleries
Non-violent communication: Flyer at locations that are going to be targeted on 15th April (go softly, we want people in these areas on-side)
Remember: You don’t have to flypost, you can ask to put things up on school/university noticeboards, in windows of cafes, on flyer tables

3. YOUR AFFINITY GROUP

SUGGESTED ROLES

We suggest getting together a large affinity group of 12+ people
It could equally just be one person with some stickers and flyers and an affinity group of three does great work with a bucket of wallpaper paste, paint rollers and some posters.

Here’s some suggested roles if you are building a big team:

1-2 Coordinators
1-2 Logistics & materials
1-2 Writing / choreography / performance / performers
1 Police liaison
2 Flyerers (non-arrestable)
1-2 teams of 3 Flyposters (possibly arrestable): 1 to roll on the paste, 1 to put up the posters, 1 to roll on more paste on top
1-2 Spray chalker (arrestable)
1-2 Legal observer
First Aider
Wellbeing (food, snacks etc) and Burnout prevention
Arrestee support (network of people. See Regen notes below)
Media Roles: Social / Content - Photography / Content - Videography / Press

Materials I may need
- Posters
- Paint rollers or wide paint brushes
- Buckets/bags of wallpaper paste or flour & hot water mix
- Blu-tack / pins if you’re not flyposting
- Stickers
- Flyers
- Small business cards
- Chalk
- Spray chalk/paint and stencils
- Paint and brushes
SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

1st Weekend: get organised. Prep materials, reharse speeches/performances and brief your group.
Get the message out before or during Monday rush hour.

Day one - Low-level action together in one place.
(Sunday night, messages will be up for April Fools’ Day)
Learn how to flypost and build confidence for the week ahead.
Secretive and cryptic posters and stickers: images of human and animal skulls, dead trees, the planet, sand timers, the Extinction symbol. No words, except Extinction Rebellion and/or the viral hashtag #XRTruth.
Mostly use main XR posters and designs.

Day two- Single powerful words
Words that relate to the current truth, such as Toxic, Broken, Danger, Fire, Crisis, Emergency, War, Death - and opposing
Words that relate to the world we want to see: Change, Future, Healthy, Green, Brighter, Safe, Wild, Survive, Life.
Begin brandalising, targeting government, companies, corporations and industries with heavy links to the environmental crisis. E.g. (in UK) Barclays and HSBC, who fund fracking, Oil giant BP, who are sponsoring museum exhibitions to whitewash their ecocidal practices and involvement in wars.

Day three- Two or three-word messages
slogans, and hashtags, such as Rebel for Life, Our Future, System Change, Citizens’ Assembly, For the Wild, Save our Planet, Extinction or Rebellion.

Day four- Posters/ messages that tell the full truth
Facts and quotes on the crises from the IPCC report, WWF Living Planet report, Greta Thunberg, Antonio Guterres, David Attenborough

Day five onwards - full creative freedom!
Bring out your most daring artworks and performances
Push the boundaries of public perception
Let the wake-up call ring loud and clear.

Saturday and/or Sunday evening - grand spiky finale
Any activists prepared to provoke arrest, preferably in a very public location with high footfall during rush hour
SUGGESTED TACTICS, ACTION AND TRAVEL STRATEGIES

Pick your key locations/targets to paint
Pick some backup locations you’d like to visit if things go wrong and you have to change plans
Travel as light as possible
Modes of transport between locations - on foot, by bicycle, bus, train, or a mix
Pick a meeting point and time and communicate it over Signal or other encrypted chats the night before, along with the arrestable end-point if this applies
Use emergent strategy to move: avoid planning a travel route which could be snitched on (information leaked) or messed up by delays - instead, make the route up as you go along Change location every 20-30min depending on how discreet your action is. Consider how long it will be before someone spots you, and how long it would take for police to arrive and stop you. If it’s spiky or high profile, you may have to move faster
Have a plan B

POLICE LIAISON

To be an XR action, some arrestables should stand by the action and face possible arrest. This does not necessarily mean you have to tell police exactly what you’re planning; this is an action individual affinity groups can take alone, and as such is more easily stopped by police than a mass action.

