

GREENPEACE HUNGARY

ANNUAL PUBLIC BENEFIT REPORT 2019



Preface

János Bálint Mező

Office Director, Greenpeace Hungary



© Zsuzsi Dörögő / Greenpeace

At Greenpeace Hungary, we work to make our country and the entire planet cleaner and more liveable, to ensure a secure future for our children and grandchildren.

The year 2019 was a decisive one in the life of Greenpeace Hungary:

- We made our decision-makers take the ecological and climate emergency seriously;
- In collaboration with young people engaged in climate protection, we took unprecedented masses to the streets to safeguard our climate and wildlife;
- We achieved a breakthrough: decision-makers took action to reduce air and plastic pollution, to help eliminate single-use culture;
- We showed that strong, autonomous communities can provide real answers to the climate and ecological crisis.

In 2019, our experts also participated in the activities of the National Environmental Council. Our policy recommendations covered a number of topics. We commented on, among other things, the government's energy and climate-protection programme, air-pollution measures, National Air Pollution Reduction Programme, and revision of its National Waste Management Plan. In addition, we defiantly raised our voices against environmental government lay-offs and transformations.

We are firmly and financially independent. We fight for the preservation of our natural resources. We put pressure on governments and companies around the world that are not fulfilling their duty to mankind or the Earth.

“ In 2019, we made it possible for world leaders to finally acknowledge that the climate and ecological crisis is the biggest problem of our time, one that we need to address urgently. We would like to thank the hundreds of thousands of Hungarians for their support, fighting with us to make our planet, and Hungary with it, a more liveable, more peaceful, greener place. Together, we are capable of seemingly impossible things. ”

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'Mező János Bálint'.

János Bálint Mező
Office Director
Greenpeace Hungary

Our campaign for a Hungary free from plastic pollution 04

We use huge whales to alert people to destructive plastic pollution
We clear the Hungarian section of the Bodrog river
Our poll shows how people are in favour of banning disposable plastic bags

Our campaign for the distribution of food in Hungary from organic sources 06

We continue our campaign for healthy school canteens
We organise workshops under the heading 'Feeding our children differently'
We identify and showcase good examples of public catering in Hungary
We build raised garden beds for pre-schoolers
We promote climate-friendly meals
Success! The EU bans the use of several bee-killing chemicals among member countries

Our campaign for the protection of our wildlife and our climate 09

Greenpeace activists raise a 'STOP COAL!' banner at a coal-fired power plant in the Mátra
We draw attention to the climate emergency with a Burning Earth
Our poll shows that people support clean energy sources
We demand climate protection from the government at the Mátra Power Plant
We join the climate strikes in standing up for climate protection
We draw up proposals for the forthcoming National Energy and Climate Plan

Our campaign for liveable cities 12

Our high-profile protests demand action on clean air
We demonstrate severe air pollution with measurements showing the lack of purity
Our poll shows that people support the removal of air-polluting vehicles
We demand climate-protection measures from the candidates running for mayor in municipal elections
Success! Several newly elected city administrations declare a climate emergency

Our campaign for a toxic-free Hungary 15

Success! A bill is passed to apply the principle of 'the polluter pays'
We publicise the pollution in the communities of Garé and Hidas
We investigate the pollution around the Mátra Power Plant

Voluntary activities 17

The number of our dedicated volunteers grows across the country
We launch a new initiative for Hungarian students
Our volunteers man the front line
We take part in festivals from May to August
We join the activities of Greenpeace worldwide
We support young people engaged in climate protection

Fundraising 20

Our environmental-protection organisation is politically and financially independent
Who funds our activities?
Our domestic fundraising activities and revenue in 2019
We are an ethical fundraising organisation



Our campaign for a Hungary free from plastic pollution

In 2019, we continued to fight for Hungary to take steps to eliminate global plastic pollution on a catastrophic scale. We recycle less than a third of plastics in Hungary, and there are no adequate regulations or incentives to restrict the use of disposable plastic products and packaging. Thanks to years of hard work, together with the other Greenpeace offices, we have succeeded in ensuring that the European Union also takes action against disposable plastics, banning certain categories from 2021 onwards.

[Our petition for the phasing out of plastic bags in Hungary](#) has become the most popular Hungarian environmental initiative to date: 120,000 signatures were collected in 120 days. And by the end of the year, more than 200,000 of us demanded that the government take action. The fight continues!



© Bence Járdány / Greenpeace

We use huge whales to alert people to destructive plastic pollution

As part of Plastic-Free July, we alerted the public to plastic pollution with [a display of giant whales jumping out of a sea of rubbish](#). Depicted by an installation of whales three and six metres high in the centre of Budapest, outside Parliament and on focal Deák Ferenc tér, we emphasised that plastic waste and micro-plastics can now be found everywhere, from the seas to rivers and forests, even in our drinking water.

