



GREENPEACE HUNGARY
ANNUAL
PUBLIC BENEFIT REPORT
2020



Preface

János Bálint Mező

Office Director, Greenpeace Hungary



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The year 2020 has shown that we cannot continue to live as before. The coronavirus pandemic has mercilessly drawn attention to the vulnerability of our society, while it has become clear that post-pandemic recovery must also address the climate and ecological crisis, or we face even more serious crises in the future.

At Greenpeace Hungary, we continue to work resolutely and persistently to keep the soil, air, forests and waters of our country clean. We protect our natural resources and promote the spread of renewable energy sources in order to alleviate the climate crisis and to help us all eat healthy, chemical-free food.

In 2020, we had a number of successes:

- We managed to get the Hungarian government to support the adoption of the EU climate target;
- A breakthrough was achieved – a law was passed on the removal of disposable plastics;
- We won a lawsuit against the Hungarian State – the court ruled that we legally protected the organically farmed lands of Kishantos in 2014;
- Thanks to our campaigning activities, the elimination of Hungary's toxic legacy continued.

In 2020, one of our experts also participated in the work of the National Environmental Council. Our policy recommendations covered a number of topics. We commented on, among other things, waste-management bills and a package of legislation restricting the sale of certain plastic products.

We are independent and assiduous. We fight for the preservation of our natural resources, for a greener, fairer and healthier Hungary. We put pressure on governments and companies around the world that are not fulfilling their duties to mankind nor to the Earth.

“ The year 2020 put us all to the test, but it also gave us a chance to start again. We re-evaluated what was really important to us and were able to experience what it is to live within limitations. We need to learn from this crisis, we need to find our way back to nature, to our communities, we need to learn to live within the limitations of our planet again. This is the only way we can avoid a climate and ecological catastrophe and create a common, secure future where we live in peace with each other and with nature. That is why we worked every day of the year, and we are grateful to the hundreds of thousands of Hungarians who helped us with their support. ”

János Bálint Mező
Office Director,
Greenpeace Hungary

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Our campaign for the elimination of plastic pollution

In 2020, we continued in our endeavour for the elimination of disposable plastics and single-use packaging materials, for a Hungary free of plastic pollution. Thanks to our supporters, followers and years of persistent work, we succeeded in establishing a law aimed at eliminating plastic pollution in Hungary, which, beyond current EU regulations, also covers disposable plastic bags and single-use plastic cups.

In summer, we joined the Plastic-Free July challenge, during which we focused attention on the destruction of disposable culture with a huge installation of a fish filled with plastic waste around Lake Balaton and Budapest, while in August we cleaned up waste from the Körös river with the help of our volunteers. With 180,000 PET bottles thrown away every hour in Hungary, we launched our STOP PET petition for the elimination of disposable drinks containers. It was also thanks to this that Parliament voted at the end of the year to make deposits compulsory on plastic bottles.

SUCCESS! We manage to restrict disposable plastic bags in Hungary

In July, Parliament [passed legislation to phase out disposable plastics](#), banning a number of disposable plastic products and packaging from 1 July 2021, as required by EU law. Thanks to our campaign, supported by a quarter of a million people, Hungarian legislation also includes restrictions on the use of plastic bags, thus going beyond EU regulations. The new legislation is a significant step forward in eliminating plastic pollution. Nevertheless, we pointed out the fact that it does not fulfil the government's previous promise to ban plastic bags in Hungary.



Our research shows that the waters of Hungary are polluted with microplastics

This February, we presented the [microplastic test measurements](#) carried out by the experts of the independent laboratory of WESSLING Hungary Kft in the Danube and in Budapest tap water purified by shore filtration from the Danube. The study revealed 147 microparticles per cubic metre in the Danube. Based on the obtained results, domestic tap water is also contaminated with microplastics, though its pollution is much smaller than that of the previously examined bottled mineral waters. Given these results, it is even clearer: disposable plastics need to be phased out and replaced with refillable, durable products and deposits on bottles.

We clean up waste from the Körös river

In August, our volunteer team [boarded canoes and kayaks to clear the Körös river](#) of debris. 25 enthusiastic rowers cleared several cubic metres of waste from more than 40 kilometres of the river in four days. Most of the waste caught in the water was made up of plastic bottles. The rubbish was put in bags and then sorted into separate containers for recycling.



