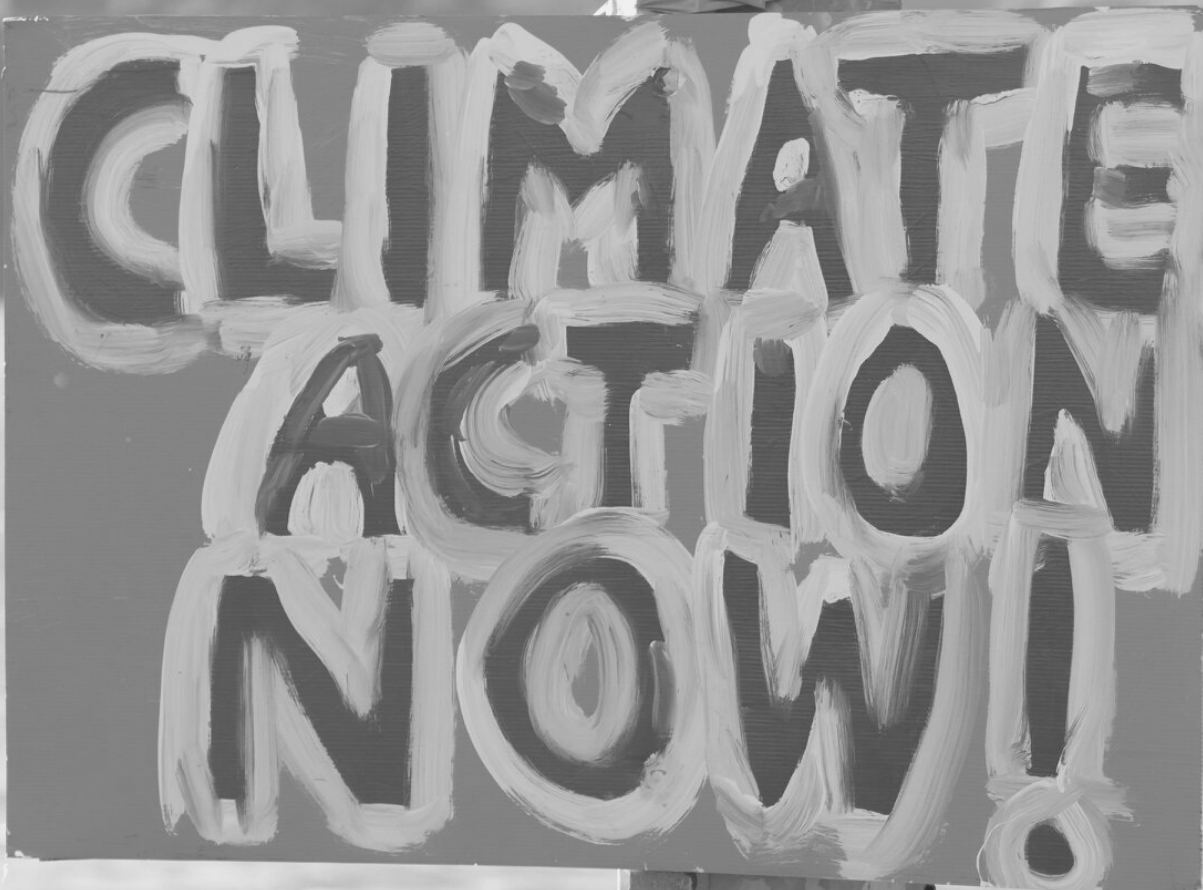


# CLIMATE ACTIVISM IN AOTEAROA

A TIMELINE OF ACTIVISM  
FOCUSSED ON  
CLIMATE ISSUES IN  
AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND



TIMELINE



# INTRODUCTION

In 2019 the global climate movement exploded into the popular imagination, protests led by young people dominated the media and demonstrations around the world unapologetically demanded urgent action and climate justice.

As mainstream media interest in the climate movement has expanded, there have been claims that this is the first time that young people in particular have pushed for climate action.

But activists, organisations and Indigenous communities have been active in advocating for climate action for decades. This timeline shares a brief history of climate specific activism in Aotearoa as the culmination of an extensive search of media outlets and databases.

The intention of this search was to build a picture of the diversity of activism undertaken in Aotearoa and longstanding calls for climate action

The events reported here are not likely to be complete and are limited to those that have been reported on in the mainstream media, independent media and through press releases.

One area that there is likely to be more events than are listed here is the oil free seas movement, which was not always seen as part of climate change activism by the media.

We are extremely grateful to several activists, especially Catherine Delahunty and the late Jeanette Fitzsimons, who have contributed to this timeline, helping us identify events we might have missed.

It is hoped this timeline can eventually be a living document project that can expand and grow over time.

*February 2021.*

## 1990s

Circa 1993 – Greenpeace Mana Tangata Unit carries out grassroots tours of communities focussing on education on climate issues. Climate campaigner for Greenpeace worked on education and international networking.

