

RISE FOR CLIMATE ARTS KIT

RISEFORCLIMATE.ORG

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**USING
ARTS
AND THIS
ARTS KIT**

This Arts Kit was put together for people, groups and communities who are organizing for the Sept 8th Rise for Climate global day of action, and for a fossil free world powered by 100% renewable energy for all. It is created by David Solnit, 350.org's US Arts Organizer, as part of 350's Fossil Free campaign.

This kit is designed to help you use arts to organize, educate, mobilize, and win positive changes. It will be updated in the coming weeks and months, so come back and check out additional how-to's, images and ideas.

To win change and protect our communities and our planet all we really have is our voices, our bodies and the things we make with our hands together. How can we most powerfully develop and use our bodies and our voices and the art and images we make with our hands?

Building arts into your campaign can:

- **ENGAGE PEOPLE:** It's a great way to involve people.
- **BUILD MOMENTUM:** Making art, rehearsing songs/chants/music and movement or theater can build excitement, visibility and even media--your own or even mainstream media.
- **BUILD CAPACITY:** Being able to create and mobilize the arts is an essential part of any campaign, mobilization and movement building.
- **TELL OUR STORY:** We can use the arts to powerfully tell our stories, raise our visibility and voices, inspire others and each other, and to build a culture and movements of resistance to win stronger communities and a better world.

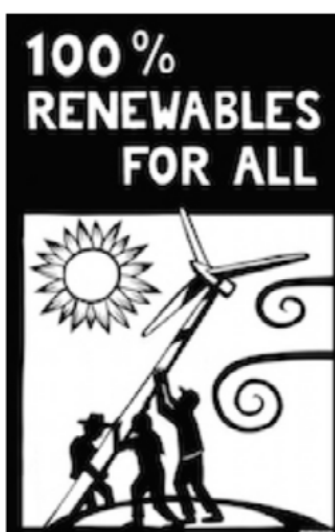
SIGN DESIGNS

These designs, with core Rise for Climate messages on them, can be used for making signs (details below) and in many other ways: trace or project the designs for big banners or flags, use for screen printing flags, signs, or patches, or use as a graphic on your event poster or online.

These designs are hand-made papercuts made by artists from Paperhand Puppet Intervention, from Saxapahaw, North Carolina, USA, and the “Keep It In the Ground and the Fossil Free Sunflower were made by San Francisco-based community muralist Mona Caron.







TIPS FOR MAKING SIGNS FROM SIGN DESIGN DOWNLOADS

Here are tips on how you can use these designs to copy and make signs or posters for public action or events:

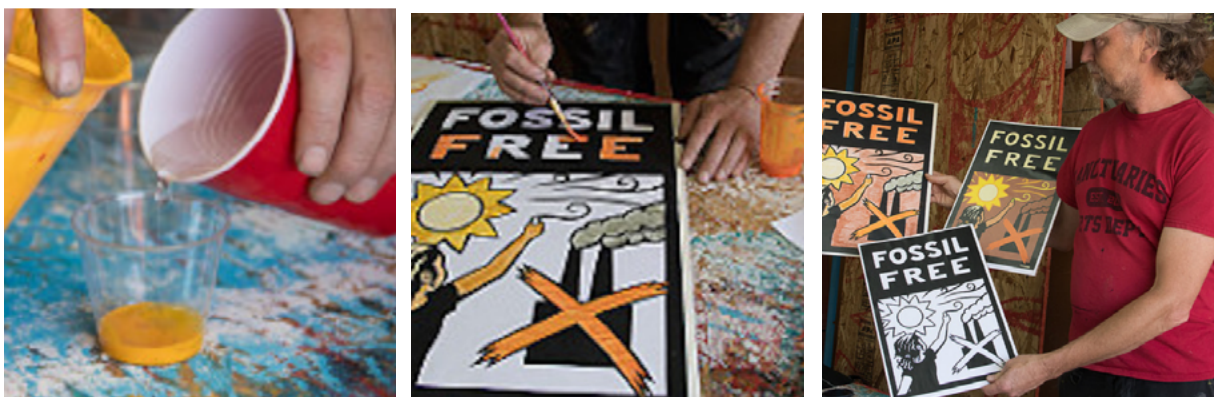
- **DOWNLOAD:** the image/s you want to use. These are the links to our Dropbox file of the designs shown above.
 - Color Designs [HERE](#)
 - Black and White Designs [HERE](#)
- **PRINT:** print from a USB flash drive, your email, or your computer. Go to your printer or printing shop or find out if anyone you know has access to color printing. Print on A3 paper (11x17 inches, 30x42 cms).
- **COPY:** Make color copies (or black and white copies -- depending on design) on A3 paper (11x17 inches, 30x42 cms). If this will be the final size of your signs, it's more durable if you can get cardstock or a heavy paper.
- **ENLARGE:** One way to make a larger sign is to enlarge the design onto two sideways A3 sheets (11x17 inches, 30x42 cms), cut out and paste together on a rigid backing, and create one bigger sign (or do it in 4 sections and make it even bigger). You can also get larger color copies at many copy shops, but it can be more expensive.