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We launch a petition for the elimination of disposable drinks containers


We launched a [petition](#) for the introduction of mandatory recycling and refilling of plastic drinks bottles. In Hungary, 180,000 PET bottles an hour, and more than 1.5 billion a year, are thrown away, of which less than a third is recycled. The rest is put into landfills, incinerators or, the worst-case scenario, the environment. At Kossuth tér in central Budapest, we drew attention to this excessive and wasteful consumption, [bringing more than 30 bales of compressed PET bottles](#) to Parliament to demand legislation to remedy the problem. Our [representative poll](#) in November also showed that the vast majority of Hungarians are in favour of redeeming and refilling bottles.

GREENPEACE
CSELEKEDJ FEDEZD FEL ADOMÁNYOZZ

STOP PET

VEGYÜNK BÚCSÚT AZ EGYSZER HASZNÁLTOS PET-PALACKOKTÓL!

Legalább másfél milliárd. Ennyi PET-palackot hoznak forgalomba évente hazánkban. Kéretlenül 70%-ukat soha nem hasznostják újra: lerakókban, étetőben, folyómedrekben vagy a tengerparton végül, majd mikroméretű széttesse bekerülnek folyókba és az ivóvízünkbe. Egy műanyag palack akár 450 évig is szennyezi a környezetünket.



Egy PET-palack sokszor kevesebb mint egy perc alatt beteljesíti, amire rendeltetett: azaz, hogy kiürül. Pedig előállításához értékes nyersanyagot, a Föld mélyéből származó kőolajat használnak.

29,702

29,702 fő már írt alá a petíciónak az elindítástól kezdve. Még van ideje 10,000-ig!

Elfogadom az adatkezelési tájékoztatót, és hozzájárulok adataim kezeléséhez.*

Engedélyesed, hogy a Greenpeace Magyarország megadott elérhetőségeken értesüljön a kampányokról, és az azokban való részvétel lehetőségeiről!

SUCCESS! Parliament votes in favour of compulsory deposits on disposable drinks containers

In December, we were behind the success of Parliament voting for a [package of laws that will make deposits on disposable drinks containers mandatory](#). This includes glass and plastic bottles, as well as metal cans. However, we stressed that we did not find the bill ambitious enough in the current phase of the climate and ecological crisis. [In our petition](#), therefore, we continued to expect the government to guarantee real sustainability: they will also make refilling mandatory and make the deposit system work in practice.



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We join the Plastic-Free July campaign

We prepared for Plastic-Free July with an [interactive campaign that lasted a whole month](#), during which we encouraged our supporters and followers to say no to disposable plastics by completing the challenges we created. To make the campaign even more visible, with the help of our volunteers, [we exhibited an empty installation of metal mesh forming a giant fish](#) in Siófok, by Lake Balaton, and then on Deák tér in central Budapest. Anyone could throw in plastic waste, slowly filling it up. The installation was thus both a spectacular public art project and an awareness-raising event sending a message: plastic pollution is destroying our wildlife. At a press event organised during the campaign, we also highlighted the [stagnation of plastic recycling in Hungary](#).





Our campaign for the conservation of biodiversity

For the ninth year in a row, we continued to work for the widest possible expansion of organic farming in Hungary. Our goal is to make food free from harmful chemicals available to the Hungarian population as well. In addition to our campaigning to promote healthy, climate-friendly food and sustainable agriculture, in 2020 we sent a message to decision-makers, using the words of Pope Francis: in a devastating climate and ecological emergency, the full protection of nature has a prominent role to play.

We launched a campaign to eradicate deforestation and worked with several NGOs to protect our great lakes in Hungary. In the autumn, a lawsuit that had dragged on for several years came to its conclusion, with Kishantos and Greenpeace winning against the Hungarian State.



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We continue to work for healthy public catering

In 2020, [we continued our work expanding healthy nursery and school canteens](#) so that as many local, organically produced foods as possible could be placed on children's tables, regardless of their social standing or situation. Our children are most sensitive to residues of pesticides in our food – it is important that the food prepared for them is made from good-quality, healthy ingredients.