The plastic rubbish element of the installation actually came from the environment: it was collected along the Italian coast by volunteers. Eighty per cent came from large corporations well-known in Hungary, including Coca-Cola, Unilever, Nestlé, Ferrero, San Benedetto and Haribo. The pictures taken at the event not only appeared in the domestic press but around the world. With it, we again drew attention to the need for the commitment of individuals, decision-makers and companies alike to eradicate plastic pollution.

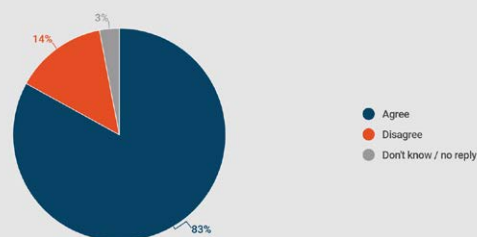
We clear the Hungarian section of the Bodrog river

[Greenpeace volunteers](#) cleared nearly ten cubic metres of rubbish from the Hungarian section of the Bodrog river in the summer of 2019. The team of 14 people, sitting in canoes and kayaks, collected the rubbish from the river, from Felsőberecki right up to Tokaj. Plastic bottles accounted for almost 80 per cent of the waste picked out of the water. The sorted collected rubbish was put into bags and transported to recycling collection points.

Our poll shows how people are in favour of banning disposable plastic bags

In November 2019, we conducted a nationwide poll revealing that [more than 80 per cent of the population supported a ban on disposable plastic bags](#) – which would significantly reduce the amount currently generated of disposable plastic as a whole.

Hungary should also ban the use of single-use plastic bags as several other countries have done



Commissioned by Greenpeace Hungary, opinion poll prepared by Zévecz Research between 1-10 November 2019, with personal data, of a sample of 1,000 people representing the Hungarian population.

GREENPEACE





Our campaign for the distribution of food in Hungary from organic sources

For the last eight years, we have been working towards the widest possible expansion of organic farming in Hungary. Our aim is to make food free from harmful chemicals available to the Hungarian people. Farming based on respect for arable land and nature not only provides us with healthy food, but also provides solutions to the many environmental, social and economic problems that also exist in Hungary.

We continue our campaign for healthy school canteens

In our Organic Kitchens campaign, we worked to ensure that as many organically farmed ingredients as possible are used in communal meals at schools and nurseries, so that children have access to healthy food regardless of their social status or situation. Our children are the most sensitive to residues of pesticides in our food. It is important that meals prepared for them are made from good-quality, healthy ingredients.

This is in line with the action plan adopted by the Hungarian government, according to which the proportion of organic raw materials in public catering must be increased to 30 per cent by December 2020. Its practical implementation, however, is still delayed.

[According to a 2016 scientific report by the European Parliamentary Research Service \(EPRS\)](#), certain insecticides can also cause measurable IQ reductions in children as their bodies develop. The increasingly diagnosed attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) can also be linked to pesticides. That is why we need to act urgently. The development of catering in this direction throughout the country is also particularly important because it would enable children to have access to healthy food, whatever their background or surroundings.



© Bence Járdány / Greenpeace

We organise workshops under the heading ‘Feeding our children differently’

Representatives from almost 40 communities and institutions attended the free Organic Kitchens workshops we organised, including nutrition managers, educators, paediatricians, elderly care professionals, headteachers, NGOs and mayors. Together, they are responsible for feeding thousands of people, mostly pre-school and primary-school children.

There is a huge opportunity in the hands of professionals who cater for schools and nurseries: every meal is the ideal occasion for children to get to know and enjoy food produced without destroying nature or wildlife. This healthy nutrition will then have a good effect on their families’ own eating habits. Other significant social and economic benefits of canteens based on organic ingredients are that they provide local producers and communities with work of acknowledged value and a stable income.

The events we organised helped organic producers, schools and councils meet one another, and we also collected a number of suggestions from participants to modify the system.



© Bence Járdány / Greenpeace

We identify and showcase good examples of public catering in Hungary

We worked to identify and disseminate good practices in catering in 2019 in order to propagate these inspiring bottom-up initiatives. One good example that we considered worth following was [public catering in Szarvas](#), where several participants – farmers, local government, public-catering companies, headteachers – created a forward-

looking child-nutrition model where almost half of the ingredients come from local producers, 50-60 per cent of the vegetables are organic and the amount of food waste is reduced with simple ideas.

We also went to [Nyárád](#), where they produce almost everything for public catering in their nursery and old people’s home, using only pesticides approved for organic farming. As part of this initiative work has continued in old people’s gardens, weeding where they can no longer do so.

They are equally delighted that the council looked after the cultivation and that the crops are going to the catering kitchen. In Nyárád, they use almost entirely organic ingredients – not only are the fruit and vegetables local, but also most of the eggs and meat, so that children and the elderly receive fresh, healthy, chemical-free food.



© Bence Járdány / Greenpeace

We build raised garden beds for pre-schoolers

In spring, we built [raised garden beds](#) at a communal garden in Nagykovácsi. Fresh, organically grown vegetables go from here to the plates of local pre-schoolers. Thanks to this initiative, we managed to bring together a valuable collaboration between local organic producers, a local conservation association, a small local restaurant and a nursery. The initiative then became so popular that the local school also embarked on a similar programme and demanded more areas from the council for organic production.



