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International  
Young Naturefriends



**CONTRADICTIONARY  
TRUTHS**

**IN THE CLIMATE  
MOVEMENT**





# WHAT ARE CONTRADICTORY TRUTHS?

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We can understand them as dilemmas that may be used to diminish the importance of climate action when put in a certain context.

In philosophy, this standpoint is called dialetheism, and it is the belief that there are true statements whose negation is also true. To identify the silver lining between statements, one has to examine both viewpoints without bias and educate themselves on the background of each statement.

Contradictory truths remind us of the importance of finding a common ground within the climate movement, and focusing on reaching agreements and solutions, rather than seeking to assign blame in one direction or another.

It is also important for us to know and identify these truths ahead of time, examine their basis and have a satisfactory resolution ready when in discussion about climate.

We have here a couple of examples of common contradictory truths in the climate movement and we suggest you take note of them and think about a most appropriate resolution to the dilemma. Some answers may not be there just yet, but there should always be a proposed solution or a plan of action for a better future. The goal is to unite and have both sides ready to fight climate change.

Let the games begin!

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*All countries need to participate in climate action, including the developing countries.*

*We want our political system to remain democratic and fair.*

*We strongly advocate for more sustainable lifestyle choices, such as adopting a vegan diet.*

*We want an energy transition that empowers consumers and is accepted by the local communities.*

*As activists we dislike populists for dividing people and creating two fronts.*

*Developing countries are not historically responsible for climate change.*

*We need radical actions to fight climate change.*

*We have to respect the right of each person to choose their dietary and health habits.*

*This transition needs to happen very fast and there is not enough time to properly engage with the local communities and get them involved.*

*We do the same when we identify and isolate populists instead of engaging with them.*



*As climate activists we choose greener products in order to reduce our footprint.*

*Climate change is viewed as a threat for everyone.*

*We should implement sustainable choices in our everyday lives.*

*We feel great when we make a less harmful choice for the environment in order to reduce our negative impact.*

*A large portion of greenhouse gas emissions does not come from production, but via the supply chain.*

*Some localities will actually economically benefit from the changing climate. The wealthy may benefit while the disadvantaged will suffer more.*

*Being able to opt for a sustainable option is considered a to be privilege, and many communities across the globe do not have this option.*

*Less harmful is still harmful and a lot of emissions are caused by climate activists who, for example, have the privilege to travel.*







*Some vegan alternatives such as avocados are considered as a better choice for the environment, as opposed to a meat-based diet.*

*Nuclear energy is viewed as a clean energy transition alternative by many.*

*We want each person on the planet to have access to clean water, food and healthy nature.*

*Transition to clean energy by cutting coal or oil mining is good for the environment.*

*Electrically powered transportation is perceived as clean.*

*In fact, avocado production causes droughts in local communities and the transportation of avocados creates an immense amount of emissions.*

*Nuclear waste is really dangerous and it is usually stored near disadvantaged communities.*

*Many places on Earth will become inhabitable and climate-related migration will rise.*

*Cutting coal or oil mining can negatively impact the economy and bring more injustice to the system.*

*Majority of the electric power plants are not sustainable energy sources.*





This list was created during a 6-day seminar in the Naturefriends house Het Zeehuis in Bergen aan Zee. The seminar is called “Climate Justice vs Right Wing Populism” and it is a part of a larger cycle of activities for the year 2023 called “Extremism – A Danger for Climate Justice?”

The activity gathered 20 motivated young people from Europe and the surrounding countries, and they spent several days discussing ways in which climate justice activists can argue against toxic populist statements. Using a large variety of non-formal methods, they learned more about climate justice and right wing populism, as well as the dangerous contradictions within the climate justice movement itself. These identified “contradictory truths” then became a part of this small publication and presented the basis for developing several short podcast snippets during the activity.

This publication is one of many outcomes of the cycle, which include a [podcast episode](#), a YouTube video and a [blog post](#). You can check them all out on our [official website](#), [podcast page](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

We can't wait to see you again on our international activities. Until then, Berg frei!

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