

PRESS RELEASE

EXTINCTION REBELLION CAPE TOWN

EMBARGOED UNTIL 18 OCTOBER 2022



**extinction
rebellion
CAPE TOWN**

AFRICA ENERGY WEEK ACTION

DON'T GAS AFRICA!

"Fossil fuels are a dead end – for our planet, for humanity, and yes, for economies."

"A prompt, well-managed transition to renewables is the only pathway to energy security, universal access and the green jobs our world needs."

*Antonio Guterres, speaking at the launch of IPCC report, 28 Feb 2022
(Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Working Group II)*

What? An action to tell the oil and gas industry that we reject their claim that they are bringing jobs and energy security to Africa. Their real interest is their own jobs and their own financial security, for which they are leading Africa down a path of environmental destruction, stranded assets, energy poverty and economic disaster.

Who? Extinction Rebellion Cape Town

Where? The pavement opposite the sea-facing veranda of The Lookout, Granger Bay Boulevard, Cape Town (see map at bottom)

When? Tuesday 18 October 2022 8.15-8:45 am

Contact persons:

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Our Demands—

We reject a fossil fuel-based energy future for Africa. This will create stranded assets and dead-end jobs as the world transitions away from fossil fuels.

We reject an increase in fossil fuel production as this goes against the global imperative to reduce carbon emissions.

We reject the destruction of Africa's natural resources to exploit new oil and gas reserves - resources which many people currently depend on for their livelihood.

We reject an industry that has devastated ecosystems, weakened governance and caused social unrest in Africa.

We reject the fossil fuel industry's drive to expand into Africa in full knowledge that Africans are suffering from the climate impacts of the industry and will suffer even more in the future.

What we stand for—

We stand for investment in renewable energy which we believe has the potential to supply cheaper, cleaner, safer, people-centred, distributed energy to Africa.

We support protection of Africa's biodiversity in a time of accelerating annihilation of the natural world.

We support the "Don't gas Africa" campaign and are signatories with many other African groups to a letter rejecting an African Union "African Common Position on Energy Access and Transition" at COP27 which appears to favour fossil fuels. (See below)

The "Don't Gas Africa" Campaign

We stand here today in solidarity with the ["Don't Gas Africa" campaign](#), and as signatories of the campaign's open letter to African Heads of State and Ministers.

A technical committee of the African Union (AU) has developed an "African common position on energy access and transition". Along with African movements and civil society groups, we have signed an open letter which urges African Heads of State and Ministers to reject the common position and stop it becoming Africa's combined position at the upcoming COP27 which will take place in Egypt on 6-18 November 2022.

The following paragraphs are quoted verbatim from the [letter](#):

