

PRESS RELEASE
EXTINCTION REBELLION CAPE TOWN
EMBARGOED UNTIL 11 NOV 2022



extinction
rebellion
CAPE TOWN

COP 27 DECARBONIZATION DAY

*"We are in the fight of our lives.
And we are losing.
Greenhouse gas emissions keep growing.
Global temperatures keep rising.
And our planet is fast approaching tipping points that will make climate chaos irreversible.
We are on a highway to climate hell with our foot still on the accelerator. "*
Antonio Guterres, COP27 7 November, 2022

What? On the COP27 "Decarbonization Day", we will be staging a short piece of street theatre to highlight the absurdity of relying on "Unicorn Technology" to solve the climate crisis.

Who? Extinction Rebellion Cape Town

Where? Open House, Corner Drop & Long Street, Cape Town CBD

When? Friday 11 November 2022, approx.10:30-10:45am

Contact persons:

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Press Statement

Imagine continuing to smoke when you have lung cancer, in the hope that there may one day be a cure that could reverse the damage done. This way of thinking is irrational and life-threatening. So too is the belief that we can continue burning fossil fuels in the hope that one day there may be technology to remove the CO₂ from our air and reverse the damage done.

There is emerging technology, known as Carbon Capture and Storage, that catches the carbon emissions before they are released into the atmosphere, e.g. from power stations or cement plants, then stores, transports and buries it underground. Carbon Dioxide Removal is technology that sucks already-released CO₂ from the air and stores and buries it.

This sounds promising; however, CSS technologies are currently hugely expensive, are only catching a tiny fraction of existing emissions, and very difficult to scale quickly

enough in order to capture the amount of CO2 needed to ensure we don't continue to overheat our planet. Believing that CSS allow us to continue with fossil fuels without damaging our planet, is the same as believing that magical unicorns will solve the climate crisis.

Further, scientists warn that as our earth heats, vital planetary systems will be irreversibly disrupted and damaged. This cannot be undone should one day the magical unicorns or the Carbon Capture and Storage technologies become viable.

Extinction Rebellion Cape Town is calling on our government, and the governments of the world, to stop looking to "unicorn technology" to magically save us, but rather to invest in current and effective technology in the form of renewable energy, which is now cheaper, cleaner, safer and more people-centred than fossil fuels.

—END

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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