- **MOUNT:** You can also mount them on cut-to-size posterboard/ cardboard/thin plywood/etc. using spray adhesive, rubber cement, a quality glue stick, or 1 inch masking tape around the edges.



HAND COLOR -- HAVE AN ART PARTY: The black and white designs are great to print out and color by hand -- a perfect reason for hosting an art build. You can easily copy the design onto A3 paper (11x17 inches, 30x42 cms), or enlarge even bigger, either by cutting and pasting two or more enlarged sections together or by copying on an extra-large format copier (many photocopy shops have them). You can use colored pencils, watercolors, or watered-down latex/emulsion or acrylic paints (watered down so that the black lines come through, but the color is not too weak). Get brushes that work and do some testing. You can also make black and white copies of these designs to color as a kids' activity at an art party or event.



STENCIL DESIGNS

Here are 7 different stencil designs (in 5 pdf files you can download). You can use them to make as many signs as you want, to print flags or banners, to make fabric patches to wear, etc.

They are each designed to make three-color signs; the color of the materials you are stenciling onto, plus the two colors for each of the two stencils. You can also choose to mix and match, or create your own stencils for other messages. To create visually unified actions or events you may want to agree on colors first. Two unifying colors being used widely in Rise for Climate Action is orange (for the X over what we want to replace) and yellow (for the sun symbolizing solutions).

These stencils were designed by Josh Yoder, an illustrator and visual strategist, helping communities take control of their own media narratives and storytelling. He's currently working with Lancaster Against Pipelines, a group of local residents standing up to pipeline construction in Southern Pennsylvania, USA. You can see some of the amazing signs he designed for Lancaster [here](#).

There is a link to download these stencils designs and how-to tips below the design images.



MOCKUP



FOSSIL FREE

TOWN NAME

FIRST LAYER



SECOND LAYER



MOCKUP



THIRD LAYER





TIPS FOR MAKING STENCIL SIGNS

DOWNLOAD STENCIL IMAGES [HERE](#); this link goes to our Dropbox file of the five images shown above.

Each file image shows a mock-up of the final design and the two black and white stencils that are needed to create that final image. Of course you will choose your own colors. Remember that light/dark contrast is key to visibility.

Paper: A1 poster board (23x33 inches, 60x84 cms) ([example](#)) The horizontal stencils are half sheets.
Alternatives: For a fancier option use foam core ([example](#)).

Stencil Material: A1 plastic poster board (23x33 inches, 60x84 cms) (clear - [example](#)).
Alternatives: mylar, acetate sheets, or any water resistant heavy paper

Methods: Project onto stencil material and trace.
Alternatives: Print/copy patterns and trace onto stencil material. May require printing on multiple sheets.

For Rollers: High-density foam roller, 6 inches/15 cms ([example](#))
Alternatives: any completely dry paint roller or spray paint (use outdoors with ventilation). [Here's a short video](#) showing artist Cesar Maxit making a roller stencil on fabric.

Paint: Any latex/emulsion/acrylic water-based house paint or Acrylic artists paint.

Notes: Do not add water: Less watery paint works best.