© Zsuzsi Dörgő / Greenpeace

We promote climate-friendly meals



In 2019, we continued our [awareness campaign](#) about the effects of consumption of industrial-scale meat and dairy products. Our work has played a major role in making the consumption of less meat more socially acceptable in the fight against the climate crisis. By promoting fewer products of better quality from domestically grazed animals instead of those from industrial livestock, we are also helping local farmers and local communities.

Our goal is to help the Hungarian population fight the climate crisis just by paying attention to what is on our plate. The production of meat consumed by humanity currently emits as many greenhouse gases as the entire transport sector: that is, all the planes, cars, ships, trains and trucks in the world combined. Therefore, by reducing our consumption of meat and dairy products, we can significantly help against the worsening of the climate crisis.

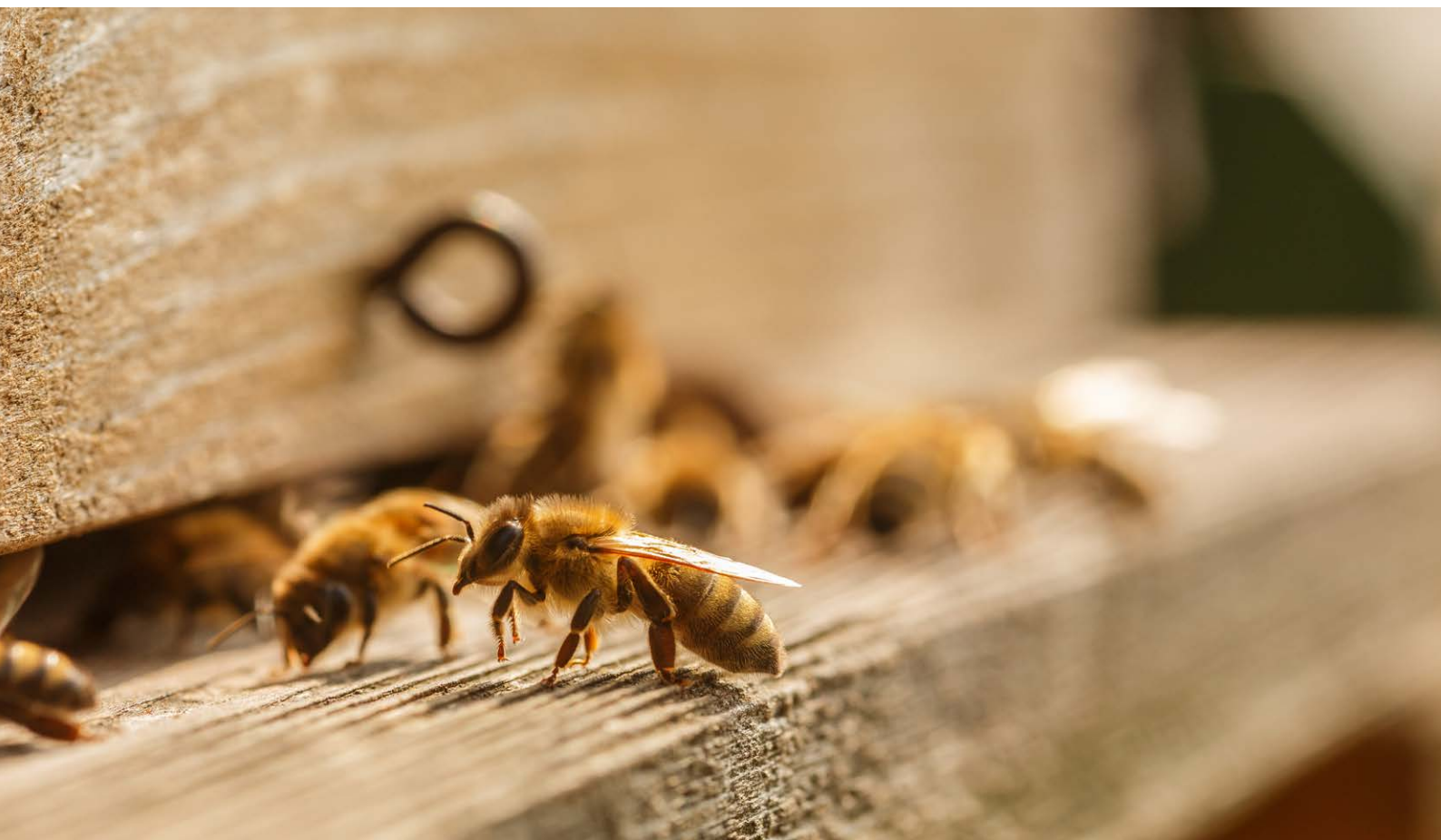
© Holger Weber / Greenpeace

Success! The EU bans the use of several bee-killing chemicals among member countries

At the end of 2019, the European Union banned an insecticide called chlorpyrifos, which is also on the [Greenpeace list of the seven most dangerous insecticides for bees](#). In addition, the EU decided to ban two neonicotinoid insecticides that pose a risk to bees: thiacloprid and acetamiprid. We are proud to have contributed to this success, after many years of persistent domestic and international campaigns, expert suggestions, studies and research on the protection of bees.

