

# FOSSIL FOOL'S DAY 2014



# ACTION TOOLKIT

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**Fossil Fuel expansion across Canada is driving a dangerous resource rush that hinges on extreme energy like fracking and tar sands. Already seeing the impacts of a changing climate, this "extractivist" project being pushed by industry and government would see us blow any safe carbon budget and worsen the impacts of climate change here at home and around the world.**

**Climate change and it's human cost is no joke, but the plans of this government and industry are ridiculous. So, in order to take on these Fossil Fools, we want you to join us for the biggest creative, decentralized action that's ever been done.**

**Interested? Great! Let's get to it.**

## **THE PLAN**

**We're going to show the ludicrous reality of the fossil fuel industry's carbon dreams, and force people across Canada to deal with the truth about fossil fuel development.**

**It's easy for most people to ignore the impacts of fossil fuel development because they're not happening in their own communities. On Fossil Fools Day, that's all going to change.**

**Our plan is for local action groups like yours to find an iconic or important location in your community or on your campus and build mock fossil fuel developments there. We're looking for places like Stanley Park, Green Gables and other iconic locations. On campus, places like the football field, quad or a famous statue or building could work. Other locations could be important places like political or industry offices, community squares or beloved parks. We want to find locations that have an emotional impact for onlookers, that allow us to bring the reality of fossil fuel development home to people and decision makers.**

**On April 1st, these actions will roll out across Canada. We'll share photos and stories through a common online platform to show the impacts the fossil fuel industry has on our communities. We'll also be pulling a high-profile prank to frame all the actions on a national scale. The details of this prank are being worked out as we speak, and we'll be able to share more with you closer to the action date.**

**Fossil Fools Day is a national day of action that will push forward existing climate justice campaigns in local communities and jumpstart new ones. In particular, we're hoping to engage people around PowerShift Atlantic, happening in Halifax, and fossil fuel divestment campaigns across the country.**

**If you're wondering how we're actually going to mock fossil fuel projects, don't worry. We've got you covered in the next section!**

## **WHY WE'RE DOING THIS**

**WRITTEN BY: DANIEL T'SELEIE**

The impacts of the climate crisis, and of the destructive practices related to fossil fuel exploitation and transportation, have severe and palpable impacts on frontline communities. These impacts include reduced food security for communities, the disruption of necessary transportation systems, loss of land and homes, and the forced relocation of communities and populations.

Indigenous communities at the frontlines of climate change and fossil fuel exploitation also experience impacts to their cultures, spiritualities, and languages. Indigenous peoples around the world have special relationships with the lands to which they belong. For these people culture and spirituality are intimately linked to the natural environment. Cultural and spiritual communions exist with certain species that have been harvested since time immemorial (for example, between caribou and Arctic Indigenous peoples). Sites on the land that to an outsider may seem innocuous, like a rock or a small island, can have spiritual significance expressed through certain rituals that have been passed down since time immemorial. Similarly, the languages of Indigenous peoples are also connected to the land, and the learning of these languages often requires the learner to experience these natural environments by frequenting the same places their ancestors have frequented and by participating in the same cultural and spiritual practices as their ancestors.

Fossil fuel exploitation and the climate crisis cause irreversible changes to the land and to natural environments, such as species extinction, erosion and loss of land, and changes in weather patterns. Changes of this kind contribute to the loss of Indigenous peoples cultures, languages, and spiritualities.

The loss of a staple species can result in an Indigenous population not being able to practice their culture by harvesting and communing with this animal. The loss of a sacred site means they are denied their spirituality. The loss of a particular manifestation of the climate, like winds that blow in a certain direction at specific times of the year, for which they have related words and terms in their language prevents them from passing on their language to future generations in its entirety.

In our activism we often have a tendency to shy away from actions that confront and inconvenience the public and instead opt for creative actions designed to educate the general public. We must consider that these tactics can be combined, and that creative actions designed to inconvenience and confront the public can be an effective way to educate them about the impacts of climate change on frontline and Indigenous communities.

Disrupting peoples enjoyment of culturally significant sites or disrupting culturally significant practices can demonstrate to them how Indigenous cultures are being impacted. Creative challenges to spiritual and linguistic rights can also help communicate this message. Impacting transportation, restricting access to space, and limiting access to specific sources of food can demonstrate the impacts frontline communities are experiencing.

