

# Esempi di azioni

Movement-building Actions are an important part of Extinction Rebellion. They: Raise public awareness about the climate emergency Attract new Rebels to the movement Raise energy and morale, and provide an outlet for our concern Give new Rebels a real-life experience low-risk civil disobedience Keep chapters in practice for large mass civil disobedience actions Movement-building Actions will not, in themselves, compel our governments to accept XR's Demands and take immediate action on the climate and ecological crisis. Therefore, the time, energy, and resources spent on them need to be balanced with other mobilization methods in order to grow chapters and get large numbers of Rebels ready for mass civil disobedience. While Movement-Building Actions are designed to gain attention and be at least somewhat disruptive, getting arrested is not the main point of these actions.

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# Blocco stradale di 3-7 minuti

da tradurre e scrivere bene

Blocking roads is a core part of the Extinction Rebellion strategy. When it comes to doing an all out rebellion in our state capitals we will be aiming to occupy and shut down streets day after day. But to grow the movement and get people experiencing the thrill of disobedience it's crucial to do smaller roadblocks in your local town or city first.

The action coordinator of the group should explain that the point of this action is to grow the movement, cause some local controversy to get people talking, get a picture to show to the press and to prepare people for mass civil disobedience. Overcoming fears is best done by actually doing direct action with other people in a safe way.

## WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Have a press release ready to send out.
- Large Extinction Rebellion banner wide enough to stretch across the road you're going to block
- Signs saying, "This is a peaceful protest - we will only be here for 3 minutes. We are very sorry for the wait/inconvenience."
- Cookies or similar tasty food to hand to motorists

## PREPARING FOR THE ACTION

- Decide on the time and place of the action (on the weekend is best so people can make the time).
- Get a verbal commitment from at least 15 people they will take part in the action. This means you'll probably end up with about 10 people.
- Have a coordinator to call people onto the road and off the road.
- Have a person who will time the 3-minute action and let the coordinator know when time is up.
- Have two people who will hold a banner across the road. Choose a road with not more than two lanes. The banner will need to be long enough to cover at least the two lanes.
- Have two "cookie people" (perhaps the oldest and/or smallest people) to bring treats to the drivers - homemade cookies are nice if you think people will take them, otherwise prepackaged. Each person should carry about 10 items.
- Have one person and/or a journalist ready to livestream the action, take photos etc.

## DOING THE ACTION

1. Everyone practices the routine in another location, where traffic is unlikely to be blocked. Do it about 3 times (see below for what to do).
2. Everyone congregates at the agreed-upon location. Once everyone has arrived, everyone follows the coordinator to the crossing and pays attention to the traffic lights.
3. As the lights go red, the coordinator shouts, "Everyone in the road!" Coordinator herds everyone onto the road to stand behind the banner, holding it tightly and facing the stationary traffic. It is very important the banner is unrolled and the two banner carriers have organised who is walking toward the other side of the road, and who is going to stay closer to the sidewalk. The person going to the other side of the road goes as quickly as they can walk to the other side and they both get it taut, with the writing facing the traffic and the writing the right way up.
4. The two people with the apology signs stand at each end of the banner holding up the signs to the cars.
5. The two cookie people walk straight up to the first two cars. And say the following:
  - "I am so sorry, there is going to be a delay for a few minutes because of this climate change protest – could I possibly offer you one of my cookies?"
  - If they are at all angry at you, simply repeat their words back to them in a slightly different way, and then apologize again. Do not try to convince them of anything, and do not under any circumstances become defensive or aggressive. (It's good for the cookie people to role play dealing with aggressive drivers several times in the practice session.)
  - So a conversation can be as follows:
    - "You can't be serious! I have to get downtown! What are you idiots doing blocking the f---ing road?"
    - "I'm really sorry you have to get downtown right away. That's really annoying, I'm really really sorry – could I give you one of my cookies?"
    - "I really don't want a cookie, thanks, I really need to get going."
    - "No problem – yeah, I'm really sorry about the delay – the protest will be finishing literally in about 2 minutes – are you sure you don't want a cookie, I made them myself?"
    - "Okay I'll have one, but can you just tell these people to get out of my way?"
  - Once they have calmed down, then move onto the next car.
    - "Hi, so sorry for the short delay here. Could I give you a cookie?"
    - "Yeah, what's going on here?"
    - "It's just a short, 2-minute protest thing – just wondering if I can give you a cookie – I made them fresh this morning..."
  - And so on....
  - In the unlikely case of the possibility of physical aggression, then the coordinator makes the final decision on whether to clear the road before the end of the 3 minutes, shouting, "Okay, everyone off the road!"
  - Once the 3 minutes is up, then wait for the lights to turn to red and then the coordinator shouts "everyone off the road".
  - Everyone then goes to an agreed-upon place to have a picnic or meet up in a café.

