



# NEWSLETTER WEEK 4

**Hey guys,**

Well well well. Look who's back.

If you spent your last weeks staring out the window, tossing and tumbling in bed; so restless and so agitated; wondering what happened to the Green Office newsletter - well, fear you not. **We are back and we are here to stay.**

After a few sad and futile attempts to get ourselves out of your spamboxes (what happens when a technologically inept person faces off with Mailchimps) we decided to change course and disguise ourselves. From now on, here is where we meet: hidden in the newsletter of RASA, who graciously agreed to host us. Thanks RASA, we owe you one.

So buckle up, we're going on an adventure. First stop: **Vegan Week!**



## Vegan Week

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Last semester, Vegan Week got somewhat eaten up by Covid. Not this time. Here's what to expect from this special, special week:

- Throughout the week, you can order a vegan **Sandwich of the Week** (with mushrooms, baba ganoush and roasted pumpkin) in Elliott, which was dreamt up in collaboration with the Cooking Society.
- The **film club** is back! Come to the 1st floor Bachtensteene common room on Monday at 20:30 for a screening of **Okja**, a Korean/ American adventure film reflecting on the absurdity of the meat industry.
- As you might have heard, we kicked off an initiative called **eco-errands**: every week, we bike to a farm to buy locally produced food. If you'd like to join, come to Eleanor on Wednesday at 10:00 and discover with us an alternative way of doing groceries. You can also join the eco-errands [group chat](#).
- Are you having dinner with your house, hallway or floor? Is it vegan? We've got you covered: during next week, if you organise a dinner for 3 or more people, and send us the receipt, **we'll refund you for up to 3 euros per person!** Send us a picture of your meal so that we can inspire even more students. Find out more [here](#).

- In need of some inspiration? We've put together a list of [vegan recipes](#) for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, which we'll be sharing on our instagram throughout the week.
- Last but not least, on Friday at 18:00, we will set out to cover the streets of Middelburg with chalk messages, raising awareness and inspiring people to cut their meat consumption. Join this [group chat](#) to find out more!



## Last week

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Would you like to know how we spent our last week? Here's a little recap:  
Last week, the we...

- walked through Middleburg with a lovely piece of furniture in preparation for our newest, [secret project](#)

- had a meeting with four other boards to coordinate about said **mysterious-amazing project**
- picked up the empty souce bottles from Elliott, which will be used to build a **herbs garden**
- created new signs in Eleanor to invite students to use our **Magic Book Box**, where books can be dropped off and adopted by anyone
- had our first **board dinner** :)
- and travelled to Vlissingen for the screening of **Bigger than us**, a 2021 documentary on youth activism.



## We need you

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Our mission is to make UCR more sustainable, and this semester we are focusing on **academics**. We wanted to know if you would like to see questions of nature conservation, climate action, and global warming addressed in your courses. We created a **questionnaire** where you can give us your feedback and your suggestions; once we have the results, we will contact our professors and share with them what we heard from you. You can fill out the questionnaire [here](#) - it should take 5 to 10 minutes. Thank you!

Would you like to become a **Green Office volunteer**? Join the [group chat](#) and be the first one to know about our events!

## Climate News

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Before we say goodbye, these are the three climate-related news we picked for you this week:

[Storm Eunice](#) needs no introduction - we've all seen it, heard it, and stayed inside for most of Friday because of it. But have you asked yourself if this once-in-a-decade storm could have been caused by climate change?

The answer: maybe.

As the [Guardian reports](#), while it is hard to make the connection between individual storms and global warming, [climate models](#) have been predicting an increase in storms. Furthermore, even if the effect of climate change on the frequency and strength of storms can be disputed, it is very much likely that as a consequence of global warming, [storms will become more damaging](#). The reason for this is an increase in rainfalls (which was linked to climate change) and storm surges (caused by the rising sea levels which again, are linked to climate change) which, coupled with a storm can have devastating effects.

Whatever the answer may be - we'll sure find out.



Next up: *Greenwashing in advertising or who knew you couldn't trust Big Oil?*  
Last week, a study was published which looked at the rhetoric and actions of the four biggest oil companies between 2009 and 2020, and concluded that there was [little evidence of a transition to clean energy](#), despite lavish promises.

As an example, [the Guardian pointed out](#) that while Exxon claims to have made 'substantial investments in next generation technologies', between 2008 and 2018, only 0.23% of its total capital expenditure was invested in low-carbon



energy production, and a summary report from 2021 stated that the company did not invest in renewables.

The crucial question is how the advertising companies working for Big Oil will react to these findings. Dr Brulle, an environmental sociologist argued that the companies **do not have plausible deniability** after this report - and to stay with Big Oil could constitute bad-faith advertising.

And finally: **students against fossil fuel investments**. (This one's for you, Emil.) Citing an obscure law which 'requires universities to invest in a manner consistent with their charitable purposes', students from Yale, MIT, Princeton, Stanford, and Vanderbilt called on their respective attorneys general to investigate the conduct of their universities. They argue that investing a small part of their endowment funds (totalling \$150bn) in fossil fuel companies fails the above requirement because of the damage the companies cause to health and the environment. Furthermore, as the industry's future is uncertain, the investment can be considered financially irresponsible. The students were assisted by the Climate Defense Project and followed in the footsteps of activists at Harvard and Cornell, who made similar claims about a year ago. Read the full story [here](#).

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And that's it for today. Have a lovely week,

Your Eleanor Green Office

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