These types of tactics are confrontational and must be considered carefully as they elicit a strong emotional response, but that is also the strength of such tactics. By eliciting an emotional response we can show, and not just tell, people what the impacts of climate change are on the world's most vulnerable populations.

This is not an endorsement of violence, hatespeech, or disrespect. Nor is it an endorsement of limiting religious freedom or oppressing linguistic minorities.

This is a request for the consideration of tactics that focus on non-violent confrontation. These tactics must be considered very carefully and require serious planning and messaging.

## **TACTICS**

This is a collection of a few suggested tactics, along with blueprints and examples of how to pull them off. Our hope is that these suggestions can help you get started, but if you have another idea that you think fits, go for it!

If your action requires the element of surprise, no worries! You can get in touch with us directly to set up a time to chat about your plan, and we promise your secret is safe with us. If you need even more security, just get scheming and email us at [info@ourclimate.ca](mailto:info@ourclimate.ca) once you've deployed the action with an update, photos, video and anything else so we can share it with everyone else! We're here to support you with anything you need for your action, including traditional and social media.

### **Tactic 1: Frack a Famous Place**

Fracking is currently being pushed in the backyards of communities all across Canada. The rigs used to drill these wells are fast becoming recognized as iconic images of dangerous, unconventional extraction. So naturally we want to put them in famous places. Think of the imagery: Fracking rigs all across Stanley Park, at Green Gables, on the lawn of a politician's home or a legislative building, on the sports field of your campus, etc.

#### **How to Do it:**

There are a number of ways to make a mock model of a fracking rig and how you do it can depend on the resources and materials you have access to, as well as deployment, visuals and the long-term use of the prop.

#### **Method 1: Tripod Rig**

Tripods first began being used by activists to create creative, high-flying blockades and over time the tripod has become a useful tool for blockading, as well as powerful visuals and platforms for hanging banners. Tripods can be large and made of a range of materials. They can be deployed with climbers, or without, as easily deployable and high impact visuals (please only attempt climbing actions with appropriate safety gear and training).



*In 2011, Climate Justice Montreal used a tripod designed to look similar to a fracking rig as the center of a theatrical action outside of the Quebec Oil and Gas Producers annual conference.*

A tripod can be made to look like a fracking rig in two main ways, the first is to use rope painted black or silver to weave a rig-like lattice between the tripod's three poles.

The second is more visually recognizable and allows for your tripod to also be turned into a standing banner. By attaching and painting fabric to hang in the space between poles, a tripod can be made to look like a fracking rig or any number of things.

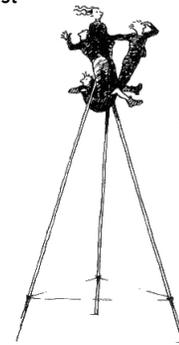


Campaigners fighting to stop Mountain Top Coal Removal used this tactic in the past

**How to Build a Tripod:**

How to Use Wood/Bamboo with Rope: <http://www.animatedknots.com/lashtripod>

How to Make a Large Scaffolding Tripod: <http://libcom.org/organise/scaffold-tripods-guide>



SCAFF  
TRIPODS

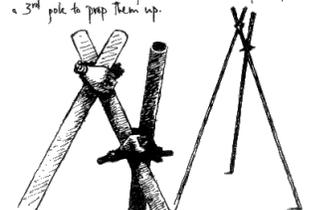


For your basic tripod, acquire:  
 3 scuff-poles, about 25' feet long;  
 2 swivelling scuff-clips;  
 and some rope.  
 cheap, blue polyprop is fine. And a  
 spanner for the  
 nuts on the clips.  
 You also need a fairly large (high if indoors) space  
 for fixing them, experimenting + practising.



It is tricky to get the clips fitted on so that the  
 poles can be parallel as well as erect into tripods.

See the assembly as  
 2 main poles in an 'A' shape, plus  
 a 3rd pole to prop them up.



## Method 2: PVC/Wood/Cardboard Rig

Recently a number of actions have built mock fracking rigs out of materials from PVC piping to cardboard, wood and even salvaged plastic. The material you use for this method will depend on your budget for the action, the size of your structure and your planned use. A larger rig will require stronger materials, but these can also be built out of reinforced cardboard. Check out these images and case studies for some examples of how to create your own. Keep a lookout, we're working on a full kit detailing how to make one of these from start to finish! For now, check out the links below...



Rising Tide, Vancouver. Learn how they did here: <http://risingtide604.ca/?p=897>



Elves Wish "Merry Frackmas" in Chicago and UNFRACK California.

