



NEWSLETTER WEEK 13

Hey guys,

Having trouble getting out of bed? Stressed that there are only three weeks left, yet frustrated that *still*, there are three weeks left? Don't know why the semi-frozen, wind-powered hell of a rain should make you feel happy?

We've got the answer for you: **it's Christmas!**

Now, we've been very careful not to give in to the capitalistic pressures and shout CHRISTMASTIME prematurely, but now. It's beginning to look a lot like.

Whether or not you celebrate Christmas, whether or not Advent means anything to you, we hope that you will be swept away by the season as much as we are. For it has so much to offer: hot chocolate and oliebollen, fairy lights and classic movies, and most importantly, moments, spent in warm homes, together. And that is something to be thankful for.



Open Positions

In case you've missed it: **We want you on our team!**

What are we looking for? Motivated and creative students who would like to start the next semester either as the **Academics Manager** or the **Internal Affairs Manager and Treasurer** of the Green Office.

What do you need to do?

- Join our **open board meetings** either this Thursday (25th November) at 6pm or next Friday (3rd December) at 8:45am.
- Send us your **motivational letter** before the 8th of December.
- Take part in an **interview** with two of our members.

For more information, visit [this link](#). If you have any further questions, you can always contact us.

Hope to see you! :)



What's Up

Remember the **Ecowarrior Points**? As the end of the semester is drawing near, all eyes are searching for the answer: who will be the winner of the Ecowarrior Cup?

Well, ladies and gentlemen, with less than three weeks to go, this is where the scoreboard's at:

1. **Julia Autrey**, 110 points
2. **Leen Jammalieh**, 65 points
3. **Maira Luchini Costa**, 60 points

Congratulations for our wonderful volunteers, and don't forget: if you want to see your name up there, you still have time to get involved. Just send us proof of your green deeds, and we will reward you with Ecowarrior points!

Climate News

As always, we'll end this newsletter with reports connected to climate change.

First and foremost, **Germany's new government**: Following their best-ever electoral performance this September, the Green Party (Die Grünen) became part of Germany's government for the first time since 2005. The new government, which emerged after two months of negotiations last Wednesday, is a **centre-left coalition** between the Social Democrats (SDP), the Greens, and the Free Democrats (FDP), with SDP politician Olaf Scholtz as the new Chancellor. The negotiations brought considerable wins for the Green Party: its co-leaders, Annalena Baerbock and Robert Habeck will be leading the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** and the newly created **Ministry of Economy and Climate** respectively, and the coalition accord contains prominent passages on climate protection. The **deadline for phasing out coal** is pushed forward to 2030; by 2045, **carbon emissions** have to be reduced to zero. Furthermore, the government pledged to fund its climate goals with €60 billion over the next four years. Still, the Green Party is likely to face significant opposition from the business-friendly Free Democrats, who - despite winning less seats in the Bundestag - control more ministries than the Greens. Find out more about the new government [here](#) and [here](#).



On the topic of **water scarcity**: Last Friday, Iranian security forces clashed with protestors in the dried up riverbed of the Zayandeh Rud. Videos posted on social media show that the police used teargas, batons, and birdshots to disperse the crowd **protesting water shortages**. The country has been struggling with severe water scarcity and power outages for years. At the heart of the problem lie various **environmental challenges**, ranging from high temperatures and pollution to floods, droughts, and vanishing lakes. You can

read more about Friday's protest [here](#) and the larger context of water scarcity [here](#).



And finally: the importance of taking time for yourself. Last week, Collins Dictionary declared its [words of the year](#). Next to neopronouns (that is, gender-neutral pronouns), and NFT (which we will not get into this time), climate anxiety was on the list of words seen as gaining importance in 2021.

[Climate anxiety](#) is defined by the American Psychological Association as a 'chronic fear of environmental doom', and it is considered to affect young people in particular. If you feel overwhelmed by the reality of the climate crisis, remember that [your mental well-being should always come first](#). Try finding ways to manage and fight your anxiety - talking to people close to you or practicing mindfulness might help. (If you're up for it, you can always join your fellow students for the Friday meditation sessions in the Sky Room.) And keep in mind that if such actions don't help, you can always seek out professional help. Your feelings are valid, and deserve attention.

With love,

Your Eleanor Green Office

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