- During the debrief there, people split into 3's or 4's and chat about what the experience was like for them.
  - The coordinator tells people when the next swarm is (they should happen every 2-4 weeks depending on how fast the group is growing). All new people to the group who are considering civil disobedience have to do this action before processing onto state capital actions or any mass action.
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## XRA INSTRUCTIONS FOR A 3-MINUTE ROADBLOCK

# STANDARD ACTION PLAN FOR BLOCKING A ROAD

The action coordinator of the group should explain that the point of this action isn't to change anything but to get a picture to show to the press and to prepare people for mass civil disobedience. Overcoming fears is best done by actually doing direct action with other people in a safe way.

## The key elements are:

- Decide on the **time and place** of the action (on the weekend is best so people can make the time).
- Have a **press release** ready to send out. [Need a standard template]
- Get a verbal commitment from at least **15 people** they will take part in the action. This means you'll probably end up with about 10 people.
- Have a large **Extinction Rebellion banner**.
- Have a **coordinator** to call people onto the road and off the road.
- Have a **person who will time** the 3-minute action and let the coordinator know when time is up.
- Have **two people with big signs** saying, "This is a peaceful protest - we will only be here for 3 minutes. We are very sorry for the wait/inconvenience."
- Have **two people who will hold a banner** across the road. Choose a road with not more than two lanes. The banner will need to be long enough to cover at least the two lanes.
- Have **two "cookie people"** (perhaps the oldest and/or smallest people) to bring treats to the drivers - homemade cookies are nice if you think people will take them, otherwise prepackaged. Each person should carry about 10 items.
- Have **one person and/or a journalist ready to livestream** the action, take photos etc.

## The run of the action:

1. Everyone **practices the routine** in another location, where traffic is unlikely to be blocked. Do it about 3 times (see below for what to do).

2. Everyone **congregates** at the agreed-upon location. Once everyone has arrived, everyone follows the coordinator to the crossing and pays attention to the traffic lights.
3. As the lights go red, the coordinator shouts, "**Everyone in the road!**" Coordinator herds everyone onto the road to stand behind the banner, holding it tightly and facing the stationary traffic. It is very important the banner is unrolled and the two banner carriers have organised who is walking toward the other side of the road, and who is going to stay closer to the sidewalk. The person going to the other side of the road goes as quickly as they can walk to the other side and they both get it taut, with the writing facing the traffic and the writing the right way up.
4. The two people with the **apology signs** stand at each end of the banner holding up the signs to the cars.
5. The two **cookie people** walk straight up to the first two cars. And say the following:
  - "I am so sorry, there is going to be a delay for a few minutes because of this climate change protest – could I possibly offer you one of my cookies?"
  - If they are at all angry at you, simply repeat their words back to them in a slightly different way, and then apologize again. Do not try to convince them of anything, and do not under any circumstances become defensive or aggressive. (It's good for the cookie people to role play dealing with aggressive drivers several times in the practice session.)
  - So a conversation can be as follows:
    - "You can't be serious! I have to get downtown! What are you idiots doing blocking the f---ing road?"
    - "I'm really sorry you have to get downtown right away. That's really annoying, I'm really really sorry – could I give you one of my cookies?"
    - "I really don't want a cookie, thanks, I really need to get going."
    - "No problem – yeah, I'm really sorry about the delay – the protest will be finishing literally in about 2 minutes – are you sure you don't want a cookie, I made them myself?"
    - "Okay I'll have one, but can you just tell these people to get out of my way?"
  - Once they have calmed down, then move onto the next car.
    - "Hi, so sorry for the short delay here. Could I give you a cookie?"
    - "Yeah, what's going on here?"
    - "It's just a short, 2-minute protest thing – just wondering if I can give you a cookie – I made them fresh this morning..."
  - And so on....
  - In the unlikely case of the possibility of physical aggression, then the coordinator makes the final decision on whether to clear the road **before the end** of the 3 minutes, shouting, "Okay, everyone off the road!"
  - Once the **3 minutes is up**, then wait for the lights to turn to red and then the coordinator shouts "everyone off the road".
  - Everyone then goes to an agreed-upon place to have a picnic or **meet up** in a café.
  - During the **debrief** there, people split into 3's or 4's and chat about what the experience was like for them.