<http://earthfirstjournal.org/newswire/2013/12/24/chicago-rising-tide-elves-protest-fracking-on-governors-lawn/>

Note: If you're feeling ambitious and crafty, you could build an inflatable pyramid that could be painted to look like a fracking rig, but we haven't tried this yet. If you get it working, let us know so we can share your blueprints!

## **Tactic 2: Pipe(line) Dreams**

The tar sands and fracking industries have big pipe dreams to criss-cross Canada and the US with a dangerous network of pipelines. We can show what this will really look like with inflatable pipelines and spill scenes. Inflatable pipelines are easy to build and deploy in iconic places like government offices, on campus, and plenty of other spots.

### **How to Do it:**

*Before you begin:*

*While working on the production of the pipeline, try to limit the amount of walking on the plastic, as pebbles or other debris can puncture a hole in the material. A few small holes will not affect the pipeline, but when discovered, these should be covered with black duct tape. Rolls of plastic can be very heavy, it's rather difficult for even one strong person to move, so get a co-conspirator or two to help you out. You will also need a space large enough to unfurl the full length of your pipeline. Long hallways are great place to do this.*

### **Materials:**

**Black plastic sheeting** (some Canadian Tires and hardware stores have been known to sell this already in a sealed tube shape)

**Duct tape** (black, grey or white can work)

**White house paint** (outdoor)

**Paint brush(es)**

**Scissors/exacto knives**

**An inflation device** (a house or industrial fan, a leaf blower, a high powered air compressor, or for small pipelines a foot pump can also work)

### **Full Guide:**

Check it out here: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1AN-lLv44cVtd135\\_q\\_NIPXquPOCXGGTprnxgVv6C7AA/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1AN-lLv44cVtd135_q_NIPXquPOCXGGTprnxgVv6C7AA/edit)



This guide was designed by Cesar Maxit and instructs on how to build a 100-200 foot long pipeline. The budget and required materials for this size project (outlined in the guide) are much greater than is required for making a smaller pipeline which can be made at a very low cost. The inflation system outlined can also be replaced with a number of different, much less expensive options such as a borrowed leaf-blower, a foot pump for small projects, a thrift-store fan and so on. Our best experience has been with a leaf blower. If you have any questions about building one of these, get in touch with us at [info@ourclimate.ca](mailto:info@ourclimate.ca) and we can walk you through a smaller project.

### **Tactic 3: Contaminated Water**

Whether from fracking, tailings, a tar sands spill or offshore disasters like the BP Deepwater Horizon, fossil fuel expansion is threatening our air, climate, land and water. Many campuses and communities have iconic fountains or bodies of water. Why not show just what could happen to one of our most precious resources if we let Big Oil call the shots?



There is no shortage of ways to transform something into a toxic spill site, but some things you could consider: oil covered rubber ducks and other wildlife, caution tape, contamination suits and clean up crews, distributing surgical masks to passers-by and warning them to avoid inhaling the toxic fumes, molasses spills or other mock oil spills. You could even combine this tactic with an inflated pipeline or a fracking rig for a theatrical takeover!

### **Tactic 4: Inflating the Carbon Bubble**

This is especially useful for divestment campaigns, but could also be deployed off campus for a big impact. Investments in fossil fuels are creating a bubble that's bad for the economy and worse for the planet, so let's show it off. Carbon bubbles on campus at the president's office are one great option, but why not take the carbon bubble down to the financial district and inflate it at a stock exchange or the the offices of a major fossil fuel company. Here's how to make a carbon bubble (adapted by Kevin Buckland).

#### **How to Make a Giant Inflatable Cube:**

*(This text is an english translation of this illustrated guide <http://reflectantes.wordpress.com/como-construir-el-reflectocubo/tutorial-reflectocubo/>)*

#### **Materials:**

Waterproof cloth or plastic sheeting

*NOTE: in this text the "silver side" refers to the outside of the cube*

Double Sided Tape, 5cm wide

Silver Duct Tape, 5cm wide

One 6-Litre Water Bottle

Scissors

## **Building the Cube:**

### **Basic Shape of Cube:**

1. Cut 2 squares of 1.5 m x 1.5 m

2. Cut a rectangle of 1.5m x 6m (this saves material by avoiding the overlap involved in attaching individual squares)

*Note: In the image seen in the link, you can see the rectangle of 1.5m x 6m and one of the squares is cut by 1.5m x 1.5m*

*Note: Draw marks at a distance of 1.5m along the edge of the rectangle. These will correspond with the edges of each cube.*

3. On each square, put double-sided tape around the edges on the silver side, at this time only remove one side of the paper covering from the tape.