Together with other environmental NGOs, we also opposed the use of the bee killer deltamethrin for mosquito control. With treatment by deltamethrin, under 0.5 per cent of dead insects are blood-sucking mosquitoes. Instead of a chemical that kills all insects, we recommended selective biological mosquito control to the authorities.

According to current Hungarian practices, 98 per cent of anti-mosquito spray control across communities is carried out using chemical substances, and only two per cent are biological substances that selectively screen out mosquito larvae. Mosquito control would be worthwhile using a selective biological method that only affects mosquito larvae: we pointed this out to decision-makers at industry conferences, and in several interviews and [articles](#) we described a more humane procedure from the point of view of nature conservation.





Our campaign for the protection of our wildlife and our climate

In 2019, we continued to work to alert Hungary's leaders, whether in the political or business sphere, to their responsibility and to play a role in the fight against the ecological and climate crisis. Integral to this is an energy system based on renewables, which means energy security for Hungarians must be developed and renewable energy investment must be made available to as many households as possible. All this is possible by saying goodbye to the plans for investment in the dangerous and expensive Paks II project – the proposed expansion of Hungary's only nuclear power station – and removing the polluting, climate-killing and long redundant Mátra coal-fired power plant from our energy sources as soon as possible.

On social media, we provided up-to-date information on the global and domestic spread of renewable energy sources, the decline of coal as an energy carrier, the march of climate protection in Hungary and abroad, as well as failures and accidents related to nuclear power plants. In 2019, several heads of our international organisations appeared in Hungarian publications. There was an interview with Greenpeace International Director Jennifer Morgan about climate change in influential economic weekly [HVG](#); Asensio Rodríguez, Executive Director of Greenpeace Brazil, spoke to news portal [Index](#) about the state of the Amazon rainforest; [napi.hu](#) quizzed Martin Kaiser, head of Greenpeace Germany, about the development of the German energy market; and contemporary science and technology site [Qubit](#) spoke with Pang Cheung Sze, Executive Director of Greenpeace East Asia, about the green road ahead in China.

Greenpeace activists raise a 'STOP COAL!' banner at a coal-fired power plant in the Mátra

Greenpeace activists sent a message with a huge '[STOP COAL!](#)' banner at the 50-year-old coal-fired power plant in the Mátra: there is a climate emergency and we urgently need to switch from coal to renewables. Fifty years of pollution is enough! In the climate crisis, the Hungarian government must also take responsibility and limit as much carbon dioxide as possible as quickly as possible. As a first step, we can do this by closing the Mátra Power Plant.

The power plant is responsible for 50 per cent of Hungary's carbon-dioxide emissions from generating electricity. The ageing, obsolete, coal-fired power plant is declining in use, while the production of solar power plants is growing rapidly. In a few years, with solar energy alone, we shall be able to produce the same amount of energy as the Mátra Power Plant would.

By the end of 2019, [our petition](#) demanding the closure of the power plant was signed by more than 45,000 people, calling on the government for Hungary to join the European countries that are closing their climate-killing coal-fired power plants.



We draw attention to the climate emergency with a Burning Earth

At the beginning of September, [we highlighted a Burning Earth](#) at Heroes' Square in Budapest: there is a climate emergency, we cannot live as we used to. Changes are needed nationally and internationally, as well as in our individual lifestyles, in business and political life. As the government can act the fastest and most efficiently in any emergency, we launched a [petition](#) demanding that decision-makers, in the interest of alleviating the climate emergency, engage society right away in readiness, for the protection of the people of Hungary.

Academics, renowned scientists, university professors, climate experts and renowned artists committed to the environment [backed](#) our petition and the related proclamation, which summarises the key areas for action in nine points.

It is already 1.2 degrees centigrade warmer in Hungary than it was 100 years ago – this is a faster rate than the world average. During heat waves, daily mortality has risen by about 15 per cent as a national average over the past ten years. The record-breaking, extremely low water levels of the Danube in 2018, the severe drought in the spring of 2019 and tropical diseases coming into Hungary all show that the climate crisis will not spare this country either.

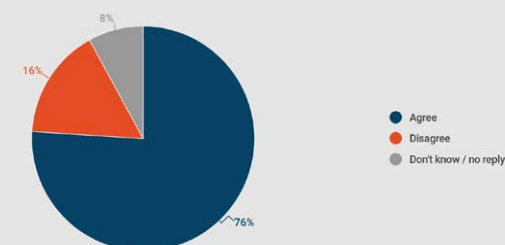


© Bence Járdány / Greenpeace

Our poll shows that people support clean energy sources

In November 2019, we conducted a nationwide poll, which revealed that [about 88 per cent of the population](#) would like the government to allow wind farms to be built in Hungary. In addition, [76 per cent of those surveyed](#) expected the Hungarian government to close the climate-damaging Mátra coal-fired power plant by the end of 2025, when it is due to be retired from service.