A suggested police liaison strategy is to tell police people the minimum information: that we will be doing actions on a given day or throughout the week, creating messages using performances and artwork in physical space.

Rather than tell them where you are starting and where you are going and when, tell them only a time and place the action will finish. We suggest a public place with high footfall in rush hour. For example, this could be 5:30pm in the main train or bus station of your city on the Friday afternoon of the week and/or the Sunday at midday. This will make a scene and put police in an awkward position. They can wait there, prepared to arrest any activists who arrive at the end of their Paint Run and keep painting the station until they’re caught red-handed. Non-arrestables can just not go to the end-point if they want to avoid police contact.

Arrange spotters to scout your meeting location an hour or so beforehand to check for police presence.

We don’t recommend running away if police find you taking action; this could be classed as resisting arrest and may also make them think you’re doing something worse than you are. However, some members of affinity groups could calmly walk away, or even continue the action, while the police liaison negotiates with them.
4. REGEN AND WELLBEING

REGENERATIVE CULTURE REMINDER

These actions feel really exciting, the adrenaline is rushing and it feels great to be pro active for such a good cause. Remember: we are most effective when we have had rest and look after ourselves and each other.

Don’t be afraid to take time off!
Have rest days
to avoid burn out and you will feel even more empowered and proactive!

IS THIS GOING TO GET ME ARRESTED?

We don’t know - it depends on where you are and what you’re planning.
Reading the preparation for arrest document is a good place to start:

The document attached below is an overview, and is to be seen as a gateway to further reading. Further links are listed at the bottom of each section within the document.

For further information visit https://greenandblackcross.org

We can’t predict reactions of the police or the public.
In London at night, our experience is police generally don’t bother with stuff like flyposting and stickers. This could change if there’s a big group of you that seems “threatening” to onlookers.
Spray-chalking in London usually provokes arrest if the police see you do it.
The situation is likely to be different in different locations, particularly countries with different laws.
The reactions by onlookers and police could be different for activists who are more likely to be targeted (e.g. if you are BAME or from another oppressed background, or even if you dress in a certain way such as wearing hoods).
Consider advice from solicitors or organisations experienced with protest law and activism,

Ultimately, the risk is yours to take and you should be prepared to take full responsibility for your actions.
LOW-RISK STUFF YOU CAN DO

Slip XR business cards into pockets of shop clothes
Ask to put up posters on noticeboards
Hand out flyers
Sticker-slap (covering the faces of people in advertisements is really fun)
Put XR flags in arms/hand of statues in public places
Paint on top of existing illegal posters
Street performances
Speeches and songs on buses and tubes

MID-LEVEL RISK STUFF YOU CAN DO

Flypost at night
Sharpie brandalise logos of any ads for BP, Barclays, HSBC, Shell, Exxon Mobil
Replace tube ads
Spray-chalk stencils

HIGH-RISK STUFF YOU CAN DO (arrestable)

Broad daylight street art mobs with permanent paint
Glue lock-on occupations to public transport vehicles
D-lock-on / cuff-on occupations to public transport vehicles
5. ARTWORK, MEDIA AND IDEAS

SOME SLOGANS

INTERNATIONAL REBELLION APRIL 15TH - 11AM PARLIAMENT SQUARE
(or your nearest location for mass actions) - COME TO STAY
WE ARE IN A CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY
YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS FAILED YOU
THE THREE DEMANDS OF XR
SORRY, THE FUTURE YOU WANTED HAS BEEN CANCELLED (e.g. on train/bus announcement boards)
ACT NOW
“I WANT A FUTURE”
ANOTHER WORLD IS POSSIBLE
WE NEED TO TAKE ACTION

DESIGN AND ARTWORK IDEAS

Extinction symbol (obviously)
Sand timer
Wildlife
Skulls
XR flyers, including flyposting old/out-of-date ones (reduce, re-use, recycle)
The Declaration of Rebellion
Images of wildfire, flooding, extreme weather, and the people and wildlife affected - for a good example, see Gideon Mendel’s “Submerged Portraits”

THINGS TO CONSIDER INCLUDING

Links and/or logos to direct people to our website, social media channels
Reference April 15th Rebellion - meeting time and location e.g.
   “The International Rebellions begins April 15th.”
   “Join the #HumansofXR on the right side of history. REBELLION APRIL 15TH”
   UK: “Join the Rebellion: 15 April / 11am: Parliament Square”
   “We’ll see you on the streets, Rebels.”