March 1995 – Women’s Division of Federated Farmers and ten other groups including the National Council of Women, Engineers for Social Responsibility and the Presbyterian Church call for Government to strengthen climate change.

January 1997 – Greenpeace ship travels from Aotearoa to Antarctica as part of expedition to gather data on climate change.

November 1997 – Greenpeace activists abseil off a ledge at Parliament to protest inaction on climate change.

September 1999 – Anti-APEC protest in Whakatū/Nelson where, among other issues, protesters called on politicians to address climate change.

## 2001

June 2001 – Greenpeace protest outside Mobil headquarters in Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington over stance on climate change.

July 2001 – Environmental group ‘Wild Greens’ and Greenpeace padlock petrol pumps at Mobil in Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland.

## 2003

July/August 2003 – Farmers protest against a proposed ‘fart tax’ – to be imposed on farmers to help fund research on reducing emissions from livestock – across rural centres.

August 2003 – Greenpeace boards vessel boarded in Tauranga to prevent unloading coal for Huntly power station.

September 2003 – Farmers protest at Parliament against proposed ‘fart tax.’

## 2004

2004 – Save Happy Valley campaign established against the mining of Upper Waimangaroa Valley near Westport (proposed Cyprus Mine).

2004-2014 – Save Happy Valley coalition campaign carries out various actions, blockades, stunts including banner drops, blockading train lines and marches.

July 2004 – Brief occupation of proposed site of Cyprus mine (Happy Valley) by 20 university students.

## 2004 cont.

August 2004 – Hunger strike protesting mining of Happy Valley established, two students confined to platform suspended from tree near Stockton mine.

December 2004 – Save Happy Valley digs up front lawn of Solid Energy HQ in Ōtautahi/Christchurch.

## 2005

February 2005 – Greenpeace protesters scale and camp at Marsden B power station, Ruakaka, Northland.

March 2005 – Save Happy Valley locks onto Solid Energy HQ entrance in Ōtautahi/Christchurch.

April 2005 – Kiwi protesters 'Die-In' at Solid Energy conference.

June 2005 – Save Happy Valley protest at Department of Conservation offices in Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington.

September 2005 – Blockade of train tracks and coal train by Save Happy Valley in Ōtautahi/Christchurch.

December 2005 – Save Happy Valley protest at Solid Energy HQ in Ōtautahi/Christchurch.

December 2005 – Christmas protest at Solid Energy HQ by Save Happy Valley in Ōtautahi/Christchurch.

## 2006

January 2006 – Indefinite occupation of Happy Valley begins.

February 2006 – Save Happy Valley drops banner dropped from Solid Energy HQ in Ōtautahi/Christchurch..

February 2006 – Save Happy Valley release inflatable kiwi into Midland park, Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington.

March 2006 – Save Happy Valley protest outside climate change conference at Te Papa, Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington.

June 2006 – Unlimited Paenga Tawhiti students stage protest against mining of Save Happy Valley in Ōtautahi/Christchurch.

July 2006 – Save Happy Valley files environment court and judicial review proceeding to stop mining of Happy Valley.

September 2006 – Save Happy Valley activist dressed as snail chained to Hokitika Department of Conservation (DOC) offices.

## 2006 cont.

October 2006 – Save Happy Valley applies for immediate legal protection of snail habitat.

October 2006 – ClimAction protests at Mobil Karangahape Road, Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland.

November 2006 – Global day of action against climate change - reclaim the streets in Auckland, Greenpeace scales power station at Rāhui-Pōkeka/Huntly, Save Happy Valley march in Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington and beach party in Ōtautahi/Christchurch.

November 2006 – Greenpeace protesters scale Marsden B power plant roof.

December 2006 – Protest/blockade against opening of Wellington Bypass ('Calm the Climate – No more roads').

## 2007

2007 – Transition Towns movement established in Aotearoa New Zealand.

2007 – Coal Action Network Aotearoa (CANA) established.

February 2007 – Occupation of Mt Augustus begins to block mining on last remaining snail habitat adjacent to Stockton Mine.

February 2007 – Stunt outside Department of Conservation offices in Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington by Save Happy Valley - mock coal mining blast among native species.

February 2007 – Greenpeace activists climb Huntly Power station and drop banner "climate changes start here."

February 2007 – Greenpeace climate change protesters evicted from Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland energy conference.

March 2007 – ClimAction (Auckland) organises 'Carmaggedon' reclaim the streets party, Karangahape Road, Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland.

March 2007 – Solid Energy files injunction on satirical environment report produced by Save Happy Valley.

April 2007 – Blockade of trainline and coal trains by Save Happy Valley in Ōtautahi/Christchurch.

May 2007 – Investigation by Nicky Hager and Save Happy Valley reveals Thompson and Clark private investigative agency employing spies to infiltrate Save Happy Valley organisation and other activist organisations.

