

Climate crisis: 6 million people join latest wave of global protests

Week of strikes and demonstrations is 'only the beginning', say organisers

Matthew Taylor, Jonathan Watts and John Bartlett

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Demonstrators in Lisbon on Friday, part of a global climate strike joined by an estimated 2 million people worldwide. Photograph: Patrícia de Melo Moreira/AFP/Getty Images

Six million people have taken to the streets over the past week, uniting across timezones, cultures and generations to demand urgent action on the escalating ecological emergency.

A fresh wave of climate strikes swept around the globe on Friday with an estimated 2 million people walking out of schools and workplaces.

Organisers say that during the week of protests – that began **with a global climate strike last week** – a total of 6 million people, from trade unionists to schoolchildren, have taken part in thousands of towns and cities.

“This week was a demonstration of the power of our movement,” said a spokesperson for the FridaysForFuture group which has helped coordinate the demonstrations. “People power is more powerful than the people in power. It was the biggest ever climate mobilisation, and it’s only the beginning. The momentum is on our side and we are not going anywhere.”



A climate protester in Wellington. More than 3.5% of New Zealand’s population joined Friday’s demonstrations. Photograph: Hagen Hopkins/Getty Images

On Friday there were huge protests in Italy – where more than 1 million people were reported to have taken part – Spain, the Netherlands and New Zealand, where more than 3.5% of the country’s population joined the demonstrations.

Organisers said they were expecting more people to join as the day progressed. High turnouts were expected in Canada, where **Greta Thunberg** – who kickstarted the school strike movement with a solo protest in Sweden 12 months ago – was due to join demonstrators in Montreal.

May Boeve from **350.org**, which has helped organise the demonstrations, said: “We will keep fighting until the politicians stop ignoring the science, and the fossil fuel companies are held responsible for their crimes against our future, as they should have been decades ago.”



Students on a Fridays For Future march in Kolkata, India. Photograph: Ranita Roy/Reuters

The day of protests began in New Zealand, where an open letter was delivered to parliament on Friday morning calling on the government to declare a climate emergency – following the lead of numerous councils around the country.

“Our representatives need to show us meaningful and immediate action that safeguards our futures on this planet,” Raven Maeder, the School Strike 4 Climate national coordinator, said. “Nothing else will matter if we cannot look after the Earth for current and future generations. This is our home.”

Strikes and demonstrations followed in scores of other countries from Ghana to Samoa, the Philippines to Indonesia, South Korea to Taiwan.

In some countries, protesters have had to go to extraordinary lengths to express their message to resistant authorities or an indifferent public.



A climate striker in Pushkin Square, Moscow, where protesters have found it 'almost impossible' to get permission for a mass demonstration

Makichyan Arshak has been staging a solo school strike in Pushkin Square, Moscow, for 29 weeks.

“In Moscow it is almost impossible to get permission for a mass demonstration so we protest in a queue. One person holds a poster for five minutes, then hands over to the next person who is waiting nearby. That way, we don’t have any problems because it is a series of

solo strikes rather than a group gathering,” said the 25-year-old violinist, a graduate of the Moscow Conservatory.

Demonstrations also took place across South America, from Mexico City’s vast Zócalo square to the Plaza de Mayo in Buenos Aires.

On Bogotá’s high Andean plain, the environmental movement has faced a severe crackdown. In July, protesters across Colombia pleaded for an end to the violence that has resulted in numerous activists being killed, with the peace and development thinktank Indepaz putting the figure at 734 deaths in the first seven months of 2019.



Greta Thunberg: the speeches that helped spark a climate movement – video
https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=110&v=zKTQW5j9_p8

“We want to keep fracking out of our country and demand an immediate change towards decarbonisation,” said the activist Susana Muhamad, who was planning to march past the offices of the country’s largest petroleum company, Ecopetrol.

In Brazil, organisers said there were climate protests in São Paulo and at least nine other cities. In Rio de Janeiro, a group of university students rallied in the city centre bearing banners urging: “System change not climate change” and chanted: “What do we want? Climate justice. When do we want it? Now!”

