

'Biggest compliment yet': Greta Thunberg welcomes oil chief's 'greatest threat' label

Activists say comments by Opec head prove world opinion is turning against fossil fuels

Jonathan Watts

@jonathanwatts

Fri 5 Jul 2019 16.13 BST

Last modified on Fri 5 Jul 2019 17.55 BST



Greta Thunberg tweeted: 'Thank you! Our biggest compliment yet!' in response to Mohammed Barkindo's comments Photograph: Stefan Rousseau/PA

Greta Thunberg and other climate activists have said it is a badge of honour that the head of the world's most powerful oil cartel believes their campaign may be the "greatest threat" to the fossil fuel industry.

The criticism of striking students by the trillion-dollar Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) highlights the growing reputational concerns of oil companies as public protests intensify along with extreme weather.

Mohammed Barkindo, the secretary general of **Opec**, said there was a growing mass mobilisation of world opinion against oil, which was "beginning to ...

dictate policies and corporate decisions, including investment in the industry”.

He said the pressure was also being felt within the families of Opec officials because their own children “are asking us about their future because ... they see their peers on the streets campaigning against this industry”.

Although he accused the campaigners of misleading people with unscientific arguments, the comments were welcomed by student and divestment campaigners as a sign the oil industry is worried it may be losing the battle for public opinion.

“Thank you! Our biggest compliment yet!” **tweeted Thunberg**, the 16-year-old Swedish initiator of the school student strike movement, which continues every Friday.

“Brilliant! Proof that we are having an impact and be sure that we will not stop,” said **Holly Gillibrand**, who was among the first students in the UK to join the global climate strikes.

Opec – which is made up of 14 countries with 80% of the world’s proven oil reserves – is planning to expand production, which is undermining efforts to slow global heating. The backlash is not just from students, Extinction Rebellion activists and climate scientists.

Insurance companies – which have the most to lose from storms, floods, fires and other extreme weather – are increasingly pulling investment from fossil fuel assets. The governor of the Bank of England has warned of growing climate risks to the financial sector.

Earlier this week, the **London Stock Exchange reclassified** oil and gas companies under a non-renewable energy category that effectively puts them on the wrong side of climate crisis.

Parliaments in three countries – the UK, Canada, France – have declared a climate emergency, as have dozens of municipalities. They include most recently a **first major US city**, New York, which has previously **filed a lawsuit** against the five biggest private oil companies.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), a group of wealthy countries, has also taken a more strident tone in calling for government to put a higher price on oil, gas and coal, to end subsidies and to

rethink fossil fuel investment.

“Our policies have to be made with our children’s future in mind ... short-term decision-making can lock countries into expensive mistakes in financing and developing infrastructure ... that will be neither necessary nor profitable in a low-emissions world, they will be stranded assets,” **said the OECD secretary general Angel Gurría.**

Scientists are also backing a phaseout of fossil fuels as the signs of climate disruption grow more evident.

In the past two weeks, temperature records have been broken in France, Alaska and Cuba; there have been wildfires in Germany, Spain, Sweden and **Anchorage**; Chennai is among more than a dozen Indian cities running out of water; Russia is experiencing historic floods; Mexico experienced freak hailstorm that left Guadalajara streets more than a metre deep in ice; while the Chinese meteorological agency said records had been broken at 40 weather stations.

While Opec continues to insist oil is not responsible for climate chaos, campaigners feel they are finally winning the argument.

Bill McKibben, the founder of 350.org, which has led a series of divestment and anti-pipeline campaigns in recent decades, said the fossil fuel companies were finally losing their social licence.

“By this point, most people realise that the oil companies lied for decades about global warming – they are this generation’s version of the tobacco companies. And it’s clearly affecting their ability to raise capital, to recruit employees and so on. People set out to cost them their social licence, and it’s working. Whether it’s working fast enough – that’s another question.”

Greta Thunberg speech: French MPs boycott teen 'apocalypse guru'

4 hours ago



Greta Thunberg told French lawmakers to "listen to the science" of climate change

Teen activist Greta Thunberg has lashed out at French lawmakers for mocking her in a speech to parliament that was boycotted by far-right politicians.

The 16-year-old addressed legislators on Tuesday, telling them to "unite behind the science" of climate change.

She and other children were invited to France's parliament by a cross-party group of politicians.

"You don't have to listen to us, but you do have to listen to the science," she said.

Ms Thunberg, whose solo protest outside the Swedish Parliament inspired the school climate strike movement, has been lauded for her emotive speeches to politicians.

But lawmakers from French parties, including the conservative Republicans and far-right National Rally, said they would shun her speech in the National Assembly.

Urging his colleagues to boycott Ms Thunberg's speech, leadership candidate for The Republicans, Guillaume Larrivé, wrote on Twitter: "We do not need gurus of the apocalypse."



Greta Thunberg and other youth climate activists stand with En Marche politician Matthieu Orphelin

Other French legislators hurled insults at Ms Thunberg ahead of her speech, calling her a "prophetess in shorts" and the "Justin Bieber of ecology".

Republicans MP Julien Aubert, who is also contending for his party's leadership, suggested Ms Thunberg should win a "Nobel Prize for Fear".

Speaking to France 2 television, Jordan Bardella, an MEP for the National Rally, equated Ms Thunberg's campaigning efforts to a "dictatorship of perpetual emotion".

Members of other parties, such as the Greens and French President Emmanuel Macron's centrist En Marche, were more supportive of her appearance.



Environmental activist Greta Thunberg says climate change is 'an existential crisis'

In her speech, Ms Thunberg responded to her critics and restated her demands for urgent action from governments to curb carbon emissions.

Speaking in English, Ms Thunberg said children like her have become "the bad guys" for daring to tell politicians "uncomfortable things" about climate change.

"And just for quoting or acting on these numbers, these scientific facts, we receive unimaginable amounts of hate and threats. We are being mocked and lied about by members of parliament and journalists," she added.



Ms Thunberg delivered her speech at a French parliamentary committee in Paris

The teenager sparked an international youth movement after she staged a "School Strike for Climate" in front of the Swedish Parliament in August last year.

Since then she has met the Pope and addressed the European Parliament, shaming politicians for what she sees as inaction on climate change.

Ms Thunberg has been harshly attacked by journalists and trolls on Twitter, but politicians usually use more measured rhetoric when criticising her.

Green MPs rebuked the coarse tone of the criticism from French lawmakers. "Larrive and Aubert are playing an internal game on the back of the battle against climate change," said Delphine Batho, head of the Generation Ecology party.

Greta Thunberg hits back at Andrew Bolt for 'deeply disturbing' column

Campaigner calls out 'hate and conspiracy campaigns' after Australian's attack

Amanda Meade

Thu 1 Aug 2019 21.43 BST

Last modified on Thu 1 Aug 2019 22.25 BST



Greta Thunberg has tweeted in response to Andrew Bolt's column that called her 'deeply disturbed'.
Photograph: Frederick Florin/AFP/Getty Images

The teenage climate activist **Greta Thunberg** has hit back at the Australian News Corp columnist Andrew Bolt for writing a deeply offensive column that mocked her autism diagnosis.

The Swedish schoolgirl posted a tweet overnight calling out the “hate and conspiracy campaigns” run by climate deniers like Bolt, adopting his insult that she was “deeply disturbed” and turning it back on him.

The widely read Herald Sun columnist and Sky News commentator used his significant platform to take aim at the 16-year-old campaigner, **dismissing her followers as members of a cult** and disparaging her decision to **sail across the** Atlantic in a high-speed racing yacht to attend UN climate summits in the US and Chile.

“Thunberg has announced she’s finally going to the United States, the last bastion of the heathen, to preach the global warming faith to the Americans,” Bolt wrote. “Of course, she’s going by racing yacht, because she refuses to fly and heat the planet with an aeroplane’s global warming gasses.”



Greta Thunberg



@GretaThunberg

I am indeed "deeply disturbed" about the fact that these hate and conspiracy campaigns are allowed to go on and on and on just because we children communicate and act on the science. Where are the adults?



Herald Sun @theheraldsun · 22h

As the deeply disturbed Greta Thunberg spreads her climate panic, we should ask why so many world leaders are listening to her, writes Andrew Bolt.



Bolt: We must doubt disturbed teen's climate dogma
heraldsun.com.au

122K

8:39 PM - Aug 1, 2019

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30.3K people are talking about this

The highly personal character assassination published in Rupert Murdoch's tabloids repeatedly referred to Greta's mental health, saying she was "deeply disturbed", "freakishly influential" and "strange".

"I have never seen a girl so young and with so many mental disorders treated by so many adults as a guru," Bolt wrote.

"Far more interesting is why so many adults – including elected politicians, top business leaders, the Pope and journalists – treat a young and strange girl with such awe and even rapture.

"Her intense fear of the climate is not surprising from someone with disorders which intensify fears."

Bolt even described Greta's younger sister as having "a spectacular range of mental issues".

But the campaigner sees her condition not as a disability but as a gift which has helped open her eyes to the climate crisis.

The teenager, whose solo protest last year sparked the Fridays for Future global school climate strike movement, is taking a year off school to attend the summits, on 23 September in New York and 2-13 December in Santiago.

Bolt said Greta was wrong on climate change because "the evidence does not suggest that humanity faces doom".



Natasha Mitchell



@natashamitchell



B*It goes for Greta & pathologises her. What a low blow. Must be feeling some relevance deprivation syndrome to attack a smart, articulate teen girl who is uniquely & effectively connecting with the masses on one of the big intergenerational matters for our times. But whatev.

[https://
twitter.com/GretaThunberg/
status/1156846837707497472](https://twitter.com/GretaThunberg/status/1156846837707497472)

...

Greta Thunberg



@GretaThunberg

I am indeed "deeply disturbed" about the fact that these hate and conspiracy campaigns are allowed to go on and on and on just because we children communicate and act on the science. Where are the adults?
pic.twitter.com/xDSIN0VgtZ

156

11:19 PM - Aug 1, 2019

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[48 people are talking about this](#)

The editor of the Herald Sun, Damon Johnston, did not respond to a request for comment.

Attacks on the teenager are commonplace in the rightwing media. On the same day Bolt's column appeared an anonymous column in the News Corp broadsheet the Australian referred to Greta as "the pig-tailed soothsayer".

Greta Thunberg to sail Atlantic for climate conferences

4 hours ago



Media caption

The Swedish teen behind the climate strikes

Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg has accepted a ride across the Atlantic by boat to attend two key climate conferences.

The teenager will make the journey aboard the Malizia II, a high-speed 18-metre (60ft) yacht built to race around the globe.

"We'll be sailing across the Atlantic Ocean from the UK to New York in mid August," she tweeted.

Thunberg refuses to fly because of the environmental impact of air travel.

In a Facebook post, Team Malizia said they were "honoured to sail Greta Thunberg emission free across the Atlantic".

Skip Facebook post by Team Malizia - Yacht Club De Monaco



[app-facebook](#)

Team Malizia - Yacht Club De Monaco

10 hours ago

Team Malizia are honoured to sail [Greta Thunberg](#) emission free across

the Atlantic to the UN Climate Action Summit [#UniteBehindTheScience](#)
[#gretathunberg](#) [#fridaysforfuture](#) [#climateactionnow](#) [#aracewemustwin](#)
[#teammalizia](#) [#sailing4future](#)



Greta Thunberg

Public figure · 1,010,740 Likes · 10 hrs · 🌐

Good news!

I'll be joining the UN Climate Action Summit in New York, COP25 in Santiago and other events along the way.

I've been offered a ride on the 60ft...

End of Facebook post by Team Malizia - Yacht Club De Monaco

She had previously said that she wanted to attend the UN Climate Action summit in New York on 23 September, but was struggling to work out how to make it without taking a plane or going on a cruise ship - which have similarly high emissions. Hurricanes also often deter sailors from trans-Atlantic journeys in August.

"Taking a boat to North America is basically impossible," she previously told the Associated Press news agency.

Now, the 16-year-old will be able to attend the New York conference. She will later journey by low-carbon transport south to the annual Santiago Climate Change Conference in December.

Malizia II was built to compete in the 2016-2017 round-the-world Vendée Globe race. The high-tech vessel generates electricity through solar panels and underwater

turbines.

Thunberg and her father will make the crossing with captain Boris Herrmann, Monaco royal family member Pierre Casiraghi and a Swedish documentary maker, Nathan Grossman. The journey is expected to take about two weeks.

A spokeswoman for Team Malizia told the BBC they approached Thunberg to offer to take her, and had no previous plan to sail the yacht across the Atlantic.

The team has not yet calculated the cost of the trip.



Boris Herrmann, seen here captaining the Malizia II, will make the journey with Greta Thunberg



Team Malizia founder Pierre Casiraghi (left), a member of Monaco's royal family, will also make the journey

‘Greta effect’ leads to boom in children’s environmental books

The 16-year-old climate change activist has galvanised young people to read more about saving the planet

Donna Ferguson

Sun 11 Aug 2019 08.00 BST



The climate-change activist Greta Thunberg: children’s book publishers believe she is responsible for the huge increase in the number of young people reading about environmental issues. Photograph: Wolfgang Rattay/Reuters

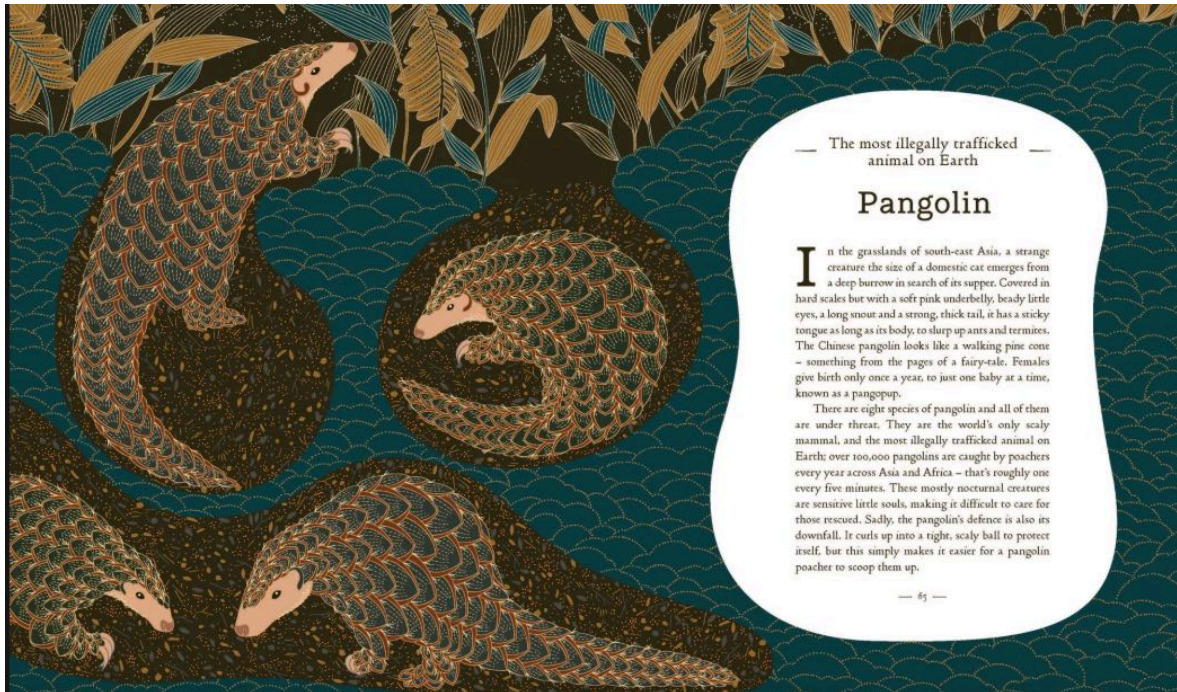
Some seek to convey the wonder of endangered animals while others give tips on how to tackle waste or tell tales of inspirational environmental activists.

