

Version 3:

Press release: Our house is on fire – Global shoestrikes for climatesmart restart on Saturday

On Saturday the 25th of July, shoestrikes for the climate are being arranged in over 90 places in the US, Canada, and Sweden. The shoe strikers want the economic stimulus and support packages in the wake of the corona pandemic to be climate-smart and contribute to a sustainable and safe society.

- When our society is restarted in the wake of the corona pandemic, it must be a restart that stops climate change. At a time when people are not allowed to gather in large groups, the shoe strikes are a way of reminding politicians how urgent it is to limit warming to 1.5 degrees. The alternative is rampant climate change, that agricultural productivity plummets and that hundreds of millions of people are forced to flee climate disasters, says Dr. Stefan Sommer, climate activist with the Northern AZ Climate Change Alliance, Flagstaff, Arizona, USA.

For several months, all efforts have been made to combat covid-19 all around the world. But in the shadow of the pandemic, the world is also in the midst of a bigger threat from climate extremes. The shoe strikers want to contribute to a debate on how the economic crisis and stimulus packages should be designed. The shoe strikes on Saturday are registered at more than 90 places in the world, new ones are added daily.

- We need to choose the "new" normal after the crisis, because the previous normal led us to a global warming. Emissions need to be significantly reduced and we citizens need help choosing sustainable alternatives, says Irene Cooke, climate activist with the Society of Fearless Grandmothers in Santa Barbara, California.

- While emissions have decreased some due to quarantine regulations, there is a great risk that economic stimuli will lead to increased emissions again. For Sweden to reach the Paris Agreement, emissions must be reduced by 16% per year. For Sweden, emissions continue to increase. We will continue to shoestrike every last Saturday each month until the people in power take responsibility for our future, says Petra Palmén at SaturdaysForFuture and initiator of the shoestrikes.

In order to respect the authorities' recommendations, the initiators urge participants to carry out the shoe strike alone or together with others, with a maximum of 6-8 people per place. Everyone is urged to avoid crowds given the corona virus.

The organizers want to see a restart during the Corona Crisis that:

- *Puts people and environment first.* Prioritize stimulus measures that quickly create more jobs in sustainable future sectors. Introduce safety nets and measures to help people retrain and quickly get into work in carbon-free industries. Protect biodiversity. Return our forests and land to storing carbon by switching to regenerative farming and sustainable forestry.

- *Leaves the fossil fuel economy.* Ensure that all the financial incentives that are now rolled out contribute to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN's global sustainability goals. Remove fossil subsidies and tax breaks for fossil energy. Discontinue all public financing of - or investment in - fossil activities.

For more information and registration:

<https://actionnetwork.org/events/call-to-action-local-fff-shoe-strike-infosheet/>

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For location of registered ShoeStrikes (red marks) see

<https://fridaysforfuture.org/action-map/map/>

Hashtag: #shoestrike25july

Background:

The grassroots initiative comes from SaturdaysForFuture and local FridaysForFuture associations in Sweden. Sweden had its first national shoestrike the 30th of May at 70 different locations and has run it every last Saturday since then. Watch video from the shoestrike the 30th of May at Sergelstorg, Stockholm https://youtu.be/CE5Gywq7r_o

Some of the organizations conducting shoestrikes for the climate:

SaturdaysForFuture, is a network which informs about the climate crisis. Met every Saturday at several locations in Sweden before the corona pandemic to inform about the climate changes and how to make sustainable actions.

Local FridaysForFuture in Sweden FridaysForFuture is an international movement consisting mainly of school students who choose to go on school strike for the Paris Agreement and that the global temperature increase should be kept below 1.5 ° C compared to pre-industrial levels. It is local FridaysForFuture associations that are behind the initiative, not the national FridaysForFuture organization.

Northern AZ Climate Change Alliance (www.NAZCCA.org) mission is to inform and engage people to join a broad and diverse climate movement. NAZCCA seeks to raise awareness of the threats of climate change and activate residents to organize and work to reduce human impact on climate. By informing, engaging, and training people to fight for change we hope to achieve a future that is sustainable for people and planet.

Society of Fearless Grandmothers trains older women in nonviolent direct action, how to organize, how to become a police liaison, and how to nonviolently stand between law

enforcement and those behind us conducting nonviolent direct actions. They stand up for young climate activists.

Elders Climate Action (eldersclimateaction.org) The mission of Elders Climate Action is to mobilize elders throughout the United States to address climate change while there is still time to protect the well-being of our grandchildren and future generations. We are dedicated to using the power of our caring, our wisdom and our numbers to push for strong policies that will reduce greenhouse gases in our atmosphere to a level consistent with life thriving on our planet.



Photographer: Ulrike McCollugh, activist at FridaysForFuture
Taken at Mynttorget, Old town, Stockholm in May 2020.