

HISTORY SAYS IT CLEARLY

THE INSURRECTION FOR THE CLIMATE MUST KNOW HOW TO DEFEND ITSELF



MONTRÉAL, 2012

Tens of thousands of students shut down their schools, flooded the streets, blocked bridges, and attacked the police rather than accept being beaten and kettled. Amidst the social crisis, the Charest government was forced to call an election, leading to the cancellation of the tuition hikes.



FRANCE, 2018

A heterogenous movement angry at tax measures that hurt workers and a system that churns out misery sees the most violent clashes in France since May 1968. The police tasked with repressing the movement faces barrages of pavés on a weekly basis. President Emmanuel Macron makes concession after concession, canceling the fuel tax hike, increasing the minimum wage, without appeasing the anger.



HONG KONG, 2019

Their innovative tactics have captured rebellious imaginations across the ocean, but when they need to defend themselves against police attacks, Hong Kong protesters use familiar methods too, namely burning barricades, molotovs, and lots of projectiles. The local government was forced to withdraw the extraditions bill that set off the insurrection.

No reform the State will offer could defeat our desire to put an end to their world of exploitation and control. But if we are to gain space and time to build something new, we must be able to force power to retreat. For this, history shows that a capacity for self defense is unavoidable. See "How Non-Violence Protects the State - Peter Gelderloos"

RECUPERATION AND ITS MULTIPLE FORMS

THE VULTURES ARE ALREADY CIRCLING OVERHEAD



Corporations ask, "How can we profit?"

Governments ask, "How do we stay in control?"

Politicians* ask "How can the growing fear and discontent be exploited for personal gain?"
*including some aspiring ones who call themselves 'activists'

Watch out for power grabs that are internal to our movements. These can have the same effects as external recuperation and often happen in tandem with it. See "The Movement is Dead, Long Live... Reform!"



CLIMATE OF REVOLT

SEPTEMBER 2019 - MONTRÉAL

NO GOVERNMENT WILL SAVE THE PLANET FOR US - WE HAVE TO SAVE THE PLANET FROM THE GOVERNMENT!

FINALLY, PEOPLE ARE FILLING THE STREETS to call on governments to address the climate crisis, the most serious threat facing humanity in the 21st century. This is long overdue. But what good will it do to petition the same sector of society that created this problem? Time and again, we have learned that the state does not exist to serve our needs but to protect those who are profiting on the causes of this crisis.

The politicians and executives got us here - «pressuring» them has been shown time and time again to be a dead end. Whatever they fail to do, we must do outside the channels of the state, without asking permission. This means moving beyond symbolic displays of "non-violence" to build the capacity to shut down the fossil fuel economy ourselves. No amount of media attention or progressive rhetoric can substitute for this. If we fail to build this capacity, we can be sure that the timeline for the transition to less destructive technologies will be set by those who profit on the fossil fuel economy.

Several examples from recent social movements show that we have the power to shut down the economy ourselves.

In 2011-2012, the Occupy Movement demonstrated that tens of thousands of people could make decisions without top-down organization, meeting their needs collectively and carrying out massive demonstrations. On one day of action, participants shut down ports up and down the West Coast, confirming that coordinated blockades can disrupt the global supply chain of energy and commodities.

In 2016, people converged to fight the Dakota Access Pipeline, a corporate project threatening Native land and water. Tens of thousands established a network of camps to block construction, demonstrating a new way to live and fight together. The Obama administration canceled the pipeline, causing many occupiers to go home, but the Trump administration reinstated it — confirming that we must never count on the government to do anything for us.

