

Demands



Preamble

For years, (hundreds of) thousands have been mobilising against the threat of the climate catastrophe. However, the calls for effective climate and environmental protection fall on deaf ears among professional politicians. We realize that we, who are concerned about a future worth living for all, are being let down. The urgency of the problem is by no means reflected in the political processes of parliament and government. Areas such as the agricultural and financial sectors are completely ignored in Swiss climate policy, even though they are largely responsible for environmental degradation and climate crisis. At the same time, those in power in the economy still cling to the fairy tale of eternal growth. They are not interested in our future and only want to increase their wealth and influence.

The existing political and economic system has far failed to provide an answer to the climate crisis. We must free ourselves from social, economic and political systems that exploit people and nature for the sole purpose of enriching a few. It is time to redesign our society so that an ecological and social future is possible. The urgently needed reduction of greenhouse gases also involves a reform of democratic processes, which in Switzerland too are dominated by economic interests rather than scientific evidence and the participative decision-making by all. Furthermore, the fight against the climate crisis is also about social, economic and political justice and international solidarity.

Recent years have shown that demonstrations are no longer sufficient. We have therefore been forced to take one step further and adopt a tried and tested method. Peaceful, mass civil disobedience is and has always been a crucial part of a self-determined society and has brought about major changes in the past. We do not want to wait any longer. As we have been for years, we are active, we are loud - because the future is being stolen from us.

The following demands were developed by various organisations and movements as part of Rise up for Change. Our concerns are essentially very similar, which is why we are joining forces for Rise up for Change.

Nevertheless, as movements we have different demands and views, not all of which can be taken into account in these demands. The demands are therefore to be seen as common demands of these movements and are not automatically the specific demands of the different movements.

Agriculture

Demands

1. **Support climate friendly, agro-ecological methods and products.**
2. **Ensure fair income for small-scale farming permitting the practice of sustainable agriculture.**
3. **Guarantee enhanced food security in production for domestic and local needs (defined together by producers and consumers), ensure food security resilience and minimize transport by implementing agricultural practices which benefit the location (BV Art. 104) (Greenpeace TOP Strategy).**

Possible Measures

- Demand No. 1
 - phase out pesticides and fossil fuel fertilizers,
 - permanent prohibition of GMOs and other forms of genetic manipulation
 - open seed markets,
 - ban factory farming in general, and only allow double-purpose breeding, resp. phase out pig and chicken farming,
 - encourage vegetable and cereal production over meat or feed production.
- Demand No. 2
 - Environmental and social impact assessment for agricultural production, labelling and pricing through the entire value chain.
 - Abandoning wasteful "quality" criteria (size, shape, etc.) for food products.
 - Regulation of the food distribution oligopoly (Migros, Coop, etc.), reducing excessive profit margins to assure equitable farm revenues
 - Immediate Measure: replace the direct payments per farm provided under the current system, in order to also take into account social and environmental benefits, and stop sales promotion of meat and dairy products.
- Demand No. 3
 - Revise planned (Mercosur, Indonesia) and existing trade agreements so that food agricultural imports respect Food Sovereignty under the same conditions as local production
 - Phase out animal feed imports by reducing meat and dairy production /, ban on products driving deforestation and GMOs or other types of gene manipulation.
 - Support production for local needs as opposed to the current orientation towards luxury export markets.
- Immediate Measures

- Refuse proposed Mercosur and Indonesia treaties, and revise existing trade agreements so that food agriculture imports respect Food Sovereignty and the same conditions as local productions.
- Adopt a new agricultural policy ensuring a fair and just transition of the agricultural sector by implementing the TOP strategy; prohibit lobbying by agro-industries (Fenaco, Syngenta, etc)

Financial Sector

Financial institutions have a significant impact on economic and social developments through their services and investments. We demand climate-compatible finance sector which acts in the interest of the common good and is focused on improving the living standards of the population and developing a climate-compatible society while complying with strict social and environmental objectives.

Demands

1. **Transparency:** immediate disclosure of all investments, finance and insurance services provided by Swiss financial institutions and insurance companies, and their greenhouse gas footprint, climate path and reduction path (see requirement 2).

2. **Net 0 by 2030 and reduction path:** the reduction of the eight direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions generated by financial flows to net 0 by 2030. This applies to domestic and foreign finance, investments and insurance services that lead directly or indirectly to greenhouse gas emissions including reduction path with clear measures published by the end of 2020.
3. **Exclusion:** immediate stop or non-renewal of all finance, investments and insurance services by and/or for projects and companies that harm the climate and living beings.
4. **Climate-compatible financial flows:** only permit investments, financing and insurance services, in and of projects and companies which are used to promote a socially just and environmentally compatible society.