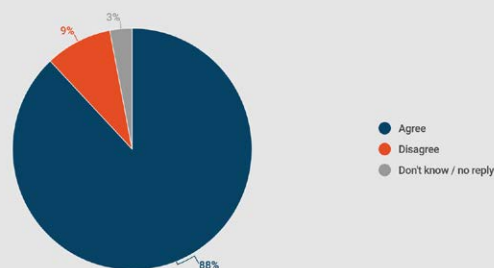
The government should close the climate-damaging Mátra coal-fired power plant at the end of 2025, when it is due to stop operating



Commissioned by Greenpeace Hungary, opinion poll prepared by Závecz Research between 1-10 November 2019, with personal data, of a sample of 1,000 people representing the Hungarian population.

GREENPEACE

The government should make it possible for wind farms to be built in Hungary



Commissioned by Greenpeace Hungary, opinion poll prepared by Závecz Research between 1-10 November 2019, with personal data, of a sample of 1,000 people representing the Hungarian population.

GREENPEACE

We demand climate protection from the government at the Mátra Power Plant

With the slogan 'Climate protection for Hungary!' projected onto the Mátra Power Plant, we sent a message to the Hungarian government before the EU summit in Brussels in December, looking to decision-makers to put Hungary onto the path of climate protection by supporting an EU carbon neutrality target date. The 2019 climate protection report by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change makes it clear that, in order to avoid a climate and ecological disaster, we have just over ten years to halve our global emissions from 2010 levels.



© Bence Járdány / Greenpeace

We join the climate strikes in standing up for climate protection

In 2019, we took part in all the climate strikes in the capital, organised by Fridays For Future Hungary. For the [third global climate strike in September](#), we managed to gather crowds in unprecedented numbers to march in Budapest to protect the planet. We supported the youth climate movement throughout the year as much as we possibly could. Our common goal is to inspire the masses across Hungary keen to do things to improve the condition of our planet to bring political and economic decision-makers together to act.



© Bence Járdány / Greenpeace

We draw up proposals for the forthcoming National Energy and Climate Plan

In order to help Hungary play an effective role in global climate-protection co-operation, along with other environmental and specialist organisations (Energiaklub, GreenDependent Institute, Clean Air Action Group, Hungarian Energy Efficiency Institute, MANAP Industry Association, National Society of Conservationists, WWF Hungary, and the Hungarian Association for Solar Panels and Solar Collectors), we prepared a joint package of proposals for the Hungarian government for the National Energy and Climate Plan (NEKT), as required by the European Union. Among other things, we suggested:

- Abolishing measures restricting the use of wind energy;
- Substantially increasing Hungary's CO₂ reduction target (by 2030, a reduction of at least 55 per cent compared to 1990 levels);
- Setting a specific date for the phasing out of coal, clarifying the approach to decarbonisation by 2030 outlined in the NEKT draft in less definite terms than required;
- Setting a target of at least 35 per cent for the share of renewables by 2030;
- Setting targets for energy producers and consumers ('prosumers') and renewable energy communities;
- Contrary to the NEKT draft, substantially reducing CO₂ emissions from transport by 2030.



Our campaign for liveable cities

In 2019, we worked to ensure that local councils take action with their own climate-protection packages to protect the climate and our health, as well as work for cleaner air. During the year, we carried out air-pollution measurements in many parts of Budapest and in other cities around the country. We also stood up for children's health, measuring nitrogen-dioxide pollution in the air around schools and nurseries. Before October's municipal elections, we sent an open letter to mayoral candidates to ask them to take the lead in climate-protection measures in Budapest and to take action against air pollution in the capital. The majority of Hungary's population, more than five million people, live in cities – we believe that wherever we live, everyone has the right to clean air, and a healthy and liveable environment.

Our high-profile protests demand action on clean air

In February, [Greenpeace activists hung a huge 'Clean Air!' banner](#) on the statue of Lady Liberty overlooking Budapest. With this peaceful and high-profile action, they sent a message: it is indefensible that air pollution should lead to the early deaths of about 13,000 Hungarians a year, yet decision-makers do not act effectively for the sake of clean air. We also launched a [petition](#) for clean air, in which we asked the city administration to phase out old, polluting diesel cars, because that would be the fastest and most efficient way to create clean air. By the end of 2019, the petition had been supported by more than 30,000 signatures.



