



**Friends of the Earth
Les Amis de la Terre
Amigos de la Tierra**

Friends of the Earth International Climate Change Briefing

COME TO THE HAGUE - BUILD “THE DYKE” WITH US!

Take Action - Come to the Climate Summit on November 18-19th

This briefing explains all you need to know about:

- ▶ “THE DYKE”
- ▶ what will happen in the Hague
- ▶ what Friends of the Earth is organising
- ▶ what you can do to participate

WHY THE DYKE?

Climate change is not an abstract and complex problem to be discussed by politicians and scientists at leisure. Our climate is changing now and people and the environment all over the world are going to be affected by the rising sea levels, changing environments and extreme weather events that are to come.

However, international climate policy is in danger of becoming a farce. The next round of negotiations, the sixth Conference of the Parties (COP6), will take place from 13-24 November in The Hague, the Netherlands. This climate summit could be a disaster, if countries are allowed to water down the Kyoto Protocol, the only treaty starting to tackle climate change. Negotiators at COP6 must feel pressure from society so that they take the necessary decisions to make a step towards curbing emissions and halting dangerous climate change.

Friends of the Earth, an international network of environmental organisations with members in 61 countries, is organising a spectacular stunt called “The Dyke” during COP6. The Dyke will show governments that climate change is an

urgent problem that will affect people everywhere. Our message is: People all over the world are concerned about climate change and expect their governments to take real action at COP6 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

On November 18, Friends of the Earth will build a seawall, a huge dyke in The Hague with thousands of concerned citizens from around the world. The Dyke is a symbol for the urgency of the action required and the kinds of measures that will be needed if nothing is done to stop climate change. Ministers at the climate conference will be directly confronted with The Dyke, which will remind them, that climate change is not a distant problem. By building the Dyke, people from all over the world will call out to the Governments inside:

FACE UP TO CLIMATE CHANGE! TAKE ACTION NOW!

The Dyke is a positive action. We want World Governments at COP6 to succeed and agree on tough measures to tackle climate change.

Everyone can take part in the building of The Dyke: young and old, people from all walks of life. We expect people from all over the world to participate; though because of travel distances most participants will probably come from the Netherlands. The Dyke will carry messages from all over the world and the survivors of today's extreme weather events will play a special role in The Dyke.

THE PROGRAMME

The building of The Dyke will take place on Saturday, 18 November in the afternoon. From 12:00 p.m. people will be asked to gather around a central stage to receive instructions about their tasks. The actual construction will be co-ordinated from decentralised information points and participants will receive regular information on the progress of the whole. The actual construction of The Dyke will commence at 12:30 p.m. and finish around 2:30 p.m. Individuals and organisations can then decorate The Dyke with their own banners, flags and slogans.

Messages will have to be brought to
The Hague by all of you!

During and after the construction there will be music, theatre and art events all evolving around climate change. Speakers and people that have experienced extreme weather events will also be part of the programme. A more detailed programme will be available a few weeks before the 18th.

HOW CAN YOU TAKE PART?

Everyone is welcome to join in the building of The Dyke. The only thing you really need to do is turn up on the 18th. We recommend you wear comfortable and warm, waterproof clothing, as The Hague can be cold and wet in November (average temperature 5° C). Also, don't forget to bring your own personal message to put on The Dyke.

HOW BIG IS THE DYKE?

Milieudefensie (FoE Netherlands) is responsible for organising the construction of The Dyke. The Dyke will be built with tens of thousands of sandbags. It will be about 1 kilometre long and 1.5 metre high. Building The Dyke will take about two hours. To fill the thousands of sandbags, filling stations will be set up at 50 metre intervals. Each filling station will carry the name of a country, to illustrate the global dimension of this action.

WHAT ELSE IS THERE TO DO IN THE HAGUE?

Together with other environmental organisations from around the world, a Friends of the Earth International delegation will be taking part in the actual climate conference, from 13-25 November in the Netherlands Congress Centre. This delegation will be lobbying and organising some smaller actions in and outside of the congress centre.

The best time to come to The Hague is between Friday, 17 November and Sunday, 19 November. This is when the most activities for large groups of people will take place. From Friday to Sunday, there will be meeting space available for people interested in organising or taking part in workshops. The weekend programme is as follows:

Friday afternoon: arrival of first participants

Friday evening: workshops

Saturday morning: workshops

Saturday afternoon: THE DYKE

Saturday evening: party

Sunday morning: workshops and possibly a bike demonstration organised by The Rising Tide Coalition

Sunday evening: departure

HOW TO GET TO THE HAGUE

The Hague or as the Dutch say, Den Haag, is located on the west coast of the Netherlands and is easily accessible by rail, road and boat.

Friends of the Earth organisations in different countries are organising travel to The Hague. The best way to find out if a group is travelling from your country is to contact Friends of the Earth Europe office at www.foeeurope.org or the FoE organisation in your country.

If you want to travel independently, consult about long distance train travel in Europe, consult <http://bahn.hafas.de/bin/detect.exe/bin/query.exe/e>. The long distance busnetwork of Eurolines also has good

connections to The Hague,
<http://www.eurolines.co.uk>.

WHERE CAN YOU STAY?

We expect about 1500 people from outside the Netherlands to come to The Hague for The Dyke and other activities that weekend. Milieudefensie (FoE Netherlands) is organising simple accommodation for this number of people on the night of the 17th and 18th. Simple accommodation means you can expect a roof over your head and a warm place to roll out a sleeping bag and mat. Of course, there will also be showers and toilets plus affordable vegetarian food. Detailed information on how to reach this accommodation will be made available a few weeks before the event.

Please make sure you either inform FOE Europe, your national FOE groups or Milieudefensie (FoE Netherlands) directly if you are coming in a larger group. (Email: donald.pols@milieudefensie.nl)

If you would like to come to The Hague, but do not want to stay in the simple accommodation and are willing to pay extra, please contact Milieudefensie or Friends of the Earth Europe and we will recommend possible alternatives.

TAKE ACTION NOW - OTHER COP6 ACTIVITIES

The Climate Voice campaign

This is a web-based campaign supported by Friends of the Earth International and other environmental organisations around the world. The campaign calls on world leaders to take action to stop climate change at COP6 and is aiming to collect 10 million signatures. You can take part by signing a petition and telling people about this action. Take action at: <http://www.climatevoice.org>

International Action Day on Climate

Organisations around the world are called on to organise an activity on October 5. Activities can range from a conference or press release to banner actions. The purpose of this Action Day

is to raise public awareness on climate change and build up pressure for COP6. If you are interested in taking part in the Action Day, please let Milieudefensie know, so we can include you in the overview of actions.

Contact: ilse.chang@milieudefensie.nl

The Bet

The Bet is a European wide campaign in which young people bet their governments they can achieve actual reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. For more information contact the European co-ordination office: TheBet.office@gmx.net, <http://www.thebet.de>, tel: +49-30-79706610

The Rising Tide Coalition

The Rising Tide Coalition is a platform of organisations, which includes groups such as People and Planet, ASEED, EYFA and Earth First. The Coalition is planning various actions in the run-up and during COP6. For more information: crosswinds@aseed.antenna.nl, <http://squat.net/climate> or <http://www.climateconference.org>

For more information

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