



EXTINCTION REBELLION

Action Planner



A DESIGN TOOL TO HELP EXTINCTION REBELLION LOCAL GROUPS PLAN AND CONDUCT SAFE AND SUCCESSFUL PROTEST ACTIONS

This document is intended to help Extinction Rebellion (XR) Local Groups and Affinity Groups plan and conduct safe and successful actions, particularly when those actions are likely to involve acts of civil disobedience. Actions which involve civil disobedience are very likely to bring groups of activists into confrontation with antagonistic citizens, civil authorities and the police, and it is important that such actions are carefully planned to account for the problems that such interactions are likely to create for the group and individuals within the group.

By using a series of questions, checklists and prompts this document hopes to help activists design actions that are well planned, safe, effective, enjoyable and effective.

ACTION SUMMARY

Action Coordinator

This is the person responsible for this action plan

This action was planned by:

Phone

Email

Name of the action

When will the action take place?

Where will the action take place?

Briefly describe what is going to happen during the action?

THE NARRATIVE OF THE ACTION

also see the *Media and Messaging* section below

What message do we want the action to convey?

Also consider:

- How might an observer see it?
- How might our opponents try to distort our message?

ACHIEVING OUR GOALS

How will the action help achieve one or more of Extinction Rebellion's demands or goals?

The three stated demands of Extinction Rebellion are for the Government to:

- Tell the truth by declaring a climate and ecological emergency.
- Halt biodiversity loss and reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2025.
- Create and be led by the decisions of a Citizens' Assembly on climate and ecological justice..

However, an action may have more immediate goals such as outreach, building the movement, demonstrating the future we wish to see. Briefly describe how the action might achieve these outcomes.

When planning any action it is important that it should embody Extinction Rebellion's action values and be:

- Non violent
- Respectful
- Self-sacrificing

PROMOTION

How will the action be promoted and what resources are available?

If an action requires only a few people it may not require any promotion at all, however, if you would like to attract large numbers of people this will take time. Plan well in advance and consider the tools, materials and platforms available.

Social media platforms

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Instagram

▶ Contact the Social Media and Graphic Design sub for assistance with social accounts
xrinnerwestsocials@protonmail.com

CONSIDER SECURITY - promotion over social media might not be appropriate for all actions.

Email

- XR Local Groups maintain a list of the contact details of all registered XR activists in their region and can contact them via email with action information and Local Group updates.

▶ Contact the XR Inner West Local Group for assistance with email
xrinnerwest@protonmail.com

Posters, flyers, leaflets, digital art, etc.

- Printed material such as flyers, posters and stickers can be used to promote an action. Such materials can be used at community outreach events leading up to the planned action. If these materials don't already exist they will have to be made. Some local groups have a graphic design sub group as part of their Arts Working Group. These groups should be able to provide assistance. Ensure plenty of lead time.

▶ Contact the XR Inner West Arts Working Group for assistance with printed materials
xrinnerwestarts@protonmail.com

Encrypted messaging applications

- Encrypted messaging apps such as MatterMost and Signal are used by Extinction Rebellion to communicate with and reach out to our members. These apps are also useful for secure action planning and communication on the day of the action.

Networking with other XR Local Groups

- Networking with other XR Local Groups might help to promote an action particularly if those groups have larger memberships or followers on their social media accounts and more active or better resourced working groups. Ask other local groups in your region to co-sponsor your action and to promote it on their social media platforms and through their email communications. Other local groups may have Arts Working Groups that might be able to help with the production of printed materials, screen printing, banner and flag making, etc.

Collaborate with other groups outside of XR

- Depending on the action, it may be helpful to reach out to other environmental, social or political activist groups to help bring numbers to your event or to share the promotional load. Greens politicians have been known to print posters for XR Local Groups. Reaching out to a local cycling club, for example, might be a way of attracting more people to a cycling based action and may be a way of having other groups help promote an XR actions to people who might not have otherwise encountered the Extinction Rebellion movement.

Promotion can be the most time consuming part of any action so ensure plenty of time to prepare.