Possible measures

- Requirement No. 3 must apply in particular to:
 - projects and undertakings that involve, presuppose or result in the extraction, redevelopment, processing or combustion of oil, gas or coal
 - the nuclear industry and arms production
 - projects and companies that violate human rights,
 - food speculation, trade in raw materials, which is linked to human and indigenous rights violations as well as environmental degradation, etc.
- General measures
 - Parliaments and governments shall create binding legal bases for these demands.

Democracy

Demands

1. **Participative democracy:** to ensure that politics are driven by the needs and visions of the population instead of economic interests and the power of the richest, the current political system has to proactively involve citizens (i.e. people living in Switzerland) in the decision-making process in all areas of our society: e.g. life, work, community, environment, living together, choices of economy.

2. **Consistent inclusion of scientific findings in democratic decision-making processes to ensure sustainable policy:** to ensure a sustainable future, current and validated findings from climate and social sciences must be integrated into political negotiations and decision-making processes. Science needs to be heard in politics, and all actors involved in the decision need to be provided with the according up-to-date and accessible scientific information. The following measures could help to ensure this.

3. **Transparency:**
to ensure that our democracy is not led by the interests of the richest, and avoid the control of political decision making process by the economy.

Possible Measures

- Demand Nr. 1
 - Immediate action: A legally binding “Citizens’ Assembly” (with citizens, i.e. people living in Switzerland) must be set up to elaborate proposals on “How to reach greenhouse gas neutrality in Switzerland by 2030 at the latest in a spirit of climate and social justice”. Once completed, the proposals must be submitted to the people in a referendum (popular vote) and measures taken to avoid influence of lobbyists on the voters.
 - Election and voting rights from the age of 16 for all citizens, i.e. people living in Switzerland, living in Switzerland: to ensure that the younger generation and all subsequent generations have a voice in all forthcoming elections, it is crucial that voting rights be lowered to the age of 16. Voting and election rights should apply to all inhabitants of Switzerland, regardless of their nationality.
 - Long-term systemic transformation: selection of the Conseil National or a third chamber by lot: to ensure that citizens, i.e. people living in Switzerland, are really heard it is key to have a representation by randomized selection of citizens, i.e. people living in Switzerland, that do not act in the interest of parties or lobbies. Therefore, representatives of the Conseil National should be chosen by lot or a third chamber of this kind put in place to ensure a democracy pursuing the values of the people rather than economic interests. This change is very complex and the structure and organisation of a third chamber would have to be developed in detail with experts before implementing it.
 - Long-term systemic transformation: Participatory Budgeting at cantonal/local level - based on the [Porto Alegre-Mechanism](#)
 - Democracy Education Program: It has been recognized that one of the main reasons why Swiss voting levels are so low, is because most citizens, i.e. people living in Switzerland, do not recognize the value and privilege the democracy we already have in Switzerland offers us, and at the same time lack the understanding to be able to improve the system in itself. Therefore, a value shift is needed to ensure that the current and future generations understand democracy and take an active role in it as well, beyond party politics, or politics following economic interests.
We recommend that national and cantonal institutions develop a plan to include an in-depth program on democracy into the educational system on all levels, as well on how democratic decision-making processes can be introduced in all types of working places.

- Demand Nr. 2
 - Anchoring the rights of nature and principles against ecocide in the Federal Constitution.
 - Establishment of a scientific council mandated to inform all actors involved in the decisions with vulgarised and up to date scientific data.
 - Cantonal parliaments and governments as well as the Federal Assembly and the Federal Council disclose in regular audits whether and how current scientific findings have been incorporated into legislation and how this has been applied.
 - Political parties and governments take a public stance on the scientific findings of current climate and social research, and disclose in particular which reduction paths or scenarios proposed by science they are pursuing and for what reasons.

- Demand Nr. 3
 - Federal transparency institution: mandated to ensure for all Swiss society transparency concerning different interest groups, and with the political power to limit lobbyism on all levels.
 - Limit the activities of multinational firms: to ensure climate justice, it is key that Switzerland proactively prohibits multinational firms from deploying activities in other countries that harm the people or the environment. This implies in particular that the Swiss government must ensure a sustainable transition with regard to the dependency of Switzerland on the tax revenues of those companies and thus transform the nature of “Switzerland as a business location”
 - Democratisation of investments: limitation of budgets for activities that endanger the life on planet earth for current or future generations by voting on sectoral budgets. Banks and funds would only invest a maximum share of the total investment in each sector, e.g. only 5% of the investment in the pharmaceutical sector.
 - National footprint bank: a national footprint bank should be set up to ensure that the carbon budget is respected on individual, collective and national levels.

Achieving a fossil-free society requires a profound transformation of central areas of society. Such a comprehensive task can only be solved if the process of transformation is at once ecological and social. Climate and environmental policy are also a matter of social justice.