All are part of what children’s publishers are calling “the **Greta Thunbergeffect**”: a boom in books aimed at empowering young people to save the planet.

The number of new children’s books looking at the climate crisis, global heating and the natural world has more than doubled over the past 12 months, according to data from Nielsen Book Research shared with the *Observer*. Sales have also doubled.

Whether it’s beautifully illustrated factual books like ***A Wild Child’s Guide to Endangered Animals***, apocalyptic climate catastrophe novels such as ***Where the***

River Runs Gold or how-to guides such as *Kids Fight Plastic*, publishers are targeting a plethora of new fiction and nonfiction titles at young readers inspired by **Thunberg**, the 16-year-old climate emergency campaigner.



A Wild Child's Guide to Endangered Animals, by Millie Marotta. The author hopes it will spark children's interest in wildlife conservation. Photograph: book jacket

Earth Heroes, which features Thunberg on its cover, is one of them. A collection of stories by travel journalist Lily Dyu about 20 individual inventors and conservationists around the world, including Sir David Attenborough, Yin Yuzhen, Stella McCartney and Thunberg, it was snapped up in June by children's publishers **Nosy Crow**.

"I absolutely would say there has been a Greta Thunberg effect," says Rachel Kellehar, head of nonfiction. "She has galvanised the appetite of young people for change, and that has galvanised our appetite, as publishers, for stories that empower our readers to make those changes."

Kellehar has sent the collection hurtling through the publishing process at breakneck speed so that it will hit bookshelves in early October, just before Thunberg finds out if she will be awarded the Nobel peace prize: "We're turning this around in four months, which is really unusual in children's publishing."

Greta's doing this amazing thing, as are lots of other people you've never heard of all around the world
Rachel Kellehar

The message of the book is: you're not alone and you can make a difference, she says. "We feel it's important to get that message out as soon as possible, and that is partly driven by the Greta effect. Whether or not she wins the Nobel peace prize, October will be a key moment to reach out and say Greta's doing this amazing thing, but also lots of other people you've never heard of all around the world are doing amazing things. From young girls in Tunisia who have got plastic bags banned, to an engineer in India who is creating artificial glaciers, this is a book about people who are finding different ways to confront climate change head on, wherever it is affecting them."

Bloomsbury will publish a similar collection, *Fantastically Great Women who Saved the Planet* by Kate Pankhurst, in February. It features women throughout history who have dedicated their lives to studying, conserving and protecting planet Earth. Isobel Doster, senior editor in children's nonfiction, has also noticed a "Thunberg effect" – a "real thirst" for authors who write about environmental role models to whom children can look up and actions they can take to prevent climate change.

"Additionally, there's been a tonal shift in the natural history books that are coming on to the market, she says. "It's not enough just to explore the beauty of the natural world – we have a responsibility to tell readers why it's important to look after it."

Plastic is also a hot topic for nonfiction picture books: Walker Books recently acquired one by **MG Leonard** called *Tale of a Toothbrush*, which follows the journey of a single plastic toothbrush, while Hachette Children's Group brought out *A Planet Full of Plastic* by Neal Layton earlier this summer.

In fiction, Matt Haig's illustrated chapter book *Evie and the Animals* – about a girl who wants to save the planet – won plaudits from critics for its timely storyline and strong appeal for Thunberg fans when it appeared on shelves in June. Meanwhile, fans of *There's a Rang-Tan in my Bedroom*, the moving Greenpeace cartoon that went viral last year, were delighted when it was published last week as a picture book.

Author James Sellick hopes his story – about an orangutan who loses his home and family due to palm oil production and deforestation – will have greater longevity for children in picture-book form, where it can be revisited and given more context from parents. The book also offers tips about actions children can take, such as writing letters to companies that use palm oil.

“I want not only to educate but to inspire a new wave of eco warriors. Kids are the future. Hopefully if they have been educated about environmental issues from a young age they will go on – and go further – than we are right now,” said Sellick.

Designed in a similar way to inspire the next generation of conservationists, naturalists, biologists, zoologists and nature lovers, *A Wild Child's Guide to Endangered Animals* will be published later this month. Author and illustrator Millie Marotta says she is hoping the book will tempt young readers to take a lifelong interest in wildlife conservation and show them there are things everyone can do to help, right now.

“We’re losing so many species every year, every month, every day, even. The generation of children who will be reading this book are the ones who are going to be the most impacted, and who will have the biggest impact. They are going to be the people to fix what’s happened and hopefully turn things around.”

Inspiring the next generation... Kids Fight Plastic

Martin Dorey

Written by a long time anti-plastics campaigner and founder of [the Beach Clean Network](#), it shows children what they can do in their home, on days out and at school to reduce the plastic they use.

A Planet Full of Plastic

Neal Layton

Nonfiction picture book that explains where plastic comes from, why it doesn't biodegrade and why that's dangerous for animals and the planet.

Where the River Runs Gold

Sita Brahmachari

An adventure story set in a terrifying caste-divided, dystopian world in which bees have long disappeared and children must labour on farms to pollinate crops.

AUGUST 13, 2019 / 10:19 PM / UPDATED AN HOUR AGO

Climate campaigner Greta prepares to sail to the U.S. to avoid flying

2 MIN READ



FILE PHOTO: Swedish teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg takes part in a climate strike after the five-day Summer Meeting in Lausanne Europe (SMILE) of the Fridays for Future movement in Lausanne, Switzerland August 9, 2019. REUTERS/Denis Balibouse

LONDON (Reuters) - Swedish teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg will set sail for New York this week, crossing the Atlantic in a racing yacht to join protests in the United States and take part in a United Nations summit.

To avoid traveling by air, Thunberg is making her trans-Atlantic trip on board the 60-ft yacht, the Malizia II, fitted with solar panels and underwater turbines that produce electricity onboard, with the aim of making the journey zero-carbon.

On Monday, Thunberg tweeted a picture of herself on board the boat with the caption: "Test sailing off the English coast today!"

Earlier this month, the boat's skipper told Reuters the 16-year-old activist, who has become a figurehead for young environmental protesters, faced an uncomfortable voyage on board the yacht which is designed for speed rather than luxury.

"Greta taking on this challenge of sailing across on a race boat with zero comfort really shows her commitment to the cause and how far she's willing to push herself," Boris Herrmann said.

Thunberg is due to depart this week from an as-yet undisclosed location in Britain and will be accompanied by her father, Svante, and a cameraman on the journey.

When she arrives, she will join the U.N. Climate Action Summit in New York in September and the COP 25 climate change conference in Santiago, Chile in December.

“Me speaking to the U.N. is not going to change the situation but if that can help to create awareness ... then I think that together we can try to ... make a change,” Thunberg said on a visit to a German anti-coal protest camp on Friday.

Reporting by Michael Holden; editing by Stephen Addison
Our Standards: The Thomson Reuters Trust Principles.

'No sea sickness so far': Greta Thunberg update on Atlantic crossing

Climate activist is four days into a two-week journey on solar-powered yacht

Seth Jacobson

Sat 17 Aug 2019 16.04 BST

Last modified on Sat 17 Aug 2019 20.05 BST

Four days into its two-week Atlantic crossing, the solar-powered yacht carrying climate activist **Greta Thunberg** is becalmed in the ocean after a choppy start to the trip, still 2,500 nautical miles from New York.

In an update posted to Twitter around midday on Saturday, the 16-year-old said she was eating and sleeping well and had no sea sickness so far.



Greta Thunberg



@GretaThunberg

Day 4. Pos 46° 20' N 015° 46' W

Eating and sleeping well and no sea sickness so far. Life on Malizia II is like camping on a roller coaster!



91.1K

11:34 PM - Aug 17, 2019

[Twitter Ads info and privacy](#)

8,404 people are talking about this

Boris Herrmann, the experienced captain who is skippering the Maliza II, which is carrying a crew of four including Thunberg's father, Svante, tweeted: "When you have no wind and you're drifting around... Ahh the contrast to yesterday ... gives some time to slow the boat to have a wash and play some games ... which Greta keeps winning!"

On Friday the boat, which is a high-speed planing monohull built for the 2016-17 single-handed, non-stop round-the-world Vendée Globe race, had "experienced uncomfortable conditions and everyone is feeling a bit seasick but nothing too bad or unexpected", Herrmann tweeted on Friday.

August is not the ideal time to cross the ocean as it is in the middle of the Atlantic's hurricane season. The team's progress is being tracked on a [website](#).

Thunberg is hoping to cross to the US in time to appear at two crucial global gatherings: the [Climate Action Summit](#) in New York on 21-23 September and the UN climate conference in Santiago in early December.

She refused to travel by plane to the US because of the environmental impact of flying. Earlier in the year Thunberg undertook [a tour of European countries by train](#).

The yacht is powered by solar panels and underwater turbines to generate electricity for lighting and communication, although internet access is patchy. There are no bathroom facilities onboard so the crew must make do with blue plastic buckets.

Herrmann said the journey would show how it was possible to cope without fossil fuels. He said: "This can be positive and exciting. Solidarity with Greta is not limited to eco-activists."

Greta Thunberg: Climate change activist sails into New York City

1 hour ago



Greta Thunberg has arrived in New York after two weeks of sailing across the Atlantic

Teenage environmental activist Greta Thunberg has landed in New York after a 15-day journey across the Atlantic by boat.

She will be participating in UN climate summits in New York City and Chile.

The 16-year-old Swede sailed from Plymouth in the UK on a zero-emissions yacht in order to minimise the carbon footprint of her travel. After arriving at Coney Island on Wednesday morning, she has since begun sailing into the city.



Ms Thunberg was expected to arrive sooner, but rough seas slowed her progress. She has been documenting the 3,000-mile (4,800km) voyage on social media.

As she departed the UK two weeks ago, she told the BBC that travelling by boat sends a signal that "the climate change crisis is a real thing".

When asked if she could make US President Donald Trump listen she answered with a simple "no".

"I'm not that special. I can't convince everyone," she said. "I'm just going to do what I want to do and what will have most impact."

She will be present at the UN climate summit on 23 September and the COP25 climate conference in Chile in December.



The Swedish teen behind the climate strikes

The teenager has made headlines for her "school strikes" which have inspired a worldwide climate change protest movement. Her first "strike for climate" took place outside the Swedish Parliament in August last year. Ms Thunberg travelled on the Malizia II, a high-speed, 60ft (18m) racing yacht with underwater turbines and no carbon emissions. She made the journey with her father, captain Boris Herrmann, Monaco royal family member Pierre Casiraghi and a Swedish documentary maker, Nathan Grossman.



Inside a training camp teaching climate activists how to protest effectively

Her boat had no shower or toilet, **according to Reuters**, and the sailing party ate freeze-dried food. The teenager was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize earlier this year. Ms Thunberg has been diagnosed with Asperger's, a form of autism, which she told the BBC allows her to "see things from outside the box". "If I would've been like everyone else, I wouldn't have started this school strike for instance," she said.

Greta Thunberg tells Trump to 'listen to the science' after arriving in New York – live

Crowds in New York cheer and applaud Sweden's teenage environmental campaigner, who set foot on dry land after her zero-carbon journey by yacht

LIVE Updated 50s ago

Joanna Walters in New York

@Joannawalters13

Wed 28 Aug 2019 21:30 BST

First published on Wed 28 Aug 2019 17:26 BST

50s ago
21:30

Amazon rainforest fires

Greta Thunberg said that while she was out at sea she heard about the **fires raging** in the Amazonian rainforest, principally in **Brazil**.

"Even on a boat I heard about the fires in the Amazon, the rainforest. It's devastating," she said.

"It's so horrible. It's hard to imagine. The war against nature must end."

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

5m ago

21:26

"Listen to the science," Thunberg tells Trump

"Everyone always asks me about Donald Trump," **Greta Thunberg** just said in her press conference after arriving in New York on a yacht across the Atlantic.

"I say 'Listen to the science' and he obviously does not do that. If no-one has been able to convince him about the climate crisis and the urgency, why would I be able to?"

Updated at 9.27pm BST

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

7m ago

21:23

Thunberg addresses the public

"This is a fight across borders, across continents," Thunberg just said about her battle to persuade the world to take action quickly to reverse the climate crisis, "to save the Earth."

She pointed out that she "shouldn't have to cross the Atlantic to take a stand" against the climate emergency, on a yacht, but she stresses that it was a necessary journey for her.

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

11m ago

21:19

"The ground is still shaking"

Greta Thunberg is addressing the public at a press conference at the marina in New York.

Her first words were: "Well, all of this is very overwhelming."

She added that, having just got off the boat: "The ground is still shaking."

She is saying the climate crisis is the biggest calamity humankind has ever faced.

"We need to stand together and take action because otherwise it might be too late. Let's not wait any longer, let's do it now."

Updated at 9.20pm BST

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

20m ago

21:11

Greta Thunberg arrives in the Big Apple

To cheers and applause, 16-year-old **Greta Thunberg** disembarked moments ago from the yacht that carried her across the Atlantic and she is now getting ready to address the public.

A small platform has been prepared for her near where the boat tied up at the marina in lower Manhattan, amid light rain.

Her official arrival was later than expected mainly because the wind dropped. But she's here now!

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

23m ago

21:07

Greta on dry land

She's on dry land. **New York** arrival - official!

'Let's do it now': Greta Thunberg crosses Atlantic and calls for urgent climate action

Climate activist, 16, receives cheers as she steps off boat

Thunberg says: 'Let's not wait any longer. Let's do it now'

Oliver Milman in New York

@olliemilman

Wed 28 Aug 2019 20.42 BST



Greta Thunberg arrives at New York after two week sailing journey across the Atlantic – video

Greta Thunberg arrived in New York on Wednesday, stepping on to dry land after crossing the Atlantic in a zero-carbon yacht with a passionate message to tackle global heating.