Promotion Coordinator

This is likely to be one of the core organisers however, in the case of large actions could be the coordinator of the Media and Messaging Working Group Social Media or could be one of the core organisers of the action If the local group has a Graphic Design Sub Group then the person responsible for coordinating that sub group could be responsible for producing and organising the promotional material for the action. However, .

Name:

Phone

Email

TIMING THE ACTION

When planning an action consider:

- Is the action planned for a significant moment?
- Is there a significant government decision being made or new information being released?
- What time will cause the most disruption?
- Should the action be planned to coincide with the anniversary of a good or bad event?
- What time will be the best time for media coverage?

Notes:

ACTION SCENARIOS

Consider:

- What is the timeline for how the action should play out?
- What might others do in response?
- Does the timing create a dilemma for the target?
- How might the timing effect the the response of the police?
- Is there a plan B (and C) if the action doesn't develop as expected?
- Has a run sheet been created? (see page X for a run sheet template)
- When will participants be briefed on the action plan?
- Is there an escalation option in the plan?

Notes:

MATERIALS

What materials will be needed for the action? Arts Working Groups can help with supplying or making flags, banners, leaflets and other audio and visual materials.

- What materials will be needed to maximise the visual impact of planned action?
- Will audio equipment be needed?
- What is needed to keep the action sustained for the amount of time it is to run?
- What is needed to ensure the action reflects XR values and is non-violent, safe and inclusive?
- What preparation is needed to make, create, find and transport the materials?
- Arts Working Groups need time to prepare materials for an action. Give them plenty of lead time.

► Contact the XR Inner West Arts Working Group for assistance with printed materials and other assets xrinnerwestarts@protonmail.com

MEDIA AND MESSAGING

Every action should have a “story”. A Media and Messaging Working Group can help develop the story the action needs to tell. The right story will impact how effective the action is.

What message should be prepared for the mainstream media?

What message should be prepared for social media?

Consider:

- How can journalists be encouraged to attend the action at the required time?
- How can the action messages be built into a short but logical story?
- The Media Liaison needs to be prepared for criticism and attempts by the media to frame the actions of Extinction Rebellion negatively. For example a reporter may say that it is hypocritical for activists to use technology which is itself based on fossil fuels. The response should be that that is exactly the problem. Everything is made of

fossil fuels and they are the only tools available which is why a transition away from them is needed immediately. The Media Liaison can express understanding for why a corporation or an individual may be uncomfortable with XR's tactics, but stress that there is a difference between legitimate protest for a liveable planet and disruption for its own sake.

► XR Inner West does not currently have a Media and Messaging team so try contacting xrsydney_media@protonmail.com which may be able to help develop a message for the action.

MEDIA AND MESSAGING *continued*

Action messages:

The messaging of the action should be kept as simple as possible. No more than three to five messages should make up the “story” of the action.

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Media Liaison

It is important for the action to have a dedicated Media Liaison. The Media Liaison should have the action’s talking points rehearsed and be free from other responsibilities to be able to address inquiries from members of the media.

Name:

Phone

Email

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Any action that involves civil disobedience can lead to legal problems for activists. Before commencing, activists and organisers should carefully consider the possible legal consequences of the action.

When preparing for an action, activists can be organised into one of three “roles”: **Red**, **Orange** and **Green**.

Red Roles

Red roles are those which are considered “arrestable”. Someone who has taken on a Red role is willing to take action that will very likely end with their arrest by the police. Activists that accept a Red role should be made aware of, and be prepared for, what is likely to occur in the event of their arrest. It is important that people who take on Red roles have undertaken NVDA training.

Orange Roles

Orange roles are those which are considered “at risk of being arrested”. Activists that take on Orange roles are willing to commit to actions that are likely to cause the police to intervene but who will comply with police requests in order to try to avoid arrest. Activists who take on Orange roles are unlikely to be arrested but have accepted the possibility that they could be. Activists that accept an Orange role should be made aware of, and be prepared for, what is likely to occur in the event of their arrest. It is important that people who take on Orange roles have undertaken NVDA training.

Green Roles

Green roles are those which are considered “at no risk of being arrested”.

Permissions required for the **Green** aspects of the action.