We hope you'll be able to find many of these materials or similar versions in your local art or hardware stores.

**BANNERS
AND FLAGS,
AND
LEADING
SONGS**

BANNERS AND FLAGS

[Here](#) is a video how-to for painting a banner (starting at minute 7:15). This also shows the rigging for a vertical banner.

How to Make Crossbar Flags; [Here](#). These painted, stencilled or screen printed fabric flags are designed to have horizontal sticks at top and bottom, and also attach to a vertical pole. They are very visible, easy to carry, can be mass produced and can break down and compact.

FOSSIL FREE SONGS: SINGING AND LEADING

SONG: BUILDING A CULTURE OF CREATIVE CONNECTION

We are striving to take back and nourish a culture of creating beauty and color and vibrance and genuine expression. It's exciting! And sometimes hard. But it's worth it!! When we sing together, we connect to each other and our purpose. So if you are bringing song to your group, do it with the knowledge and intention that music provides something that we desperately need because of the harsh context we live in. So bring that medicine. Sing to open meetings. Sing after a break. Sing to open a rally. Sing to close a vigil. Sing as an act of love. Bring that music and let it elevate us all.

-Lu Aya, Co-Founder and Artist Educator of thepeacepoets.com

WHEN IS A GOOD TIME TO BRING IN SONG?

Opening or closing a meeting
At Town Hall Meetings
At public events, actions, or rallies

WHY SONG?

- Make your public actions more impactful
- Deepen the relationships within and beyond your community
- Ground your community in its purpose
- Express key points of the group's messaging in a beautiful accessible way

- Unveil deep human emotion of the group's struggle to the world
- Bring vibrancy to all your gatherings

USES OF SONG IN OUR MOVEMENTS

This is a list from Lu Aya of the Peace Poets on all the ways that we can use music in our movements: **Gathering, Grounding, Focus, Energizing, De-escalation, Grieving, Bonding, Moving, Transitioning: Escalating, Accompanying, Channeling, Messaging, Transforming, Beauty, Rage, Love, Connectedness, Purpose, Closing**

TIPS FOR SONG LEADING

- Before: Practice--alone and leading others
- Share--lead your friends, family and others in the song
- Brainstorm-the words you can add to the song to improvise with.
- Know content before and after song so you know the tone.
- Build it in: plan song into the program and schedule
- Story - learn and reflect on the testimonies of struggle song speaks to
- Connect - Feel the song connect you to history, purpose and comrades
- Grounding--why the words of the song
- Window--find the specific parts of song where you can interject phrases like "sing it loud, for your neighbors, dance with it, etc." (sometimes this will be over the singing)
- Tempo--make a chill song energizing or vice versa
- Volume --- utilize volume to manage the tone and vibe of the group (*let's get loud! vs. sing it gently now*)

TIPS FOR GROUP PHOTOS

Planning a group photo of everyone with all your signs, art, and visuals can often capture the strongest image of the demonstration for your own photos and sometimes for media as well. Here are a few tips for creating the strongest possible group photo:



Group Photo: March 19, 2018: No Permits for Tar Sands Oil in the Bay Area--Hearing at the Bay Area Air Quality Control Board. Photo: Peg Hunter, Rawearthworks Journal

MOST PEOPLE: Time it for when the most people are present, this may be in the middle of your event. If you are having a rally or program, doing a group photo does not mean you have to stop with speakers or music—a group photo makes for a very focussed audience while you are taking pictures.

LIGHT?: Where is the light coming from? If the sun is out, having it in front of the group or to the side rather than back lit (in shadow) helps. If it's dusk or dark, look for street lights or other sources of light -- again ideally coming in front.

WHERE & BACKDROP?: Is there a sign for the politicians' offices or a recognizable building or feature that will explain where you are and help tell the story? Is there some iconic landmark nearby? Where is a good place for a group of people to stand and be visible? If it's a big group, are there steps or a low wall that people could stand on to make the whole group more visible?