Crowds had gathered to welcome her for hours beforehand, ready to welcome Thunberg's arrival on the unconventional solar-powered craft.

Under cloudy skies at a marina near the southern tip of Manhattan, Thunberg's supporters greeted the teenager who sparked a series of walkouts by students protesting against the lack of action to address the climate crisis.

At a press conference, Thunberg urged people to come together to tackle the climate crisis. "We need to stand together and take action because otherwise it might be too late."

To cheers from the crowd, she said: "Let's not wait any longer. Let's do it now."

She added: "It is insane that a 16-year-old would have to cross the Atlantic to take a stand ... [against] the climate and ecological crisis is a global crisis and the biggest humanity has ever faced."

She also took a swipe at the US president, Donald Trump, a longstanding denier of the climate crisis. When asked if she had a message for Trump, she said: "I say, 'Listen to the science'. And he obviously does not do that. If no one has been able to convince him about the climate crisis and the urgency, why would I be able to?"

Thunberg docked at North Cove Marina on the edge of **New York** Harbor. The Marina is full of enormous yachts and sits right next to the Brookfield mall – a large glass dome filled with shoppers – which made for an opulent setting for the arrival of the climate change activist.

Her vessel had been welcomed by a flotilla of 17 sailing boats, each with one of the 17 sustainable development goals written on their sails. The special welcome convoy will intercept Thunberg's yacht near the Statue of Liberty off the top of New York City.

Thunberg sailed to New York to attend a UN summit on zero emissions next month after refusing to fly there because of the carbon emissions caused by planes.

She was offered a ride on the Malizia II racing yacht skippered by Pierre Casiraghi, the son of Princess Caroline of Monaco, and the German round-the-world sailor Boris Herrmann.

The 16-year-old, whose school strikes have inspired children across the world to protest against the climate crisis, encountered some rough seas on her passage across the Atlantic and arrived later than expected.

As Thunberg's yacht rounded the Statue of Liberty, it was met by a flotilla of 17 support boats, each with its sail printed with a message spelling out a recommended sustainable development goal, as promoted by the United Nations. These included combating discrimination and promoting peace, as well as using less plastic, not wasting food or water, using public transportation and vaccinating children against diseases

As Thunberg finally approached the harbor in New York, the crowds swelled.

"I've been following her for the past year or so and am very enthusiastic about what she's doing, how she's got young people involved with the striking," said Richard Walser, an IT technician who traveled down from Connecticut to welcome Thunberg with his son, CJ.

Student Xiye Bastida, 17, said she was inspired by Thunberg's activism to organize her own climate strike, involving 600 fellow students at her **New York** school.

"She has a moral aspect to her message, that our generation will suffer the most. I hope she will raise the consciousness of climate change in the US – help wake people up," she said.

Bastida's mobile phone carried a sticker saying "Greta has a posse".

One woman arrived at the marina clutching flowers and a placard that read "Welcome Greta". The media was also out in force, including journalists from Chile, where world leaders will gather later this year for annual UN climate talks.

Others, however, were nonplussed. One passerby asked if Thunberg was a solo round-the-world yachtswoman.

Thunberg is set to travel to Chile for this event, although as yet it's unclear how she will return home to Sweden given her aversion to flying due to its heavy fossil fuel use.

Thunberg's yacht left the British port of Plymouth on 14 August, and the teenager marked the first anniversary of the start of her school strike on 20

August.

Greta began a sit-down protest outside the Swedish parliament in August 2018 to get members of parliament to act on climate change.

She was quickly joined by other students around the world, as word of her strike spread through the media, and the “Fridays for future” movement was born.

The 18-metre yacht features solar panels on its deck and sides, and two hydro-generators provide the vessel's electricity.

Her voyage sparked controversy, however, after a spokesman for Herrmann, the yacht's co-skipper, told the Berlin newspaper TAZ that several people would fly into New York to take the yacht back to Europe.

Herrmann will also return by plane, according to the spokesman.

Team Malizia's manager insisted, however, that the young activist's journey would be carbon neutral, as the flights would be offset.

Greta has said she does not yet know how she will return to Europe.

Greta Thunberg 'wants a concrete plan, not just nice words' to fight climate crisis

Young activists will pressure world leaders to address crisis, says 16-year-old Swedish activist in Guardian interview

Oliver Milman

@olliemilman

Thu 29 Aug 2019 12.26 BST

Last modified on Thu 29 Aug 2019 15.11 BST



Greta Thunberg: 'It's insane that a 16-year-old has to cross the Atlantic in order to take a stand, but that's how it is.' Photograph: Vanessa Carvalho/REX/Shutterstock

Unprecedented pressure exerted by young activists will push world leaders to address the unfolding climate crisis, even with a recalcitrant US under Donald Trump, **Greta Thunberg** has told the Guardian.

Welcome to the US, Greta. With your help we can save the planet and ourselves

Rebecca Solnit

Thunberg, the teenager whose school climate strikes have ignited a global youth-led movement, said that her journey to **New York** on a solar-powered yacht was symbolic of the lengths young people will take to confront the climate crisis.

She said: "It's insane that a 16-year-old has to cross the Atlantic in order to take a stand, but that's how it is. It feels like we are at a breaking point. Leaders know that more eyes on them, much more pressure is on them, that they have to do something, they have to come up with some sort of solution. I want a concrete plan, not just nice words."

Thunberg's vessel emerged from the mist of an unseasonably drizzly day to be met by a throng of supporters and media at a marina near the southern tip of Manhattan on Wednesday. Her arrival was heralded by a flotilla of 17 sailboats, chartered by the UN, that intercepted her vessel near the Statue of Liberty.

Supporters chanted "welcome Greta" as the Swedish teenager stepped off the yacht, shook some outstretched hands and said that it felt like the ground was shaking beneath her feet.

Thunberg told the Guardian: "It's so overwhelming. I've gone from nothing but me and the ocean to this."

Despite the adulation from the crowds, Thunberg said she didn't relish being cast as the global figurehead of the climate movement.

She said: "My role is to be one of many, many activists who are pushing for climate action. I don't see myself as a leader, or icon or the face of a movement."

Hundreds of young people join Greta Thunberg in climate protest outside UN

Swedish teen climate activist protests among surging crowds

Young speakers chant: 'Don't just watch us – join us'

Miranda Bryant in New York

Fri 30 Aug 2019 19:35 BST

First published on Fri 30 Aug 2019 17:38 BST



Greta Thunberg joins hundreds of teenagers in climate protest in New York - video

Teen climate activist **Greta Thunberg** was joined by swelling and excited crowds of American teenagers at a protest outside the **UN headquarters** in New York on Friday, in a further blossoming of the youth environment movement given extra thrust by the Swede's transatlantic boat crossing.

Some US children said they were at their first ever climate demonstration; others said they had been passionate about the environment for a while but had been galvanized to act by Thunberg's rising profile.

On Friday afternoon, Thunberg and two young activists were spontaneously invited inside the UN for a meeting with a senior leader, described as "very supportive".

Just two days after Thunberg **disembarked** from a yacht in New York, following two weeks on rough seas crossing from the UK, young protesters dominated the crowd of up to 1,000 outside the United Nations skyscraper in Manhattan.

They came together to demand politicians and older generations take urgent and comprehensive action to reverse the climate crisis.

Carrying hand-drawn placards with messages such as "United behind the science" and "Act now or we will", children and young people of all ages surged into a park in front of the flags of the world outside the UN on Friday morning.

Thunberg sat cheerfully but pensively in the middle of the rally, which had a rather more earnest than festive atmosphere. Young speakers gave spontaneous speeches or led chants of "System change, not climate change" and "Don't just watch us, join us".

Alexandria Villaseñor, 14, who has been protesting every Friday outside the UN since December, was in her usual spot and said she had been inspired by Thunberg's school strike campaign.

She said: "Greta being here will really galvanise students just because of how much of an inspiration she is. Everyone who's been striking on Friday was really empowered by Greta and the action she was taking."

Thunberg held her trademark "*skolstrejk för klimatet*" (Swedish for "school strike for climate") sign, which she was seen carrying from the racing yacht on Wednesday, after refusing to take a flight to the US because of the polluting emissions.



Greta Thunberg outside the UN headquarters in New York, on 30 August. Photograph: Alba Vigaray/EPA

For Dana Henao, 16, from Brentwood, Long Island, Friday marked her first climate protest.

“The government isn’t taking enough action to protect the environment and all they care about is the money they make with corporations polluting the planet and I think we should put a stop to it,” she said. “The young people are the only ones taking action and we want to call attention to this.”

She added: “She [Greta] is really popular and she’s, like, the face of the movement.”

On Friday afternoon, Thunberg, Villaseñor and Xiye Bastida Patrick, 17, a Fridays for Future organiser, went inside the UN for an impromptu meeting with general assembly president María Fernanda Espinosa after receiving an invitation during the protest.

The trio were given a tour – including a preview of the general assembly podium, at which Thunberg will speak during next month’s climate action summit, and had a meeting with Espinosa, where they spoke about the summit, global heating, forest fires around the world, the Amazon fire and single-use plastics.

Villaseñor said the president was “very supportive”.

She said: “I said I want to see world leaders take climate action to reduce global greenhouse emissions and stay in line with the Paris agreement and also September 20 we will continue pushing and demanding that they do.”

Thunberg told the Guardian in an **interview** shortly after disembarking from the special “zero emissions” yacht that she wanted “a concrete plan, not just nice words” from leaders about taking urgent and comprehensive action to head off the climate crisis.

Villaseñor, who is thought to be America’s first school striker to join the movement and has been exchanging tips with Thunberg online, had been among the group of American climate activists who welcomed her to the US when her yacht docked at North Cove Marina.

She said: “What’s really important about Greta being here today is it’s the start of something new. Because with the climate summit coming up it’s the way for all the youth to unite here and send a message to world leaders at that climate summit. So even though Greta’s voyage on Malizia ended a couple of days ago, the climate action we will take on this continent has really just begun.”



Alexandria Villaseñor participates in a youth climate change protest in front of the UN headquarters in New York, on 30 August. Photograph: Jeenah Moon/Reuters

On Wednesday, Thunberg **said** her generation is having to “clean up” the climate crisis. She also **told** Donald Trump, who denies there is a climate crisis, to “listen to the science”.

On Friday, Almy Batis, 21, a student at Arizona State University, said she saw Friday as a landmark moment for America’s climate movement.

“This is a huge moment that Greta is finally here and there are Fridays for Future events scattered across the US. Her movement is going to be amplified in North America ... and grow a lot.”

Esme Ruiz, eight, from **New York**, attending with her father, said: “The world is literally melting right in front of our eyes and no-one even realises it. We need to teach them..It’s hard to make changes sometimes, but if you need to save the world, I’d do it rather than die.”

Meanwhile, a Brooklyn teacher said she has seen a “Greta effect” in her school.

With her coincidental name, but with different spelling, Gretta Reed, 28, said: “In the last two years I’ve seen a big surge in kids really vocalising. Now that they’re organising together, I think it’s really powerful.”

Greta Thunberg responds to Asperger's critics: 'It's a superpower'

Teenage climate activist responds to criticism, saying ‘when haters go after your looks and differences ... you know you’re winning’

Alison Rourke

Mon 2 Sep 2019 06.31 BST

Last modified on Mon 2 Sep 2019 10.21 BST



Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg, 16, in New York. Photograph: Spencer Platt/Getty Images

Greta Thunberg has spoken about her Asperger's syndrome diagnosis after she was criticised over the condition, saying it makes her a “different”, but that she considers it a “superpower”.

Thunberg, the public face of the **school climate strike movement** said on Twitter that before she started her climate action campaign she had “no energy, no friends and I didn’t speak to anyone. I just sat alone at home, with an eating disorder.”

She said she had not been open about her diagnosis of being on the autism spectrum in order to “hide” behind it, but because she knew “many ignorant people still see it as an ‘illness’, or something negative”.

Welcome to the US, Greta. With your help we can save the planet and ourselves

Rebecca Solnit

[Read more](#)

“When haters go after your looks and differences, it means they have nowhere left to go. And then you know you’re winning!” she wrote, using the hashtag #aspiepower.

While acknowledging that her diagnosis has limited her before, she said it “sometimes makes me a bit different from the norm” and she sees being different as a “superpower”.



Greta Thunberg



@GretaThunberg

· Sep 1, 2019

When haters go after your looks and differences, it means they have nowhere left to go. And then you know you’re winning!

I have Aspergers and that means I’m sometimes a bit different from the norm. And - given the right circumstances- being different is a superpower. [#aspiepower](#)



Greta Thunberg



@GretaThunberg

I'm not public about my diagnosis to "hide" behind it, but because I know many ignorant people still see it as an "illness", or something negative. And believe me, my diagnosis has limited me before. >

87.9K

9:46 AM - Sep 1, 2019

[Twitter Ads info and privacy](#)

6,002 people are talking about this

Asperger's syndrome was named after the Austrian paediatrician, Hans Asperger, who, in the 1940s, described some of its characteristics, including difficulties in social interaction and nonverbal communication, including difficulties reading body language. In 2013, Asperger's was folded into the wider diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder.

Tony Attwood, a world authority on Asperger's, has said people diagnosed are “**usually renowned for being direct**, speaking their mind and being honest and determined and having a strong sense of social justice”.

Boys are more widely diagnosed than girls.

Thunberg was diagnosed four years ago. She has acknowledged that her passion for her climate crisis work was partly down to **viewing the world in stark terms**.

In July, Thunberg hit back at the Australian News Corp columnist Andrew Bolt for writing a deeply offensive column that mocked her diagnosis.

He criticised her two-week trip across the Atlantic on a solar-powered yacht because, he said “she refuses to fly and heat the planet with an aeroplane's global warming gasses”.

Bolt repeatedly referred to Greta's mental health, saying she was “deeply disturbed”.

Thunberg responded by tweeting that she was “deeply disturbed” by the the “hate and conspiracy campaigns” run by climate deniers like Bolt.



Greta Thunberg



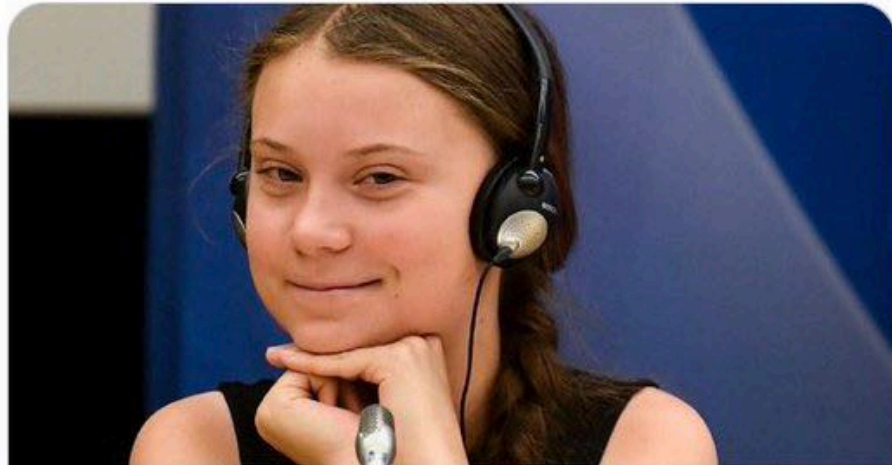
@GretaThunberg

I am indeed “deeply disturbed” about the fact that these hate and conspiracy campaigns are allowed to go on and on and on just because we children communicate and act on the science. Where are the adults?