## 2007 cont.

June 2007 – Save Happy Valley launches alternative 'carbon credits scheme' to fundraise against coal mining.

August 2007 – Save Happy Valley protest outside Conservation Minister Chris Carter's office regarding Happy Valley mining decision.

October 2007- Te Urewera Terror Raids carried out by the New Zealand Government targeting Māori land rights and sovereignty activists and environmental activists. For more information see, <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/95416168/tuhoe-community-10-years-after-the-urewera-raids>.

## 2008

2008 – 350 Aotearoa established.

January 2008 – Banner drop at Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington Harbour by Save Happy Valley.

March 2008 – Greens on Campus protest decision of Auckland City Council to cancel 'climate change prevention strategies.'

March 2008 – Rainbow Warrior blocks coal shipment from leaving Ōhinehou/Lyttelton port.

April 2008 – Anti-fossil fuels protests in Ōtautahi/Christchurch and Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland.

April 2008 – Satirical group 'Flat Earth Society' action reaches out to NZ Climate Science Coalition.

April 2008 – Greenpeace replants 1000 trees on land cleared for dairy farming.

April 2008 – Climate protesters (among others) delay PM Helen Clark's speech at Labour election year congress.

August 2008 – 'Crack dealers against crack' protest against the 'Business and climate change Conference', Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland.

October 2008 – Greenpeace activists chain themselves to logging equipment in Kinleith forest protesting against conversion to dairy farming.

December 2008 – Save Happy Valley coal for Christmas stunt in Ōtautahi/Christchurch.

December 2008 – Further police spying allegations relating to Save Happy Valley.

## 2009

April 2009 – Climate Camp Parihaka.

## 2009 cont.

April 2009 – Save Happy Valley occupation removed by police, occupation action on Solid Energy HQ lawn in Ōtautahi/Christchurch.

June 2009 – Freeze for climate action, 350 event held across Aotearoa New Zealand.

August 2009 – Fake iceberg climate change protest in Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington Harbour by anonymous group.

August 2009 – 350 Aotearoa nationwide tour begins & cycling event held on Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington waterfront.

August 2009 – Human 350 sculpture in Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington.

September 2009 – Greenpeace lock onto ship carrying Palm Kernel Extract in Ōhinehou/Lyttelton.

September 2009 – 350 Aotearoa demonstration at Te Henga/Bethels beach.

October 2009 – 10-20% Pure NZ March to parliament.

October 2009 – Student protest at Parliament calling for cross-party climate action, 350 Aotearoa.

October 2009 – Climate change ‘wake up’ protest in Ōtepoti/Dunedin and Oamaru.

October 2009 – International day of demonstrations on climate change including 350 Aotearoa, 74 demonstrations, highest per capita registration of events globally.

November 2009 – Greenpeace protest lignite mine in Southland and outside Fonterra headquarters in Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland.

December 2009 – Camp for Climate Action Aotearoa occurs with protests held in Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington including at the stock exchange and MFAT.

December 2009 – Greenpeace campaign holds ‘Sign On’ march in Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland.

2009 – New Zealand Youth Delegation (NZYD) established to send youth delegations to UN climate negotiations.

## 2010

May 2010 – 2Precious2Mine protests against mining on conservation land.

May 2010 – Greenpeace protest, four activists chain themselves to equipment at Clandeboye factory.

## 2010 cont.

June 2010 – Farmers protest carbon tax at Fieldays.

September 2010 – Global climate working be - 350 actions across Aotearoa New Zealand and 180 countries, including 'planting trees, organising bike rides, insulating homes.'

October 2010 – Greenpeace protesters covered in fake oil walk through Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington in protest against plans for new oil and coal reserves.

December 2010 – New Zealand Youth Delegation joins other youth climate organisations to protest inside the UN climate conference in Cancun, Mexico.

## 2011

2011 – Generation Zero (GenZero) formed.

2011 – Occupy Movement is established across Aotearoa New Zealand.

April 2011 – Te Whānau ā Apanui protest deep sea oil drilling to coincide with international day of action against oil extraction; oil protest flotilla supported by Greenpeace also organised.

April 2011 – Day of Action and rally led by Climate Justice Taranaki against oil exploration and drilling.

May 2011 – Oily people protest in Moeraki against oil exploration and drilling.

June 2011 – Climate Justice Taranaki protests outside the Oil & Gas industry conference in New Plymouth.

July 2011 – Stop deep sea oil tour begins in the Far North with Greenpeace and Te Whānau-ā-Apanui.

September 2011 – 350 day of global action, Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington 350 holds 'Renewable Race.'

September 2011 – Coal Action Network Aotearoa and West Coast Environment Network court appeal of Bathurst mining consents in the Environment Court. Further appeals are initiated over two and a half years, leading to Supreme Court action.

October 2011 – GenZero hold mock funerals for climate policy.