In March, prior to the spring closures introduced due to the coronavirus pandemic, we held a successful eco-workshop in Túrkeve, attended by caterers, nutritionists, local farmers and council staff. We presented existing organic Hungarian canteens as an example to help develop public catering in this direction.

We also contacted Hungary's largest catering companies, which oversee the busiest kitchens. We are encouraging them to increase the proportion of raw materials from domestic organic farming, as this has now become even more important from a health and economic point of view during the coronavirus crisis.

Although the government set its own target years ago of reaching a 30% rate of organic food in public catering by the end of 2020, this has not been achieved. [In our petition](#), we expect concrete steps from decision-makers to promote by all possible means at governmental level healthy food based on organic ingredients. This is key, not only for health, but also for nature and climate protection.

We publish the executive summary of the IPBES report in Hungarian

In May, [we translated and published](#) the executive summary of the IPBES (Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services) report in Hungarian. This is the most comprehensive global report to date on the state of the living world, which we sent to all Hungarian MEPs and public dignitaries. The report contains the shocking finding that one million species are now on the brink of global extinction. It was published with the aim of helping researchers, practitioners and policy-document makers to ascertain information from reliable sources in Hungarian.



A Greenpeace Magyarország alábbi elérhető teszi az IPBES (Biodiverzitás és Ökoszisztéma-szolgáltatások védelmével foglalkozó Kormányközi Platform) jelentésének vezetői összefoglalóját magyar nyelven.

Az elmúlt 50 éves átmenet, 2019-ben megjelent jelentés a világ ökológiai állapotát mutatja be. A tudósok az egész Föld éleket végérvényre sodró folyamatakat újítják fel és arra a következtetésre jutnak, hogy teljesen át kell alakítani a társadalmi és gazdasági rendszereinket. Ehhez az IPBES közreműködés az élővilág fenntartásának elkerüléséhez szükséges politikai forgatókönyvet is.

Az IPBES jelentés elkészítésén három évig dolgoztak a tudósok, és összesen 13 ezer tudományos és kormányzati forrásra dolgoztak fel hozzá. 50 szakértő közreműködött a munkán, és 300 tudósátukat vonták be a világ 145 országából, köztük több befolyásosak is. Az 1820 oldalas dokumentum az elmúlt öt évtizedről tartalmaz értékelést, a legújabb fejtegetéseket a globális fejlődés irányáról és a természetet gyökerelt hatásokról.

A jelentés vezetői összefoglalóját a Greenpeace azonnal elérhetővé teszi a célja, hogy segítse azokat, akik szeretnék megvilágítani fontosságát a természet, katasztrófák, szándékosan tesz vagy szakpolitikai döntéseket megfogalmazó dokumentumokat állítani hozzá a benne szereplő témákról.

Using the words of Pope Francis, we send a message to decision-makers to support environmental protection

'[Nature never forgives](#)' was projected onto the wall of the Carmelite Monastery during the week of World Biodiversity Day. Using the words of Pope Francis, we sent a message to decision-makers not to undermine the future of the Hungarian people because of inaction by government, nor support an economic system destroying the climate and wildlife. With this action, we emphasised that we expect the Hungarian government to restore the Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection in Hungary, to ensure the protection of Hungary's natural values with independent nature-conservation authorities, and to join the European states working to preserve the climate and wildlife.



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We launch a campaign to eradicate deforestation

The European Commission has [launched a public consultation](#) to seek people's views on which regulations to put in place to curb deforestation around the world. We made available an easy online tool to allow anyone to take part in the consultation and express their desire for strong legislation to ban deforestation-related products from the European market. Nearly 80 per cent of deforestation is the direct result of the rapid expansion of large-scale agriculture, including the production of commodities such as beef, dairy products, soybeans for animal feed, palm oil, cocoa and paper. Although only four per cent of the world's forests are located in the European Union, the EU is responsible for more than ten per cent of global deforestation due to the consumption of products resulting from it.