Demands

1. **The consequences of environmental pollution and climate crisis must be managed justly and in solidarity.**
Global climate justice: the rich countries and their corporations in particular must be called to account in order to cope with the negative consequences in the countries of the global South.
Local climate justice: The costs for the transition to a climate-compatible society should be borne primarily by those parts of society that have mainly caused climate crisis.
2. **Switzerland shall acknowledge its historical and global responsibility for the climate crisis and act accordingly.**
3. **Any form of discrimination, discrimination-free access to social resources shall be prohibited.**
This means that no one will be disadvantaged because of the climate crisis and that the path towards a CO₂ neutral society is fair. This means that all people must be guaranteed social and economic security.

Possible Measures

- Demand No. 1
 - Sufficient redistribution of wealth so that the necessary resources are available for the ecological transformation of society and to ensure social security
 - Prohibition of any socialization of capital losses of corporations resulting from the conversion to a fossil-free economy
 - An unconditional and socially just basic subsistence income, compensating for the unjust distribution of wealth and providing in particular for the needs of families, women, retired workers and those unable to work.
 - Ensure an adequate income for all workers affected by the ecological restructuring of the economy and industry, as well as adequate facilities for their retraining
 - Provide the right to decent employment and good and fair working conditions for all, guaranteed in law
 - Swiss national and international politics acknowledge the fact that women are particularly affected by the social impacts of climate crisis
 - Swiss policy must take into account the well-being of future generations
- Demand No. 2
 - With regard to Article 9 of the Paris Agreement, Switzerland contributes at least 1 billion Swiss francs each year to the international climate fund.

- Swiss climate policy must commit itself to a significantly faster reduction of greenhouse gas emissions than the countries of the Global South without relying on greenhouse gas compensations abroad
 - Swiss migration policy must focus on human dignity, recognize the right to migrate and take into account the fact that forced migration will increase due to climate crisis, as well as the fact that women are particularly affected by environmental disasters, discrimination and social injustices
 - Swiss politics and Swiss corporations must take into account the human rights and self-determination of all people, especially the rights of indigenous peoples
- Demand Nr. 3
 - Strict legal ban on discrimination, in particular with regard to skin color, gender, gender self-determination, sexual orientation, origin, nationality and physical and mental disability
 - Real gender equality by enforcement of equal wages; recognition, valuation and fair distribution of unpaid care work; and comprehensive measures against violence on FTIQ* (women, trans-, inter- and gender queer people)
 - Regularization of all undocumented migrants, especially in the domestic economy and care sector
 - Well-developed and free social infrastructure for all, especially in education, health care, childcare, care of people in need of assistance and public transport

Infrastructure and Energy

Bringing about a society that is free of fossil fuels requires fundamental restructuring of our infrastructure, energy sector and industry.

Demands

- 1. Restructure of the energy sector to enable CO2 neutrality by 2030.**
- 2. Transportation must be decoupled from fossil-fuels while respecting the needs of the population.**
- 3. Production, consumption and housing need to be adapted to ensure CO2 neutrality.**

Possible Measures

- Demand Nr. 1
 - Conversion of the energy and industrial sector to renewable energies without shifting or compensating greenhouse gas emissions abroad
 - Significant public investment to build a publicly owned, decentralized and regionalized fossil-free energy sector over the next 10 years
 - Strict limitation of the operating time of nuclear power plants
 - Ban on dangerous technologies for extracting CO2 from the atmosphere
- Demand Nr. 2
 - Immediate reduction of individual motorized traffic and air traffic
 - Stop any expansion of infrastructure for private motorized traffic
 - Well developed and affordable public transport system according to the needs of the population
 - Free public transport in urban areas
 - Substantially higher taxation on fossil fuel imports and ban on compensations abroad for fossil fuel imports
 - Taxation of automobile imports according to greenhouse gas emissions
 - Ban on intra-European flights for the purpose of holidays, recreation or business
 - Immediate halt to subsidies for aircraft fuels
 - Immediate measure: national program for a well-developed and affordable public transport system meeting the needs of the population, including free public transport in urban areas

- Demand Nr. 3
 - Orientation of the production and import of goods to the needs of the people instead of the maximisation of the profits of the producers. A process including the whole of society must be initiated to determine which resources should be made available with priority to satisfy the people's needs and to fulfill the environmental requirements of the production processes. All production processes must be adapted according to ecological and social criteria
 - Addition of greenhouse gas emissions of imported goods to Switzerland's official greenhouse gas budget
 - Ban on imports of goods if production violates human rights and/or damages the environment
 - Ban on import of rare earths and rare metals needed for the production of renewable energy systems, (as well as products containing these materials) where their mining violates human rights, especially the rights of self-determination of the communities affected by mining.
 - National program for large-scale insulation of buildings to increase energy efficiency, without increasing tenants' bills.