Nayara Almeida, a 21-year-old student at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, said the group’s demands to the government included greater protection of the Amazon rainforest. “Our future is threatened and they are insensitive to that. We need politicians to make this a priority.”

The global climate strikers say their action is a sign of the growing awareness and anger of the severity and scale of the climate crisis among people around the world.

This week **Thunberg excoriated world leaders** at the UN for their “betrayal” of young people after the New York summit failed to deliver ambitious new commitments to address dangerous global heating.

The climate activist told governments: “You are still not mature enough to tell it like it is. You are failing us. But the young people are starting to understand your betrayal.”

Fresh wave of climate strikes takes place around the world

Hundreds of thousands hit streets across continents to demand action on climate

Matthew Taylor and John Bartlett

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New Zealanders turn out in their thousands for school climate strikes – video

Hundreds of thousands of people around the world are taking place in the latest wave of climate strikes to demand urgent action on

the **escalating ecological emergency**.

Last week, millions walked out of schools and workplaces, uniting across timezones, cultures and generations in the biggest climate protests in history before a special UN conference in New York.

Organisers said they were expecting another huge turnout on Friday, with demonstrations planned from Canada to the Netherlands, Sweden to Morocco, Italy to India.

In New Zealand, record numbers of protesters were reported to have taken to the streets on Friday. **Greta Thunberg**, the teenager who inspired the school strike movement with her solo protest outside the Swedish parliament last year, said 3.5% of the country were taking part.

An open-letter signed by 11,000 New Zealanders was delivered to parliament on Friday morning calling on the government to declare a climate emergency – following the lead of numerous councils around the country.

“Our representatives need to show us meaningful and immediate action that safeguards our futures on this planet,” Raven Maeder, the School Strike 4 Climate national coordinator, said. “Nothing else will matter if we cannot look after the Earth for current and future generations. This is our home.”



Greta Thunberg



@GretaThunberg

New Zealand leading the way into Friday nr 2 in [#WeekForFuture](#)

Early reports speak of 170'000 people on [#ClimateStrike](#) in NZ. Or 3,5% of the population...

Good luck everyone striking around the world. Change is coming!![#FridaysForFuture](#)

[https://](#)

twitter.com/garethbfoster/

[status/1177390753485426688](https://twitter.com/garethbfoster/status/1177390753485426688)

...

gareth b foster

@garethbfoster

Marched on parliament [#ClimateStrikenz](#)



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As part of the **Earth Strike** events, there are also expected to be big demonstrations in South America from Mexico City's vast Zócalo square to the Plaza de Mayo in Buenos Aires.

Activists say Plaza Italia in Santiago, Chile, will be flooded with demonstrators from 6pm, while protests will be staged in cities in Brazil, Bolivia, Ecuador and Paraguay around the rim of the Amazon rainforest.

On Bogotá's high Andean plain, the environmental movement has faced a severe crackdown. In July, protesters across the country pleaded for an end to the violence that has resulted in numerous activists being killed, with peace and development thinktank Indepaz putting the figure at 734 deaths in the first seven months of 2019.

"We want to keep fracking out of our country and demand an immediate change towards decarbonisation," said the activist Susana Muhamad, who was planning to march past the offices of the country's largest petroleum company, Ecopetrol, at midday.

More than 30 events have been planned in Argentina, where crowds will be marching across the capital from the Plaza de Mayo to the seat of the national congress.

Among them will be Stephanie Cabovianco, a 30-year-old activist from Buenos Aires. "There are no outright leaders coordinating our movement in Latin America – and that's a good thing," she explains. "This is a fight led by young people, and its structure should be as horizontal as possible."



Students march toward the presidential Blue House in Seoul, South Korea. Photograph: Ahn Young-joon/AP

The strikes are a sign of the growing awareness and anger of the severity and scale of the climate crisis among people around the world.