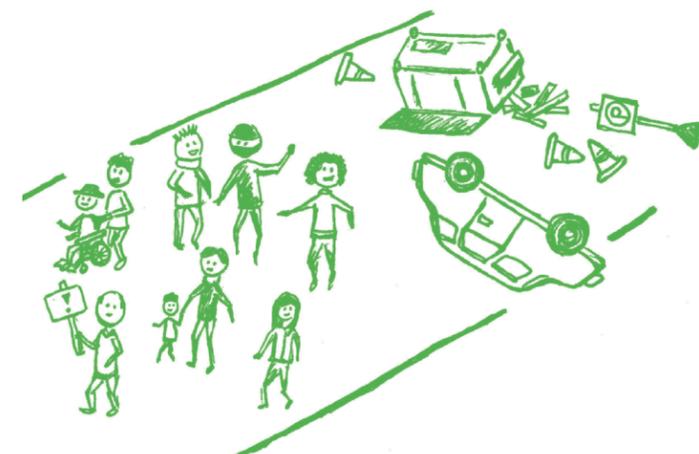
In France, occupiers blocked the construction of a new airport at the ZAD, the "Zone to Defend." Farmers teamed up with anarchists and environmentalists,

establishing an autonomous village that provided infrastructure for the struggle. After years of struggle, the French government gave up and canceled the airport.

We have seen train blockades in a variety of struggles. In Olympia, Washington, anarchists blocked trains carrying fracking proppants in 2016 and in 2017, forcing the company to stop transporting the commodity. In Harlan County, Kentucky, coal miners have blocked a coal-carrying train after the Black Jewel company refused to pay wages they owed to workers. It only takes a few dozen people to shut down a key node in the supply chains of the global fossil fuel economy. Imagine what we could do on a bigger scale!

Governments serve to protect the economy from those it exploits. The state exists to evict, to police, to wage war, to oppress, and above all to defend the property of the wealthy few. The perils of climate change have been known for years, but governments have done little in response, focusing instead on fighting wars for oil, militarizing their borders to keep out climate refugees, and attacking the social movements that could bring about the sort of systemic change that is our only hope of survival.

The capitalist economy is literally killing us. Let's begin the process of shutting it down. *Another end of the world is possible!*



WHEN THE POLICE ATTACK

THE POLICE ARE IN OUR WAY. They are in the way of the demo continuing: to the next block, the bank windows downtown, the police station and government offices. They are also blocking our way towards something else: towards a world without bosses, cops, and prisons, as the good old slogan says. But before being in our way, they are first and above all... the police, an institution based on colonization, racism, and the state's monopoly on violence. We will have no other choice but to confront them as an adversary in each of our struggles.

While demonstrations are not the only moments when we face the cops, they represent an unavoidable context. In demos, the police put everything at their disposal to spread fear among the opponents of power, to control our actions, to injure us and arrest us. In short, they deploy their forces with the goal of



AN ANARCHIST RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

IF THE GREEN CAPITALIST RESPONSE to climate change will only add more fuel to the fire, and if government at a global scale is incapable of solving the problem, as I argue in previous articles¹, how would anarchists suggest we reorganize society in order to decrease the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and to survive an already changed world?

There is no single anarchist position, and many anarchists refuse to offer any proposal at all, arguing that if society liberates itself from State and capitalism, it will change organically, not on the lines of any blueprint. Besides, the attitude of policy, seeing the world from above and imposing changes, is inextricable from the culture that is responsible for destroying the planet and oppressing its inhabitants.

Nonetheless, I want to outline one possible way we could organize our lives, not to make a concrete proposal, but because visions make us stronger, and we all need the courage to break once and for all with the existing institutions and the false solutions they offer. I'm going to describe how an ecological, anti-authoritarian society could manifest itself, as it flows from the un-ideal complexity of the present moment. Also for simplicity's sake, I won't enter into the scientific debate around what is and isn't sustainable.

I base the description of this future possible world both on what is physically necessary and what is ethically desirable, in accordance with the following premises.

