

## CUT THE TIES ACTION DESIGN - ACTION PACK

#CutTheTies #TellTheTruth #ExtinctionRebellion

This is a universal pack to be shared to engage rebels in taking non-violent direct action against the enablers of the fossil fuel industry, to highlight their complicity in and profiting from the climate crisis.

It is intended that individual rebels, local groups, affinity groups or larger planning groups can adapt this action to their own targets and capacity.

Cut the Ties can be a single or repeated action at one target, at multiple sites of the same target or at multiple targets on the same day and same time. It is up to individuals, local groups and regions to use these resources to plan their own actions with the scope and spice level that you decide.

### *Some example actions could be:*

- A single rebel visits the office of a company enabling the fossil fuel industry, delivers a letter asking them to cut the ties and then stickers around the building. The stickers could be applied weekly, or at whatever frequency is decided
- In addition to the above, a group of rebels stands outside the office when staff and clients are moving in and out, holding a banner, flyering and engaging in dialogue.
- A Cut the Ties bus stop poster put up at a nearby bus stop or Cut the Ties posters flyposted around sites and transport routes to/from sites
- A group of rebels pours fake oil outside the building. This is accompanied by theatrics with 'dirty scrubbers' coming in to greenwash the organisation, and/or a letter calling out the company's greenwashing is read out
- The target, or a series of targets are sprayed with fake oil from fire extinguishers. Banners and rebels handing out flyers support the messaging

### *Please see associated links on the website for PDF Files to produce arts material and banners*

Below is a case study of a multi-site, coordinated action. Key points should be adapted to smaller actions:

- What is your demand of the company and how are you communicating it
- Ensure support roles are in place
- Do you need a site specific banner as well as the Cut the Ties messaging
- Have media and messaging support to get your action out and send a press release to local outlets

Thank you for playing your part in Cut the Ties.

If you have any questions please email [cut-the-ties@proton.me](mailto:cut-the-ties@proton.me)

### *Case study of the first Cut The Ties action: a multi-site coordinated action*

1. The action was planned to be inclusive of all sister movements and groups, reaching out through the XR network to trusted rebels from these groups to reflect diversity within the movement and wider.
2. Each cell should act autonomously to protect individual targets, with a rep from each group in a wider group to bring the overall design together.
3. There was a tight network of sites and support to make sure every role was covered at each target to ensure care was in place for all rebels and maximum coverage in press and Media & Messaging (See below for a list of required roles)
4. There was a key focus at each site. Consideration was given to specific demands and the correct person to request to speak to was researched to enter into dialogue/ or request a response/statement. Cut the Ties was the overall messaging but site specific placards/banners were used to highlight how the particular target enables the fossil fuel industry.



5. Recces were carried out by each autonomous cell to work out best route to access. Consideration was given to whether there was a canopy or door ledge that could be climbed; What security if any was on site; to the construction materials of the building because stone/brick is harder to clean than glass windows which could dramatically increase clean up costs which will face higher fines/penalties. As far as possible recces were undertaken on the same day of the week and the same time of day as the planned action. Thought was given to how to arrange supporters with banners for the best photo shots.
6. Once in place momentum was maintained in various way including the use of groups of XR Rhythms and megaphones to engage with the public and explain the reasons for the action.
7. Digial Rebellion was engaged for opportunities for them to storm websites/ Twitter pages etc to help get the message out.
8. The Paint the Streets team was engaged for flyposting and bus stop posters: a great way of getting the message out and can be done in the run up to and after the action to underpin the action design and keep the messaging going once the action has taken place.
9. XRUK M&M were engaged to run an overall press release and for any livestream/photographer support in order to gain best footage/shots. Each cell which wished to organised their own press releases. Local press was also engaged by different geographical groups taking part in the action and where appropriate coverage was also sought in the trade press relevant to the target.
10. In some cases statements were written for the organisations targeted and either posted in the run up to the action or delivered on the day. (see generic statements for examples)

## **PHASE 1 - NO ADVANCE WARNING**

- All actions started at the same time.
- One or two rebels did a final walk by of the site on the morning of the action to check no recent changes which would impact the action
- Rebels met at least ½ an hour before the action at a suitable muster point which was discreet and close to target.

### *Simultaneously:*

- 2 x arrestables sprayed the outside of building whilst low-risk rebels set off black smoke grenades.
- If necessary to keep line of sight for videographers and livestreamers, rebels temporarily blocked the road to stop passing traffic cutting off view of action.
- Livestream started immediately to gain best footage. Vmix can link up to 8 sites so in this case with more than 8 targets some livestreamed to their own pages

### *Immediately after*

- Support rebels moved into place to deploy banners and flags. Cut the ties placards, umbrella messaging along with Individual group messaging.
- Protest liaison entered the building and engaged with Reception/Security staff. Advised this is a non-violent peaceful protest and no harm is being caused.
- Cut the Ties flyers used for outreach and to engage with passers by.
- In some cases the action was adapted to include oil pours which could be cleared up if rebels wish to try to avoid arrest.

## **PHASE 2 – PROTEST LIAISED**

Rickshaw and PA with mic arrived at a high footfall location close by  
 Rebels who were available to leave (no arrestees were left alone) gathered together at the agreed location and brought banners/placards and umbrella messaging to join together.  
 Green smoke was deployed to highlight the start of a Cut the Ties Assembly.  
 Each group had a short 30 second/1 minute slot to talk about why they were there.  
 Speech was given by a pre-arranged spokesperson to bring it all together and join the dots.  
 Closing speech held by a nominated person.

## **SUPPORT ROLES REQUIRED FOR EACH SITE**

- Livestreamer
- Photographer
- Spokes
- Videographer (if desired)
- Protest Liaison
- Wellbeing
- Deescalation
- Steward
- Legal Observer
- Banner Holders

### *Useful Links*

Email: [cut-the-ties@proton.me](mailto:cut-the-ties@proton.me)

UK Action Checklist: <https://cryptpad.fr/pad/#/2/pad/edit/Wzzuz+VZX-cEeWsCBGuIzdt8/>

Media Resources: See Cut the Ties Messaging Narrative on the web page

Arts Resources: See CTT Arts Resources and links on the web page