October 2011 – Cosmetic company Lush and Coal Action Network Aotearoa stunt, protester buried in 50 kilograms of coal in Te Papa i oea/Palmerston North shopping centre.

December 2011 – Gen Zero deliver coal for Christmas to Tim Groser, Minister for Climate Change.



## 2012

January 2012 – Keep the Coal in the Hole summer festival.

February 2012 – G-Force protest at parliament.

February 2012 – Greenpeace protest on oil drilling boat in Taranaki.

March 2012 – Youth flash mob organised by GenZero representing storm surge in Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington.

March 2012 – G-Force protests at parliament against continuing lack of climate action.

March 2012 - Environmental groups including Forest & Bird, 350 Aotearoa, Coal Action Network Aotearoa, GenZero and Greenpeace protest at the opening of Bathurst's new offices, particularly due to the attendance of PM John Key.

May 2012 – People from around the country come together to protest against fracking and deep-sea oil drilling at Parliament.

May 2012 – Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington one of the first places in the world to launch 350 'Connect the Dots' project, present petition to Parliament.

May 2012 – Anti mining protest 'flash freeze' with Coal Action Network Aotearoa and Forest & Bird in Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington against mining of Denniston Plateau.

June 2012 – GenZero Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington take the train in their underwear to 'expose the government's unbalanced transport budget.'

August 2012 – GenZero Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland 'slaves to cars' stunt/protest.

August 2012 – GenZero Ōtepoti/Dunedin stunt, students drive cardboard bus around Dunedin.

September 2012 – GenZero unveil two billboards in Mount Eden calling on government to make 'smart transport choices.'

October 2012 – GenZero Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington hold 'mock chainsaw massacre' outside Parliament to protest changes to Emissions Trading Scheme.

October 2012 – GenZero Auckland/Tāmaki Makaurau flash mob on Queen St to raise awareness for Power Shift event.

December 2012 – Powershift event held in Auckland brings together young people across Aotearoa and the Pacific including flash mob at Britomart station (organised by 350 Aotearoa and GenZero).

## 2013

January 2013 – Keep the Coal in the Hole summer festival.

May 2013 – Anadarko Amendment to the Crown Minerals Act passed to limit protest at sea.

May 2013 – Oil Free Otago protesters shut down Shell meeting in Ōtepoti/Dunedin.

June 2013 – ‘Do the Math’ Bill McKibben, 350 Tour through Aotearoa.

August 2013 – GenZero deliver messages to parliament on building a low carbon economy, stunt includes a 5m high dinosaur.

August 2013 – 350 Ōtautahi action handing out fake \$10 bills and information to motorists regarding fossil fuel subsidies.

September 2013 – March against the Petroleum Summit in Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington.

September 2013 – GenZero release election scorecards on climate change and transport issues.

October 2013 – GenZero youth paint themselves with Congestion Free Network in Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland.

November 2013 – Oil Free Otago flotilla ‘on wheels’ protest in Ōtepoti/Dunedin.

November 2013 – Oil Free Seas Flotilla in Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington Harbour.

November 2013 – Oil Free Seas flotilla protests at Anadarko oil drill site off the coast of Whaingaroa/Raglan. Led by Greenpeace and other groups, six boats, including the Vega (involved in Mururoa protests in the 1970s against nuclear weapons) tracked the Noble Bob Douglas vessel for a week, staying within the forbidden 500m zone around the ship.

November 2013 – Demonstration against deep sea oil drilling held in Ōtautahi/Christchurch.

December 2013 – 350 Ōtautahi stunt ‘climate crime scene’ at Westfield Mall.

December 2013 – 350 Aotearoa and Coal Action Network Aotearoa stunt at Westpac Cuba St Branch Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington calling on Westpac to pull support for Denniston coal mine.

## 2014

January 2014 – March to stop deep sea oil drilling in Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington.

January 2014 – Protest outside TAG oil offices in Ngāmotu/New Plymouth.

January 2014 – Oil Free Futures summit in Ōtepoti/Dunedin.

## 2014 cont.

January 2014 – Two members of Oil Free Wellington attach banner to oil exploration boat, Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington.

January 2014 – Oil Free Wellington demonstration and presentation of 'Trespass Notice' to Anadarko offices, Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington.

February 2014 – Banners across the beach day across Te Wai Pounamu/the South Island against oil exploration and drilling.

March 2014 – Oil free and clean energy campaigners drop banner off the Ōtepoti/Dunedin Railway Station clock tower.

April 2014 – Climate crime scene action at Te Papa as oil exploration block offers announced, Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington.

April 2014 – Protests held in Whakatū/Nelson, Ōtepoti/Dunedin and Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington and local branches of Westpac against support for mining on the Denniston Plateau.

April 2014 – Aliens from Save Happy Valley greet attendees at Petroleum and Minerals Summit in Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington calling for one way tickets to Mars for attendees.