Herald Sun  @theheraldsun · 22h

As the deeply disturbed Greta Thunberg spreads her climate panic, we should ask why so many world leaders are listening to her, writes Andrew Bolt.



Bolt: We must doubt disturbed teen's climate dogma
heraldsun.com.au

166K

8:39 PM - Aug 1, 2019

[Twitter Ads info and privacy](#)

41.5K people are talking about this

On Friday Thunberg was joined by **crowds of American teenagers** at a protest outside the UN headquarters in New York following her transatlantic crossing.

Greta Thunberg and youth climate activists protest outside White House

Young activists rallied in protest of inadequate government action on the climate crisis, chanting: 'Protect our future'

Thunberg joins young activists in climate protest – live updates

Emily Holden in Washington

Fri 13 Sep 2019 17:50 BST

Last modified on Fri 13 Sep 2019 20:42 BST



Greta Thunberg speaks at a climate protest outside the White House in Washington DC, on 13 September. Photograph: Nicholas Kamm/AFP/Getty Images

Swedish **climate** activist **Greta Thunberg** – who has inspired young people around the world to **strike** in protest of inadequate government action on the crisis – accompanied her American counterparts in the youth climate movement at a rally near Donald Trump's White House on Friday.

Thunberg quietly joined near the edge of the group, whispering along with chants and shaking her head when thanked by other advocates.

The protesters were so surrounded by reporters and TV cameras that they had difficulty beginning a planned march toward the White House. Thunberg fell back in the crowd. "We love you, Greta," fans yelled.

Trump, who has repeatedly denied climate science, has opposed major US efforts to stem greenhouse gases from fossil fuels that are heating the globe, as well as rolling back or attempting to dilute other **environmental** protections **related** to air and water quality and **wildlife** protection.



Youth activists take part in a climate protest outside the White House in Washington DC, on 13 September. Photograph: Nicholas Kamm/AFP/Getty Images

He recently feuded with his own government scientists about the expected path of a the deadly Hurricane Dorian that hit the Bahamas catastrophically before grazing the US east coast last week, with the president appearing in front of a **map at the White House altered by a permanent marker**.

"No more Sharpies, lies and censorship," one protest sign read.

Most other nations are off track to meet the goals needed to keep temperatures from rising to dangerous levels. They are already 1C higher than before industrialization.

The gathering of a few hundred preteens, teenagers and their supporters chanted: "Protect our future."



Greta Thunberg, center, and youth activists protest outside the White House on 13 September. Photograph: Nicholas Kamm/AFP/Getty Images

On Wednesday, Thunberg will testify before the US Congress and then join young Americans who are suing the government over the crisis, speaking from the steps of the US supreme court.

Thunberg, who **sailed to the US last month** instead of flying, will participate in a global strike next Friday. It is partly inspired by her decision to spend Fridays protesting outside the Swedish parliament, a campaign that has become known as Fridays for Future.

The annual UN general assembly will meet in New York to discuss the climate crisis later this month, and activists will target the global fossil fuel chief executives' conference taking place in the city the same day.

Thunberg briefly took the megaphone at the gathering, to enthusiastic cheers. She had seemed to deliberately keep to the fringes of the event, chanting rather shyly.

She said she wouldn't give a speech because previous speakers "have already said everything".

But she added: "I just want to say I'm so incredibly grateful for every single one of you, I'm so proud of you, who have come here and I, it's a lot of people ... this is overwhelming. Just never give up, we will continue and see you next week on 20 September" - for the planned global climate strike.

There appeared to be several hundred people at the event.

"We're striking today to save tomorrow, not to save life in 50 years but to save tomorrow," said Nadia Nazar, a 17-year-old organizer with the youth group Zero Hour.

The world's leading climate scientists **warned** last year that humanity only has until 2030 for global heating to be kept to a maximum of 1.5C, beyond which even half a degree will significantly worsen the risks of drought, floods, extreme heat and poverty for hundreds of millions of people.

‘Listen to the scientists’: Greta Thunberg urges Congress to take action

Teen climate activists attend a hearing to address the climate crisis and its traumatic effect on the younger generation

Oliver Milman

@olliemilman

Wed 18 Sep 2019 20:07 BST

Last modified on Wed 18 Sep 2019 20:59 BST



'Listen to the scientists,' Greta Thunberg tells Congress – video

Climate campaigner **Greta Thunberg** has bluntly told members of Congress to heed scientists' warnings over global heating on a day when the existential anguish of young activists was given a voice at the heart of Washington DC power.

Thunberg, the Swedish teenager who has ignited a global youth climate movement, told a congressional hearing that she had no prepared remarks other than to submit the landmark IPCC report, published last year, that warned of the rapidly approaching catastrophe of global heating.

"I don't want you to listen to me, I want you to listen to the scientists," Thunberg told the US lawmakers. "I want you to unite behind the science and I want you to take real action."

Thunberg told the joint House of Representatives committee that she was "furious" when she first learned of the climate crisis, adding that "it should be taken for granted" that climate science was accepted and acted upon.

The 16-year-old was given a largely respectful reception by US politicians who remain deeply split over the urgency, and even the veracity, of the climate crisis.

The hearing came on a day when Donald Trump's administration, which has reversed the major climate policies put in place by Barack Obama, sought to hobble California's ability to enact stricter emissions standards for cars and trucks.

Republican members of the committee, however, praised the efforts of Thunberg and acknowledged the reality of climate change. "I agree we need to take aggressive action," said **Garret Graves**, a Louisiana Republican known for a firmer embrace of climate science than many others in his party.

Graves did gently spar with Thunberg over his repeated assertion that China, the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases, should be the main target of activist ire. Thunberg, who arrived in the US in August on a solar-powered yacht, was asked by Graves what she would do if she saw another boat throw rubbish into the sea.

"I would tell [the] other boat to stop dumping trash in the ocean," she said. She then told Graves: "I am from Sweden, a small country, and it's the same argument: 'Why should we do something? Look at the US.' It's being used against you as well."

Members of Congress heard from other young climate activists who explained the trauma of growing up in a world primed for greater floods, storms, heatwaves and unrest because of rising global temperatures.

"This should fill you with shame. Youth climate activism should not exist," said Jamie Margolin, a 17-year-old who told of choking wildfire smoke in recent summers in her native Washington state. Margolin said her fellow students suffer anxiety and a "weird form of nihilism" where they wonder if it's worthwhile making future plans.

"There's depression and fear," she said. "It's devastating and scary and also feels like we've been betrayed. It is shameful and cowardly to not take action. How can we call ourselves an example for the world if we are going to be cowards and not do anything?"

Bill Keating, a Massachusetts Democrat who chaired the hearing, said he was sorry that young people had to come to Washington DC to plead for greater action.

"Our generation has failed to adequately address our climate crisis," he said. "This failure isn't fatal, yet our failure to change will be. We wouldn't be in this situation right now – our witnesses would be safely and happily in school pursuing their dreams and not protesting and pushing their governments to act – if everyone was already doing their part."

At a news conference following the hearing, plaintiffs in a lawsuit that alleges the US government violated young people's rights by abetting activities that have contributed to global warming, called for legal action to force greater movement on climate change from the US.

"We are very fortunate in this country that we have three branches of government so that when there are branches of government that are actively harming our children, and have done so knowingly over the last 50 years by creating an energy system based on fossil fuels, the courts can step in to protect the rights of our children," said Andrea Rodgers, a staff attorney at Our Children's Trust, which is representing the young people in the case.

The committee was the latest stop in a long series of events for Thunberg, who last year started to skip school every Friday in order to protest against inaction over the climate crisis. Her stance spawned a global strike movement that will escalate on Friday when adults, as well as students, will walk out

of their workplaces over the emergency.

The protests come ahead of a UN climate summit in New York next week where governments will be urged to strengthen their efforts to cut emissions.

The world is currently on track to surpass a warming limit of 2C agreed to in the Paris climate agreement, with major emitters such as the US and Brazil now headed by leaders who have questioned climate science and enthusiastically back mining and logging that causes the release of planet-warming gases.

Greta Thunberg: "Wake up and face the facts, the reality, the science."

David Smith



Thunberg testified at a House subcommittee this morning. She also addressed a larger group of around 150 people, urging action on global heating. Photograph: Kevin Lamarque/Reuters

Greta Thunberg delivered a 15-minute address to around 150 people, rounding off her two-day tour of Capitol Hill. The Guardian's Washington correspondent **David Smith** reported from Washington:

The teenage activist looked a little nervous at first as she took the lectern under a giant chandelier in a grand committee room but then smiled as she resumed her call to arms against the climate crisis.

"The USA is the biggest carbon polluter in history," Thunberg, from Sweden, told the audience. "It is also the world's number one producer of oil. It is also the only nation to signal its intention to leave the Paris climate agreement because it was 'a bad deal'."

Speaking softly, she modulated her voice slightly to make clear she was quoting, disapprovingly, **Donald Trump** with the words "a bad deal".

Thunberg invoked Martin Luther King's struggle for civil rights and John F Kennedy's goals that included landing a man on the moon – "not because they are easy, but because they are hard", – to plead with Washington to lead in the fight, even if it seems impossible. **"Giving up can never be an option," she said.**

Thunberg emphasized the need for urgent intervention and called politicians to step outside their comfort zones and start "treating this crisis like the existential emergency it is". Dreams, including promises of green jobs and industries, are not enough, she added.

"Dreams cannot stand in the way of telling it like it is, especially right now... Wherever I go, I seem to be surrounded by fairytales."

The teenager accused business leaders and others of telling "stories" intended to soothe people and make them go back to sleep. "The problem now is we need to wake up. It is time to wake up and face the facts, the reality, the science."

Thunberg added: **"This is, above all, an emergency, and not just any emergency. This is the biggest crisis humanity has ever faced and we need to treat it accordingly... Stop telling people 'everything will be fine'... Stop pretending you, your business idea, your political party or plan will solve everything."**

Changing one disastrous energy source for "a slightly less disastrous one" is not progress, she continued. "Richer countries need to do their fair share and reduce their emissions much more and much faster."

The speech was greeted with a standing ovation and followed by a panel discussion. Thunberg, due to take a train to New York on Wednesday night, was asked about her observations of the way Washington works. She replied: "It's definitely more calm than I thought. Everything is just happening so slow and people are just repeating the same things over and over again."

"I have heard so many politicians here say the same things over and over again. If it continues like that, we're not going to get anywhere. We need to move forward from that and transform words into actions. My impression is it's very calm, slow and diplomatic, which has its ups and downs."

She also had a message for those who feel depressed or paralyzed by the scale of the crisis. "I started to do something, take action, try to make a difference instead of sitting in despair. That changed my life. It gives your life meaning... To know you can have impact, it makes you feel a lot better."

Asked what her imagined future 60 years from now looks like, Thunberg replied: "I don't know. I haven't thought that far."

Greta Thunberg to Congress: 'You're not trying hard enough. Sorry'

The Swedish environmentalist was one of several who spoke at a Senate climate crisis task force

Lauren Gambino in Washington

@laurenegambino

Tue 17 Sep 2019 21:51 BST

Last modified on Tue 17 Sep 2019 23:38 BST



Greta Thunberg attends a Senate climate change task force meeting in Washington DC. Photograph: Mark Wilson/Getty Images

At a meeting of the Senate climate crisis task force on Tuesday, lawmakers praised a group of young activists for their leadership, their gumption and their display of wisdom far beyond their years. They then asked the teens for advice on how Congress might combat one of the most urgent and politically contentious threats confronting world leaders: climate change.

Greta Thunberg, the 16-year-old Swedish activist who has galvanized young people across the world to strike for more action to combat the impact of global warming, politely reminded them that she was a student, not a scientist – or a senator.

“Please save your praise. We don’t want it,” she said. “Don’t invite us here to just tell us how inspiring we are without actually doing anything about it because it doesn’t lead to anything.

“If you want advice for what you should do, invite scientists, ask scientists for their expertise. We don’t want to be heard. We want the science to be heard.”

In remarks meant for Congress as a whole, she said: “I know you are trying but just not hard enough. Sorry.”

The audience laughed. Supporters broke into applause. Senator Ed Markey, the Massachusetts Democrat who co-sponsored the Green New Deal and leads the Senate task force, was perhaps surprised by her bluntness. But he smiled.

Seated at the table with the teens were some of the most sympathetic and vocal supporters of bold action on climate change in Congress. But facing a Republican-controlled Senate and a hostile White House, the prospect of enacting reforms at the scale and scope called for by activists – and many

“We need your leadership,” he told Thunberg. “Young people are the army politically, which has arrived in the United States. You put a spotlight on this issue in a way that it has never been before. And that is creating a new X factor.”

Still, Markey vowed to try: “We hear you. We hear what you’re saying and we will redouble our efforts.”

Thunberg was one of several youth activists invited to address the task force during two days of action and speeches aimed at urging lawmakers to support “transformative climate action”. She was joined by activists from across the US and South America, part of a “multiracial, intergenerational” effort to combat climate change.

The meetings and speeches in Washington are intended to raise awareness ahead of a global climate strike on Friday in which students and workers will walk out of schools and offices to pressure their governments to act as world leaders gather in New York for the annual United Nations summit.



Nadia Nazar, co founder of Zero Hour, speaks to the media on 17 September in Washington DC. Photograph: Eric Baradat/AFP/Getty Images

“The generation of the Green New Deal will not only survive but we will thrive,” said Nadia Nazar, co-founder of the advocacy group Zero Hour, at a news conference earlier on Tuesday.

“We will no longer be known as the kids fighting the apocalypse. We will be known as the solution to the climate crisis.”

In the US, support for sweeping action on climate change is polarized. Many Republicans – among them Donald Trump – are still openly skeptical of the science behind global warming. Republican leaders have mocked Democrats for introducing a Green New Deal and have used the proposal as a cudgel against lawmakers and presidential candidates.

The Green New Deal is an ambitious 14-page resolution that calls for a “10-year national mobilization” that would eliminate the nation’s emissions in

one decade. Scientists say limiting warming to 1.5C would require **cutting manmade carbon levels** by 45% by 2030 and reaching net zero around 2050.