- The coordinator tells people when the next swarm is (they should happen every 2-4 weeks depending on how fast the group is growing). All new people to the group who are considering civil disobedience have to do this action before processing onto state capital actions or any mass action.
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Swarming is an easy entry level type of civil disobedience in which rebels do short roadblocks all across a city to cause gridlocked traffic. Swarming can be done by just a single affinity group blocking one road or it can be scaled up to have thousands of rebels blocking roads all across a city at once. Find a video resource [here](#).

## DESIGN

1. Form rebels into small affinity groups depending on the size of the roads you're planning to block. Around 5 rebels per lane of traffic is about right.
2. Identify significant road junctions in your city that are likely to cause maximum disruption. Consider:

- Bridges: blocking all the bridges in a city cuts it in half and causes major disruption
- An exit road from a roundabout: this backs up traffic around the roundabout and blocks multiple roads at once.
- Swarming during rush hour: this is the most effective time to cause mass disruption.

1. Assemble your group next to a traffic light and wait for the traffic to be brought to a complete halt by the red light before stepping into the road. Never attempt to step into the road when the traffic is moving.
2. Walk calmly and slowly into the road holding a banner that is wide enough to stretch across the highway with rebels spaced evenly behind it. The banner is essential to show to motorists that the road is completely blocked and it prevents motorcyclists or bikes from trying to break through your line.
3. Option A: Stand in the road for 7 minutes, step off for 3 minutes and let the traffic flow. Repeat.

Option B: Stand in the road until the police begin threatening you with arrest or trying to drag the first person off and then all calmly and slowly walk off the road, disperse and meet again around the corner on a new road and do the same again

1. When blocking the road make sure you've got biscuits and cake and politely offer them to drivers stuck in the queue of traffic. Be completely respectful, apologetic and patient with frustrated drivers explaining that you'll only be there a short time and offer them a leaflet explaining what you're doing.

2. Do this for an hour or two before going to a cafe nearby for a debrief. This is really helpful for making new rebels feel included and committed to taking part in your next action.

## **THINGS TO BRING**

- Banners wide enough to stretch across the road
- Wear ordinary clothes so you can disappear back into the crowds in between road blocks
- Cakes & biscuits
- Flyers for passers by and motorists
- Water and snacks for rebels
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## **ROLES / TRAINING**

- Make sure the majority rebels have taken part in a Non Violent Civil Disobedience training and feel prepared to react non-violently if motorists get aggressive or violent.
- Consider having descension or nonviolent communication trained rebels to de-escalate any confrontations

## **MESSAGING**

- Swarming aims to cause enough disruption that the state or the city authorities are forced to respond. It's perfect for carrying XR's topline messaging and 3 demands.
- It's also a great way of announcing the presence of your new XR group in a town or city. It should get you fairly easy publicity and help grow your numbers.