The likely charges for those taking **Red** and **Orange** roles

Estimated minimum and maximum number of arrests

 –

Legal Working Group contacted to coordinate post-action support

Yes No

► Contact the XR NSW Legal Working Group for legal assistance when preparing for an action xrnswlegal@protonmail.com

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS *continued*

Police Liaison

It is important for the action to have a dedicated Legal Observer. The Police Liaison should ...

Name:

Phone

Email

Legal Observer

It is important for the action to have a dedicated Legal Observer. The Legal Observer should ...

Name:

Phone

Email

TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Before taking part in an action it is important that those activists taking part have prepared themselves with Non Violent Direct Action (NVDA) training.

**Extinction Rebellion runs two NVDA courses:
NVDA 101 basic training and NVDA 201.**

NVDA 101

Extinction Rebellion's NVDA 101 course involves basic instruction on how to safely participate in a protest which is likely to involve direct action.

NVDA 201

Extinction Rebellion's NVDA 201 course is a more advanced direct action course which concentrates on training activists in specific roles such as Media Liaison, Action Wellbeing, Arrestee Support, Legal Observer, Police Liaison, etc.

► Contact the XR Inner West Actions Working Group xrinnerwest@protonmail.com and the NVDA Training Sub-Group xrsydney_nvda_training@protonmail.com when preparing actions.

Consider:

- Have all group members in Green, Orange and Red roles completed basic basic NVDA training (NVDA101)?
- Who will need specific roles training (NVDA201)?
- How can this action help train up more people to fill roles in the future?
- When and where will an action briefing be held? Should it be open or closed?
- Has a debrief been planned?
- Are there people or movements we can learn from before and during the action?

Arrestee Liaison

It is important for the action to have a dedicated Arrestee Liaison. The Arrestee Liaison should ...

Name:

Phone

Email

REGENERATIVE CULTURE

- What can we do to ensure we practise a regenerative culture?
- How can we take care of the wellbeing of Rebels before, during and after an action?
- How will we stay in touch until every participant has their legals completely finalised?

Regenerative Culture Liaison

It is important for the action to have a dedicated Regenerative Culture Liaison. The Regenerative Culture Liaison should ...

Name:

Phone

Email

LOGISTICS

You may not need all these logistical assets and there may be other action specific materials that are needed.

Every local group should have an archive of flyers and leaflets and a store of banners, flags and other livery to help make an action stand out. Activate the Arts Working Group by organising a Craft Day in the weeks leading up to the action to make posters, banners, flags, placards, etc.

The Inner West Local Group maintains an archive of

leaflets and other printed materials which can be found at <https://actionnetwork.org/groups/sydney-innerwest/files/57862>

► Contact the XR Inner West Arts Working Group
xrinnerwestarts@protonmail.com for assistance with printed materials and livery.

The types of materials that may be available from the Arts Working Group or which could be made at a Craft Day.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Banners | <input type="checkbox"/> Costumes and props |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flags | <input type="checkbox"/> Flyers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Placards | <input type="checkbox"/> Song sheets |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stickers | <input type="checkbox"/> Posters |

There are also practical logistical considerations to be provided or to be maintained.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Media release | <input type="checkbox"/> WiFi hotspot |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Signal group | <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food | <input type="checkbox"/> First aid kits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Hi-Vis vests |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> PA system |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spare batteries | <input type="checkbox"/> Livestream phone and battery pack |

LIST OF ROLE HOLDERS *continued over*

You may not need all roles but there will be some that are essential. There may also be other roles which are specific to the planned action.

| | Name | Phone | Email |
|-----------------------------|------|-------|-------|
| Core organising team | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Media Liaison | | | |
| Media Spokes-people | | | |
| | | | |
| Social Media | | | |
| Stream Team | | | |
| | | | |
| Police Liaison | | | |
| Legal Observers | | | |
| | | | |
| Regen Culture | | | |
| Community Liaison | | | |
| Worker Liaison | | | |
| Debrief Facilitator | | | |
| Drivers | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Photos | | | |
| | | | |
| Videos | | | |
| Public Address | | | |
| Banner Holders | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
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