

STRATEGY EXPLORATION SESSIONS OUTPUT

Vital Additions to Actions Strategy

Based on the input from other working groups the following is a set of core principles & projects that the Actions Strategy Exploration Group (ASEG) *strongly recommends* are essential to the successful execution of any strategy that is approved by Action Circle. Many of these factors are not within the remit of actions and many of them are already in production by other groups in the movement, but the ASEG believes that any actions strategy taken forward and acted upon by the movement will be crippled if it does not run in parallel to these factors.

1. *VLE for Regional Actions Coordinators:*

By February we should aim to have spaces (either offices or residencies) with VLE supported Action Planning teams on the scale of the London office's April Rebellion planning team in 5 new cities - Edinburgh, Cardiff, Manchester, Leeds & Birmingham (or similar cities).

This is an attempt to genuinely and sincerely address the issue of resources being centralized on London and the feeling of disenfranchisement in the wider movement. It is also a deeply practical necessity in allowing the vitality, enthusiasm and desperation of people all over the UK to be translated into extraordinary and effective actions. To rouse the UK to action we need people to be able to work for the cause without restrictions and resentment. We know creativity and daring are starved by people not being able to meet their basic needs. Anyway, you get it.

In order to make this happen, we fully support the VLE review Clare has initiated.

2. *A mass participation march early in the year*

A long time has passed since the last Rebellion and October was arguably problematic for the movement. To reset, refresh and rekindle enthusiasm and to evoke a feeling of momentum forwards, we suggest a mass participation event. We can also use it to capitalise on the feeling of horror at having a government in power which has no meaningful environmental policy in the midst of a climate crisis. We suggest a march, open to all of XR, Movement of Movements and any other environmental groups as well as the general public. There would be no need to march under the XR banner unless desired. The

idea would be to come back together in love, support and solidarity to express our collective rage, grief and betrayal. This could happen in one place in the UK or as a series of events in the regions on the same day. It could also be used to officially launch the Mass Mobilisation efforts and to officially open the movement. Messaging could be around 'come as you are' 'march of love & rage' etc...anyone welcome as long as they stick to some key elements: Nonviolence, no drink or drugs, inclusivity etc. It should be specifically billed as a cross-cultural, inclusive event.

3. Embed *Future Democracy plans (People's Assemblies & take over of local authorities) & Resilient Community building across the country*

We need to support the efforts for local participatory democracy and see them as integral to mobilising people for mass action.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1I-wwGzMRz2WMDTwlqDfuAMMJhKLP-SZIGshEtMXKoTmY/edit>

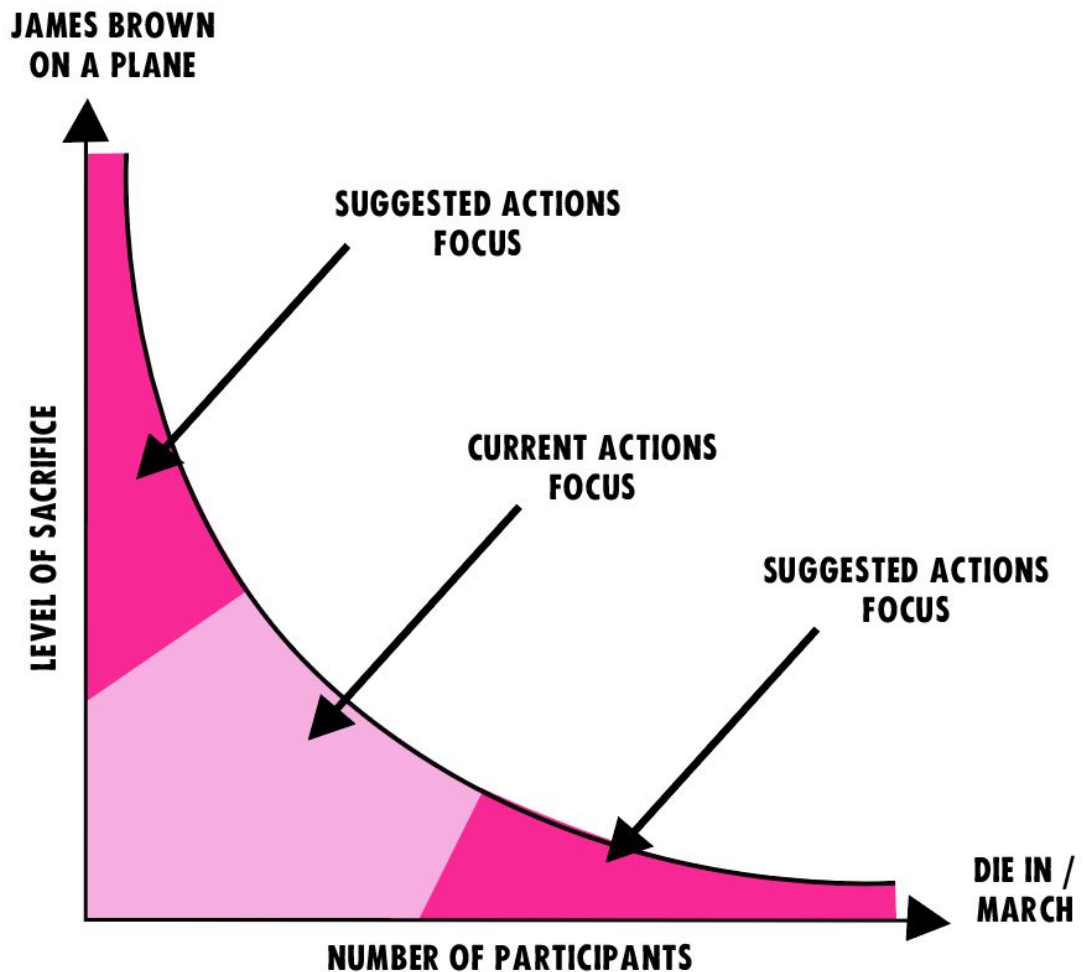
4. Collaborate with the *Mass Mobilisation team*

