



GO GREEN WEEK
11 - 15 FEBRUARY 2019
STUDENT HANDBOOK
#GOGREEN2019

people & planet

student action on world poverty and the environment

GO GREEN WEEK 2019

For Go Green Week 2019, People & Planet are supporting students across the UK to escalate the movement for climate justice.

We're winning on fossil fuel divestment. 350.org just announced 1000 institutions around the globe have committed to becoming fossil free- 69 of these are UK universities. Now we're demanding that banks stop financing the fossil fuel extraction driving the climate crisis.

Students are demanding that Barclays, the dirtiest UK high-street bank, ditch all fossil fuel finance.

During Go Green Week 2019, together we can get

educated through films screenings and workshop.

We can develop collaborative campaigns on campus through understanding how our liberation is linked and working together towards climate justice.

We'll skill-up to escalate our campaigns so we can win.

We can build popular support for a world of fossil free finance and climate justice by organising on our campuses and in our communities.

For much more information on the campaign and how to get your SU and University to boycott Barclays, read our [Divest Barclays Action Guide](#).

FOSSIL FREE FINANCE

GO GREEN WEEK 2019 FOCUSES ON COLLECTIVE LIBERATION, BANKS, FOSSIL FUEL FINANCE AND WINNING CLIMATE JUSTICE

Go Green Week is People & Planet's annual national week of student action on climate change. Are you in?



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GET SUPPORT FROM PEOPLE & PLANET

People & Planet offers a range of fantastic training and workshops for school, college and university students and staff. Get in touch to book:

FOSSILFREE@PEOPLEANDPLANET.ORG | 01865 403225

 **DIVEST BARCLAYS** 

PEOPLEANDPLANET.ORG/FOSSIL-FREE



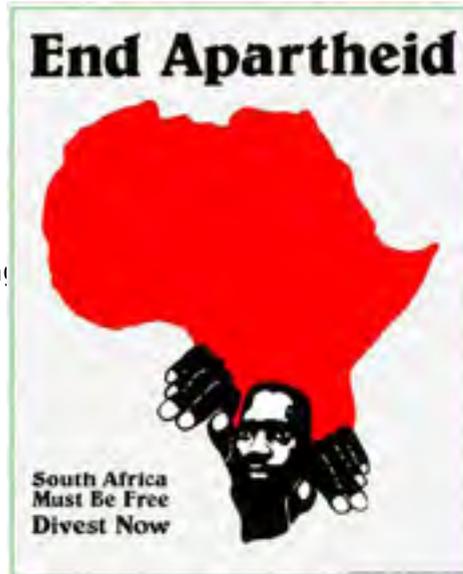
WHY BARCLAYS?

BANKS HAVE BEEN FUNDING SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICE SINCE THE 1800S.

The emergence of British banks such as Lloyds or Heywoods bank in the 18th century was to provide credit (now known as credit insurance) for the long-distance Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade.

The emergence of banks like Heywood and Lloyds in the 18th century marks Britains accumulation of wealth profitting off the explotations of black slaves and the land.

Heywoods bank then became a part of Barclays who are carrying on Britains legacy of funding and backing oppressive regimes across the world such as Mugabe's regime in Zimbabwe and the South African Apartheid.



Barclays is a truly global player in the high stakes game of financing catastrophic climate change. In 2016 alone, they sank more than \$4bn into these industries. That's more than in 2014 or 2015!

Barclays like any bank are not invincible to public pressure. It is our money, funnelled in to their mass gambling machine through their high street retail arm, that allows them to bankroll ecological destruction, human rights abuses, and climate change.

With a sustained campaign to divest Barclays and sever their connections with cultural institutions that lend them false legitimacy, we can force their hand, and keep the remaining fossil fuel reserves where they belong - in the ground.

PINKWASHING



Barclays has funded London pride consecutively for five years. This is an opportunity for Barclays to showcase their own branding without supporting LGBT+ lead initiatives, charities or organisations. The marketisation of Pride is especially dangerous because banks like Barclays still fund oppressive regimes across the globe. For example, Mugabe's regime has systematically oppressed LGBT+ people in Zimbabwe through regressive policy and propaganda. Barclays has since poured in millions of pounds to this regime.

The cost of our liberation in the UK should not be built off others suffering elsewhere, we must critically question why pink-washing is necessary for Barclays to survive. The pinkwashing demonstrated by Barclays is not only hypocritical, it is a deliberate attempt to 'wash-over' their complicity in homophobia in the global south. Without the social licence afforded to Barclays by actions such as their sponsorship of London Pride, Barclays would be exposed as deliberately standing in the way of the liberation of all LGBT+ people.

