

CLIMATE CORONA DEAL

Here is the Climate Corona Deal as a PDF

Several groups and organisations of the Austrian climate network (klimaprotest.at), including Fridays For Future, System Change, not Climate Change!, Global 2000, WWF Austria, Attac, and many others, developed starting points [Ansatzpunkt] for a Climate Corona Deal for Austria. The 4 demands relate to the Austrian government's planned stimulus package, which is now facing the historical opportunity to invest the government bailout funds intelligently and in a climate-friendly way.

As of 19 May 2020, 166 organisations, initiatives, and groups as well as 553 scientists have signed. Together we can take a stand for a climate-friendly social contract in Austria, so that our social welfare and ecosystem are safeguarded!

One-week protest in front of the Federal Chancellery →

CLIMATE CORONA DEAL

For a climate-friendly social contract in Austria

The Austrian government is facing the historical opportunity to invest the government rescue funds intelligently and in a climate-friendly manner. The COVID-19 pandemic showed the world how quickly and decisively we as a society can act in order to avert disaster. The right lessons must be learned from this in order to curb the worldwide destruction of the climate and natural world.

We need to be climate- and environmentally friendly at all levels, in order to be crisis-proof in the long term. The government should do all in its power for an ambitious, solidary, effective, and financially strong EU Green Deal. Only when all the stimulus plans are well-integrated can we overcome the corona crisis and set the course to prevent the impending climate disaster.

At this point, everything depends on where the funds are going. In order to make the best possible out of the current crisis, the money must be invested in the environmentally-compatible development of clean, renewable energies, efficient use of energy in buildings and industry, public transportation, and sustainable agriculture. Occupational fields that are characterised by low CO₂ emissions, such as caregiving, education, health, and childcare should be significantly expanded. The development towards a regional and low-carbon economy should be promoted. Now is the time to advance the socio-ecological transformation of the economy.

This is why we demand a climate-corona-deal for Austria: so that our social welfare and ecosystem stay stable!

1. Secure the future of the people: The Austrian government should safeguard the economic security of everyone whose job has been threatened or lost by the corona crisis. It should provide means for additional measures for requalification and additional training as well as employment initiatives for employees. By wisely distributing the rescue funds, the government can now create thousands of new, long-term, and climate-friendly jobs. This will support all people to make steps towards a good life for everyone and avert the existence-threatening climate collapse.

2. Renovation instead of reconstruction - Linking state aid to reach the 1.5 degree goal: Funds from the current aid and stimulus packages should drive structural change to achieve the 1.5 degree goal of the Paris Agreement. Further possible stimulus packages after the crisis must also follow these guidelines. We demand conditions for state support that are designed such that they follow the Paris Agreement, the biodiversity objectives, and the sustainable development goals. Subsidies for fossil fuels should be removed and instead invested in a climate-friendly manner. Corporations should be obliged to create decarbonisation roadmaps together with their workforces. No money for oil, coal, gas, or corporations that obstruct the socio-ecological transformation.

3. Overcome the crisis democratically: Civil society and all social partners must be involved in the negotiations on the distribution of public funding. Allocation criteria must be transparent and conform to the 1.5 degree goal. The populace must be permanently involved in the decision process by means of town hall meetings and similar participatory formats. A livable and climate-friendly future requires a comprehensive democracy, and only in this way can the crisis be dealt with fairly.

4. Global climate justice: People in the Global South are already much more severely affected by the climate crisis. The government must do all that it can on an international level, so that the debts of the poorest states are removed, so that grants will be made instead of loans, and Austria makes a fair contribution to international climate financing. Also in the forming of trade and investment policy, the government must advocate for the observance of human and worker rights as well as environmental standards.

166 SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONS, INITIATIVES, AND GROUPS

[list of names]

553 SUPPORTING SCIENTISTS

The Scientists for Future Linz as well as the 401 scientists of Scientists for Future Tirol/Vorarlberg endorse the Climate Corona Deal. Furthermore, the following scientists support the demands:

[list of names]