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Kishantos and Greenpeace win a lawsuit against the Hungarian State

Based on the final decision of the Budapest-Capital Regional Court, Kishantos and Greenpeace Hungary [won a lawsuit against the Hungarian State](#) on 8 October 2020. The ordeal of the Kishantos organic farm, bastion of organic farming in Hungary, started in 2013, when it lost its land through illegal means. We demonstrated peacefully against the destruction of the organic farm in 2014, for which we were sued by the State. The proceedings lasted five years, four of which were adjourned. In the lawsuit, the Hungarian State sought for our organisation and the Kishantos Rural Development Centre to pay 14 million forints plus interest on the basis of false allegations. We had been supporting the [Kishantos fight for justice since 2013](#).



© Greenpeace. The photo was taken in 2014.

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Together with several NGOs, we stand up for the protection of Hungary's great lakes

[Together with 73 non-governmental organisations, we stood up](#) for the protection of Lake Balaton, Lake Fertő, Öreg Lake in Tata and Lake Velence. Investments have been planned there by groups focusing solely on the short-term benefits of narrow economic interest. These do not comply with the principles of sustainability, nor with our duty to preserve our natural heritage for future generations. In our joint statement, we called on the Hungarian government and all competent bodies to guarantee that Hungary's great lakes, representing untold value to our natural heritage, do not fall victim to public and private investment.



© Antal Molnár. Edited photo.





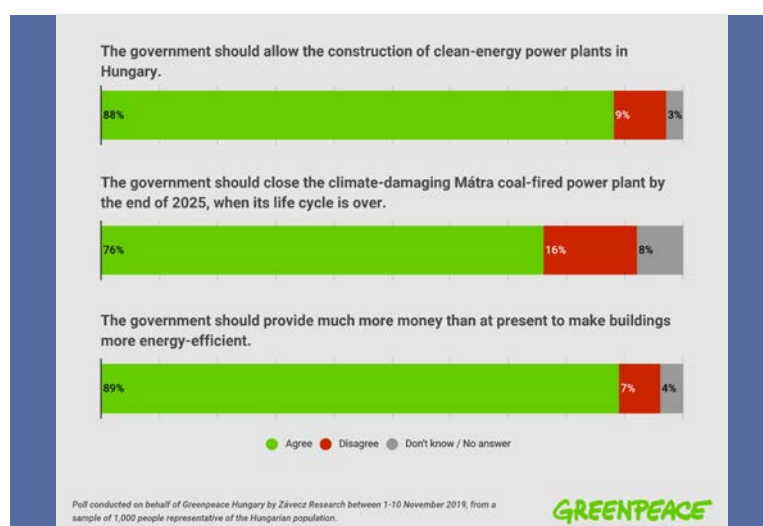
Our campaign for climate protection

In 2020, we continued to work to ensure that politicians and business decision-makers play a role in Hungary's fight against the climate crisis. To this end, we asked people in public-opinion polls which climate protection measures they supported, sent a package of green proposals to City Hall for a climate-friendly Budapest, made recommendations for the green recovery of Hungary, and put together a package of proposals for the Hungarian National Bank for green economic development.

In the second half of the year, we held spectacular demonstrations for climate protection. We drew attention to the government's insufficient climate-protection measures by using a historic quote from Count István Széchenyi, and then in our 65-hour demonstration, together with scientists, artists and climate activists, we asked the Hungarian Prime Minister to support the European Union's climate target set by scientists. Alongside, we continued to fight for the government to commit itself to closing the polluting and climate-destroying Mátra coal-fired power plant as soon as possible.

Our poll shows that people expect climate protection from the government

At the beginning of the year, we published the results of our [opinion poll](#), which made it clear that the Hungarian population expects ambitious climate-protection measures from the government. The vast majority of respondents supported climate-protection measures such as re-licensing wind energy, eliminating polluting energies and vehicles, and increasing governmental resources for energy efficiency in buildings. The results obtained also confirmed the need for the government to be at the forefront of the fight against the climate crisis in order to create a secure future for us all.



We send a package of proposals entitled 'A liveable and climate-friendly Budapest 2030' to City Hall

We put together a package of green proposals for City Hall, in which we summarised the measures that need to be taken to make Budapest a green, healthy, adaptive and resilient city by 2030, so that it can remain liveable even in the midst of the climate crisis. The package covers the implementation of clean and economical energy use, the development of clean transport, the implementation of the principle of zero waste, the protection and extension of green spaces and the preservation of human health.