Earlier this week, **Thunberg excoriated world leaders** at the UN for their “betrayal” of young people after the New York summit failed to deliver ambitious new commitments to address dangerous global heating.

The climate activist told governments: “You are still not mature enough to tell it like it is. You are failing us. But the young people are starting to understand your betrayal.”

Nothing else matters': school climate strikes sweep New Zealand Tens of thousands turn out for protests as activists deliver letter calling on parliament to declare climate emergency

Eleanor Ainge Roy in *Dunedin*

@EleanorAingeRoy

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Last modified on Fri 27 Sep 2019 03:44 BST



New Zealanders turn out in their thousands for school climate strikes – video

Tens of thousands of children and adults in **New Zealand** have stopped work and school on Friday to take part in the country’s third climate strike, billed as the biggest yet and the first display of “intergenerational” action.

More than 40 towns around the country were holding marches with 260 businesses involved, including most of the country’s tertiary institutions.

New Zealand’s strike was being held **a week later than hundreds of thousands took to the streets in other parts of the world, including Australia, Britain and the US**, because some high school students had exams last Friday.

A open-letter signed by 11,000 New Zealanders was delivered to parliament on Friday morning calling on the government to declare a climate emergency – following the lead of numerous councils around the country.



Rallies were held across New Zealand demanding global leaders take measures to address the climate crisis Photograph: Kerry Marshall/Getty Images

“Our representatives need to show us meaningful and immediate action that safeguards our futures on this planet,” School Strike 4 Climate national coordinator Raven Maeder said.

“Nothing else will matter if we cannot look after the Earth for current and future generations. This is our home.”

North Island organiser Sophie Handford, 18, **told RNZ** she hoped 50,000 people would march.

“There’s way too much at stake to let it pass by. We’ll be at the doors of parliament many more times until we see the action that is necessary.”

The prime minister, Jacinda Ardern, has taken a leading role on the global stage in the fight against the climate crisis, calling it her generation’s “nuclear-free moment”.



Dr. Lucky Tran



@luckytran

Replying to @luckytran @AucklandUni

Look at this massive wave of people in Dunedin, New Zealand! [#ClimateStrike pic.twitter.com/8hFMAVRTGf](https://pic.twitter.com/8hFMAVRTGf)



36

12:21 PM - Sep 27, 2019

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[See Dr. Lucky Tran's other Tweets](#)

In the keynote address of the Climate Change Summit in New York, Ardern took a characteristically optimistic tone, saying pessimism led to apathy.

“You may well argue that, based on our current trajectory, now is not the time for optimism,” Ardern said.

“But if we only talk about the loss of glacier mass or sea level rises we run the risk of a society that believes all is lost and that it is simply too late ... it is not”.

Under Ardern’s leadership New Zealand has set a goal of making the country zero carbon by 2050.



Greta Thunberg



@GretaThunberg

Christchurch, NZ. [#FridaysForFuture](#) [#ClimateStrike](#)

[https://](https://twitter.com/jasonpawson/status/1177403562772463617)

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Jason

@JasonPawson

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3,925

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In New York on Wednesday night she announced climate trade initiative that would remove tariffs on green technology and cut fossil fuel subsidies.

Greta Thunberg's 495-word UN speech points us to a future of hope – or despair

It was announced along with leaders from Fiji, Iceland, Norway and Costa Rica at the United Nations, with formal talks expected to begin next year, with the hope of eventually achieving treaty status.

“There’s an urgent and critical need for increased global action if we are to limit global warming to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels,” said Ardern.

She added: “The case for using trade rules to eliminate fossil fuel subsidies is particularly compelling.”

However, Ardern was criticised this week **for failing to raise the topic of climate change in her first bilateral meeting with Donald Trump**. New Zealand lags behind many other OECD countries in basic climate-friendly action such as recycling and dependence on petrol and diesel vehicles.