April/June 2014 – Flotilla against oil exploration led by Te Whānau ā Apanui and environmental NGOs.

May 2014 – The Anglican Church and Dunedin City Council announces divestment from fossil fuels.

May 2014 – Hands Across the Sand action at New Brighton Pier by Oil Free Ōtautahi.

May 2014 – GenZero unveil giant graph at Parliament as part of clean energy plan campaign.

July 2014 – Jobs after Coal report released by Coal Action Network Aotearoa.

July 2014 – Forest & Bird launch 'On the Block' campaign highlighting sell off of rights to mine, drill, log and frack conservation land.

August 2014 – 'Not Our Future' rally – multi-cause rallies across the country including on issues of climate change.

September 2014 – Joint 'call to action on climate change and health' from health organisations.

September 2014 – People's Climate March in Ōtautahi/Christchurch, Whakatū/Nelson and Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland.

## 2014 cont.

September 2014 – Anti oil drilling protest in Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland.

October 2014 – Banner drop by Oil Free Wellington at Statoil offices in Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington.

October 2014 – Protesters from a number of anti oil/fracking groups blockade Ngāmotu/New Plymouth's biennial Oil and Gas Expo.

November 2014 – Victoria University of Wellington announces divestment from fossil fuels.

November 2014 – Climate change march in Ōtautahi/Christchurch in lead up to election.

December 2014 – Heads in the Sand action held at 12 beaches from Ahipara to Waihopai/Invercargill to send a message to government before the climate negotiations.

December 2014 – Nationwide week of action to stop Westpac financing climate change, specifically Bathurst Resources and the mining of Denniston Plateau.

December 2014 - Activists lock on to NZ Petroleum and Minerals Headquarters in Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington.

## 2015

January 2015 – 'Taranaki's Beauty and the Beast' weekend conference on climate change.

February 2015 – Body painted bike ride protest in support of Island Bay Cycleway, GenZero.

February 2015 – 350 Aotearoa launches Fossil Free Banks campaign on Global Divestment Day.

March 2015 – Protest against deep sea oil drilling in Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland (est. 3000).

March 2015 – Six protesters in Ōtepoti/Dunedin stage demonstration against 2015 block offers.

March 2015 – 350 Aotearoa stunt – ANZ bank branch filled with helium balloons as 'carbon bubbles', demonstrations held in Ōtautahi/Christchurch, Ōtepoti/Dunedin and Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington.

April 2015 – Demonstration and banner drop in Majestic Centre at Environmental Protection Authority hearings for Shell Todd Oil Services by Oil Free Wellington.

May 2015 – Two activists in Waiharakeke/Blenheim go on hunger strike for a week for climate action.

May 2015 – Roopu representing Te Hiku o Te Ika tribes travels to Scandinavia to meet Saami Indigenous Parliament of Norway and confront oppose oil exploration plans.

## 2015 cont.

June 2015 – Banner drop from Parliament by Greenpeace.

May/June 2015 – GenZero Fix Our Future campaign for submissions on government's post-2020 climate change target.

September 2015 -350 Aotearoa and Pacific climate activists occupy a 'future refugee camp' outside ANZ branch on Queen St in Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland

September 2015 – Coal Action Network Aotearoa meets with local community members to organise opposition to Fonterra applications for new coal fired milk drying plant in Studholme.

October 2015 – Oil Free Southland deliver petition against oil exploration and drilling.

November 2015 – Global People's March for climate change (35 events across the country, marches from Whangarei to Waihopai/Invercargill; 15,000 in Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland; 8000 in Ōtautahi/Christchurch; 7000 in Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington).

November 2015 – GenZero stunt, miniature climate summit held in Oriental Bay to demonstrate threat of inaction on climate change, Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington.

November 2015 – Sarah Thomson files for a judicial review of government climate policy in the High Court.

November 2015 – Greenpeace activists occupy NIWA ship searching for oil .

December 2015 – On water demonstration and flotilla in Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington Harbour by Oil Free Wellington.

December 2015 – GenZero delivers 2000 strong petition for cleaner buses to Greater Wellington Regional Council.

December 2015 – Waikato People's march in Kirikiriroa/Hamilton calling on NZ and world governments to agree on climate action at COP21 in Paris.

## 2016

January 2016 – Climate march in Ōtepoti/Dunedin (est. 2000-3000), Tāhuna/Queenstown, Wānaka and Manuherikia/Alexandra.

March 2016 – ANZ bank pulls out of supporting petroleum conference.

March 2016 – Blockade of petroleum conference by coalition of organisations in Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland.

## 2016 cont.

March 2016 – GenZero launches campaign encouraging Aucklanders to complain about buses.

April 2016 – Fossil Free University of Auckland hold mock graduation ceremony with degrees covered in oil.

April 2016 – Coal Action Network Aotearoa protest outside Fonterra offices and plants in Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland, Ōtautahi/Christchurch and Edendale, Southland.