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We demand that the government close the Mátra Power Plant

In December, we learned that a [coal mine would be expanded at the Mátra Power Plant](#). Meanwhile, the Ministry of Innovation and Technology has begun to communicate the development of a 'green vision' for the power plant with technological developments that are false solutions to the climate crisis, such as waste/biomass incineration and the construction of new gas turbines. We emphasised that we still expect the government to announce officially that it will close this polluting power plant by the end of 2025 at the latest, and abandon its intention to expand the mine and replace the power plant with truly climate-friendly, renewable energy.



We make recommendations for the green recovery of Hungary

On Earth Day 50, [we published a package of proposals](#) in which we expected the government to live up to its historical responsibility in parallel with the fight against the coronavirus pandemic and to rebuild a greener, healthier and fairer Hungary with the public money for economic recovery. After the pandemic, we must also find a solution to the climate and ecological crisis, otherwise we will have to face even more serious crises in the future. We summarised our demands in five points in the form of a [petition](#).



We create a package of proposals related to green economic development for the Hungarian National Bank

In mid-March, we received a request from the Hungarian National Bank: the country's central banking house initiated consultations with environmental-protection and -sustainability organisations and experts on how to rebuild the economy from the crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic so that the recovery could be ecologically sustainable. In response, we compiled our [Green Proposal on Economic Development](#), which covers, among other things, climate and ecosystem protection, the principle of transparency, energy efficiency, and the ecologically sustainable transformation of domestic food production.

We stage a 65-hour demonstration for climate protection

On 12 October, three days before the EU talks on emission-reduction targets, we began a [65-hour demonstration](#) with scientists, artists and climate activists at the Carmelite Monastery. By doing so, we asked the Prime Minister not to block, but to support the adoption of an ambitious EU climate target as soon as possible at the European Council meeting on 15 and 16 October. With this 65-hour demonstration, participants stressed that scientists believed that emissions reductions of at least 65 per cent in Europe are needed by 2030 to avoid a climate and ecological catastrophe. Our demonstration was successful: Hungary did not end up negating the EU climate target of the European Council.



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We use Count Széchenyi's historic words to send a message to the government to protect the climate

"Deeds first, words second." [This well-known phrase by Count István Széchenyi were projected over Budapest in October](#), drawing attention to the government's insufficient climate-protection measures. The topicality of the demonstration was underlined by the historical processes then taking place in the European Union: member states were scheduled to agree in the autumn to toughen up its climate targets. The Hungarian Prime Minister also had the most to do where this was concerned – and we asked him to support the EU climate agreement this time, instead of blocking it, as he did in the summer of 2019. We also launched a [mail campaign](#) in which the public could directly ask the Prime Minister to take the lead on climate-protection efforts and support the goal of reducing EU emissions by 65 per cent by 2030, in line with the Paris Agreement.



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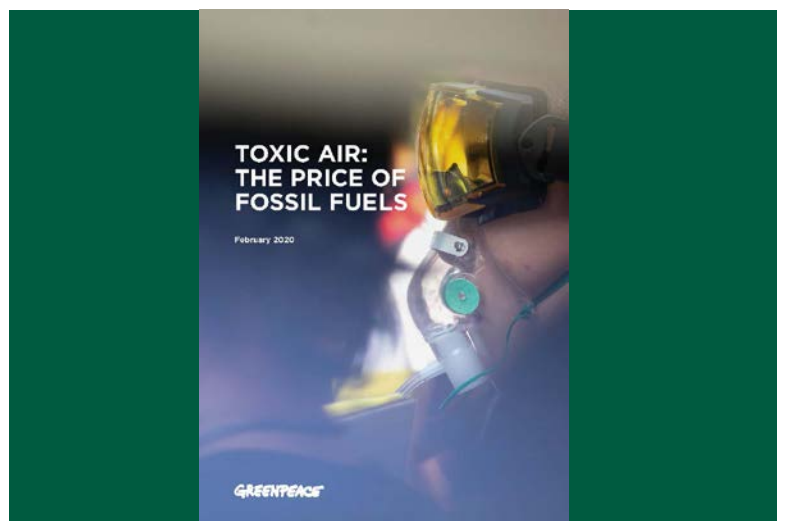
Our campaign for clean air

In 2020, we continued to work to keep Hungary's air clean and healthy. We published a series of reports highlighting the health costs and economic damage caused by air pollution, and after the outbreak of the pandemic, we drew attention to the link between the coronavirus and air pollution.