Markey said their movement is shifting the political landscape. The senator pointed to the 2020 presidential debates as evidence of what has changed. Candidates are being asked about climate change and pushed to introduce plans to combat global warming. This is in stark contrast to 2016.

“What has happened? You have happened,” he told the activists. “You are giving this extra level of energy to the political process that is absolutely changing the dynamics of politics in the United States.”

The 2020 election, Markey said, will in many ways be a “referendum on climate change”.

Thunberg arrived in the US after **crossing the Atlantic** on a solar-powered yacht. She rose to international prominence after launching “Fridays for Future”: student-led strikes that have spread to 135 countries. She has been nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize.

On Monday, she met Barack Obama. The former president shared a photo from their meeting, in which he praised Thunberg as “one of our planet’s greatest advocates” and someone who is “unafraid to push for real action”.



Barack Obama



@BarackObama

Just 16, [@GretaThunberg](#) is already one of our planet’s greatest advocates. Recognizing that her generation will bear the brunt of climate change, she’s unafraid to push for real action. She embodies our vision at the [@ObamaFoundation](#): A future shaped by young leaders like her.



144K

8:24 AM - Sep 18, 2019

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[24K people are talking about this](#)

Later on Tuesday, the group was scheduled to meet Senate minority leader Chuck Schumer and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who is a co-sponsor of the Green New Deal in the House.

On Wednesday, Thunberg will deliver what has been billed as a “major address” to members of Congress.

Greta Thunberg has a suggestion for Congress on how to take real action on the climate crisis

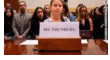
By Leah Asmelash, CNN

Updated 2028 GMT (0428 HKT) September 18, 2019

Greta Thunberg to Congress: Listen to the scientists 00:51

(CNN) [Greta Thunberg](#) has had a busy week.

On Wednesday, the Swedish 16-year-old climate activist appeared in front of Congress before a hearing on [climate change](#), just days after she [met with former President Barack Obama](#).



Greta Thunberg spoke before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Europe, Eurasia, Energy and the Environment Subcommittee, and the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis.

Thunberg, though, told Congress she didn't have any prepared remarks. Instead, she referred to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's special report on global warming, which reported a temperature increase of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

"I am submitting this report as my testimony because I don't want you to listen to me, I want you to listen to the scientists," she said. "And I want you to unite behind the science. And then I want you to take real action."

. [@GretaThunberg](#) submits IPCC Special Report on Global Warming: "I don't want you to listen to me. I want you to listen to the scientists and I want you to unite behind science. And then I want you to take real action."

Full video here:

[https://
cs.pn/2O8nVxP](https://cs.pn/2O8nVxP)

[#ClimateChange](#)



516

2:42 AM - Sep 19, 2019

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Strong words from the teenager, but this isn't the first time she's spoken up to governments.

Thunberg first made a name for herself while staging weekly sit-ins outside the Swedish Parliament, which led to more than 100 similar protests worldwide.

Thunberg is in the United States to speak at the United Nations Climate Action Summit in New York on September 23, but she's had other things on her agenda, too -- including [appearing on The Daily Show](#) with Trevor Noah in New York and receiving [Amnesty International's top award](#) in Washington for her activism.

But she didn't travel to the United States by plane. To cut down on emissions, Thunberg spent two weeks sailing across the Atlantic on [a zero-emissions sailboat](#).

That's dedication.

SEPTEMBER 18, 2019 / 11:11 PM / UPDATED AN HOUR AGO

Greta Thunberg to Congress: 'Don't listen to me. Listen to the scientists'

Valerie Volcovici
5 MIN READ

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Swedish teenager Greta Thunberg, who has inspired a global movement for climate change, delivered a pointed message before a U.S. congressional hearing on Wednesday: “I don’t want you to listen to me. I want you to listen to the scientists.”

The 16-year-old founder of the “Fridays For Future” weekly school walkouts to demand government climate-change action submitted a 2018 report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change at the hearing in lieu of testimony. It urged rapid, unprecedented changes to the way people live in order to keep temperatures from rising 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) by 2030.

“People in general don’t seem to be aware of how severe the crisis” is, Thunberg said, urging lawmakers to “unite behind the science” and take action, pleading that people treat climate change “like the existential crisis it is.”

Thunberg was one of four students invited to a joint hearing of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, Energy, and the Environment and the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, to provide the next generation’s views on climate change.

She has been in Washington since last week to join U.S. and indigenous activists to build up support for a global climate strike on Friday and pressure lawmakers to take action on climate change.

Her first appearance took place in front of the White House on Friday, where she encouraged fellow young activists to keep fighting to be heard. She did not mention U.S. President Donald Trump, a climate change denier who moved to withdraw the United States from the Paris Climate Change Agreement early in his tenure, in her remarks.



Greta Thunberg and former U.S. President Barack Obama fist bump during a meeting at Obama's personal office in Washington, D.C., U.S., September 16, 2019 in this screen grab obtained from a social media video. Obama Foundation/via REUTERS

On Wednesday, Trump announced he plans to revoke California's ability here to set its own more stringent emissions standards for vehicles - the latest move in his administration's multipronged attack on the state's efforts to reduce vehicle emissions that could slow the deployment of electric and more efficient vehicles.

At the hearing on Wednesday was also 21-year-old conservative climate-change advocate Benji Backer from Wisconsin. He told lawmakers that young conservatives also favor climate change action, but through an approach focused on technology and allowing the continued use of fossil fuels.

"As a proud American, as a life-long conservative and as a young person, I urge you to accept climate change for the reality it is and respond accordingly. We need your leadership," he said.

While he praised Thunberg and other climate activists for putting the issue at the forefront of politics, he said there was time to take more measured action.



In addition to meetings on Capitol Hill, Thunberg met former President Barack Obama on Tuesday. Obama described the teenager on Twitter as “already one of the planet’s greatest advocates.”

Later on Wednesday, she joined seven young Americans who have sued the U.S. government for failing to take action on climate change on the steps of the Supreme Court. They urged political leaders and lawmakers to support their legal fight and take action to phase out the use of fossil fuels.

At the panel, Republican representatives praised the students for raising awareness about climate change but disagreed over what action the U.S. should take.

Representative Garret Graves from Louisiana, said his state was affected by rising sea levels and that he supported the U.S. emission reduction target enshrined in the Paris Climate Agreement, but he criticized the pact for allowing emerging economies like China to continue to emit greenhouse gases.

“I think that signing on to an agreement...that allows for China to have a 50% increase in greenhouse gas emissions annually by 2030 is inappropriate,” he said.

Thunberg responded that in her home country, Sweden, people similarly criticize the United States for not taking enough action.

Another activist on the panel, 17-year-old Jamie Margolin from Seattle, called out lawmakers for taking too long to enact climate change policies.

“The fact that you are staring at a panel of young people testifying before you today pleading for a livable earth should not fill you with pride; it should fill you with shame,” she said.

Thunberg and the youth leaders also met with Democratic lawmakers, including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. Thunberg is expected to make a speech on Wednesday evening in the House.

Reporting by Valerie Volcovici; Editing by Bernadette Baum

Teen climate activist Greta Thunberg demands that Congress ‘listen to the scientists’

Climate activist Greta Thunberg submitted an official report on rising global temperatures in lieu of written testimony during a House hearing on Sep. 18. (Reuters)

By

Kayla Epstein

September 19, 2019 at 5:49 a.m. GMT+12

A 16-year-old Swedish climate activist demanded Wednesday that Congress “listen to the scientists” who were sounding the alarm on the threat of global warming.

Rather than offer prepared remarks to the House Climate Crisis Committee and a House Foreign Affairs subcommittee, Greta Thunberg said she was attaching as testimony a landmark [2018 United Nations report](#) that warned of dire consequences for the planet if the atmosphere warmed to greater than 1.5 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels. The document, prepared by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), said world governments would need to take “unprecedented” action to reduce carbon emissions to stave off the worst effects of global warming.

“I am submitting this report as my testimony because I don’t want you to listen to me, I want you to listen to the scientists,” Thunberg said. “I want you to unite behind science. And then I want you to take real action. Thank you.”

Thunberg was joined by her fellow young climate activists Jamie Margolin, a co-founder of the [Zero Hour](#) youth climate campaign, Vic Barrett of Alliance for [Climate Education](#), and Benji Backer of the American Conservation Coalition.

“My generation has been committed to a planet that is collapsing,” Margolin said. “Youth climate activism should not have to exist.”

Her testimony came shortly after the Trump administration announced it would [move to revoke California’s ability to require stricter auto emissions standards](#). The pollution generated by automobiles is known to be a significant contributor to the planet’s warming.

Teen activist Greta Thunberg takes her youth climate campaign to Washington

In the course of a year, Thunberg has become one of the most prominent faces in a youth-led movement urging action in the face of a looming climate catastrophe, and her testimony was part of a busy Washington itinerary. On Monday, [she met with former president Barack Obama](#), who called her “one of our planet’s greatest advocates.” After her Wednesday testimony, Thunberg said she would swing by the Supreme Court to support a group [taking legal action on climate change](#), before heading back across the street to appear before the House Ways and Means Committee.

On Friday, Thunberg will lead an international day of youth climate protests from a march in New York City.



Greta Thunberg



@GretaThunberg

On my way to Capitol Hill. At 10h we’ll testify at The House Committee on Foreign Affairs. At 12h I will support Our Children’s Trust at the Supreme Court. Then at 17h ET I will address Members of Congress in the Ways & Means Committee Hearing Room. [#UniteBehindTheScience](#)



39.7K

2:05 AM - Sep 19, 2019

[Twitter Ads info and privacy](#)

5,285 people are talking about this

“I’m just trying to make as much difference as I can, especially in informing people, spreading awareness about the climate crisis,” Thunberg told The Washington Post ahead of her D.C. trip. “I think that is the key now, to inform people about this crisis. Because as it is, people are not aware.”

“Once enough people know about the urgency, then they will go together and push for political change,” she said.

Thunberg is not alone.

A Washington Post-Kaiser Family Foundation poll found that a [majority of American teens](#) believe climate change is real and fear it will have a negative impact on their future. And about 1 in 4 has taken some sort of action, including attending a walkout, protesting or contacting their lawmakers.

Sarah Kaplan and Brady Dennis contributed to this report.



Photographers hoping to get a shot of Swedish climate change activist Greta Thunberg had to contend with a young boy who attempted to shield the often shy teenager from the media. The spontaneous act elicited a smile from Thunberg. Thunberg was attending an event on Capitol Hill and had opted not to speak at the event, choosing instead to listen as other teens spoke about their own environmental concerns. Thunberg attended a Senate climate crisis task force on Tuesday, and told lawmakers: 'Don't invite us here to just tell us how inspiring we are without actually doing anything about it because it doesn't lead to anything.'



Greta Thunberg wins "alternative Nobel Prize" for climate change activism

BY CHRISTOPHER BRITO
UPDATED ON: SEPTEMBER 25, 2019 / 3:44 PM / CBS NEWS

Climate activist [Greta Thunberg](#), 16, and three others have been named winners of the 2019 Right Livelihood Award, which is known as the "alternative Nobel Prize."

The Right Livelihood Foundation said in a [statement](#) Wednesday that Thunberg won the award "for inspiring and amplifying political demands for urgent climate action reflecting scientific facts." The award comes with a cash award of 1 million Swedish crowns (\$103,000).

"I'm deeply grateful for being one of the recipients of this great honor," Thunberg said in a statement. "But of course, whenever I receive an award, it is not me who is the winner. I am part of a global movement of school children, youth and adults of all ages who have decided to act in defense of our living planet. I share this award with them."

Thunberg started weekly school protests outside Swedish parliament a year ago before it snowballed into a worldwide movement. The award comes days after she gave a [fiery speech directed at world leaders](#) at the United Nations Climate Summit.

"People are dying and dying ecosystems are collapsing. We are in the beginning of a mass extinction, and all you can talk about is the money and fairy tales of eternal economic growth," she said Monday, as she fought back tears. "How dare you!"

The other winners of the award were Brazilian indigenous leader Davi Kopenawa, Chinese women's rights lawyer Guo Jianmei and Western Sahara human rights defender Aminatou Haidar.

Thunberg is also among the 301 candidates [nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize](#). The winner will be announced in the first week of October.

According to the [Nobel Prize organization](#), any national member of government can nominate an individual for the heralded peace award. Freddy André Ovstegard and two other Norwegian lawmakers chose Thunberg because of her leadership in the fight against climate change.

If Thunberg wins the Nobel Peace Prize, she would be the youngest recipient since [Malala Yousafzai](#), who was 17 years old when she received the prize.

First published on September 25, 2019 / 3:09 PM

The real Greta Thunberg: Friends on activist before she was famous

28 Sep, 2019 11:51am

Climate activist Greta Thunberg gives emotional appeal in which she chided the leaders with the repeated phrase, "How dare you." Video / AP
Daily Telegraph UK
By: Rosa Silverman

How does it feel to be Greta right now? The teen has inspired a global movement - and death threats. Eleanor Steafel, in Stockholm, talks to those who know her best.

It has been a watershed week in the spotlight for Greta Thunberg, the 16-year-old general of a worldwide teen army, who crossed the Atlantic on an eco yacht. It began with a speech to hundreds of thousands of school strikers in New York last Friday, on a day of global action inspired by the solo protest she began outside the Swedish parliament last year.

Then came Monday's fiery address to the UN's Climate Action Summit, watched by millions around the world and followed by an obligatory Twitter stand-off with President Trump (which, most agree, Thunberg won).

Meanwhile, the backlash has been mounting. Thunberg's passion is undeniable, but for some, she represents everything they find distasteful about preaching activists - "the pigtailed prophet of planetary paranoia", as one commentator put it. Others have openly expressed concern about her emotional state and mental health.



Swedish activist and student Greta Thunberg walks off the stage after addressing the Climate Strike in Montreal, Quebec.
Photo / AP

Yet more have flocked to support her, urging denigrators not to "confuse passion for hysteria" and holding "Greta the Great" up as a beacon of hope.

Whatever your take, it is a lot for young shoulders to bear; and easy to forget that until this time last year, they belonged to an anonymous Swedish teenager with Asperger's syndrome.



Swedish activist and student Greta Thunberg takes part in the Climate Strike. Photo / AP

Her friends and comrades, 4,000 miles away back in Stockholm, watched her UN speech live in the early hours and wept. "I think we all cried," says Isabelle Axelsson, a co-founder of the school strike movement that Thunberg pioneered. "We weren't expecting it to be so emotional."

I meet Isabelle and her twin sister Sophia in the small sunlit square in front of the Riksdag, the imposing Swedish government building where they have sat each morning since their friend set sail, last month.

The 18-year-olds, like many other Swedish teens, were inspired to join the Friday school strike Thunberg began last August, as a lonely figure with a hand-painted sign reading "Skolstrejk för klimatet" (school strike for climate).