# Interrompere una seduta del consiglio comunale/regionale

**Da tradurre e scrivere bene**

Many governmental bodies, both national and local, have public sessions in which you can sit as an observer. This is a perfect opportunity for rebellious disruption that will get the attention of your elected leaders. At the low end of the scale this can be as simple as holding a banner up or standing up interrupting a session with your own speech. At the more disruptive end this could extend to a full scale occupation that refuses to leave until the point of arrest.

There are so many different creative ways to disrupt, but here's a few concrete ideas to get you going:

## **BEFORE THE ACTION**

1. Scout the location out beforehand. Find out when the next public session is. Consider if there are any significant debates or decisions coming up. Are they planning a meeting about a new road, new airport or new incinerator? How many people can sit in the viewing area at once?
2. Research the potential legal consequences and brief your group of rebels. Some states have laws about disrupting public meetings.
3. Do a recce and watch how a similar meeting pans out. How long before the session starts are visitors allowed to take a seat? What point in the meeting would be most impactful to interrupt?
4. Read the rules about what you can and can't bring into government sessions. Sharps, knives and firearms will almost certainly be stopped, but some states have laws preventing even the bringing in of banners or political material of any kind.

## **ACTION VARIATIONS**

### **• DISRUPT FROM THE VIEWING AREA**

1. Take a place in the public viewing area and wait for the meeting to start.
2. Depending on what items you are able to bring in with you you could consider using the following methods of disruption:



1. Shout or chant loudly over proceedings that there is a climate emergency.
  2. Stand up and loudly make your own speech condemning the meeting for their criminal inaction
  3. Hold up a banner or drop a banner from a balcony.
3. Remember to remain respectful and nonviolent at all times and avoid using blaming and shaming language. We recognise that we are all part of the same toxic system and so we are inviting our leaders to see sense and join us in tackling this emergency together.
  4. If there is a chance to engage directly with members of the governing body you are disrupting then engage with them empathetically, explaining the reason for the disruption, the facts of the emergency and the fact that their inaction has led to an urgent need for action. You could consider inviting them to an upcoming Heading For Extinction talk.

#### • **DIRECT OCCUPATION**

1. OPTION A: Enter the chamber / meeting room early and sit down in the centre of the room, or in the seats that will soon be needed by members of the government body you are disrupting. Bring banners, music and food and drink to last you a few hours. Hold the space for long enough to have the meeting postponed or cancelled. Consider holding a workshop or making educational speeches and inviting members of the meeting to take part.
2. OPTION B: Wait until the meeting has started and walk to the front to peacefully interrupt proceedings with loud singing and chanting.

<https://www.cambridgeindependent.co.uk/news/council-meeting-halted-as-extinction-rebellion-activists-occupy-chamber-9099709/>

#### • **GETTING NAKED**

1. Getting part- or completely naked in the session demonstrates a sense of humour that makes the action seem attractive and light hearted.
2. Consider painting a message on your body that can be revealed when you strip off. This is a good tactic to use if you are trying to disrupt a place where any political material (such as banners or signs) is forbidden from being taken into the session
3. If the viewing area is separated from the main session by glass you might want to consider using superglue to glue yourself to the glass for added disruption. Make sure you've done the research about what additional charges this may result in (criminal damage etc).

- **THROWING PETALS OFF A BALCONY**

1. Surprisingly this actually does a pretty good job of disrupting a session... or getting you dragged out.
2. Make sure it really is just flower petals or soft paper confetti that you're throwing and nothing that could possibly hurt anyone. It is crucial to remain nonviolent at all times.

# Calare uno striscione da un ponte/edificio

da tradurre e scrivere bene

Dropping a banner off a bridge, or from the viewing level of a government building is a simple and classic way of getting your message across. These tend to work best if they are provocative and taboo breaking. One of XR UK's first actions was to drop a banner that simply read "Climate Change: We're Fucked."

Banner drops work best when you think about creating a great photo. Think about what image will make it into the press. How can you make this as striking as possible?