In summer, we demonstrated for clean air on the Budapest riverfront while it was closed off to traffic, commented on the City's Environmental-Protection Programme for the period 2021-2026, and published a timetable for the decarbonisation of European transport by 2040. Throughout the year, we carried out air-pollution measurements at several points around Budapest accompanied by members of the press.

We publish our international report on the economic damage caused by air pollution

We presented a [report by Greenpeace and the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air](#) (CREA), which found that air pollution from burning fossil fuels, mainly coal, oil and gas, kills around 4.5 million people worldwide each year. This costs \$2,900 billion, or 3.3 per cent of global GDP. The report also provides Hungarian data: air pollution from the burning of fossil fuels in Hungary is responsible for an average 13,000 deaths per year here and causes economic damage amounting to almost six per cent of GDP. Following on from the report, we demanded that the decision-makers solve the problem: withdraw diesel and petrol vehicles, develop clean public transport, close coal-fired power plants and convert the country to using renewable energy sources.



We draw attention to air pollution on the Budapest riverfront while it was closed off to traffic

In June, together with our volunteers, we drew attention to air pollution by [placing a huge banner with the words 'Clean Air'](#) on the Budapest riverfront while it was closed off to traffic. Due to the closures imposed during the first wave of the coronavirus, car traffic was reduced, cities became quieter and the air was cleaner and healthier. During the pandemic, a record number of people cycled in the capital and many chose other environmentally friendly modes of transport such as walking and using scooters. Several cities, including Budapest, have also supported the spread of cycling and walking. However, with the lifting of coronavirus restrictions, traffic increased once more and, according to the European Environment Agency, the concentration of air pollutants from transport was higher than in the pre-pandemic period.



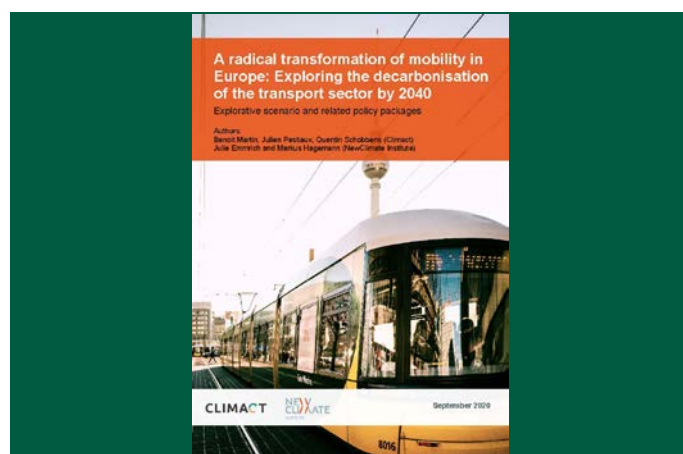
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We publish a roadmap for the decarbonisation of European transport

In September, we published a [roadmap commissioned by Greenpeace](#) setting out action points for the transition to clean transport. The report details how the European transport sector can go down to zero emissions by 2040, as well as how it can make a fair contribution to global efforts to keep global warming below the 1.5°C stipulated by the Paris Agreement. This requires a shift from polluting fuels to renewable energy, the avoidance of biofuels harmful to nature conservation and a significant reduction in greenhouse-gas emissions by transforming the movement of people and goods.



We comment on Budapest's environmental programme

We welcomed the fact that the City of Budapest put together its environmental programme for the period 2021-2026, and also that the material was submitted to a wide-ranging social debate. At the request of the City, [the programme was reviewed by our experts](#). In our general comments on the Environment Programme as a whole and in our proposals for individual measures, we emphasised that in times of climate and ecological crisis, the highest priority should be given to measures to phase out petrol and diesel vehicles that cause severe air pollution, and that climate protection must be ensured through specific targets, guarantees and responsibilities.