The twins' teachers and parents were broadly supportive, and both found their grades improved despite missing school once a week. "I studied a lot during the weekends, I was less sick, less depressed at home, I had more energy," Isabelle tells me, as confidently and eloquently as Thunberg.

It has been hard, though, to watch her friend in the line of fire this week. "Greta doesn't want to have all the focus on her, but she has realised that this is how we can break through, this is how we can make a difference. It's a lot of pressure. Both because we need to succeed [...] and then also because people are watching us. I think there's some form of worry from many people about how she's doing and the pressure, because it's not only trolling and hate for her, she gets literal death threats."

The general consensus among climate commentators is that Thunberg is actually "strikingly non-radical", yet some adults clearly find her unnerving.

"This child - and she is a child - has been scared and her parents are letting her be controlled by that fear," said Erick Erickson, the American Right-wing commentator, in a post about "the Left's abusive use of Greta", in which he blamed her parents for "depriving her of a sound education so she can lecture grown-ups."

Her friends and fellow strikers tell me this couldn't be further from the truth.



Environmental activist Greta Thunberg addressing the Climate Action Summit in the United Nations General Assembly.
Photo / AP

Thunberg's revolution started at home, but when she first approached her parents with the idea of striking, they were unconvinced.

"They did not support the idea of school striking, and they said that if I were to do this, I would have to do it completely by myself and with no support from them," Thunberg has said previously.

She eventually convinced her family to start lowering their carbon footprint by adopting a vegan diet and giving up air travel, which also meant her mother, Malena Ernman, a famous opera singer in Sweden, had to give up performing internationally.

Her father Svante, a former actor, now follows his eldest daughter around the world, while his wife and their other daughter, Beata (a budding singer like her mother), stay in the family home - a modest apartment block in a leafy, middle-class area of Stockholm, which feels a world away from the UN stage in Manhattan.

"Greta and her dad are a great team," says Torunn Hansen-Tangen, a mother of three who stands alongside Thunberg at the Stockholm strike every Friday. "As a mum, I worry about putting someone in the spotlight so young. She has the world on her shoulders now. But she seems to have amazing parents. As I understand it, she's pretty unstoppable. It's pretty hard to tell her what to do."

In Sweden, she is roundly adored by media and politicians alike. "Her passion, it isn't too much for us here," one leading Swedish journalist tells me. "She is from a normal and very nice family. She is well loved and taken seriously here on both sides of the political landscape."

Outside Sweden, however, vitriol has been steadily rising.

Arron Banks, the Leave.EU donor hinted that he'd like her to become the victim of a "freak yachting accident" as her voyage began, and suggestions have been made that there is a team of puppeteers behind her stratospheric rise.



Arron Banks
@Arron_banks

Freak yachting accidents do happen in August ...

[https://](https://twitter.com/CarolineLucas/status/1161656057023934464)

[twitter.com/CarolineLucas/
status/1161656057023934464](https://twitter.com/CarolineLucas/status/1161656057023934464)

...

Caroline Lucas



@CarolineLucas

Bon voyage to @GretaThunberg for her 2-week zero-carbon trip by sail across the North Atlantic

She's carrying the vital message to the UN that time is running out to address the #ClimateEmergency



2,699

9:11 AM - Aug 15, 2019

[Twitter Ads info and privacy](#)

12.7K people are talking about this

At first, she was affiliated with *We Don't Have Time*, a non-profit foundation set up by Swedish climate entrepreneur Ingmar Rentzhog, after he met her outside the Riksdag in the early days of her protest and signed her up to be a youth adviser.

They parted ways last year, after the company used her name without her permission to promote the start-up arm of their business.

These days, Thunberg receives input for her speeches from scientists, but insists there is no team of PR experts or money men behind her, pulling the strings. "People love to spread rumours saying that I have people 'behind me' or that I'm being 'paid' or 'used' to do what I'm doing," she wrote on Facebook. "There is no one 'behind me' except myself."

Ebba Gärdekrans, 19, has known Thunberg since they were children at the same school for additional needs, and she has watched her friend come out of her shell as her profile has grown. "I knew her before she was outspoken," she tells me, amid the hubbub of the 30,000-strong march that moved through the streets of Stockholm yesterday.

"When I saw her speech this week, I was just in shock. It made me cry. We all have a lot of pressure but I can't imagine being the focus of the whole movement."

Previously, when Thunberg's army of school strikers took to the streets, the only adults among them have been parents keeping a watchful eye as their children shout: "You will die of old age - I will die of climate change!"

Today, on a beautiful autumnal morning in Stockholm, thousands more older people have joined them on the streets in peaceful protest, holding pictures of Thunberg, or playing videos of Monday's speech on their phones. "Let's build a better world," their placards say, "before it's too late."

'If they don't do it, we will': Greta Thunberg rallies climate strikers for long haul

At rally in Denver, Swedish activist again scolds leaders for ignoring science

Associated Press

Sat 12 Oct 2019 03.28 BST



Activist Greta Thunberg speaks at a climate change rally in Denver, Colorado, on a tour of the Americas. Photograph: Rick Wilking/Reuters

Young people must be prepared to strike for a long time for action on climate change and not back down, the Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg has told a rally in Denver.

Thunberg said she and fellow youth activists would not beg those in power to act because she expected leaders to keep ignoring them.

“We will instead tell them, if they won’t do it, we will,” the 16-year-old said to loud cheers on Friday. “The world is waking up and we are the change. The change is coming whether you like it or not.”

Thunberg spoke for several minutes to a crowd of several thousand at Civic Center Park near the state capitol building. The rally highlighted Colorado activists, like Madhvi Chittoor, 8, who has campaigned in the state against plastics.

Thunberg again scolded leaders for not doing enough to fight climate change and for ignoring science. Echoing a line from an angry speech at the United Nations last month that drew global attention, she said several times of leaders, “How dare they,” with some in the crowd repeating the line.

Thunberg began holding solitary demonstrations outside Sweden’s parliament in August 2018, skipping classes once a week to protest about climate change. Her “Fridays for Future” demonstrations have inspired millions across the world to stage protests urging leaders to tackle global warming.

Thunberg’s Denver appearance followed rallies in North Dakota’s Standing Rock Indian Reservation and in Rapid City and the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. She plans to keep touring the Americas through a UN climate conference in Chile in December.

Thunberg began her remarks by acknowledging that the crowd had gathered on land that once belonged to the Cheyenne and Arapahoe tribes.

Those attending included fourth graders from the Downtown Denver Expeditionary School who have been studying climate change.

Zariah Edwards, 9, said she had learned to unplug appliances when not using them, to save energy. Malisse Dourg, also 9, said her class learned how the changing climate was affecting polar bears.

Ellie Rusinova of Denver was among a group of adults taking photos of Thunberg with their cellphones from the edge of the park's amphitheater. She said she thought Thunberg's plain and clear way of speaking was very powerful and captured the feelings of many. "We have all felt that we need to make a change," she said.

Greta Thunberg, favourite to win Nobel peace prize, honoured at Standing Rock

Swedish activist, 16, visits North and South Dakota in solidarity with indigenous groups fighting Dakota Access oil pipeline

Oliver Milman *in New York*

@olliemilman

Wed 9 Oct 2019 14.47 BST

Last modified on Wed 9 Oct 2019 15.13 BST



Thunberg is congratulated after speaking at a youth panel at the Standing Rock reservation in North Dakota. Photograph: Jim Urquhart/Reuters

Greta Thunberg has been honoured by tribal leaders at **Standing Rock** in North Dakota, the scene of fierce environmental protests, as the teenage **climate** activist became odds-on favourite for another garland – the Nobel peace prize.

Thunberg has been visiting Native American activists who have opposed the **Dakota Access pipeline**, a major oil project they say will contaminate their drinking water. The Standing Rock Sioux reservation was the scene of a major protest encampment that was dispersed following a severe police crackdown in 2017.

Tokata Iron Eyes, an environmental activist, invited Thunberg, a fellow 16-year-old, to her homelands

on the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota, after befriendng her. On Tuesday the duo spoke at the Standing Rock high school about the burgeoning youth-led climate movement that has seen millions of people **strike** from school and protest against fossil-fuel projects around the world.

“This is a global fight; this is not just in my home country in Sweden,” Thunberg said. “We as teenagers shouldn’t be the ones taking responsibility. It should be the ones in power.”

Iron Eyes said that indigenous culture was **inherently linked** to the health of the environment. “No 16-year-old should have to travel the world in the first place sharing a message about having something as simple as clean water and fresh air to breathe,” she said.

In a closing ceremony, Thunberg was gifted with a Lakota Native American name, Maphiyata echiyatan hin win, which translates as “woman who came from the heavens”.



Thunberg with Iron Eyes at an event on the Pine Ridge reservation. Photograph: Jim Urquhart/Reuters

Thunberg has also become the favourite with British betting companies to receive this year’s Nobel. She is considered the most likely winner of the peace prize, to be awarded on Friday, ahead of the Ethiopian prime minister, Abiy Ahmed, indigenous Brazilian leader Raoni Metuktire and Jacinda Ardern, the prime minister of New Zealand.

The prize would cap an extraordinary past year for Thunberg, which began with her making solo protests against inaction by the Swedish government on the climate crisis. Her stand her morphed into a mass global movement, with students around the world skipping school on Fridays to call for leaders to do more to address the crisis.

North Dakota is the latest, plane-free, trip taken by Thunberg since she arrived in the US in September on a solar-powered yacht. Last month she addressed the **United Nations** in New York, **telling world leaders**: “You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words.”

'Right here, right now': Fatboy Slim samples Greta Thunberg for live show

The dance artist electrifies crowd after mixing the climate activist’s UN speech slogan with his club favourite

Kate Lyons

@MsKateLyons

Wed 9 Oct 2019 03.00 BST

Last modified on Thu 10 Oct 2019 15.58 BST



Fatboy Slim samples Greta Thunberg's speech to the UN during UK concert – video

Fatboy Slim has paid tribute to Greta Thunberg in a performance in Gateshead over the weekend, mixing her speech to the United Nations into a performance of his club favourite Right Here, Right Now.

The mash-up opens with Thunberg's voice, delivering her blistering speech to world leaders about the climate crisis over the synth melody.

"People are dying. Entire ecosystems are collapsing. We are in the beginning of a mass extinction. And all you can talk about is money," the 16-year-old is heard saying. "You are failing us, and the young people are starting to understand your betrayal. The eyes of all future generations are upon you.

If world leaders choose to fail us, my generation will never forgive them

"We will not let you get away with this. Right here, right now is where we draw the line. The world is waking up. And change is coming, whether you like it or not."

The sample of Thunberg saying "right here, right now" is used throughout the song.

The mash-up originally appeared on social media in late September, after musician David Scott from The Kiffness made and shared it to images of ice bergs breaking up.

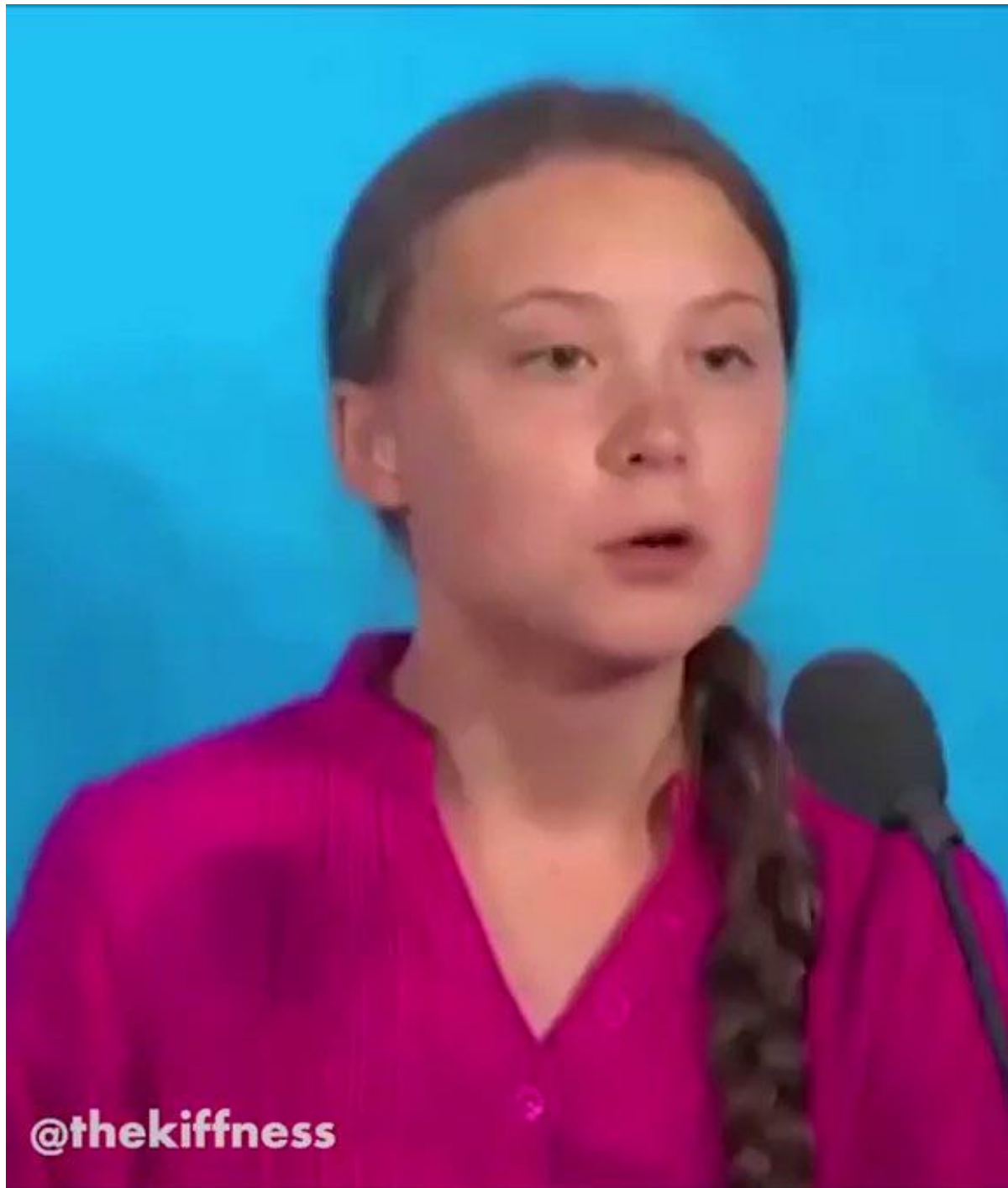
Fatboy Slim, whose real name is Norman Cook, shared video of the mash-up on Facebook. But he has now integrated Thunberg's speech into his live show, performing it at his Gateshead show on Friday night.