At the present time, we simply do not have the numbers within the movement needed to achieve our goals through mass civil disobedience. This mass civil disobedience could be arrestable action in the streets or disobedience in private life / actions that destabilise normality and break people out of their relationship with perceived power. Either way, it is vital that the numbers of people within XR are increased. Social science data shows that active, personal outreach into communities and allowing people to make a one-on-one connection with individuals within the movement is vital for engagement. Data from XR Impact Assessment also show recent low levels of signups to XR, either suggesting that the recent rebellion and other events have been alienating or that we have already engaged everyone who feels they have an obvious affinity with the cause. Evidently, however, the climate crisis is a disaster that affects everyone on the planet, so unlocking a realisation of affinity is a possibility in every case.

The results of the recent election also suggest strongly that people feel abandoned, unheard and disenfranchised. Reaching out to those people has never seemed more important. We acknowledge that mass mobilization must be done in conjunction with a programme of trainings that would provide a clear actions pathway leading new members towards civil disobedience in whatever form most suits them. This work is being carried out by the Mass Mobilisation WG (part of Communities) so does not fall within the remit of the AC. However, the ASEG are following their mandate to work on an Action

Pathway for new members and a 'Disobedience Kit List' for local groups. We believe strongly that this work should continue and be concluded.

5. *Focus on extremes of sacrifice levels :*



So far, we have made lots of opportunities available to people who are willing to take part in mild / strong civil disobedience centred around low level arrests (the central part of the curve on the graph above). Our theory of change generally agrees that we need to provide a diverse range of opportunities for all levels of action. However, we have failed on the two ends of the spectrum. By championing arrestable actions as the default option for civil disobedience, we have made it impossible for people who cannot risk arrest to see themselves as rebels. Anecdotally we know that many people - particularly people of colour - came to the October action and 'stood around', not knowing how to get involved. They were unable to harness and express their rage, despair, and love for the planet and as a result felt shut out from the movement.

We must work towards building a culture of thrilling and innovative action design for this group which does not involve arrest or fear of legal consequences. This group must be invited to disobey in a truly useful way that also allows them to be safe, with the hope that it in turn swells the ranks of the more disruptive participants. This should be addressed in the work being done by the ASEG on the Actions Pathway, and by the 'Disobedience Kit List' and accessibility to this group should be woven into as many 'starter' actions as possible. It should also be worked on by the Action Planners and Action Support Groups.

In addition, as the Climate and Ecological Emergency becomes more dangerous every day, we must encourage more extreme actions to achieve meaningful change. This movement must not become ineffectual and forget its rebellious heart as it grows. Extreme self sacrificial actions can act as a vanguard for the movement, inspiring people in their rebellious journey and focusing the world's attention. However, these highly sacrificial actions have suffered so far due to their lack of organisation / cohesion of message and because of strong pushback from the movement. For such high-risk actions, action design must be slick and highly considered. It also seems necessary for the movement to clearly outline in any strategy going forward, the intention to encourage more extreme action in response to genuine growing crisis so as not to face pushback from the movement as a whole every time a highly sacrificial action takes place.

As a result we would suggest a heightened focus on both ends of the curve above - particularly between now and the next rebellion.

8. *Support for ISN International tribunals*

The ISN's proposals for holding international ecocide trials / tribunals to address Global Justice should be supported and collaborated with.

7.. *Training*

During the civil rights movement activists would train in NVDA for 6 months or more. We need to slim down the number of highly disruptive and incriminating actions and spend longer training and preparing for them. When action planning has been rushed or ill-resourced the impact is lost, or worse, there can be damage to the movement.

We propose new deeper, long term NVDA for people engaging in high risk actions that is systematic, rigorous and expands well beyond the current support structures offered by the High-Risk Actions groups.

We could also examine redesigning NVDA for new members and offer educational training about the history of other movements, their tactics and how our theory of change draws on them.