- Fossil fuel extraction and consumption need to come to a full stop.
- Industrial food production must be replaced with the sustainable growing of food at the local level.
- Centralizing power structures are inherently exploitative of the environment and oppressive towards people.
- The mentality of quantitative value, accumulation, production, and consumption — that is to say, the mentality of the market — is inherently exploitative of the environment and oppressive towards people.
- Medical science is infused with a hatred of the body, and though it has perfected effective response to symptoms, it is damaging to our health as currently practiced.
- Decentralization, voluntary association, self-organization, mutual aid, and non-coercion are fully practical and have worked, both within and outside of Western Civilization, time and time again.

Welcome to the future. No one ever knew global society would look like this. Its defining feature is heterogeneity. Some cities have been abandoned, trees are growing up through their avenues, rivers rush where asphalt had once covered the ground, and skyscrapers crumble while deer forage at their foundations.

Other cities are thriving, but they have changed beyond recognition. Rooftops, vacant lots, and sidewalks have turned into gardens. Fruit- and nut-bearing trees line every block. Roosters welcome every dawn. About a tenth of the streets — the major thoroughfares — remain paved or gravelled, and buses running on biofuels traverse them regularly. Other streets have been consumed largely by the gardens and orchards, though bike paths run down the middle. The only buildings that have electricity twenty-four hours a day are the water works, hospitals, and the radio stations. Theaters and community buildings get power until late on a rotating basis, so they can stay open for film nights or other events. Everyone has candles and wind-up lamps, though, so there's a light on in many a window until late. But it's nothing like how it used to be; at night you

can see stars in the sky, and the children gape in disbelief when the old-timers tell how people had given that up.

Electricity is produced through a network of neighborhood-based power stations that burn agricultural waste (like corn cobs) and biofuels, and through a small number of wind turbines and solar panels. But the city works on just a fraction of what it used to. People heat and cool their homes through passive solar and efficient design, without any electricity. In the colder regions, people supplement this in the winter with the burning of renewable fuels, but houses are well insulated and ovens are designed with the greatest efficiency, so not much is needed.

No one has a refrigerator though every building or floor has a communal freezer. People store perishables like yogurt, eggs, and vegetables in a cool box or in a cellar, and they eat their food fresh or they can it. People grow half of their own produce in gardens on their block. Nearly all their food is grown within twenty miles of where they live. None of the food is genetically modified or produced with chemicals, and it is bred for taste and nutrition, not longevity and durability for transport. In other words, all the food tastes better, and people are far healthier.

Every house has a compost toilet and running water, but no sewage. It's become sort of an unwritten rule around the world that every community must remediate its own waste. Sending pollution downstream is the greatest taboo. The relatively few remaining factories use fungi and microbes, on great forested plots around the factory compound, to remediate whatever pollutants they produce. Neighborhoods turn all their waste into compost or fuel. The amount of available water is limited, so buildings are equipped with rainwater catchments for the gardens.

In most cities, people hold periodic or ad hoc neighborhood assemblies to maintain the gardens, paths, streets, and buildings, to organize daycare, and to mediate disputes. People also participate in meetings with whatever syndicate or infrastructural project they may dedicate some of their time to. These might include the water syndicate, the transportation syndicate, the electricity syndicate, a hospital, a builders' union, a healers' union (the vast majority of health care is done by herbalists, naturopaths, homeopaths, acupuncturists, massage therapists, midwives, and other specialists who make home visits), or a factory...

For the full text, see MTLCONTREINFO.ORG/CLIMAT



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> dissuading us from pursuing the struggle and changing anything in a real way.

We need to give ourselves the collective ability to defend ourselves. For us, a few Montreal anarchists, we think it's a matter of spreading knowledge and practices of confrontation and care, while making an effort for groups and individuals who participate differently in the demonstration to work together. Basing ourselves on some recent demos in Montreal, let's sketch out how different tactics can be used in a coherent way against the cops. There's space for everyone!