David Scott

@TheKiffness

#GretaThurnberg mashed with @FatboySlim - Right Here, Right Now.



3,448

1:16 PM - Sep 24, 2019 · Cape Town, South Africa

[Twitter Ads info and privacy](#)

1,919 people are talking about this

Scott Jackson, 40, from Middlesbrough, filmed the mash-up at the Gateshead show.

Jackson, who said he found Thunberg's speech "incredibly powerful and emotive" said he had seen a short clip of the remix during the week and loved it, so wanted to film how it sounded in a large arena.

"The mash-up is superb," he said. "The way she says 'right here, right now' fits his original perfectly."

"The crowd could sense something special was in the air as it started, sensing something big was about to go down and it certainly did!"

Thunberg's speech was the most striking and talked-about event at the recent meeting of world leaders at the United Nations in New York.

Donald Trump tweeted a video of an emotional Thunberg delivering the speech, with an apparently sarcastic comment, writing: "She seems like a very happy young girl looking forward to a bright and wonderful future. So nice to see!"

But world leaders and artists rallied in support of the teenage activist, including Billie Eilish, Janelle Monáe, Ellie Goulding, Mark Ruffalo and Leonardo DiCaprio, who all tweeted clips of Thunberg's speech or in praise of it.

Iowa teens delighted as Greta Thunberg leads unexpected climate strike

More than 3,000 people gathered in the shadow of the University of Iowa on Friday afternoon to hear Thunberg speak

Chris Robinson in *Iowa City*

@thenoyz

Sat 5 Oct 2019 00.17 BST

Last modified on Sat 5 Oct 2019 00.19 BST



Climate change teen activist Greta Thunberg joins a climate strike march in Iowa City. Photograph: Daniel Acker/Reuters

Three days prior to **Greta Thunberg**'s surprise visit to Iowa City on Friday, the organizer and local climate activist, Massimo Biggers, a 14-year-old Iowa City high school student, was preparing to strike – as he has done every Friday, sometimes on his own, since the **Global Climate Strike** day Thunberg inspired on 15 March.

Out of the blue, a message arrived from the Swedish teen activist, with whom he had been in touch, asking him if he was planning to strike again this Friday. “Of course!” he replied, and for the last 48 hours, according to his father, Jeff, neither had slept. “This was truly a miracle to have the town pull this together,” he said.

More than 3,000 people gathered at short notice in the shadow of the University of **Iowa** on Friday afternoon to hear Thunberg speak.



Attendees participate in a climate strike rally with climate change environmental teen activist Greta Thunberg, in Iowa City, Iowa.
Photograph: Daniel Acker/Reuters

“Wow” said Thunberg, squinting in the sun, as the crowd chanted her name. “It’s just so many people I don’t think any of us expected this many people. This is real hope, so many people gathering on a weekday at such short notice. This is real hope to me,” she said.

Biggers has spent the last six months mobilizing fellow students to pressure the city council into adopting more stringent measures to address climate change.

“At the time our specific goal was to get the school board to pass a climate resolution,” he said in an interview with the Guardian. “But then it was pretty easy to get the school board to get a climate resolution so we went to the city council and now we’re trying to get the coal fired [power] plant shut down,” he added.

The University of Iowa burns coal at its power plant, providing a clear target for the young activists who lead the crowd in regular chants of “End Coal Now!”

“To be part of a global movement and especially at this stage, it’s just an amazing, amazing opportunity to see a global leader,” said Abbey Jordahl, a freshman at UI from Ankeny, Iowa. “Honestly I couldn’t believe it when I read that Greta was coming here, I was like ... Iowa City?! What?! I’ve been following her for a while, honestly I can’t believe I’m here!”



Activist Greta Thunberg joins a climate strike march in Iowa City. Photograph: Daniel Acker/Reuters

Thunberg rallied an enthusiastic, young crowd, flush with high school and university students, many of whom had made their own signs to greet her. “Right now the world leaders keep acting like children and somebody needs to be the adult in the room,” she said, referencing her [speech](#) at the [United Nations](#) in New York the previous week.

Thunberg said afterwards that she doesn’t like being the centre of attention. “It’s very hard to get used to,” she admitted, “but it’s something I have to do and I can’t really complain. I just kind of shut off the brain,” she said.

Explaining why she believes she is now on the receiving end of criticism from world leaders like Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin, she suggested: “They do it because they see something that is threatening and they want to silence that and if they don’t have anything else to say, if they can’t criticize the science, which is all we are saying, then they start attacking us personally and sending threats and hate and so on so maybe they can’t cope with it.

“It could definitely be they feel threatened by a new generation,” she added “There is a lot of young people especially young girls in this movement who are leading and maybe they don’t like that, I don’t know!”

Claire Carlson, a senior studying geoscience, environmental science and business at UI from Ottumwa had joined friends from the Environmental Science Club at the rally. “Its nice to finally see a large group of people come together and address the problem,” she said. “I think Greta’s done a really good job of bringing a voice to that especially at a really young age. I think it means that more people are starting to understand the need for impactful legislation with regards to climate change.”



More than 3,000 people gathered in the shadow of the University of Iowa on Friday afternoon to hear Thunberg speak. Photograph: Daniel Acker/Reuters

Carlson, like her friend Emma Hartke, will be able to caucus next February for a Democratic candidate. “I think **Elizabeth Warren** has a really good plan for climate change,” said Hartke. Carlson favours the young mayor from South Bend, Indiana, **Pete Buttigieg**, but Warren is the name on most people’s lips when asked which way they’re currently leaning.

“There are still some centrists who like to play both sides on climate ... such as Joe Biden,” said Derek Torres who has moved to Iowa City from Atlanta. “They always speak in terms of jobs ... but if there’s no air or water there’s no jobs,” he reasoned.

Thunberg has become adept at using Twitter to spread her message, but does she enjoy using it? “Yes and no,” she said. “A lot of it is just meaningless. And people wanting to brag about themselves or whatever, lots of hate, trolls, anonymous people who have separate accounts.” But she admitted she does enjoy updating her tagline. “You need to have fun as well,” she joked.

Greta Thunberg rejects Nordic Council environmental award

6 hours ago



Greta Thunberg started international strikes and protests over climate change

Greta Thunberg has turned down an environmental award and prize money because "the climate movement does not need any more awards".

She said the offer was a "great honour" and thanked the Nordic Council, which said it respected her decision.

But, she said, "politicians and the people in power" need to listen to the "current, best-available science".

Ms Thunberg was this year's favourite to win the Nobel Peace Prize, but the award went to Ethiopia's Abiy Ahmed.

In an **Instagram post** explaining her decision to turn down the prize money of 500,000 Swedish kronor (£40,000; €46,000), Ms Thunberg said: "The Nordic countries have a great reputation around the world when it comes to climate and environmental issues.

"There is no lack of bragging about this. There is no lack of beautiful words."

But she said Nordic energy consumption told "a whole other story".

She referenced a **report from WWF and the Global Footprint Network**, which says Sweden, along with most of the Nordic region, lives as if the world has the resources of four planets.

The gap between what science said was needed to limit a global temperature increase and what was being implemented was "gigantic", said Ms Thunberg. "We belong to the countries that have the possibility to do the most. And yet our countries still basically do nothing," she added.

The president of the Nordic Council, Hans Wallmark, said the organisation respected Greta Thunberg's decision and called her movement "a good cause for everyone".

He said the council - which encourages co-operation between parliaments in countries including Denmark, Finland and Ms Thunberg's home country Sweden - would think carefully about what to do with the prize money.

'Ecological breakdown': Greta Thunberg and youth activists rally as wildfires burn

The Swedish climate activist joined more than 1,000 people for an afternoon of youth-led climate action in Los Angeles

Charles Davis

Sat 2 Nov 2019 02:04 GMT

Last modified on Sat 2 Nov 2019 02:06 GMT



Swedish activist Greta Thunberg addresses the crowd while attending a climate action rally in Los Angeles, California on 1 November 2019. Photograph: Frederic J Brown/AFP via Getty Images

Paradise is not what it used to be, as Greta Thunberg witnessed earlier this week. Today the town with a lovely name is best known for the apocalyptic fire that ripped through it last year, **decimating nearly every home and killing 86 people.**

This week California is once more in flames as fires rage in the north and south – a point that was not lost on the **16-year-old Swedish climate activist** who spoke at a rally in Los Angeles on Friday.

“We can see the wildfires happening right around the corner,” Thunberg said outside City Hall, just miles from an ongoing blaze. “Right now we are living in the beginning of a climate and ecological breakdown, and we cannot look away

from this crisis anymore.”

More than a thousand people joined Thunberg for an afternoon of youth-led environmental action, a scene that has become familiar as she – and young people like her – are increasingly frustrated with the inaction of their elders.

“The older generations are failing us,” she told the crowd, where organizers of the Youth Climate Strike were demanding that California’s governor Gavin Newsom impose an immediate moratorium on new oil and gas drilling. “They are failing future generations. But future generations do not have a voice. And the biosphere does not have a voice. So we will be the voice that speaks for them.”

Young people – especially young women – came out in force. Lily Olson, a 17-year-old high school senior from **Los Angeles**, said Thunberg was an inspiration to people of her generation, her existence a rejoinder to those who think the young should wait to speak out about their future.

“It’s amazing to see someone my age with such articulation and care and passion for what other people would consider ‘not a big deal,’” she said. “People seem to think because we’re young we don’t know what we’re talking about, or we don’t have the ability to make change. But seeing someone like Greta speak about what she’s truly passionate about – it really gives me faith in my generation.”

Morgan Wright, an 11-year-old from Burbank, attended Friday’s rally with her mother. She too cited Greta as a role model. “I’ve watched a lot of her speeches and rallies in my history class,” she said, noting that she had since helped start an eco-club to pressure her school to do more to protect the environment. “It’s really cool to see someone that can go up there and talk, even though they’re technically not an adult yet,” Wright said. “And they go up there and inspire people just like me.”

Casey Anell, 10, came from Huntington Park to attend the rally with her mother. She’s been learning about climate change at school, and she too feels there is no more time for stalling.

“There’s a 50-50 chance the rainforest is going to be gone, and I’m going to be sad,” she said, and her classmates are frightened. “They’re scared because they don’t want any animals to go extinct,” she explained. “Some adults are doing something about it,” she said, “but I don’t know about the government.”

Though undoubtedly a star, Thunberg kept a low profile at the march. When young people began marching through the streets of downtown, she was not on the frontlines, where all the cameras were; she was just another marcher, somewhere in the back, melting into the anonymity of the crowd, rumors of her presence whispered by many who came to hear her speak.



Greta Thunberg marches in front of Los Angeles City Hall at the youth climate strike. Photograph: Christian Monterrosa/EPA

The limelight was ceded to local activists and their campaign: not just to address the global effects of the climate crisis, but the fact that Los Angeles remains a major producer of the very thing fueling it.

Up to 8,000 barrels of oil are produced each day from wells in the city of Los Angeles, according to a **July 2019 report** from City Hall, and an estimated 1.6bn more barrels remain in the ground below. Over half a million people live within 2,500ft of an active oil or gas well, a number activists want reduced to zero. Not only does this production fuel the climate crisis, which in turn intensifies the fires now threatening the city, but the air pollution this drilling creates has itself increased rates of asthma and the risk of cancer among those living immediately next door – a majority of whom are members of low-income, minority communities.

Nalleli Cobo, 18, has been campaigning against such drilling since she was 9 and growing up across the street from an oil well operating on land in South

LA leased to a private firm, AllenCo, **by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.**

“Allowing this oil well to spew toxic emissions is another way the archdiocese is abusing children,” she reminded Angelenos. “It is time to switch to clean, renewable energy. There is no more time to waste.”

Greta Thunberg asks for lift back across Atlantic as climate meeting shifts to Madrid

Swedish teenager needs help getting back to Europe following the COP25 meeting’s move from Chile to Spain

Guardian staff and agencies

Sun 3 Nov 2019 03.56 GMT

Last modified on Sun 3 Nov 2019 04.29 GMT



Greta Thunberg tweeted: ‘It turns out I’ve travelled half around the world, the wrong way.’ Photograph: Christian Monterrosa/EPA

As delegates to the COP25 climate summit scramble to adjust to a last-minute change of venue from Santiago to Madrid, one of the highest-profile attendees has stuck out a metaphorical thumb on social media to ask for a lift across the Atlantic.

Teenage Swedish activist Greta Thunberg, who was **speaking in**

California during a stop on her low-emissions journey from Sweden to Chile, tweeted that she was now in need of a ride to Spain.

Thunberg, who refuses to fly because of the carbon emissions involved, had been travelling by boat, train and electric car when the new venue was announced.

“It turns out I’ve travelled half around the world, the wrong way:)...If anyone could help me find transport I would be so grateful,” she tweeted from Los Angeles.



Greta Thunberg



@GretaThunberg

As #COP25 has officially been moved from Santiago to Madrid I'll need some help.

It turns out I've traveled half around the world, the wrong way:) Now I need to find a way to cross the Atlantic in November... If anyone could help me find transport I would be so grateful.

->

[https://
twitter.com/pespinosac/status/1190278695547809792](https://twitter.com/pespinosac/status/1190278695547809792)

...

Patricia Espinosa C.



@PEspinosaC

We are pleased to announce the COP Bureau has agreed that #COP25 will take place from 2-13 December in Madrid, Spain.

[http://
bit.ly/COP25inMadrid](http://bit.ly/COP25inMadrid)



21.6K

4:30 AM - Nov 2, 2019

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10.9K people are talking about this

Thunberg arrived in New York for the UN climate summit in August after a 14-day **journey across the Atlantic** in a sailing boat. Since then she has been travelling via train and an electric car borrowed from Arnold Schwarzenegger.

She made headlines for her **incendiary speech at the summit**, where she berated the world's leaders for their inaction on the climate emergency. "This is all wrong," she said. "I shouldn't be up here. I should be back in school on the other side of the ocean."

"Yet, you all come to us young people for hope. How dare you. You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words. And yet I'm one of the lucky ones."

The UN announced on Friday that **Spain would host next month's COP25**, after Chile abandoned plans to hold it due to deadly anti-government protests.

Some 25,000 delegates were expected to travel to Santiago for the event.

Harjeet Singh, of environmental group ActionAid International, said moving the summit from Chile to Spain with only four weeks' notice "presents real barriers to participation" for **delegates from the southern hemisphere**.

"Hotels in Madrid are already full. Last-minute flights are expensive. Visas can be difficult to obtain at short notice. This sudden decision is likely to shift the balance of power towards the wealthier countries of the global north," he added in a statement.

It is the second time that UN authorities have had to scramble to find a new meeting place. Brazil originally welcomed the gathering then backed out after rightwing president Jair Bolsonaro took office in January.

Reactions to Thunberg's social media plea for transport were predictably mixed, varying from multiple offers of support to suggestions she should return to school to learn about air travel.