May 2016 – 350 Aotearoa protest blockade ANZ banks in Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington, Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland and Ōtepoti/Dunedin against fossil fuel investment. Protesters also scale ANZ building and launch banner in Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington.

June 2016 – GenZero launches Zero Carbon Act campaign.

June 2016 – Activists from Auckland Coal Action carry out ‘inspection’ of Kopako 1 coal mine (Maramarua) to protest redevelopment.

June 2016 – Fossil Free University of Auckland rally at Auckland University for divestment campaign.

July 2016 – 350 Aotearoa protest at Westpac banks, setting off alarm clocks inside Auckland branch ‘calling time on climate polluting investments.’

September 2016 – Maritime Crime Amendment Bill criticised by activists and the NZ Law society for potentially allowing for protests at sea to be classified as ‘terrorism.’

September 2016 – GenZero launches election scorecards.

September 2016 – Protest outside Todd Energy in Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington by Oil Free Wellington.

September 2016 – The University of Otago divests from fossil fuels.

October 2016 – 11 organisations, including 350 Aotearoa, challenge NZ Super Fund to fully divest from fossil fuels.

November 2016 – Protesters throw ‘unwelcoming party’ on Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington Harbour.

November 2016 – Protesters picket Petroleum club meeting.

November 2016 – Our Children’s Future Hikoi arrives in Te Whanganui a Tara/ Wellington.

## 2016 cont.

December 2016 – Protest at Ōtepoti/Dunedin ANZ bank against fossil fuel investment.

December 2016 – Rally to oppose new oil and gas permits by Oil Free Wellington.

## 2017

January 2017 – Coal Action Network Aotearoa protest at Clandeboye blocks access for trucks for several hours.

February 2017 – Oil Free Wellington banner at the port in Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington.

March 2017 – Blockade of energy conference in Taranaki and People's Climate Rally.

April 2017 – Amazon Warrior oil exploration ship intercepted by Greenpeace activists off the coast of Aotearoa New Zealand.

April 2017 – People's Climate March in Ōtautahi/Christchurch spreads its message through theatre.

April 2017 – Science protests in NZ as part of global movement, March for Science held in Ōtautahi/Christchurch, Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington, Te Papioea/Palmerston North, Ōtepoti/Dunedin and Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland.

April 2017 – GenZero launches blueprint for Zero Carbon Act.

May 2017 – Protesters occupy University of Auckland building over fossil fuel investments.

May 2017 – Demonstration in Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland congratulating Fonterra for 'Transition Away from Coal' statement by Auckland Coal Action.

May 2017 – Divestment campaign aimed at stopping Adani coal mine – actions in Ōtepoti/Dunedin and Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington by 350 Aotearoa.

May 2017 – Protest against deep sea oil drilling in New Brighton, Ōtautahi/Christchurch as part of Hands Across the Sand.

June 2017 – Greenpeace activists drop banner 'Climate denial, huge mistake, resist' from parliament ahead of US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson's visit, protest march at Parliament.

June 2017 – Sarah Thomson v Minister for Climate Change Issues court case.

June 2017 – Our Climate Declaration campaign launched.

October 2017 – Fossil Free University of Auckland students drenched in oil protest VC fossil fuel interests.

## 2017 cont.

November 2017 – First Indigenous youth delegation 'Te Ara Whatu' attends UN climate negotiations.

December 2017 – Global climate run comes to Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland - Lucy Edwards who ran 400 km in 17 countries worst hit by climate change returns to Aotearoa NZ.

## 2018

February 2018 – Zero Carbon Act cycle tour in the lead up to Zero Carbon Bill consultation period.

March 2018 – Protesters blockade oil and gas conference in Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington, Rally for Climate Justice also held in Wellington.

April 2018 – 350 Bill McKibben 'Fossil Free Acceleration Tour' in Aotearoa New Zealand.

May 2018 – Fossil Free University of Auckland launch 8m banner off university library building.

July 2018 – Greenpeace protests, locking onto equipment, at site of proposed mega dairy farm in Te Manahuna/the Mackenzie Basin.

September 2018 – Coal Action Network Aotearoa protest at Huntly and Kopako coal mines during mining conference field trip.

September 2018 – Protest rallies held in Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland, Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington, Whakatū/Nelson, Ōtautahi/Christchurch, Ōtepoti/Dunedin and Waihopai/Invercargill coordinated by 350 Aotearoa and 350 Pacific – part of global Rise for Climate mobilisation.

October 2018 – Week of action against ANZ banks by 350 Aotearoa as part of divestment campaign.

October 2018 – Protest outside Todd Energy in Taranaki.

October 2018 – Action against oil exploration and drilling in Great South Basin (Ōtepoti/Dunedin), Oil Free Otago.

October 2018 – Greenpeace launches training in Ōtepoti/Dunedin to confront arrival of Austrian oil company, OMV.