© Greenpeace

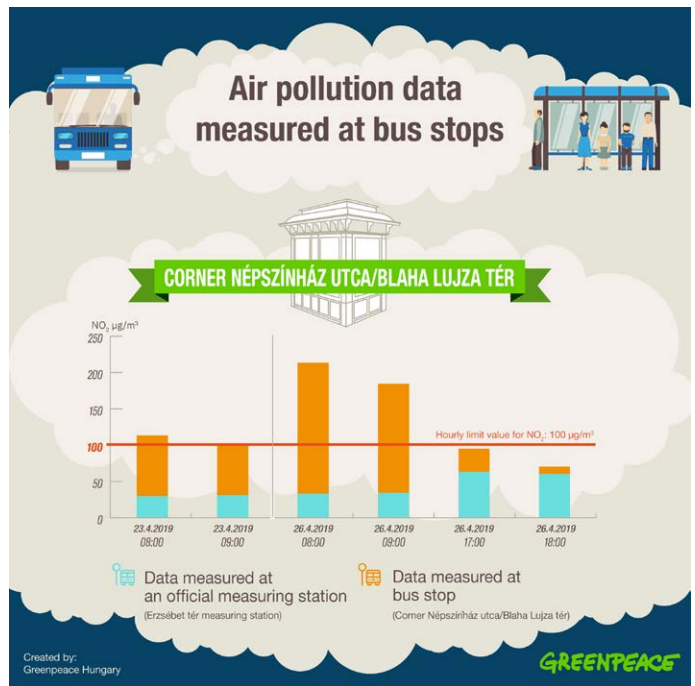
We demonstrate severe air pollution with measurements showing the lack of purity

In the first half of the year, [24 schools in Budapest and outside the capital joined our air-pollution measurement programme](#), during which we examined the nitrogen-dioxide content of the air around schools to gain a more accurate picture of how many harmful substances our children inhale. The results of the measurements were presented on World Asthma Day – 11,000 children a day, four million children a year, suffer from asthma caused by emissions from road vehicles worldwide. The measurements showed that air pollution is more significant nearer many educational institutions than at official measuring stations in the vicinity. As a result, we demanded that the city administration, in addition to banning old polluting vehicles, should also ensure the restriction of traffic around schools.



© Bence Járdány / Greenpeace

In the spring, we also measured the air pollution at [three bus stops in the capital](#) to point out the need to switch to modern, clean public transport. In this way, we can protect both our health and our climate. Measurements showed that the nitrogen-dioxide pollution at stops can be up to two to three times higher than at official measuring stations, meaning that, besides diesel cars, there are plenty of old diesel buses still used in public transport. In our petition to the capital's administrators, we requested that, by restricting old diesel vehicles, we also urgently replace the old, polluting buses commissioned by Centre for Budapest Transport (BKK) and ban other obsolete vehicles from the capital as soon as possible.



[Between 29 August and 19 September 2019](#), we also examined air pollution near the entrances of several metropolitan health-care facilities for children, expectant mothers and lung patients. Our measurements showed that nitrogen-dioxide pollution was much more critical at the health-care facilities included in our survey than at the surrounding official measuring stations during the study period.

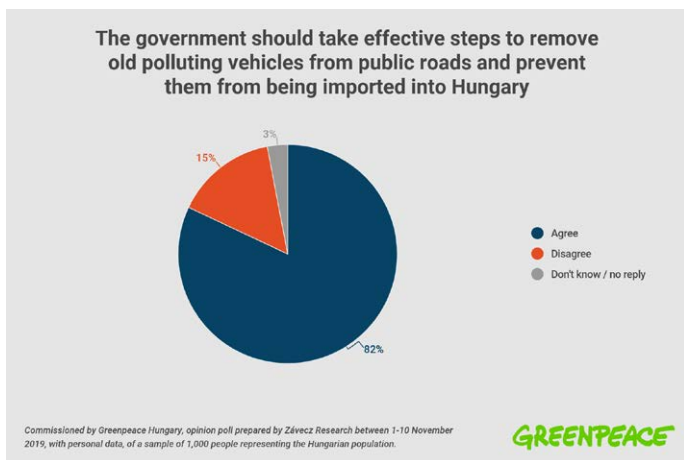
[During our autumn measurements](#), taken over a period of about a month, we again examined the air pollution around educational institutions. Nitrogen-dioxide pollution measured at schools and nurseries in the capital and around Hungary was more significant in 28 of the 41 institutions examined, and in three cases it was particularly high.



© Bence Járdány / Greenpeace

Our poll shows that people support the removal of air-polluting vehicles

At the beginning of November, [we polled](#) Hungarians about air pollution. A representative survey by the Závecz Research Institute for Market and Social Research found that more than 80 per cent of those asked would like the government to take effective steps to displace old, polluting vehicles from public roads and prevent them from being imported into Hungary.



© Bence Járdány / Greenpeace

We demand climate-protection measures from the candidates running for mayor in municipal elections

In the run-up to the October municipal elections, [we sent an open letter to mayoral candidates](#), asking them to make concrete commitments to carry out climate-protection measures in Budapest and take action against air pollution in the capital. We requested they make a written statement by 30 September that, as mayor, they would take real action to protect and develop climate protection, clean air and urban green spaces.

We received detailed answers from three of the four candidates: Gergely Karácsony, Róbert Puzsér and István Tarlós. [Candidates' responses](#) were evaluated prior to the election and released on 7 October. At the same time, we encouraged citizens to find out about the manifesto of each candidate running for mayor, to vote, and to hold the incoming administrators to account on the valuable climate-protection and air-purity measures they adopt.