ANTI-APARTHEID LESSONS

Students have taken on Barclays before, and they won! In a campaign to end South African apartheid, that spanned three decades, students in the UK targeted Barclays demanding they withdraw from the apartheid regime. It showed that grassroots action against a bank of any size can get the goods.

The campaign involved mass boycotts that took a huge chunk out of Barclays' share of the student banking market. Importantly too it used a diversity of tactics to disrupt Barclays' profit-making operations, as well as sabotaging their brand and reputation on campuses and beyond.

They packed out stores opening and closing accounts as slow downs. They did occupations and sit-ins to disrupt Barclays' day-to-day operations.



They targeted recruitment drives and advertising at universities to create a culture of opposition to the bank and their complicity in apartheid. Eventually the demands were continents.

This time though, we don't have three decades to win the fight. We need to keep fossil fuels in the ground now and we can learn from the success of the anti-apartheid Barclays boycott to win our demands quicker. Our campaign will need to escalate quicker, be even more daring in our use of direct action, and more ambitious in our campaign to wreck their reputation.



FRONT-LINE SOLIDARITY

Whenever we campaign for banks to ditch fossil fuel projects we should remember there are communities leading the resistance against those projects on its frontlines.

That means residents in communities threatened with fracking; indigenous peoples whose land and water is being threatened with a pipeline and oil fields; farmers and rural communities being displaced to make way for a new coal mine;

and people who live most intimately with their environments whose livelihoods and lifestyles are being disrupted first by dramatic changes to the climate.

On the frontlines of fossil fuel extractions, the fight of these communities is often a matter of life and death. We take our inspiration from them and they direct the tone and messaging of our campaigns, as well as the types of action we take.



FRONTLINES: COLOMBIA

COLLECTIVE LIBERATION

A third of the coal we burn in the UK, we import from Colombia, one of the places most notorious for human rights abuses in the name of coal extraction. Key players include Anglo American, BHP Billiton and Glencore, who jointly manage the 70,000 hectare Cerrejón mine in La Guajira.

Barclays' total backing of these companies and their abuses amounted to \$3.5bn in 2013, with other UK banks not far behind. The mine has grown steadily since 1976.

In that time it has displaced and destroyed whole communities of indigenous and Afro-Colombian people, in particular the Wayúu. Even meagre compensation for the expropriation of their land and homes has proved almost impossible to extract from either the companies or the Colombian government.

Workers at the mine fare no better. Their union, Sintracarbon, say 700 workers at Cerrejón suffer from serious health problems as a direct result of the poor working conditions at the mine. Industrial strike action has been met with dismissals and even the murder of union leaders.

Barclays have also financed Drummond, a company which

collaborated with and paid paramilitaries to protect their mining operation in Cesar, Colombia, through campaigns of violence against local communities.

Not only are they necessarily complicit in these human rights abuses, Barclays have also helped to prop up the dirtiest fossil fuel when it needs phasing out as quickly as possible. There's only one thing for it: they must commit to cut all financing for coal mining and power companies. And it's up to us to make that happen.



This Go Green Week, take some time to reflect on your group's relationship with other societies on campus and in your local community, and invite them to link up struggles. We love these words from organiser Tisha Brown, writing for New Internationalist:

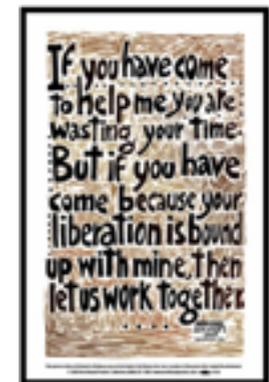
"If we are serious about building a mass movement, then we have to become more intersectional in our politics. We have to reach out to black and brown organisations and ask how we can help and maintain that relationship if we want them to build a mass movement.



"However, be careful that the invite isn't just a tick-box exercise to fill a diversity quota. These groups should be involved in the planning and messaging of the day. Ask them what they think and take their concerns and ideas on board."

"Intersectional organising needs to be at the heart of what we do. For us to fight off the worst effects from climate change and help support the people in the Global South fighting on the frontlines, we are going to need the help of everyone.

That means we need to ensure that our spaces are not only welcoming and safe but also accessible. We have to look at power and privilege in groups and be serious about finding ways to address it.



GET EDUCATED

LAUNCH OFF GO GREEN WEEK WITH A FILM SCREENING FOLLOWED BY AN AWESOME PANEL

Join People & Planet and SOAS Decolonise Environmentalism society in London to launch Go Green Week with an exclusive panel.

Following the screening of the film **'The bottom Line: Have you heard from Johannesburg'** where we'll be joined by special guests talking about why climate change is a race issue and why we need

intersectional campaigning and solidarity to achieve climate justice.

Not in London? No problem, Get in touch with us at **fossilfree@peopleandplanet.org** to organise a screening on your campus, and for advice on how to fund the license fee through your SU.