December 2018 – Occupation of Environment Canterbury in Ōtautahi/Christchurch by Extinction Rebellion (XR).

December 2018 – Carols against Coal in the Octagon in Ōtepoti/Dunedin.



## 2019

January 2019 – Ice demonstration by Extinction Rebellion in Te Papa i oea/Palmerston North.

January 2019 – First Extinction Rebellion action in Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington, peaceful protest inside Wellington Airport to protest against extension of the runway.

January 2019 – Funeral for planet Earth held in Whakatū/Nelson by Extinction Rebellion.

February 2019 – Zero Hour for Climate protest at parliament organised by GenZero.

February 2019 – Extinction Rebellion activists block Tauranga CBD street.

February 2019 – Protest by Extinction Rebellion Ōtautahi/Christchurch group to ‘compost’ RMA outside Canterbury Mayoral Forum.

March 2019 – First global School Strike 4 Climate/Friday’s for Future protest, Aotearoa New Zealand school children and young people protest in all major centres and many small towns.

March 2019 – Funeral for climate held by Extinction Rebellion at Auckland City Council meeting.

April 2019 – Extinction Rebellion Global Week of Action – Actions in Ōtepoti/Dunedin, Ōtautahi/Christchurch, Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington, Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland, Hauraki/Thames, Tauranga and Whakatū/Nelson.

April 2019 – Hauraki/Thames residents demonstrate to try to persuade Thames-Coromandel District Council to vote in support of local government climate change declaration.

May 2019 – Second global School Strike 4 Climate – Aotearoa New Zealand school children and young people protest again in all major centres and many small towns.

May 2019 – Environment Canterbury and Christchurch City Council become first municipal bodies to declare climate (and ecological) emergencies as a result of campaigning by Extinction Rebellion and School Strike 4 Climate.

May 2019 – Fossil Free Banks divestment campaign with 350 Aotearoa hold actions across the country in Tāmaki Makaurau/ Auckland, Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington, Kāpiti, Whakatū/Nelson, Ōtautahi/Christchurch and Ōtepoti/Dunedin.

May 2019 – Protesters from 350 Aotearoa disrupt Petroleum Club meeting in Ngāmotu/New Plymouth.

May 2019 – Protesters disrupt activities at Todd Energy and Fonterra in Taranaki.

May 2019 – Kāpiti Coast District Council, Nelson City Council declare climate emergencies.

## 2019 cont.

May 2019 – GenZero and School Strike 4 Climate announce ‘Elbow your Elders’ campaign to encourage conversations about climate change between generations and to encourage submissions to the Zero Carbon Bill.

June 2019 – Auckland City Council, Dunedin City Council, Wellington City Council, Hawkes Bay Regional Council, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Hutt City Council declare climate emergencies.

June 2019 – Extinction Rebellion in Heretaunga/Hawkes Bay protest outside Hawkes Bay Today for greater coverage of climate change in the media.

June 2019 – Protesters in Whakatū/Nelson target sole driver cars with placards.

June 2019 – Extinction Rebellion activists occupy car parks in Te Papaioea/Palmerston North.

June 2019 – 350 Aotearoa divestment stunt, activists set up ‘waiting rooms’ outside Kiwibank branches.

June/July 2019 – GenZero and School Strike 4 Climate launch ‘Elbow your Elders’ campaign to get young people talking to older generations about climate change and encouraging submissions on the Zero Carbon Bill. Zero Carbon Bill submission parties held around the country. Efforts to increase submissions also undertaken by Greenpeace, Forest & Bird, and others.

July 2019 – Greenpeace scales Majestic House in Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington with message for oil company OMV and to drop banners against oil drilling and exploration.

July 2019 – Extinction Rebellion protest at National party conference in Ōtautahi/Christchurch.

August 2019 – Protests and a walk out are staged at an Environmental Protection Authority hearing regarding oil exploration by oil company OMV in Ōtepoti/Dunedin.

August 2019 – Extinction Rebellion blockade train tracks in Ōtautahi/Christchurch to protest coal mining.

August 2019 – Iwi Leaders Forum chair Mike Smith takes out high court action against Aotearoa’s top seven emitters.

August 2019 – Climate Justice Taranaki make formal bid for oil and gas exploration permit.

August 2019 – Ollie Langridge calls off climate emergency vigil after 100 days, replaced with continuing vigils every Friday.

## 2019 cont.

August 2019 – Extinction Rebellion in Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington sticks ‘eviction notices’ on corporate buildings linked to large emitters such as oil company OMV and Fonterra.

August 2019 – University of Auckland announces divestment from fossil fuels.

September 2019 – School Strike 4 Climate hold general strike for both adults and young people, 41 events held nationwide involving 90 businesses and 170,000 people.

September 2019 – Extinction Rebellion protester spray paints line of sea level rise on MP Scott Simpson’s office in Hauraki/Thames.

September 2019 – Taranaki climate action week held.