Success! Several newly elected city administrations declare a climate emergency

At the time of the municipal elections, as a result of our campaign work for climate protection and clean air, Budapest and several other communities [declared a climate emergency](#). We welcomed this symbolic move everywhere, but we also pointed out that we were still waiting for meaningful deeds and ambitious commitments. Only these can guarantee effective action against the ecological and climate crisis.





Our campaign for a toxic-free Hungary

In 2019, we continued to work to help rid Hungary of its toxic heritage: to eliminate old pollutants that contaminate soil and groundwater, and to implement legislation to prevent industrial and other pollution. Our many years of hard work have borne fruit: a bill has been proposed to apply the 'polluter pays' principle.

Success! A bill is passed to apply the principle of 'the polluter pays'

In 2019, Dr Gyula Bándi, National Ombudsman for the Protection of Future Generations, [presented his legislative initiative](#) to improve the enforcement of environmental responsibility. We instigated this undertaking several years ago, and worked alongside Dr Bándi in order to draw up the bill. He presented it at a [joint conference](#) with the National Council for Sustainable Development in Parliament on 17 June 2019. We also attended the event and showed Hungary's political and economic leaders that the current practice cannot safeguard the principle of 'the polluter pays'. We stressed the need for a legal framework to prevent the emergence of further illegal pollution and ensure that the polluter is financially liable for any damage they cause. The creation of a 'polluter pays' bill is the result of many years' work on our part.



© Bence Járdány / Greenpeace

We publicise the pollution in the communities of Garé and Hidas

After the refusal of the Baranya County Government Office to publish information of public interest relating to the pollution of Garé and Hidas from the former Budapest Chemical Works, we were forced [to take them to court](#). In early 2019, [we released](#) the shocking data that the toxins in the areas of Garé and Hidas are thousands of times over the accepted limit. In fact, in one case in Garé, this figure was 28,000. Pollution endangers the water resources in the area, so [we wrote to the government office](#) requesting the expected timeframe for these measures. Unfortunately, [we did not receive a satisfactory reply](#), only notification that the company given the task of cleaning up the area had long gone bankrupt. Nevertheless, our work resulted in this specific pollution issue being brought to the fore in the city and region of Pécs during the 2019 municipal election campaign. The new regional municipal leaders duly promised to deal with the elimination of this pollution issue as a priority.

We investigate the pollution around the Mátra Power Plant

Following public reports of unpleasant odours and water pollution there, [we took samples from the waters around the Mátra Power Plant](#). The results tested in an accredited laboratory showed sewage flowing in the stream by the power plant. The organic pollution content of the water sample was several times higher than permissible waterborne limits and also showed significant concentrations of sulphate and molybdenum. We found that the detected high organic pollution content might be associated with the development of toxic gases, that possibly caused these local odours and health complaints from power-plant workers. We requested that the authorities investigate the case as a matter of urgency and make public the cause of the pollution and its methods of treatment, so that Hungarian citizens might receive a reassuring explanation for the issues surrounding the Mátra Power Plant.





Voluntary activities

Our greatest strength lies in the enthusiasm, knowledge, devoted assistance, energy and willing involvement of our volunteers. Without them, we would not be able to fight effectively for the health and safety of Hungarians and Hungary's natural assets.

The number of our dedicated volunteers grows across the country

By the end of 2019, the number of our registered volunteers had grown to nearly 2,300, the 550 most active of which spent a total of more than 12,500 hours engaged in voluntary work. Volunteers approach us from all over Hungary. Our largest group operates in Budapest, but we have active members in Kecskemét, Eger, Pécs, Debrecen, Nyíregyháza, Veszprém, Székesfehérvár, Sopron, Gödöllő and Szombathely, and in other cities, villages and communities of varying sizes. Over the course of ten informative presentations showcasing Greenpeace's environmental activities, we welcomed 219 participants.



© Zsuzsi Dörgő / Greenpeace

We launch a new initiative for Hungarian students

In the autumn of 2019, we launched our Greenspeaker initiative, providing a framework for our volunteers to give lectures in primary and secondary schools after completing our own professional training programme. By the beginning of December, we had given 20 lectures in nearly two and a half months, to a total of approximately 800 students.

Our volunteers man the front line

Our volunteers took part in many colourful activities over 2019. They painstakingly prepared banners and other eye-catching material for events organised by Greenpeace. They also joined in with our current campaigns. Among a number of activities in 2019, our volunteers made raised garden beds with children, took part in a concert to eliminate disposable plastics and raise awareness of plastic pollution, measured air pollution at buses and bus stops, and also helped install pipes used to assess air pollution in schools.



© Bence Járdány / Greenpeace

Our volunteers and activists take part in the lion's share of our activities year on year. This was also the case in 2019: from helping with climate demonstrations and participating in rubbish collections to cleaning up the entire Hungarian section of the Bodrog river, they played a huge role in our work everywhere.



