



Plymouth Climate Council Newsletter May 2022

# For Peace, Green Jobs & Climate Justice



## Extinction Rebellion:

On the morning of 1st April, Extinction Rebellion joined forces with the Just Stop Oil coalition to block oil facilities across the UK. The actions will continue until the government agrees to our immediate demand: **stop all new fossil fuel investments immediately.**

On April 9th, thousands flooded the streets of central London making the same immediate demand. With Johnson's Government opposing the demands and prosecuting protesters, and fossil fuel companies pushing for more extraction to increase record profits, Direct Action must continue and be actively supported.

**Our disruption will not stop until the fossil fuel economy comes to an end.**

The scientists of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) have just published their latest report, on the damage that climate breakdown is causing to humans and ecosystems. They warn that the time left to act is running out.

There could hardly be a worse time for the messages in this report to catch public attention while all eyes are on bombed Ukrainian cities and fleeing refugees, writes *Tony Staunton from the Campaign against Climate Change.*

And war increases emissions exponentially, adding to the military industry's existing emissions: the highest of any global industry and set to rise again as military spending grows to absurd amounts, limiting all and any cash for green jobs, renewable energy and adaptation. The world's most eminent scientists and academics in these fields - cautious, fact-checking, balancing evidence - are backing up what climate justice advocates have known and have been saying for years, indeed decades.

## Climate change is hurting people now - especially in the Global South

Approximately 3.3 to 3.6 billion people live in contexts that are highly vulnerable to climate change. Climate change is contributing to humanitarian crises. Climate and weather extremes are increasingly driving people to leave their homes, with small island states disproportionately affected. Extreme weather events, such as heatwave, wildfires, floods and droughts, are already becoming more frequent and intense.

## The Catastrophe is already here, and intensifying across the world

These events have exposed millions of people to acute food insecurity and reduced water security, with the largest impacts observed in parts of Africa, Asia, Central and South America, Small Islands and the Arctic. Malnutrition has increased in many communities, especially for Indigenous Peoples, small-scale food producers and low-income households, with children, elderly people and pregnant women particularly impacted.

Roughly half of the world's population currently experience severe water scarcity for at least some part of the year.

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## Just Stop Oil



## Climate Justice and opposition to War go hand-in-hand.

The Military, as a global industry, is responsible for more global heating emissions than any other. The production of weapons, their use, and then perhaps, the reconstruction of countries following conflict gives humanity no chance of meeting the climate goals identified to prevent collapse. With more than \$2.2 trillion (that's around £2,000,000,000,000 or two-million-million-pounds) being spent on military forces and armaments each year, the deepening climate catastrophe seems to be a sideline. Imagine all that cash going into renewables, emission reductions and a fossil-free social infrastructure.

## Environmental Destruction

Instead, the war in Ukraine has brought extreme suffering with all the environmental destruction and mass population displacement that climate change is also affecting on a global scale. And never before has humanity been closer to an exchange of nuclear weapons that would bring forward the date of our extinction.

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