'THE BOTTOM LINE: HAVE YOU HEARD FROM JOHANNESBURG SYNOPSIS

This is the story of the first-ever international grassroots campaign to successfully use economic pressure to help bring down a government. Recognizing the apartheid regime's dependence on its financial connections to the West, citizens all over the world, from employees of Polaroid to a General Motors director, from student account-holders in Barclay's Bank to consumers who boycott Shell gas, all refuse to let business with South Africa go on as usual.

Read more here: <http://www.clarityfilms.org/haveyouheardfromjohannesburg/episodes.php>

[MONDAY]

BUILD SOLIDARITY

UNDERSTAND HOW CLIMATE CHANGE IS A WORKERS RIGHTS ISSUE, A MIGRANTS ISSUE AND CREATE YOUR OWN CONTENT ON WHAT CLIMATE JUSTICE MEANS TO YOU

Today, you have the opportunity to create their own content about what climate justice means to them. You can also explore how migrants rights and workers rights are integral to climate justice.

An example would be the mining in Cerrejón. the extraction of coal is an environmental issue, but this is tied into farmers land being to expand the mine. The farmer's lose their source of income and may be forced to work in precarious jobs or factories with very little workers rights, nor opportunity to unionise. .

If you're interested in writing a blog piece to go on the People & Planet website connecting these issues, please email **fossilfree@peopleandplanet.org**

This is also an opportunity to

educate yourself on the divest Barclays campaign and skill up on campaign tactics: email us to book a workshop.



[TUESDAY]

CAMPAIGN TACTICS

LEARN ABOUT DIVESTMENT BEING AN EFFECTIVE TACTIC IN ACHIEVING SOCIAL JUSTICE

Join our webinar with student campaigners from campuses across the country to hear more about the history of Global banks like Barclays investing in social and environmental injustice and financial activism from two experienced activists.

Immediately after the webinar, there will be time to asked these very experienced activists about divestment tactics, campaigns strategy and more about their work. This is a great opportunity to

ask in questions in regards to the action day on Friday.



PLAN YOUR ACTION

INVITE ALL MEMEBRS, OLD AND NEW TO YOUR ACTION PLANNING/ DECORATING MEETING!

In prep for the Day for action tomorrow, Get creative and create some Divest Barclays Barclays Banners for an outside outside a Barclays Branch, or for the twitter storm on Friday.

If you would like some advice on how to claim expense through your SU or you're at a Post-1992 (newer) university and you would like a regional organiser to facilitate the banner space email us at fossilfree@peopleandplanet.org

[WEDNESDAY]



DAY OF ACTION

GET INVOLVED: AFTER #GOGREEN2019

SIGN UP 1000 PEOPLE TO BOYCOTT BARCLAYS UNTIL THEY DIVEST

We will be attacking Barclays online with a twitter storm with a series of statements asking them to come clean about their investments in dirty energy. We will also be challenging universities on their investments in a bank that fund the climate crisis. Get staff and alumni on board and tweeting at the university also!

can circulate the petition on campus and nationally.

Do an action outside your local Barclays branch to get signatures from local members of the public. Do an online photo campaign with the banner you created on Thursday and tweet Barclays with it, remember to use the hashtags **#BoycottBarclays** **#DivestBarclays**.

Petition

We want 10,000 people on campuses across the UK to pledge to boycott Barclays until they ditch fossil fuels by the end of #GoGreen2019 (link twitter). Can you help by signing up 500-1000 people on your campus?

Using the People & Planet petition tool, (link this) signatures calling on your University to boycott Barclays feed into the national petition (link this) There are several ways you



Just because GGW is over doesn't mean conversations about fossil fuel finance end. With #GoGreen2019 coming to an end, now is the time to get this momentum in motion (pun intended) by preparing a motion in preparation to submit to your SU in your universities democratic period. Check out our template online.

Find out more about divestment from Banks and fossil fuel companies in the wider context for social and economic justice by attending the Palestine Solidarity Campaign's event: 'Apartheid and Fossil Free: Divest for justice' on Friday 1st March in London. This has a look at why divestment is such a powerful tactic in evoking social change and looks collectively working on these issues of injustice.

Resources & staff support

Find more information on fossil free finance and running the Divest Barclays campaign in our Action Guide.

Contact **fossilfree@peopleandplanet.org** for campaigns support before, during and after Go Green Week or if you have any questions about the week.

Fundraising

People & Planet is a radical student network of activist groups campaigning for climate justice, sweatshop free supply chains and migrants' justice.

We rely on small regular donations from members and supporters to support our groups and organise events like #GoGreen2019

<https://peopleandplanet.org/donate>

[FRIDAY]