VERTICAL LAYERING: Some ways to think about arranging people and art so they are all visible, fill the space, and don't block each other are:

tall people step back, less tall people step forward; have the front row of people sitting on the ground (if it's not wet and there are folks OK with that); have a second row of people kneeling (if there are a lot of people to fit in, you can even have the very front row lying down; use steps, benches, or walls that people can stand on and be visible behind those standing on the ground. You can ask if everyone can see the photographer clearly -- a way to check and make sure their faces will be included in the photo.



Landowner, farmers, Bold Iowa and community folks in Central, Iowa take a group photo after disrupting bulldozers working on the Dakota Access Pipeline. Oct, 2016. Photo: David Solnit



Mississippi Stand group photo before marching against the Dakota Access Pipeline. Oct, 2016, Keokuk, IA. Photo: David Solnit

ART & VISUALS: Is there a strong readable key banner/s or sign/s that has your core message that you can put in the center of the group photo?

This is the time to arrange your strongest art and visuals for maximum visibility, to make your group big and your message clear and beautiful. Ask people with signs to hold them so they don't block other faces. One way to display additional banners in a group photo is to lay them flat on the ground in front of the group and include them in the photo frame.

PHOTOGRAPHER: Try to arrange for at least one reliable person who can take good photos and get them out to your group members as soon as possible. If you know media photographers or videographers who will be coming to the event you can let them know there will be a group photo at a certain time/location.

GET THE PHOTOS OUT: Post them as soon as possible on your social media, your facebook page, event page, and website with a caption or report and encourage people to share widely. Tell people who are in the group photo where it will be posted and encourage them to share it. Less is more: a few of your strongest photos that tell the story of your demonstration/event with a strong clear caption, compelling quotes or short report will often get shared more than posting lots of photos.



Photo: Art build at ARTivism: Mobilizing the Climate Movement at University of Utah Department of Art & Art History, Salt Lake City Utah.

**MAKING
THE RISE X
AND SUN:
WITH OUR
BODIES,
WITH
MATERIALS**

The symbol of an orange X represents what we need to put a stop to (fossil fuel infrastructure, climate impacts), and a yellow Sun represents the solutions we need (solar power, wind power, climate resilience, people power!).

On Sept 8th, you can make the image of the X and the Sun, and take a photo of it to share. People around the world will be doing the same at their Rise for Climate mobilisation.

It will help show we are united across the world at one moment in demanding real climate leadership and a fossil free world. It will help show the force of our combined people power, and raise the visibility of our demands! The images will last beyond the day of action as a beacon of what we stand for.

What ways can you think of to make the orange X and the yellow sun? Here's a few we can think of to get you started:

CHOOSE A LOCATION: You could choose a location outside a political target or in a popular public space. Photos can look even more powerful and interesting if taken from high up, like a building or from steps, so even better if your location has that.

WITH YOUR BODIES:

MARK IT OUT. Make a X shape and a circle shape with string or chalk on the floor.

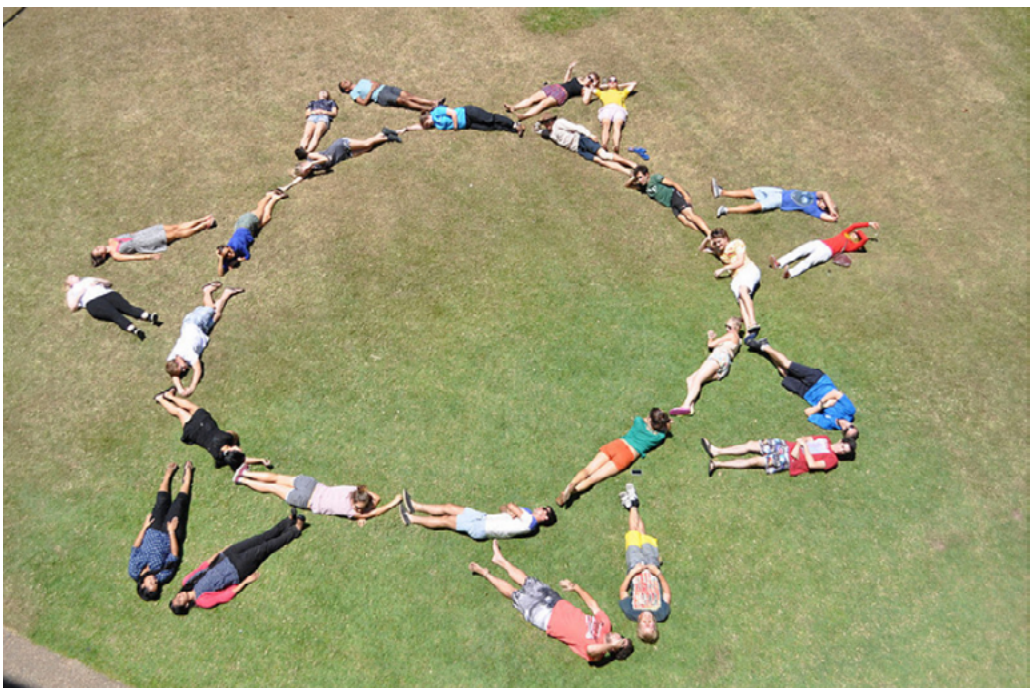
HOLD COLOURED CARD OR FABRIC. Have one piece or side of card painted orange. Have another piece or side of card painted yellow. Stand in the X shape and face the orange side upwards. Stand in the circle shape and face the yellow side upwards.