The bigger the banner, the bigger the impact. Small homemade banners are easy to ignore and look like they're the work of a lone fanatic rather than a growing mass movement. When making your banner it's best to either have it professionally printed or to use the Extinction Rebellion type font (Fucked CAPS - downloadable in the art pack) to make it look visually striking.

# Il sangue delle nostre figlie

Da tradurre e scrivere bene

Blood Of Our Children is a taboo breaking act of minor criminal damage that forces the public to connect the climate and ecological emergency with the mass slaughter it is already leading to. Its main purpose is to use controversy and polarisation to gain press and build the movement, but also to shift what's known as the 'Overton Window', the window of accepted conversation in public life. Many people still don't connect climate change with the reality that it's already killing people in the Global South and, unless radical action is taken, it's going to lead to millions if not billions of deaths around the world.

The action is a great next step for rebels who have taken part in a road block and want to move up to their next action.

## THINGS YOU'LL NEED

- Big Extinction Rebellion banners
- Extra banners or placards saying 'Blood Of Our Children' / 'Business As Usual = Death' / 'Climate Change Kills' / 'Our Blood Our Future'
- Black suits and shoes for main rebels to wear
- Large buckets printed with the extinction symbol
- XXXX litres of washable fake blood. Use recipe [insert link to recipe]
- Portable sound system and microphone

## PREPARING FOR THE ACTION

1. Recruit at least 10 rebels to be blood pourers. Ask them to source black suits to wear for the action.
2. Prepare some spokespeople to give testimonials over the microphone during the action. It's good to get them briefed on some of the core facts about the emergency but for maximum impact you want spokespeople who can speak with raw emotion about how shit scared they are for their future. Mothers, pregnant women or grandparents talking emotionally about their fears for their children's futures.
3. Scout out a visually stunning location. Think about the space outside government buildings or the road outside. A flight of steps works really well too. Ultimately your aim is to get one stunning image in the press so think about what angle the photo will be taken from and what will be in the background.
4. Give blood-pourers a legal briefing on what the possible legal consequences will be. In other countries rebels have not been arrested for this action, but there is the potential to be arrested and charged with criminal damage. Fake blood poured directly onto a building is much more likely to result in this charge than fake blood poured into the road which is

more likely to be tolerated.

5. Identify a police liaison and preplan how you will talk to the police on the day . You might want to consider speaking to the police and telling them that you will be doing this action, explaining the fake blood is washable and not permanent and communicating that the action will be nonviolent and peaceful. It's generally best not to tell them the exact location in case they try to intervene before the blood can be poured.
6. If the location of your action requires a road to be blocked then recruit teams and coordinators to do the road blocking element following the guidance in the 3 minute roadblock action guidance.
7. It's good to gather a bigger crowd who will participate as general protestors for the action. If you need to keep the exact location secret you could advertise the event's time and rough geographic area and either ask people to meet at a point nearby

## **DOING THE ACTION**

1. If blocking the road, follow the 3 minute roadblock guidance and peacefully close the street to clear space for the action.
2. Have the blood pourers line up ceremonially in position - remember to think about what will make the most impactful photo.
3. As quickly as possible, to make sure that you aren't interrupted by the police, pour the blood in unison. Keeping an air of solemnity will make this most impactful. You might want to have more than one bucket each for maximum impact.
4. Hear speeches from spokespeople over the microphone.

# La marcia funebre

Da tradurre e scrivere bene

A funeral march is an entry level action that's great at growing the movement. There can be lots of variations on the theme but at its simplest the idea is to ceremonially carry a fake coffin and march provocatively slowly through your town / city slowing down the traffic as you go.