We publish research on the health costs of air pollution

We analysed and distributed to the press a [study by the European Public Health Association](#) (EUPHA), examining the costs of morbidity and mortality from air pollution. It shows that polluted air causes financial losses of about €3,300 million a year, equivalent to 6.2 per cent of the GDP generated in Budapest. In terms of the severity of this deficit per capita, among the 432 European cities surveyed, Budapest finished in 22nd place, totalling €1,860 a year. The study highlights that air pollution in Central and Eastern-European countries is predominantly caused by heating and transport. In light of the study's findings, we demanded immediate air-cleanliness measures at both national and city levels.



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We draw attention to the links between coronavirus and air pollution

We pointed out [a number of scientific reports](#) published in 2020 that polluted air not only facilitates the spread of coronavirus but also aggravates the course of the disease. According to the [State of Global Air](#) report, air pollution is the fourth-leading cause of death globally. According to [other research](#), a quarter of coronavirus deaths in Hungary can be attributed to air pollution. It has become clear that air pollution is increasingly responsible for the deterioration of human health, yet smog above healthy limits is still being recorded several times in Hungarian cities. Based on these research results, we asked decision-makers why they are not taking action to improve air quality.





Our campaign for a toxic-free Hungary

In 2020, we continued our campaign for a clean, non-toxic Hungary, to eliminate old contaminants that are poisonous to the soil and groundwater, and to implement legislation to prevent industrial and other pollution. We saw many successes in our campaign work this year: the government announced the elimination of illegal landfills, and many years of our hard work came to fruition when the removal of hazardous waste from the Kiskunhalas hazardous-waste site was announced.

Also thanks to our many long endeavours, a new, significantly stricter permit was issued for the red-slurry reservoir at Almásfüzitő, and at the end of November, a public procurement was announced for the remediation of the pollution threatening the drinking-water base in Szentendre. We continued to work for the clean-up of the polluted area around the former Budapest Chemical Works on Illatos út, incumbent on the authorities for many years – in August we demanded a timetable for this process.

SUCCESS! The government announces the elimination of illegal landfills

We were behind the success of the government's welcome announcement that [the elimination of illegal landfills in Hungary would finally begin](#). At the same time, however, we pointed out the need to prevent the generation of waste in order to clean up Hungary. This means not only the dumping of waste illegally piled up on woodland outskirts. Companies must also be made to act responsibly and the 'polluter pays' principle must be enforced through legislation to prevent pollution. In addition to clearing these areas, there is a need for a legal environment that prevents the formation of new pollution and illegal landfills, and makes the polluter financially responsible for the damage caused.

We succeed in ensuring that a new permit is issued for the red-slurry reservoir at Almásfüzitő

After nine years of endeavour, we succeeded in [issuing a new permit for the red-slurry reservoir at Almásfüzitő](#), which sets a strict limit on incoming waste and also narrows the range of waste that can be imported. Since 2011, we had been in constant litigation with the reservoir operator and the authorities, demanding that the hazardous-waste facility near the Danube should not operate in a way that poses a huge environmental risk. We welcomed the new permit, but our position remains that the generation of hazardous waste must be prevented in the first place, and that the waste generated must be recovered, disposed of or landfilled everywhere in accordance with the highest environmental standards and in the most circumspect way possible.



© Péter Somogyi-Tóth / Greenpeace. The photo was taken in 2011.

SUCCESS! A public procurement is announced for the liquidation of the Kiskunhalas hazardous-waste site

After years of hard work, we succeeded in having the tax authorities [finally issue a public procurement](#) for the removal of about 1,000 tonnes of waste from the abandoned hazardous-waste site outside Kiskunhalas. Together with local NGOs, we discovered in 2016 that on the outskirts of Kiskunhalas, 100-150 metres from residential buildings, there were hazardous wastes (paints, oils, solvents, acids, chemicals) in larger plastic containers and smaller metal barrels, some of them torn and damaged. For four years, we carried out regular on-site measurements and by doing so, drew attention to the dangers. However, we continue to emphasise that, in addition to the removal of waste, it is important that full remediation begins and that no contamination remains in the soil.