4. One of the squares will have the valve that you will use to inflate the cube.

5. Both squares will be taped in place onto the rectangle.

*Note: Make sure to always tape the silver surface of the squares to the silver surface of the rectangle, otherwise the white interior will be visible from the outside.*

6. To attach the first square to the rectangle: first, move the square into position and then slowly remove the paper from the double sided tape, pressing the sides together to form a seam.

*Note: It is important that these stick together very well. After the sides are stuck together, pass over them with a ruler, piece of wood or another object that will apply pressure to the seam.*

7. To join the next sides to the rectangle: try to fold the overlap at the corners at neat 45 degree angles. This will make it easier to form strong 90 degree angles at the corners. When one of the 1.5m x 1.5m squares has been completely attached, start working on the next square, which contains the valve.

### **How to Make a Valve for the Cube:**

1. Cut off the conical top of the the water bottle.

2. Cut the bottle surrounding the cap into strips all the way to the cap.

3. Round the ends of the strips, like petals on a flower.

4. Cut a small square of the silver cloth, approx 20cm x 20cm

5. On both sides of the small square cover the center with duct tape. This will reinforce the cloth where we will make a cut to insert the valve.

6. Trace the bottle's opening onto the reinforced center of the cloth. Cut out this circle.

7. Insert the "flower" into the hole we have cut in the center of the square, the cap should be on the silver side. This will be the first outside layer of the valve, the second layer is the side of the cube itself.

8. Use tape to seal entrance of the valve, between the petals and the cloth. Make sure no air leaks.

9. On the remaining 1.5m x 1.5m square, reinforce a small zone in the center on both sides with duct tape. On these reinforcements, trace the mouth of the valve and cut out the circle. Push the petals of the valve through this hole and seal this opening with duct tape. Fold the petals down and tape them to the cloth. Tape the smaller square to the bigger square.

10. Next, form a cylindrical tube of cloth. Cut one side of the tube into verticle strips, about 4 inches long.

11. Cut a small square of cloth like the previous and reinforce the center where we will again mark and cut a hole for the valve.

12. Insert the cylindrical tube into the hole, with the side that has been cut into strips on the inside. Tape the strips onto the square and seal the connection with duct tape.

13. Finally, pass the cylindrical tube through the valve itself, and tape the smaller square to the inside of the 1.5m x 1.5m square.

Now that the square with the valve is completed, you can attach the first two sides like the previous square, working with the cube inside out. When there are only two sides left to attach, reinforce all corners from the inside with duct tape. Then turn the entire cube right-side out, and begin to work on the silver side, sealing the two remaining edges. Once you have completely sealed the cube, it is important to reinforce all of the corners with duct tape from the outside, and to run duct-tape along all the outside seams.

**Your Done!** Now you just need to inflate the cube! Use either a mechanical foot pump (like for pool toys), an inflatable mattress pump, or a leaf-blower. Time to hit the streets...

## **Got an idea for another tactic? Let us know!**

### **MEDIA/MESSAGING**

We have a full media toolkit on the way that will include a media advisory, a press release and a talking point prep sheet that you are welcome to use and adapt for your action and group. We'll be sending out national and regional press releases as the big prank unfolds and we'll be looking for local spokespeople to connect with journalists.

If you're interested in being a spokesperson for this action nationally, get in touch with us. Spokespeople will be required to attend at least one or two prep calls to be coordinated in March.

### **COORDINATION**

On April 1st, the Fossil Fools National Action Team (which you can join) will be helping to coordinate and share all the actions. Much of this team will be in Halifax April 1st, but we will have remote hubs across all time zones spanning the country to support the promotion of all the actions taking place that day. Fossil Fools Day is being organized without a lot of funding or resources, so we're relying on folks like you to pull off the biggest creative, satirical actions EVER.

### **PHOTO/VIDEO**

As we said, on Fossil Fools Day we will have a system set up for amalgamating and sharing our photos, videos and stories from actions coast to coast. We'll be sharing more details soon, but if you are able to arrange for high resolution photos and video of your actions and send them our way, that would be amazing. If you need support finding folks to fill the roles of photo and videographers, let us know and we'll see what we can find!