Global climate strike: millions protest worldwide – in pictures

Protesters take part in the Global Climate Strike as they march to parliament in Cape Town, South Africa. Photograph: Nic Bothma/EPA

People around the world have been walking out of school and work to join the latest protests against the climate crisis. The global day of action, calling for a reduction in emissions, is being held in the run-up to a UN summit in New York

[Global climate strike – live updates](#)

Compiled by *Eric Hilaire*

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Brisbane, Australia



Photograph: Glenn Hunt/Getty Images

London, UK



Photograph: Gareth Fuller/PA

Manila, Philippines



Photograph: Ezra Acayan/Getty Images

Maastricht, Netherlands



Photograph: Marcel van Hoorn/AFP/Getty Images

Durban, South Africa



Photograph: Rajesh Jantilal/AFP/Getty Images

Mumbai, India



Photograph: Divyakant Solanki/EPA

Marovo, Solomon Islands



Photograph: 350 PACIFIC/Reuters

Nairobi, Kenya



Photograph: Njeri Mwangi/Reuters

Sydney, Australia



Photograph: Paul Braven/EPA

Tokyo, Japan



Photograph: Kim Kyung-Hoon/Reuters

Bangkok, Thailand



Photograph: Soe Zeya Tun/Reuters



Bangkok, Thailand

Ratyn Lilly Satidatnasarn, 12, a climate activist and youth leader, protests outside the environment ministry. Hundreds of Thai students, residents and tourists joined the demonstrations in the city
Photograph: Lauren DeCicca/Getty Images

Kathmandu, Nepal



Photograph: Navesh Chitrakar/Reuters

New Delhi, India



Photograph: EPA

New Delhi, India



Photograph: Laurene Beoquart/AFP/Getty Images

Nairobi, Kenya



Photograph: Daniel Irungu/EPA

Johannesburg, South Africa



Photograph: Kim Ludbrook/EPA

Ankara, Turkey



Photograph:

Esra Hacıoğlu/Anadolu Agency/Getty Images

Hamburg, Germany



Photograph: Axel Heimken/AFP/Getty Images



Berlin, Germany
Activists cycle to block traffic at Ernst-Reuter-Platz
Photograph: Fabrizio Bensch/Reuters



Athens, Greece
Photograph: Angelos Tzortzinis/AFP/Getty Images



Venice, Italy
Climate and migration protesters occupy the red carpet at the 76th annual Venice international film festival
Photograph: Ettore Ferrari/EPA



Rome, Italy

Students at Sapienza University of Rome protest against climate change, and in particular against a forthcoming conference on sedimentology. A globe made of papier-mache has been set alight to symbolise the fires wreaking havoc in the Amazon rainforest

Photograph: Patrizia Cortellessa/Pacific Press/Barcroft Media

Paris, France



Photograph: Cl

harles Platiau/Reuters

Oslo, Norway



Photograph: Bert Roald/EPA

Cambridge, UK



Photograph: Joe Giddens/PA



Birmingham, UK

Photograph: Jacob King/PA



London, UK

A protest banner adorns the window of a Ben & Jerry's store. The American ice-cream brand has a long history of participating in political protests. Last year, during the US midterm elections, it released a flavour called Pecan Resist consisting of chocolate ice-cream with white and dark fudge chunks, walnuts, pecans and fudge-covered almonds. It has also thrown its weight behind the Black Lives Matter movement with its Empower Mint peppermint and fudge variety

Photograph: Alice Bell/PA

La Paz, Bolivia



Photograph: Aizar Raldes/AFP/Getty Images

Lahore, Pakistan



Photograph: Arif Ali/AFP/Getty Images

London, UK



Photograph: Sean Smith/The Guardian

Munich, Germany



Photograph: Christof Stache/AFP/Getty Images



University of Philippines campus in Quezon city, Manila
Photograph: Bullitt Marquez/AP

Dhaka, Bangladesh



Photograph: Allison Joyce/Getty Images

London, UK



Photograph: David Levene/The Guardian

Washington DC, USA

Photograph: Michael Reynolds/EPA
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