



# NEWSLETTER WEEK 5

**Hey guys,**

There's not much to say. It has repeatedly been asserted that the world is falling to pieces, but since Thursday, we seem to have reached a whole new level. So what to do, but be scared and angry and horrified? It sure seems like there's nothing else left. Or maybe this: pay attention to each other, be together, support and be supported by those around you. Sure, it's nothing, but it's also all we have.



## Last Week

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As Vegan Week is drawing to a close, we're looking back at what we did in the past 7 days.

- We organised the first film club of the year, this time watching [Okja](#).
- We reimbursed [vegan dinners](#) all around UCR to help students explore veganism. Did you have a vegan dinner but haven't asked for a reimbursement yet? Now is your time. Would you like to keep experimenting [vegan recipes](#)? Check out our instagram for a week's worth of recommendations!
- And on Friday, we set out to leave our mark on Middelburg, [chalking](#) messages to inspire people to cut their meat consumption.



But Vegan Week is not all that happened! We also took time to

- record a section for [UCRadio](#) which will be released next week!
- have a meeting with the [Dean](#)
- start preparations for the Mushroom Farm
- continue working on our [mysterious new project](#)!
- and spend a few days in quarantine.

Exciting? Exciting.

## Next week

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Next week is going to be somewhat quieter - here's what you need to know:

The next [UCRadio episode](#), with our freshly recorded [Green Talk](#) will be released coming Tuesday - which is, yes, you're right, also happens to be the first day of spring!

Would you like to see a [small herbs garden in Eleanor](#)? Then this is your lucky week. Come and join us on Wednesday at 4pm in the Green Office where we will try to answer the proverbial question, what happens when a crate of sauce bottles, a glue gun, and the Eleanor Green Office meets.

And as always, we invite you to join our Wednesday [eco-errands](#) trip and the Friday meditation in Elliott!

## 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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And finally, your weekly does of climate-related news:

First and foremost, what does the [invasion of Ukraine](#) mean for climate? A report from [The New York Times](#) draws attention to the rhetoric of the U.S. oil industry, which uses the crisis to argue for ramping up oil production. Under the codeword of [energy security](#), lobbyists have called on the Biden administration to roll back restrictions and release permits for drilling. Some Republican law makers joined the appeal, calling the current policies un-American and urging Biden to 'restore America's energy dominance'. However, advocates of clean energy argue that this line of thinking simply misses the point: the problem is not dependence on Russian gas and oil, but being overtly dependent on it at all; the U.S.'s gains in independence would also mean the acceleration of another crisis: global warming.

Moving on to [climate injustice](#): a new report concluded that African countries will be forced to spend an average of [4% of their GDP to cope with climate crisis](#), likely driving the countries into deeper poverty. Ethiopia is currently spending 6% of its GDP on fighting the effects of extreme weather. South Sudan, the world's second poorest country experienced repeated floods last



year, leading to mass displacement and the spread of diseases; now it's required to spend 3.1% of its GDP on adaptation. And Sierra Leone will have to spend \$90 million per year on climate crisis, despite being responsible for **emissions equaling an eightieth of that of the U.S.**

[The Guardian](#) quotes Chukwumerije Okereke, director of the centre for climate change and development in Nigeria on the issue: 'It is both **irresponsible and immoral** for those that are the chief cause of climate change to look on while Africa, which has contributed next to nothing to climate change, continues to bear a disproportionate share of the impact. **The time for warm words is long gone.** We need urgent, scaled-up, long-term support from the world-leading climate polluters.'



And finally: when **science meets Druidic thinking**. This week, [The New York Times](#) published a profile on Diana Beresford-Kroeger, a 77-year old living in the Canadian woods. A medical biochemist, botanist, organic chemist, poet, and developer of artificial blood (say what?), Dr. Beresford-Kroeger has published eight books, teaching people about the secrets and wonders of trees. Her thinking has been influenced by her studies in (among other things) biology and biochemistry and a grandaunt who introduced her to the ancient Irish ways of life and Druidic thinking.

Alongside her books, she also cultivates a forest, hand-picking trees which are both capable of **fighting the climate crisis and withstanding its effects**; and in order to inspire others, she and her husband are happy to give saplings to anyone who asks.

At the root of Dr. Beresford-Kroeger's thinking is a belief in a **hidden symbiosis**

between plants and humans. 'When we cut down a forest, we only understand a small portion of what we're choosing to destroy... Without trees, we could not survive. The trees laid the path for the human soul.'

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And that's it for today. See you next week,

Your Eleanor Green Office

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