## THINGS YOU'LL NEED

- A full size coffin painted black with 'Our Future' written on the side of it in white. Groups have also put 'Wildlife' or 'Our Planet' on the side. If you can't get hold of an actual coffin it's simple to make a fake one out of plywood or even cardboard.
- Musical accompaniment. This is a great opportunity to get more people involved. Some groups have taken this to the scale of having a whole marching band but it could be as simple as someone banging a single drum as well.
- Black clothing. Have your coffin bearers dress as formally as possible and ask everyone else to dress in black.
- A large extinction rebellion banner. You could think about having the message 'Business As Usual = Death' or 'Inaction = Death'
- Black extinction symbol flags on poles
- Portable sound system and microphone (for speeches at the end)
- Home-made skeletons, white flowers and any other creative element you want to add (optional)

## PREPARING FOR THE ACTION

1. Get verbal commitment from your coffin bearers and a core group of 'mourners' to follow the coffin.
2. Make a public facebook event and email everyone in your mailing list inviting them to attend. Remember to keep the facebook event and email description short and to the point clearly explaining the 'who, what, where, why, when' of the action. If people are aware of more disruptive actions you have taken locally, you can reassure people that this action is likely to be non arrestable. Give a very clear start and end point to the march. It's best if this is two local landmarks but you could mark two locations on a digital map as well (or drop two pins on google maps).
3. Use the [seven mobilisation methods](#) to find and invite new rebels to take part. This is a perfect action for first timers so make the most of the opportunity.
4. Inform the police of your plan, but don't ask for permission for a sanctioned march - this often involves the police enforcing conditions on your plans. The march is intended to be disruptive to traffic but below the point of arrest.

5. Send a press release to the press in advance to try and get local press and photographers to come down.
6. Get commitment from your own photographer / live streamer / videographer
7. Get your art team massively involved. Lots of local art groups get really excited by the idea of the funeral march and creativity is a great way to get people from outside the movement involved. Making fake skeletons, bunches of flowers, mourning robes... this all adds to the spectacle and involves more people in the action.

1. Plan out your route in advance and do a recce to check out the streets you're planning to march down. Consider your town's highstreet or downtown area where you will be seen by the maximum number of people.
2. If the march is likely to attract a large turn out of 100+ its worth recruiting some people to do stewarding (guiding people safely to follow the route), first aid and some rebels to bring bottles of water for anyone who feels unwell on the walk. Get a massive load of flyers printed and assign some rebels as outreach rebels to hand them out to passers-by along the way.

## **DOING THE ACTION**

1. Enter the road at a safe place. Consider using the 3 minute road block technique if you want to enter along a busy road. Do not enter the road when traffic is moving.
2. To march in a covid-secure way ask everyone to march 2 or 3 metres apart. You could ask people to bring a length of string or cloth to trail behind them to help measure the social distance.
3. Either let the coffin bearers set the pace or try counting to 3 between every step. The slower you go the more you'll disrupt the traffic.
4. End the march at a public square or equivalent open space and have some speeches about the emergency. A good way to get lots of people involved is to ask people to take the mic and give 2 minutes on their personal reasons for being there. This can often lead to some really surprising and impactful stories. Make sure everyone attending knows how to join your local group, when the next meeting is and (ideally) what your next action is.
5. If you have people willing to risk arrest, for a more disruptive ending you can bury the coffin in a significant piece of land outside a government building. This will ordinarily lead to you being arrested for criminal damage so make sure the people doing have had a legal briefing about the possible consequences.

## **AFTER THE ACTION**

It's great to have another action already in the pipeline that you can invite people straight into. Planning your next action as something that involves a higher level of civil disobedience - like Blood Of Our Children, Red Handed or a 3 Minute Roadblock - is perfect so you can help take rebels on a journey towards more rebellious action. Having an NVDA training booked for the following week is another great next step to keep rebels moving on their journey.