Teresa Ribera, Spain's ecological transition minister, said on Twitter on Saturday: "Dear Greta, it would be great to have you here in Madrid. You've made a long journey and help all of us to raise concern, open minds and enhance action. We would love to help you to cross the Atlantic back."

Chile climate pullout prompts tears from young activists sailing Atlantic

News of Santiago summit's cancellation reportedly came as heavy blow but youngsters decide to push ahead with boat trip

Jonathan Watts

@jonathanwatts

Fri 1 Nov 2019 17.00 GMT

First published on Fri 1 Nov 2019 06.00 GMT



Adélaïde Charlier on board the Regina Maris, which is sailing from Amsterdam to Rio. The young campaigners say they are determined to continue their journey. Photograph: Jennifer Rankin/The Guardian

Chile's **decision to withdraw as host** of the COP 25 UN climate conference has prompted tears and frustration from a group of school-strike activists sailing across the Atlantic to attend the talks.

But the young campaigners say they are determined to continue their journey to hold other civil society meetings in South America, and may only consider charting a new course if the United Nations accepts **Spain's offer to act** as an emergency host of the summit.

The shock announcement by the Chilean president, Sebastián Piñera, was the latest in a series of setbacks for the **36 young European campaigners on board the Regina Maris sailboat**, which left Amsterdam on 2 October.

The vessel had to make an unexpected stop in France because of problems with the water purification system. The weather has been rough and several passengers were seasick, including 18-year-old Adélaïde Charlier, a co-organiser with Anuna De Wever of the Youth for Climate movement in Belgium.



The Sail to the COP team. Photograph: Sail to the Cop.

News of the cancellation of the Santiago summit reportedly came as a heavy blow to the activists, some of whom have also endured online trolling and death threats, during the past year.

“Quite a number of people started to cry, including Anuna and Adelaide,” De Wever’s mother, Katrien Van der Heyden, said. “They’d been planning this trip for months and the COP would be the ultimate climax of their trip. Obviously this changes the entire perspective of what they do, and is extremely disappointing.”

But the group discussed the options and decided to push ahead. “We are continuing our journey to Belém, Brasil today, while our thoughts are with #Chile!” they tweeted.



Sail to the COP

@sailtothecop



UPDATE: We are continuing our journey to Belém,



Brasil today, while our thoughts are with [#Chile](#)!



From there we can still make it to a [#COP25](#) held in Costa Rica or Bonn, most likely options at the moment.



[#ClimateAction](#) is unstoppable!

Sail to the COP continues to South America despite cancelled Climate Conference COP25

After long deliberations last night *Sail to the COP* decided to continue its journey from Cabo Verde to South America.

Sail to the COP set sail for South America from Amsterdam four weeks ago. With 36 people we were sailing to COP25 in Chile to call for a fair and sustainable future of travel. Yesterday news came that the COP has been canceled and a new location still needs to be found. **Today we will nevertheless lift our anchor off the coast of Praia, Santiago (Cabo Verde) to start the Atlantic crossing towards Belém, Brazil.**



We have looked into all the probable different scenarios and have taken our original destination of South America into account as well. If the COP would be in Bonn in early 2020 we can still be on time and meanwhile learn from sustainable travel ideas in South America and bring them back to Europe. If the COP would take place in Costa Rica the Regina Maris will change course to Central America, combining their next project Gap Year Atlantic with *Sail to the COP*.

Last night we held a long session onboard of the ship to hear everyone's feelings and thoughts on the abrupt change of plans and the situation in Chile. The *Sail to the* Group participants prove to be a strong and resilient group after four intense weeks of sailing. After the initial shock and sadness the news brought, **everyone came together determined to continue what we started: putting the climate impact of aviation on the international agenda.**

In the events that have led to the cancellation of the COP there have been severe human rights violations. **We stand in solidarity with those protesting injustice and express compassion with those who were hurt and the families of those who were killed.** The protests in Chile and the oppressive reaction to it is a very sad example of a general trend: governments do not hear their people enough in shaping new policies. We think that especially with climate policies all voices must be heard. In times of this climate crisis every industry needs to transform rapidly, including the travel industry. These transformations are a chance for governments, citizens and businesses to build new social structures that work for everyone. The Chilean government is missing that chance. We hope that they begin to listen to these unheard voices.

Out of our immense worries about the climate crisis and the lack of action by the travel industry, we started working on our dream to bring young people to the place where their future is decided. The COP in Chile would have been one of these places, but we are confident we will find another way to share our solutions for a fair and sustainable future of travel.

47

12:34 AM - Nov 1, 2019

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“From there we can still make it to a #COP25 held in Costa Rica or Bonn, most likely options at the moment. #ClimateAction is unstoppable!”

They are not the only activists who have sailed the Atlantic to attend the talks and then been left in limbo while the UN attempts to reorganise the event.

The Swedish climate campaigner Greta Thunberg is currently in Los Angeles and was due to sail to Chile shortly. On Friday she appealed for a lift back to Europe by sea, **tweeting**: “It turns out I’ve traveled half around the world, the

wrong way:.) Now I need to find a way to cross the Atlantic in November ... If anyone could help me find transport I would be so grateful.”

She continued: “I’m so sorry I’ll not be able to visit South and Central America this time, I was so looking forward to this. But this is of course not about me, my experiences or where I wish to travel. We’re in a climate and ecological emergency.”

The British film-maker **James Levelle** is halfway through a 100-day, 7,000-mile fossil-free journey to Santiago. Supporters say he may not even be aware that the climate summit has been cancelled.

Other climate groups are also reeling from the immense financial hit of non-refundable airline tickets and the complications of getting visas to a new venue.

“We had big plans to bring indigenous representatives and partners to the summit,” said Nicole Oliveira, Latin America team leader of **350.org**, which planned to bring about 60 people to a climate defenders gathering ahead of the summit, in addition to 16 staff and a dozen other regional partners. The group says the cost of airfares and accommodation could double if the climate conference moves to Spain – which would eat up 10-15% of their budget for the event.

“What may not mean anything to the large corporations of the fossil fuel industry, to us as non-profit civil society organizations – and even more to the indigenous organizations – can often represent our survival as active agents of change,” Oliveira said.

“We expect now that the climate talks move forward with a new focus on public participation and human rights. For far too long, this process has prioritized the voices of big business and corporate polluters. The UN must kick the fossil fuel industry out of the climate talks and make more space for the voices of the people.”

Giant Greta Thunberg mural to watch over San Francisco's downtown

Project by Argentinian artist Andrés Iglesias is poised for completion next week in eco-conscious city

Mario Koran in *San Francisco*

Sat 9 Nov 2019 02:41 GMT



A mural on the side of a building depicts the Swedish teen climate activist Greta Thunberg. Photograph: Ben Margot/AP

San Francisco, a city that prides itself on its eco-consciousness, will soon have a giant likeness of Swedish climate activist **Greta Thunberg** gazing upon its downtown, reminding residents to respect the planet.

The Argentine muralist Andres Iglesias, who signs his art with the pseudonym Cobre, is expected to complete the project in the central Union Square neighborhood by next week, **SFGate reported**. Cobre also painted a **revered mural of the comedian Robin Williams** that has since been demolished.

“Climate change is real,” Cobre told SFGate. “This girl Greta is awesome and she knows what she’s doing. I hope with this mural people will realize we have to take care of the world.”

The environmental not-for-profit group One Atmosphere reportedly reached out to Cobre after the mural of Williams was slated to come down and just as Cobre was searching for a building for his next project. The organization is said to be supplying all the paint for the project.

It's not the first time Thurnberg has been immortalized in street art. Earlier this year, the UK-based aerosol artist Jody Thomas **painted a 50ft portrait of the teenager** on the face of the historic Tobacco Factory in Bristol.

"She's very much in the limelight, very current, very contemporary and she's obviously clearly leading a very, very important issue which affects all of us on the planet," Thomas **told the Huffington Post**.

At the age of 16, Thunberg has already reached the exalted status of Nobel peace prize nominee, leader of a movement to reclaim the planet for future generations, focus of Donald Trump's mockery, and hero among progressives and young people.

In September, Thurnberg became the face of a vast, coordinated strike to protest against government inaction on the climate crisis. **Demonstrations spanned an estimated 185 countries** in one of the largest environmental protests in history.

"You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words. And yet I'm one of the lucky ones. People are suffering. People are dying. Entire ecosystems are collapsing. We are in the beginning of a mass extinction, and all you can talk about is money and fairy tales of eternal economic growth. How dare you!" Thurnberg said, **addressing the United Nations Climate Action Summit**.

"My message is that we'll be watching you," she said.

Now, she'll be watching **San Francisco**, too.

'Greta Thunberg effect' driving growth in carbon offsetting

NGOs report fourfold increases in investments in carbon-reducing projects in developing countries

Sandra Laville

Fri 8 Nov 2019 10.02 GMT

Last modified on Fri 8 Nov 2019 18.00 GMT



The activist Greta Thunberg is inspiring individuals and organisations to offset their carbon footprints by investing in carbon-reducing projects. Photograph: Kirsty Wigglesworth/PA

Growing concern about the climate crisis and the “Greta Thunberg effect” are driving huge increases in individuals and businesses choosing to offset their emissions by investing in carbon-reducing projects in developing countries.

NGOs and organisations involved in carbon offsetting have seen as much as a fourfold increase in investment from people who want to try to mitigate their carbon footprints.

Agencies who work with large corporations have also seen a spike in investment in carbon offsetting over the last 18 months. ClimateCare, a company that provides programmes to help organisations offset residual carbon emissions, has seen the amount of carbon offset increase from about 2m tonnes to 20m tonnes in that time, according to its chief executive, Edward Hanrahan.

Smaller organisations have also reported massive spikes in offsetting. Caroline Pomeroy, the director of the NGO **Climate Stewards**, which offsets emissions for individuals and small businesses, said income from individuals offsetting had increased by 156% year on year, and that there had been an 80% increase in income from businesses and charities offsetting.

Offsetting means calculating emissions and then purchasing equivalent “credits” from projects that prevent or remove the emissions of an equivalent amount of greenhouse gases elsewhere. **Carbon offsetting has been controversial**, with some critics saying it allows big polluters and individuals to buy carbon credits in exchange for a clean conscience while continuing to fly, drive and use fossil fuels.

But in the past 10 years, highly regulated global carbon and renewable energy markets have been created and participating companies and NGOs are **theoretically held to international standards by independent verifiers**.

The organisation Gold Standard was set up by the environment group WWF and other NGOs to ensure the integrity of projects that reduced carbon emissions and to ensure they contribute to sustainable development. Sarah Leugers, its communications director, said: “Everyone should be looking to reduce their emissions as much as possible first, but for most of us it is impossible at this time to reduce them to zero, so taking accountability and financing the reduction in emissions somewhere else in the world is a way to accelerate the path to a low carbon economy.”

Hanrahan said large organisations were being driven to be responsible for not only the emissions that they created as a company, but also so-called “Scope 3 emissions” from the use of their products, by a combination of consumer pressure and governments pushing for corporations to become more accountable for their impact on the climate.

Leugers said transformative projects were those that improved cooking facilities in the developing world, for example by providing biogas stoves and projects that improved access to clean water, thus reducing greenhouse gases from burning firewood to boil water.

“These are life-changing for people in the developing world and have real impact on reducing carbon emissions,” she said.

Gold Standard **has reported a fourfold increase in income** from individuals and small businesses paying for carbon offsets through its platform.

“People are willing to take action and are looking for ways to take action. We see it as a way that someone can feel empowered and reduce their carbon footprint,” said Leugers.

Climate Stewards funds a project in Nepal paid for by the purchase of carbon

offsets, where **240 fuel-efficient cooking stoves have been built for remote communities**. Each stove saves 6.5 tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) per year per household and the stoves last for about 10 years.

The price for a tonne of CO₂ is not set globally, and varies between offset suppliers on the voluntary market.

The US Environmental Protection Agency in 2015 assessed that for every tonne of CO₂ emitted into the atmosphere, we sacrifice **between \$11 and \$212 in environmental degradation** and negative social impacts.

David Hughes, the chair of Climate Stewards, said: “This year, the whole business of carbon offsetting has suddenly taken off. It has been so gratifying to see a lot of individuals choosing to offset over the last 12 months – the numbers have more than doubled.

“We are seeing the Greta effect, the impact of Extinction Rebellion, the impact of the words of David Attenborough, the school strikes, all of these coming together.”

But Hanrahan said while voluntary carbon mitigation and individual actions were laudable, ClimateCare was clear in its call for mandatory carbon pricing and mitigation for large corporations and industries like aviation.

“Our position is that this should not be an optional or voluntary thing. Expecting individuals to be able to make fully informed decisions about such a specialist, complex area is madness,” he said.

“What we want is a scenario where corporates are mandated to pay a price on carbon that reflects the societal cost of dealing with climate change and carbon emissions, and to pay for mitigating their emissions.”

Case study



Shanon Shah is offsetting his flights via a charity called Climate Stewards. Photograph: Anna Gordon/The Guardian

Flying to and from Malaysia to visit his family each year was causing increasing concern to Shanon Shah, a freelance writer from London.

Through his partner, an Anglican priest, he was introduced to Climate Stewards, and began to see a way in which he could compensate for his carbon footprint.

“But then I thought, it isn’t enough to offset the flights that I am going to take in the future, as I take them. I sat down and tried to remember all the flights I had ever taken in my life.

No fly zone: I didn't catch a plane for a year and saved 19 tonnes of Co2

Shaun Hendy

[Read more](#)

“And bit by bit I accounted for my flying in the past. Every few weeks when I got a paycheck I offset a few of the past flights that I had made over a particular period. Over the course of six or seven months, I managed to offset all the flights I can ever remember taking. That was around 35 flights.”

Shah is continuing his mission to reduce and mitigate his own emissions.

“From now on, every time I book a flight I offset it.”

But Shah thinks the airline industry itself has to be made accountable for its emissions. Emissions from international aviation are not included in national inventories of their emissions, and under the Kyoto protocol – something there is growing pressure to change – **aviation is not subject to VAT or fuel tax.**

“It has excluded itself from all these environmental protocols, and there should be more pressure to make their emissions accountable,” said Shah. “But in the meantime I think that this is something I can do as an individual.”

In Stoke-on-Trent, Daniel Charlesworth, 24, who works for the police, has made a similar decision. He has chosen to offset all his car travel.

“I have been researching electric cars for months, but there is a lot of life left in my car and I cannot afford an equivalent electric car,” he said. “So I have begun offsetting my journeys each month and set up a direct debit, I think it amounts to about £7 per month.

“I know that even if you have thousands and thousands of individuals like me doing the same it is not going to make a huge difference, but I feel I have a personal responsibility to be accountable for my emissions. And if what I am doing leads others to do it as well, it can help to drive change.”