ALTERNATIVES: Dress in orange or yellow, and make the shape of an X or a circle/sun with people. Use your arms to make the X and circle signs.

MOVE & SPEAK: Moving from one to the other can help create a story from resistance to hope. You could speak or sing about what your resisting, and what hopeful solutions we want to create as you move, creating theatre for anyone watching.

TAKE A PHOTO, FROM ABOVE IF POSSIBLE. See tips above on group photos. If you can get up high, from a window in a building, from a bridge, a staircase, using a drone, or even a ladder, it can help add drama to the photo.







WITH FABRIC:

TIP: *Painting fabric takes time to dry, so try to do this at least a few days of ideally a week in advance of your day of action.*

CHOOSE YOUR SPACE AND PROTECT YOUR FLOOR: You may need a space big enough to lay your entire material out flat, which may be outdoors. The paint may soak through the material: protect the surface below with either old cardboard, old plastic, lots of old newspapers, or another piece of thick scrap material.

BUY YELLOW FABRIC: Buy fabric that's really light enough to carry for some time. You'd be surprised how quickly arms get tired! Parachute material is ideal.

MAKE YOUR FABRIC INTO A CIRCLE: Smooth it out and tape the material down on opposite sides to stretch it out and hold it still while you mark it. Take a length of string half the width you'd like your Sun to be. On one end of the string, tie a pencil, on the other end of the string, tie a pin. Place the pin in the middle of your fabric. Stretch the string out fully, and use the pencil to mark the fabric, turning around the pin until you've drawn a full circle on the material. Cut out the circle. Smooth your circle-shaped material out and tape the material down again on opposite sides to stretch it out and hold it still while you write and paint your message on the material.

CHOOSE YOUR MESSAGE/IMAGE: TIP: The more complex the image and the more/longer words you choose, the longer it takes to lay out and paint.

MARK OUT YOUR MESSAGE/IMAGE: To make your words/message neat, you can take your piece of string that has a pencil at one end and a pin in the other, shorten the piece of string, put the pin back in the centre of your material, and draw a semi-circle or circle to mark the line where the top of the words/message will be. Then shorten the string again, and repeat marking the line where the bottom of the words will be. Mark out your words or image in chalk or pencil, before going over it in paint.

PAINT YOUR MESSAGE/IMAGE: Buy or borrow old latex/emulsion/ acrylic paint in bright strong colors ($\frac{1}{2}$ gallon or 2 litres). If paint is thick I thin it with about 1 part water to 3 parts paint, so it flows easily, but still covers solidly. I pour paint into quart/1 litre sized old plastic containers (such as ice cream or yoghurt), and paint with both foam and bristle brushes of various sizes. I set paint containers on a piece of cardboard or box top and if I do drip, I wipe it off right away with a wet rag. Make sure to paint out any heavily painted areas where paint has pooled, so it will dry faster.