# Mano rossa

Da tradurre e scrivere bene



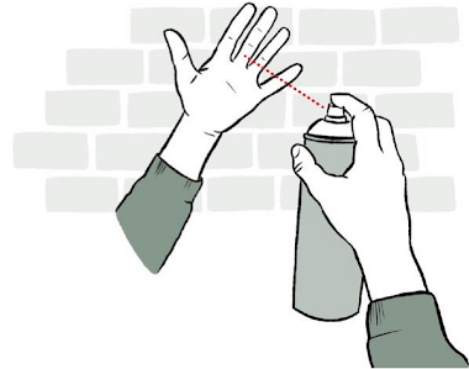
# RED HANDED



## 1 LEAVE YOUR MARK



OR



## 2 SEND A MESSAGE



BUILDING

OR



PAVEMENT/ROAD

## 3 OWN YOUR ACTION



PEACEFULLY HAND YOURSELF IN



# THIS IS AN EMERGENCY

The Red Handed action involves spraying a stencil of your handprint with red chalk spray paint onto a significant building and then, handing yourself into the police. It can be scaled from a small number of rebels targeting one specific building up to a march of thousands of rebels in which there is a role for everyone.

If you want to scale it up, you can organise a mass participation march in which most people just spray their hands red and hold them up whilst a smaller number of rebels willing to face arrest walk on the edge of the march and spray paint their handprints onto buildings as you pass. It's best done in an area with lots of significant government buildings or a business district with fossil fuel and polluter companies offices so that you've got obvious targets for your handprints. However, if you're in a town without any large government buildings then leaving lots of handprints on one small government building, or a trail of handprints on the sidewalk, bus stops or road of your local town is also really effective.

## **WHAT YOU'LL NEED**

- Red chalk spray paint (this wipes off easily and causes less damage than normal spray paint)

## **PREPARING FOR THE ACTION**

1. Get the rebels prepared to do the criminal damage element of the action into an affinity group (or groups) of 8-12 people to support each other. Find out about affinity groups and how to form them [here]
2. If you're planning a march as well then read the Funeral March action design briefing and follow the steps to plan a safe mass turnout march.
3. Assign some people to have bottles of chalk spray specifically for spraying the hands of non-arrestable members of the march. People get really excited to have their hand sprayed red and hold it up and it creates a real dilemma for police. In London when this action was first trialled, some people got arrested just for spraying their own hands red... which made the police look very silly. No charges were brought against them!

## **DESIGN**

1. Spray a red stencil of your hand on a significant building or on the street nearby. This could be a government building, fossil fuel company or similar.
2. Use chalk spray (easier to wipe off) to cause less criminal damage, or ordinary spray paint to cause more.
3. If you're doing a march as well then some people can just march along, some can paint their hands red but do no criminal damage, some can spray the street (less likely to get you arrested) and others can spray buildings directly.
4. Hand yourself in at your local police station and encourage the people who only sprayed their hands red but didn't actually do any criminal damage to hand themselves in too. This will place the police in a dilemma: do we arrest people just for having red hands? Or do we not arrest people and potentially let them get away with a crime?

5. If you get taken to court you should consider advancing a 'necessity' defence. In the UK this is broadly speaking a defence that says an act of criminal damage can be committed if it was an act of necessity to prevent serious harm to life or property (for example it would be legally justified to smash a window on a burning house to rescue a child inside). In the UK some protesters have been cleared of low level criminal damage charges by advancing [this defence](#).

## **MESSAGING**

- The action powerfully calls out a particular institution for its complicity in the CEE but at the same time acknowledges that we are all 'red handed' because we are all part of the system that is destroying life on earth.
- It demonstrates our conviction that we are telling the truth. We are so certain of the truth that we are prepared to raise our hands and take ownership of our own action.
- The message is also directed towards the police and attempts to create psychological disruption for individual officers about whether they should be arresting peaceful citizens or not.

## **LEGAL**

- For those participating in the criminal damage element it's important to get a full legal briefing on what the implications could be in your state. In the UK there is a threshold of £5,000 of criminal damage below which the charges and fines are less serious.

# Morte a terra (die-in)

Die-ins are one of the simplest pieces of civil disobedience and have been used by a variety of movements for decades. Die-ins are a perfect first time action and very rarely lead to interventions by the police.

For new rebels it's a perfect way to experience stepping over the boundary into disobedience and embodying what it's like to rebel.

If done in a public place they're also very effective for movement building. Consider having a few rebels handing out flyers around the outside of the die in.