Notables (pictures and quotes) to possibly include:
Greta Thunberg
Antonio Guterres
Margaret Mead
David Attenborough
Raki Ap
Jem Bendell
Rupert Read
Polly Higgins
Harries Brothers
Vandana Shiva
LONGER COPY

These are of longer copy for flyers or posters/other designs in places where people are stuck for a while without moving and have time to read, such as queues or public transport.

YOU ARE IN DANGER
“Climate change is the defining issue of our time. We face a direct existential threat. Scientists have been telling us for decades, over and over again, and far too many leaders have refused to listen. Our fate is in our hands. The world is counting on all of us to rise to the challenge before it is too late.” Antonio Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General

Climate breakdown and ecological collapse could destroy everything you love.
Humanity faces extinction.
Governments are failing to act in order to save us.
Rise to the challenge.
Join us on the streets for the International Rebellion: 11 am / Parliament Square / April 15th / Come to stay

THIS IS AN EMERGENCY!
“We cannot solve a crisis without treating it as a crisis.
We need to keep the fossil fuels in the ground, and we need to focus on equity. And if solutions within the system are so impossible to find, maybe we should change the system itself.
World leaders have ignored us in the past, and you will ignore us again.
We have run out of excuses and we are running out of time.
We have come here to let you know that change is coming, whether you like it or not. The real power belongs to the people.” Greta Thunberg

Without urgent and decisive action on the environmental crisis, humanity faces extinction.

YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS FAILED
to protect us from climate breakdown and ecological collapse
Join us on the streets for the International Rebellion:
11 am / Parliament Square / April 15th / Come to stay

WARNING: ECOLOGICAL MELTDOWN
Wildlife populations have crashed 60% on average since 1970.
WE ARE IN THE 6TH MASS EXTINCTION
And your government is failing to act accordingly
Only Rebellion can save life on Earth.
Join us on the streets for the International Rebellion:
11 am / Parliament Square / April 15th/ Come to stay

YOUR GOVERNMENT DOESN’T CARE
Whether we live or die  [with pictures of those affected by the crisis]

CLIMATE CHANGE KILLS
Over 300,000 people a year.
99% of those deaths occur in the 47 least developed countries.
DEMAND CLIMATE JUSTICE NOW
Join us on the streets for the International Rebellion:
11 am / Parliament Square / April 15th / Come to stay

FOUR KILLED EVERY WEEK
Over 200 environmental defenders are murdered each year
By governments and extractive corporations

END ECOCIDE NOW
Join us on the streets for the International Rebellion:
11 am / Parliament Square / April 15th / Come to stay

ANOTHER WORLD IS POSSIBLE
Replant
Renew
Regrow
Regenerate
Rewild

REBEL FOR LIFE
A brighter future is just within reach – all that is missing is the political will.
Join us on the streets for the International Rebellion:
11 am / Parliament Square / April 15th Come to stay

COVERING THE ACTION ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND CONTENT

Take photos, videos, and get posting what you've been up to on social media!
See this guide on how to cover actions for the Social Media and Content subgroups. Other
groups may pick up your ideas, learn from what you’ve done, and use them.

!!! BUT - check first with members of the affinity group to see whether they are
happy to be on camera, particularly their faces. All of this is EVIDENCE which can
be used against activists later on. !!!

All media roles should be non-arrestable to avoid this getting into the hands of police.
Livestreams can be particularly risky as it’s difficult to predict what will happen, whose face
will get into shot, or if police will recognise the location to come and stop you.

If and when you do upload coverage of the action, use some of these hashtags:

#EXTINCTIONREBELLION
#XRTRUTH
#PAINTTHESTREETS
#TELLTHETRUTH

Last but not least, have fun.
Tell them the truth, Rebels - we’re counting on you!

All our love and rage,
XR London