© Blanka Katkó / Greenpeace

We take part in festivals from May to August

For most of the summer, we demonstrated the role of volunteering and the importance of environmental protection at all kinds of festivals. Among them, we took part in the Pszinapszis Festival, Charity Fest, Hello Ugar!, the Waldorf Fest and the huge Sziget Festival. At these various events, visitors could learn about our campaigns, as well as take part in creative activities, making badges, creating wallets from empty drink cartons and even trying out real Greenpeace activist gear, such as a full climbing equipment and protective clothing used for chemical sampling.



© Zsuzsi Dörgő / Greenpeace

We join the activities of Greenpeace worldwide

Our volunteers took part in many international events from Austria to Bulgaria, and from Poland to Belgium. These included a 20-hour demonstration in Prague, where they took a bold stand against the sale of a polluting and environmentally damaging coal-fired power plant run by utilities giant ČEZ, and demanded its closure. The action arose from the refusal by company management to put the issue of plant closure on the agenda.



© Petr Zewlakk Vrabec / Greenpeace

We support young people engaged in climate protection

In 2019, we provided every kind of professional and logistical assistance to young people engaged in the climate-protection movement. Our volunteers helped organise climate strikes, made banners and took a globe with them on demonstrations, which then became a symbol of the marches.



© Bence Járdány / Greenpeace

In the summer, we organised a climate camp for environmentally-conscious youngsters. Dozens came from all over the country for the three-day event to find out what makes a well-structured campaign strategy, how to give a public speech and how to combine activism with the arts.

As part of our series of events called Climate Workshop, we opened the Greenpeace office for young people engaged in climate protection. We publicised a number of organised activities, encouraging and helping them to make banners or beeswax shawls in the office.

© Balázs Dobos / Greenpeace





Fundraising

**Our environmental-
protection organisation
is politically and
financially independent**

Our funding comes exclusively from private individuals and foundations created by private individuals, mainly from Hungary and the Greenpeace office in Central and Eastern Europe. We do not accept any financial support from states, governments, parties, companies, either in Hungary or in other parts of the world. This guarantees our complete political and financial independence.

Who funds our activities?

Greenpeace Hungary is part of Greenpeace in Central and Eastern Europe, which includes eight countries (Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia). In addition to Hungarian donors, this means that more than 160,000 private donors supporting Greenpeace's Central and Eastern European operation also contribute to ours, and whose benefits reach Greenpeace Hungary.

In 2019, Greenpeace Hungary received support to the value of HUF 211,052,000 from the Greenpeace office in Central and Eastern Europe.

We currently have more than 10,000 active supporters in Hungary. Among them, our regular donors contribute an average of HUF 1,500-2,000 a month to our activities. The amount of support generated in Hungary in 2019 was approximately HUF 103,215,029.

Our domestic fundraising activities and revenue in 2019

In 2019, our regular donors supported our environmental work to a value of HUF 73,240,279. We raised a total of HUF 15,294,034 from the 1% tax generated in 2018.



Our [Future Green City campaign](#), launched in 2017 to protect green spaces, received financial support from our donors of HUF 211,250 in 2019.

We received donations worth HUF 3,963,996 from letters posted out in 2019.

In 2019, we also launched a so-called tele-fundraising campaign. Part of it involved us calling donors no longer active to regenerate their support as best they could. We also contacted those who had supported our environmental work with one-time donations to ask them, as much as was possible, to become regular donors. The direct (one-time) revenue from tele-fundraising campaigns was HUF 458,800.



© Greenpeace

Those interested in our work were regularly informed through various channels (Facebook, newsletters, Instagram, website) and we also asked them to support our activities with their donations. In 2019, a total of HUF 4,145,499 was donated to our organisation this way, as well as through spontaneous bank transfers and card payments.

Until the end of 2019, our donors supported our work to reduce the use of disposable plastics to a value of HUF 5,901,171 through the online collection site greenpeace.hu/muanyag.



Thank you very much again for all your support!

We are an ethical fundraising organisation

The Greenpeace Hungary Association is a member of a [group of more than 20 Ethical Fundraising Organisations](#) and in all respects complies with the strict requirements of the Code of Ethics. All of this guarantees that our donation operation is carried out in a transparent manner, more than complying with the prescribed legal framework.



ETIKUS
ADOMÁNYGYŰJTŐ
SZERVEZET

The Greenpeace Hungary Association has been operating since 2002. Financially and politically independent, it is a non-profit, environmental protection organisation for the common good, with a solid base of more than 10,000 Hungarian donors and hundreds of thousands of online followers. We work to protect our natural environment and for the health of all, to make our home a cleaner, more liveable country.

There are currently Greenpeace offices in more than 55 countries around the world, including Greenpeace Hungary. As part of the Central and Eastern European Region (CEE), we work with seven other countries (Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia). We have a common name, aim and values: constantly, vividly and boldly, always in a non-violent manner, we call attention to environmental problems – and their solutions. We actively work for positive change for a liveable and peaceful future.