## DESIGN

1. Choose a location. A striking location like a major public museum or government building makes a great press photo particularly if you can find a place where a photo can be taken from above. A die-in can also be used to be more disruptive, in which case you could consider using it to block an entrance to a government official's office and forcing them to step over you.
2. Get everyone together for a briefing beforehand identify who the coordinator is and what the signal will be to begin the die in (it could be as simple as the coordinator being the first person to lie down).
3. Dress as ordinary citizens and gather incognito as a group in your chosen location. On the signal lie down on the floor and pretend to be dead.
4. Stay for as long as you want or - if you're blocking a door - to the point of being dragged away / arrested. Even 5 minutes is enough to get an impactful photo in the press.
5. Think about adding a creative element like fake blood to pour around you.

## MESSAGING

- A die in is perfect for signalling mass extinction but is also more widely symbolic of our refusal to cooperate with a system that is driving us towards destruction





# Paint the Streets

It's great to get a 'Paint The Streets' group going in your local group as soon as possible. Paint The Streets is an ongoing campaign to cover the streets of the world with rebellious colour, posters, murals, subvertising and street art that share our message and promote the rebellion. There are loads of resources, templates, tutorials and downloadable artworks to get you started. Once you're up and running you can get creative and create your own posters and campaigns using the extinction rebellion design pack.

The best way to get started is to create a flyposting group and organise a night of flyposting around your local area. These can become regular monthly / weekly trips and they're a great way to get people doing their first bit of disobedience.

## WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Artwork for your posters. Check out this [google drive](#) full of designs ready to download
- A print shop to print them. Its generally best to get them professionally printed or find a friendly local artist who can do screen printing. Home printing doesn't normally look as good!
- Buckets and large cheap paint brushes and / or rollers
- Homemade wheat-paste glue. All you need is white flour, water and heat. [Follow this tutorial here](#).
- Clothes that you don't mind getting sticky and having to put through a hot wash.

## PREPARING FOR THE ACTION

1. Get all your interested rebels into a Paint The Streets signal, whatsapp or telegram chat
2. Assign 2 or 3 people to make the wheat paste and bring large quantities of it ready made to the meeting place.
3. Have a meeting of creative people to decide what artwork you're going to print. If you're building up to a big action you might want to make posters advertising the date and time of it.
4. Consider setting up a 'challenge' to make it more fun. Ideas for a challenge include:
  - Who can flypost the most posters in one hour / one night
  - A prize for the funniest placement of a poster (over a billboard or similar)
  - Who can cover the biggest area of your town etc.

## DOING THE ACTION

1. Get everyone to meet together beforehand for a briefing. A warehouse, garage, or large kitchen is best. It's important to do the action once it's dark, but not so late that it will

deter people from taking part.

2. Put people into pairs or threes and give them a briefing and assign them a share of posters and a bucket of glue. Agree a time to meet back there again (1 or 2 hours later recommended so it's not exhausting). If you've got a lot of people you might want to have a map of the area open and divide up areas between different groups so people are covering different areas of the city.
3. Ideally have a piece of wood with you to do a demonstration of how to effectively stick on a poster so new rebels get the idea.
4. Brief people on the kind of locations to target (bus stops, billboards, walls in visible and busy places (during the daytime)) and places to avoid (small or independent businesses, privately owned houses, buildings with heavy amounts of security, signs with essential road safety messages)
5. Go out and flypost! For speed, have two people working together. The first person applies a first layer of glue on the wall a bit bigger than the size of the poster. The second person puts the poster on top of it and wipes their hand over it until it's completely flat to the wall with no air bubbles. The first person then applies a thick layer of glue over the top. If you're in an area that's heavily policed then having a third person to act as a look out can be helpful.
6. Get everyone to meet back at the starting point and an agreed time for a fun and relaxed debrief. Have some food and drink to share and get everyone to take turns talking in a circle or small groups about how the experience was for them. Make sure people who have never broken the law before feel valuable and supported and not looked down on by more experienced rebels.
7. Get people into the shared chat and plan another paint the streets sessions in a few weeks time.