Let it dry completely—for as long as you can. For the first week try not to compress tightly or fold so paint is touching paint—roll it loosely and don't compress until it's a week old. The fresh paint can still be a little tacky and stick to itself.

MOVE IT: Get some people to practice holding the material before your action. Practice stretching it in a circle from all sides so it's perfectly flat and readable - how many people do you need? Practice tipping the top of the circle to the holder's chin, and the bottom of the circle down to the ground, with the holders kneeling so it can be read (and photographed!) from directly in front.

PLAY WITH IT: You can play climate games at your action.

- Rise up with the material (Rise for people, climate justice, etc)!" — everyone lifts up.
- Go round the circle, each person counting either Number 1 or Number 2. Hold the material up high and call out: "Number 2's trade places!" . . . then all people who counted Number 2 have to run under the material , taking each other's places. You can have a short dance party in the middle.
- "Down with (Big Oil, fossil fuels, fracking, oil trains, oil/gas pipeline, climate impacts, etc)" Bring the material low down to the ground.



ALTERNATIVES: You can also make the X and Sun shapes with paint, paper, with costumes, with graffiti.

Sunflowers have become a symbol for climate justice movements across North America—from Zero Waste Detroit, to the movement resisting Chevron’s refinery Richmond, CA to UPROSE and climate justice-environmental justice groups in New York City. [The Farmers Almanac](#) writes, “This bright, cheerful flower has given us a delicious and hardy seed, a versatile cooking oil, leaves for cattle feed, a stem strong enough to make paper, and of course, much beauty” and “the ability to remove harmful toxins from our soil.”

<http://art.350.org/how-tos/how-to-make-sunflower-circle-signs/>



**USE
ARTWORK
FROM
AROUND
THE WORLD**

Artists from six continents have made artworks that people can use to #RiseforClimate. They included the Rise unifying symbols of an orange Cross for what we need to put a stop to, and a Sun for the solutions we need. You can use images from other continents, showing how truly global the movement is. [You can see and download the images here.](#)



STA OP VOOR HET KLIMAAT

Samen naar een fossielvrije toekomst.

8 September 2018

RiseforClimate.org

**RISE
FOR CLIMATE**
TO BUILD A FOSSIL FREE WORLD
SEPTEMBER 8, 2018
RISEFORCLIMATE.ORG



HOLD AN ART SHOW:

PICK A LOCATION: Pick a effective location, perhaps where many members of the target public audience can see it, or near a target political institution. You can be there for an hour or a week, depending on permissions, capacity and goals. This Art Show could be mobile, and once printed, tour different locations.

PRINT THE IMAGES & ARTIST INFO: Print the artworks as large full colour posters - A3 size (11x17 inches, 30x43 cm) is usually available on a photocopier. Other larger sizes like A0 size (33x23 inches, 60x84 cms) is possible to print from a copy shop. [Print info about the artists and the artworks.](#)

DISPLAY THE IMAGES & ARTIST INFO: A simple version would be to attach the artworks and artists info to a piece of string, and tie the string across two points so that the artwork is at eye-level for the average viewer. Attach the info about the artist next to their artwork, for the viewers to read about the art.

Alternatives: For a fancier version, you could mount the artworks and artists info onto mount board or foam board. Or, you could use black paint (can be washable paint) to paint a square “frame” on the wall around the artwork to highlight it.

MAKE IT LOCAL: Ask local groups/partners in advance to make their own images to add local relevance and participation to the art exhibition. Pay local artists to add their own artwork in their own language and style, and invite them to come and be at the art show.

INVITE THE PUBLIC AND MEDIA: You could do this ahead of Sept 8th to build interest in the day of action, or on Sept 8th.

PRINT THE IMAGES FOR PEOPLE TO HOLD ON THE DAY OF ACTION: Use them as posters or placards.

OTHER ARTS RESOURCES

[Here's](#) a simple "MAKE AN ARTS ORGANIZING PLAN" framework form to fill out to help start to plan how you will use arts in your education, organizing, actions and mobilizations. [Here's](#) some ARTS ORGANIZING TIPS FOR MOBILIZATIONS & ACTIONS

Best Wishes,
David Solnit, 350 US Arts Organizer

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