- Fireworks!
- Reinforced Banner Crew: A reinforced banner serves multiple functions: it carries a message, it provides concealment (for a place to change clothes, e.g.), and it protects at least the arms of the people carrying it, thanks to pieces of wood and plastic added to its backing. Those carrying the banner are in a vulnerable position, as they often find themselves on the front line. Therefore it's important to wear helmets and mouthguards. In addition, for their protection each banner holder is paired with another, more mobile person right behind them, who can hold a flag which can be used as a stick.
- Mask distribution: Wearing a mask not only protects your anonymity — the more people wear masks, the more effective it is as a tactic. Police have a much harder time proving who threw a stone in a masked crowd. Even if you don't plan on breaking the law yourself, wearing a mask is a great way of being in solidarity with those who do!
- Graff Crew
- Medics
- Projectile gatherers: There are many ways of supporting confrontation with police indirectly! Whether gathering piles of bricks near a confrontation, or encouraging the crowd to stay together and close to the action when things get chaotic.
- Anti-media team: No matter a journalist's intention, cameras should be pushed out of rowdy demos — photographs will be used as evidence to put people in cages.
- Back team: If a demo moves too fast, it can leave behind people who can't move as quickly. A team at the back of the demo can communicate with people at the front, to find a speed that allows everyone to stay together as long as desired. In addition, cops don't only enter the demo from the front and sides: a back team could improve the safety of the entire demo.
- Functional Barricade: Impede the movement of police, while giving us cover to fight behind!

Anonymous submissions to MTLCOUNTERINFO.ORG :

Enbridge Valve Site Sabotaged, 2016

In the early hours of January 25, 2016 we found our own courage and took action against Enbridge and their line 9. Slipping in to a valve station located on traditional Haudenosaunee Territory (in Hamilton, Ontario) we successfully operated an electronic valve to shut off the flow of tarsands crude. A line 7 valve, also an Enbridge tarsands pipeline, was also tampered with and closed part way. We then disappeared back into the night.

Pipeline Sabotage Against Enbridge in Hamilton, 2017

Back when Enbridge started shipping in pipeline segments for their line 10 expansion, we started sabotaging them. There are vast networks of pipeline infrastructure throughout Turtle Island. They are indefensible; perfect opportunities for effective direct action that harms nothing but an oil company's bottom line. It's in this spirit that we found ourselves going for long moonlit strolls through the trenches of the freshly dug line 10 right-of-way. Wherever we felt the urge, we drilled various sized holes into pipeline segments while spilling corrosives inside others.

We do this in solidarity with the Indigenous peoples of this area. A people who have been displaced, threatened and murdered since early colonial arrivals — who still continue to face this violence. Who suffer the consequences of this colonial capitalist society and the industries which drive it.

Nocturnal Visit to the Home of the President of Junex, 2017

The night of November 16, we went to visit the suburbs of Quebec City, so as to leave a message for Mr. Jean-Yves Lavoie. For those who aren't familiar with him, Mr. Lavoie is the president of Junex, a company that generates its profits (or, at least, tries to) from exploiting the territory of so-called "Quebec", meaning among other things fracking projects in "Gaspésie". It is in this spirit, and with our own objective of dismantling the oil and gas industry in "Quebec", that we have smashed the windows of his cars, without forgetting to slash the tires. We also covered his house in paint.

Cement Building Arsoned, 2018

A recent night in June, a McInnis Cement building burns next to the horrible Port-Daniel cement plant. It left behind a blackened carcass. This fire burns for our humiliated hearts. May the ashes return to this land they devastated and the trees take over what's left...

OUR MASKS PROTECT US



WHY WEAR A MASK? To act without being immediately recognized. The more people wear masks, the harder it is for the authorities to identify or isolate individuals or a part of the crowd. You can wear a mask to protect your identity, or simply to protest against constant surveillance. Wearing a mask at demonstrations opens up space for participation for people who otherwise couldn't participate, whether because their legal status, immigration or employment. It's best to go with friends who can watch your back, be vigilant about the position of the police and surveillance cameras (journalists and photographers included), and be aware of your surroundings to find the best moment to mask and unmask.