October 2019 – Extinction Rebellion Ōtautahi disrupts NZ gas forum in Ōtautahi/Christchurch.

October 2019 – Extinction Rebellion Aotearoa undertakes blockade of the Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment and the central city of Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington over the course of a day.

October 2019 – Students from #Thinkofus hold protest outside MP Nicky Wagner’s office in Ōtautahi/Christchurch.

October 2019 – Activists from 350 Aotearoa disrupt AIG offices to give them ‘red cards’ for providing insurance to the Adani mine.

October 2019 – Greenpeace Executive Director Russel Norman gives speaking rights to teenager Sorcha Carr at Environmental Protection Authority hearing for OMV oil exploration.

November 2019 – Global day of youth climate action organised by School Strike 4 Climate, events held in cities across Aotearoa.

November 2019 – Activists from Extinction Rebellion disrupt gas industry meeting in Ōtautahi/Christchurch.

November 2019 – Protesters including Greenpeace and Extinction Rebellion Ōtepoti/Dunedin occupy OMV oil exploration boat in Port of Timaru.

November 2019 – Conference 4 Climate held in Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington regarding citizen’s assemblies for climate action.

November 2019 – Millions of Mothers group holds a ‘play in’ and sit in at Parliament children’s playground, part of campaign including an open letter to parliament on climate action.

November 2019 – Zero Carbon Bill passed in Parliament.

## 2019 cont.

November 2019 – Oil Free Otago lead stunt in the Octagon to highlight OMV plans for oil drilling off the coast of Ōtepoti/Dunedin.

December 2019 – Greenpeace, School Strike 4 Climate, Extinction Rebellion and other groups blockade OMV offices in Ngāmotu/New Plymouth for three days before leaving a museum of oil behind.

December 2019 – Extinction Rebellion in Tauranga activists pour liquid down Opposition leader Simon Bridges' office steps.

December 2019 – Aotearoa's first climate safe house built by grassroots group Blueskin Bay Resilience Trust in Otago.

## Groups active\* in the last ten years in New Zealand:

- 2Precious2Mine campaign
- 350 Aotearoa (and local groups)
- Aotearoa Youth Leadership Institute
- Climate Defence Network
- Climate Camp Aotearoa
- Clean Energy Action
- Climate Justice Aotearoa
- Climate Justice Taranaki
- Climate Justice Wellington
- Coal Action Network Aotearoa
- Coal Action Murihiku
- ECO (Environmental and Conservation Organisations)
- Enviromental Justice Aotearoa
- Extinction Rebellion National (and local groups)
- Frack Free Kāpiti
- Frack Free Taranaki
- Forest & Bird
- Generation Zero (and local groups)
- G-Force “grandparents, great-aunts and uncles and other mature New Zealanders”
- Greenpeace New Zealand
- It's our Future Manawatu
- Millions of Mothers
- New Zealand Climate Action Network
- New Zealand Youth Delegation
- Our Climate Declaration
- Oil Free Auckland
- Oil Free Otago
- Oil Free Wellington
- Oxfam New Zealand
- Pacific Climate Warriors
- Powershift NZ-Pacific
- Rally for Climate Justice
- Rise for Climate
- Save Happy Valley
- School Strike 4 Climate (and local groups)
- Taranaki Energy Watch
- Te Ara Whatu
- Te Ikaroa
- Transition Towns (and local groups)
- World Wildlife Fund New Zealand
- Zero Carbon Act campaign

\*Not all groups are currently active. This is not a definitive list of all climate organisations in Aotearoa New Zealand.

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## Methodology:

A database search was undertaken using the following keywords. Newztext was searched for print media and other websites were searched using a Google site specific search. All events have been assigned sources and, where possible, digital pdf copies of the webpages have been archived. The data is limited in that most television and radio media sites are not fully archived through online searches beyond the mid 2000s. This timeline has been designed to provide a somewhat comprehensive overview of climate action undertaken in Aotearoa and reported in the media but there are likely events that are not represented in this resource. If you would like to add an event to this timeline please contact [ravencretney@gmail.com](mailto:ravencretney@gmail.com)

### Keywords used:

“climate change” activism; “climate change” activist  
“climate change” demonstration; “climate change” protest; “global warming” activism; “global warming” activist; “global warming” demonstration; “global warming” protest;  
“environmentalist” “climate change”; “environmentalist” “global warming”; “climate action.”

### Sources:

Newztext (Print media: Fairfax, Stuff, NZ Herald (1998-), ODT, Oamaru Mail); Google News; Indymedia (present and archives); The Guardian (specific to NZ); Scoop; The Spinoff; Newshub; TVNZ; Waatea News; Radio New Zealand; Newsroom.

*A fully annotated timeline is available and to the extent possible, media sources have been digitally archived. To receive a copy of the word document email [ravencretney@gmail.com](mailto:ravencretney@gmail.com)*