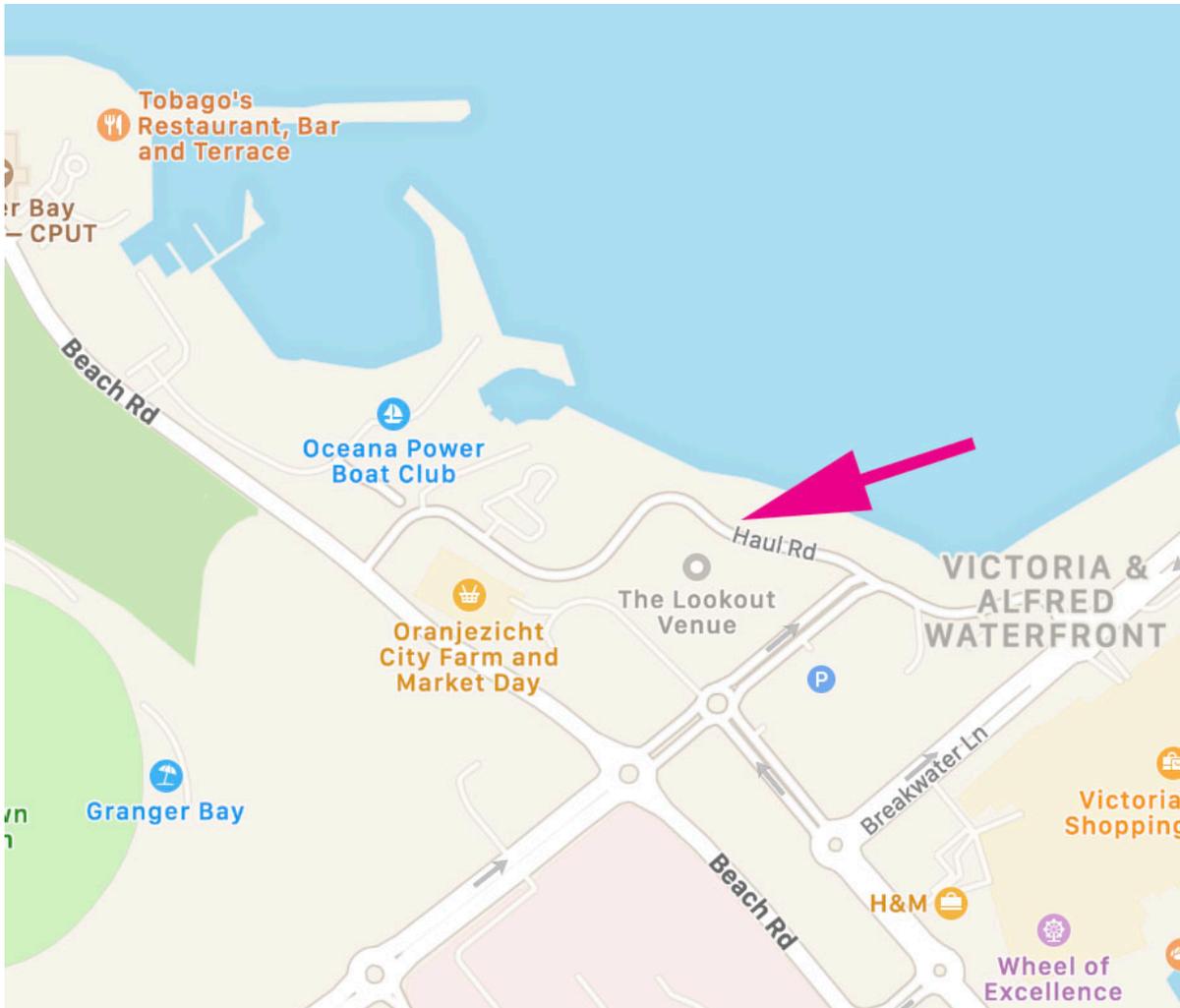
The [technical] Committee's position has been hurriedly prepared, yet is now being advanced rapidly for adoption by African Heads of State ... **Despite focussing on "energy access" and "energy transition" it makes no specific recommendations to scale up renewable energy production or to provide energy to 600 million Africans who currently lack access.** Instead, it prioritises the interests of the fossil fuel industry and European governments by seeking to expand fossil fuel infrastructure, production and exports...

In particular, the **"dash for gas" in Africa is dangerous and short-sighted.** Investing limited resources in fossil gas will strand assets and economies while threatening potential investments into affordable, easily deployable, accessible, much-needed renewable energy for the people.

Rather than provide Europe with more climate-damaging fossil fuels, Africa's development agenda and the climate emergency call on us to rapidly shift away from harmful fossil fuels-based technologies towards a renewable energy future.

If adopted by our Heads of State, the proposed position could clear the way for COP27 to be used as platforms to justify a massive scaling-up of fossil gas production in Africa.

The full text of the letter can be found at: <https://dont-gas-africa.org/open-letter>



Boiler plate

Extinction Rebellion (XR) is a global network and believes it is a citizen's duty to rebel using peaceful civil disobedience when faced with criminal inactivity by its Government. The Rebellion centres on demands for Government to tell the truth about our dire situation and to act accordingly, including to decarbonise our economy by 2025, in a mobilisation of war time like proportion.

We declare a non-violent rebellion on behalf of life itself and against our criminally negligent government. Our government's abject failure to protect citizens and the next generations from unimaginable suffering brought about by climate breakdown and social collapse is no longer tolerable.

The group's key demands are:

- The Government must admit the truth about the ecological emergency, reverse all policies inconsistent with addressing climate change, and work alongside the media to communicate with citizens
- The Government must enact legally binding policy measures to reduce carbon emissions to net zero by 2025 and to reduce consumption levels
- A national Citizen's Assembly to oversee the changes, as part of creating a democracy fit for purpose.

Website: www.extinctionrebellion.org.za