8. *Education*

We can't expect everyone to know the facts of the Climate Crisis - something we often assume. We need to capitalise on the spike in coverage of the crisis in the media and make sure that the knowledge of the severity is understood. This would not fall into the remit of Actions except in messaging; this action messaging cannot be confined to banners, flyers and press releases. Wherever possible, the action design itself should embody the truth about the Climate Crisis with the aim of transmitting awareness through direct emotional resonance. However we feel that pushing for greater education about the crisis in more inventive and engaging ways is necessary as a partner to an action strategy.

9. *Simplifying our messaging and being more confident*

We agree that we need fewer actions and fewer focal points and that our messaging needs to become much more razor sharp and focused. In the last rebellion we were totally scattergun and did actions around food security, aviation, old media, new media, 11 different government departments, Whitehall, banks, business, finance, infrastructure and public transport. No wonder people felt confused about 'what XR actually wants'. As a result our messaging and spokespeople became bogged down in discussions about us and our tactics.

We propose that spokes have a dramatically more aligned strategy and adopt common core messaging slogans and soundbites that make the issues tangible. We also propose that we find away to be 50 times more confident in saying how dire the situation was. October's messaging lacked urgency and seriousness and seemed too relaxed.

10. *Experimentation*

We need to reinstate the principle of experimentation, risk-taking and 'probing the system'. In this difficult moment it's important we don't fall into becoming nervously outcome-anxious and instead we continue to try new tactics and actions with the chance of finding surprise non-linear responses from the movement.

SUMMARY NOTES FROM EXPLORATION SESSIONS

TOP IDEAS FROM THE SESSIONS:

Big Focussed Actions

Digital / hacking

Occupying parliament

No time limit on actions - go there and stay there

Mobilising (every person recruits 3 more)

Targeting press

Force confrontation with the reality that their lifestyle is the problem

Scare the fuck out of people

Professionalism

Actions in unusual places

Confidence

Process anger

Talks on train carriages

Leapfrog strategy

Petrol stations

Twinning branches

Blackout -advertising

Sabotage digital screens, infiltrating events, awards (corporate)

Fear of death → famine, air pollution, placards with facts, roll call of people who have died, FEAR OF HELL, hell on earth, fire, floods, children & vulnerable people on the frontline

Are we decentralised to death

Intermediate demands → deep coal mine, banning single use plastic, HS2, illegal air quality, new deep coal mine, carbon tax, monarchy

Movement building → all out school strike, teachers on strike, bank of england, red handed, support civil servants, target elites (harrods), rebels go to the front line in other countries, if media can't be trusted then we use ourselves

6 months → Spray traffic lights black, split the movement, close down motorway, dartford tunnel, m25, industrial sabotage,

Discipline and unity

Theme for the day

Inclusive actions

Hunger strikers

Self sacrifice

Disrupt consciousness

tv/media disruption

Stop supply chains - food, water, amazon

Differing scales (barclays vs airports)

Inward looking

1 person → Suicide, stock exchange, conversations with unusual people
Tracking data of actions
Brexit as an opportunity
Target every ring road in country simultaneously
Thought experiment to close London with 100 ppl
Black out all ad billboards at once
VR experience of hell on earth
Share your own story
Violent tactic
Target 100 most carbon emitting companies
Children's march for air pollution
Mental health
Hunger strike to the death
Hostile takeover of media
Paint parliament green
Mass die in
1000x James Brown's famous ppl on planes
Train announcements
Block every airport train station motorway in country
Free public transport - alternatives
Carbon accountability, make fossil fuel investment illegal
Free food
Hit targets that would hit back harder than the police
Seduce Boris and blackmail lol
Become official political party
Desktop rebels - disrupt Insta
Death march

OUR NEW IDEAS DRAWING ON THIS

Dancing
Inclusive participation march with a twist
Exploring what self sacrifice means
Hunger strike in supermarket or other locations
Air pollution as intermediate
Split focus
Xr sacrifice be the bad guy
Rebrand xr
Hire political consultancy
Kill crusties
Hacking
Rebranding imprisonable actions
Radical way of educating people on basics
Media

THEMES:

Sacrifice - in all different forms

Split Focus Spectrum - broadly re the movement & also within actions (tip of the sword; red handed) - temporary moratorium on our traditional 'mid-ground' arrestable actions, instead encourage higher risk + no risk, mass participation actions.

One big focussed actions - all our efforts on one action

An Intermediate Goal - which? Airports? Motorways?

Media

Hacking

Infiltration - targeting professionals, seducing boris, 'turning' civil servants

Fear of hell - fear visioning

Awakening consciousness - acknowledging the truth that we are them and they are us, our own greed etc.

VLE to WGs around the country

Refocus, stop apologising and getting drawn into 'roger' debates

In

ELEMENTS/ STRATEGY SENSE CHECK:

- Intermediate demand(s)
- Punctuation points/ dates in the diary for mass, unified, accessible action
- Providing clear pathway for new rebels, supporting Mass Mobilisation WG
- Invest in our people more - bring them on a journey of education and understanding, so they are ready to move along in the spectrum - radicalisation
- Scalable - \$10 version and a \$10000 version
- Remove crusties
- Engage with the result of the election
- Actively responds to October learnings
- Demonstrable power; "If you're not going to do it, we will."