© Bence Járdány / Greenpeace. The photo was taken in 2016.

We demand information on the timetable for the remediation of the former chemical works on Illatos út

In August 2020, [we requested information](#) from Pest County Government Commissioner Richárd Tarnai, as well as from the state liquidator, to ascertain as quickly as possible the exact planned timetable for the cleaning-up operation around the former Budapest Chemical Works on Illatos út – and for any new measurement statistics available on the contamination of the area. Although barrels containing thousands of tonnes of dangerous poisons were removed from BCW's Illatos út site, the soil and groundwater are still full of toxins. According to previous official measurements, the carcinogenic benzene and chlorobenzene present in groundwater were 100-300 thousand times the threshold limit. According to 2015 measurements, the amount of DDT in the soil sample taken in the area was 520 times the threshold limit.



SUCCESS! Public procurement announced for the remediation of pollution endangering the drinking-water base in Szentendre

After years of pressure, at the end of November we achieved a [public procurement for the remediation of pollution endangering the drinking-water base in Szentendre](#), where measurements of toxic substances that damage the nervous system had been detected in the groundwater. In recent years, we had repeatedly drawn attention to the need to start immediate remediation before pollution reached the local wells of drinking water. The area is a drinking-water base, its wells providing supply to 90,000 inhabitants in 16 settlements. One source of pollution is probably the former Soviet barracks in Szentendre, from which solvents used to maintain the tanks may have escaped into the environment. The other is the Pest County Chemical & Fashion Company (Hungarian acronym PEVDI), where the chemicals used in stationery production may have polluted the environment and the groundwater. If the procurement is successful, the removal of toxins from the contaminated area may finally begin soon.





Voluntary work

The activities of our volunteer team have been integral to our work for many years. Their dedicated help and contribution are essential for us to carry out our various events and studies. Without them, we would not be able to fight effectively for climate protection, clean air and the protection of Hungary's natural values. The challenges of the 2020 coronavirus pandemic have led us to rearrange and rethink, among other things, how we can keep our team of volunteers together, how we can strengthen their enthusiasm and support their ability to act in these difficult times. What's more, we've done all this by keeping contact mostly in a safe online space, minimising physical encounters, and keeping our events online or outdoors as well.

The number of our dedicated volunteers continues to grow

We held a total of eight information sessions for those wishing to join our volunteer team, largely convened online due to the pandemic. However, this did not discourage newcomers, and our volunteer team expanded by 231 members in 2020. The number of our registered volunteers is over 2,000, about 500 of whom participate in our work actively and continuously.

Restrictive measures introduced to curb the coronavirus pandemic provided fewer opportunities for face-to-face encounters, but despite these challenges, our volunteers participated in 85 different events and were able to contribute 5,000 hours to our 2020 operations in terms of total working time. Our volunteers continue to come to us from all over the country. Our largest group of volunteers operates in Budapest, but we also have active members in Eger, Gödöllő, Kecskemét, Nyíregyháza, Pécs, Sopron, Szeged, Székesfehérvár, Szombathely and Veszprém.



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Our volunteers help our work on the front lines

Our volunteers attended many lively events in 2020. In February, [they collected signatures for our plastic campaign](#) at a live concert by a group that speaks out against plastic pollution, and on the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, they supported a greener, fairer, healthier Hungary as part of a [24-hour event](#). In the summer, [a huge banner for clean air was stretched out](#) on the lower riverbank in Budapest while it was closed off to traffic. They also joined in with the 'Plastic-Free July' challenge, saving us time and energy by helping out with [activities around our public installations](#) at Lake Balaton and in Budapest. In August, our volunteers [took to the water in kayaks and canoes](#) to collect waste along the Körös river.



© Máté Nagy / Greenpeace

In addition, our volunteer team assisted in the preparation of the banners used at several of our events during the year, and helped with measuring air pollution at several points around the Hungarian capital. Whatever the activity, the enthusiasm and dedication of our volunteers have been exemplary this year as always.



© Blanka Katkó / Greenpeace

We launch a new series of online environmental lectures

In spring, as soon as we realised that because of the pandemic we would need to change our regular way of working, we created an online series of ten events that gave the chance for volunteers and movements close to us to develop further professionally. These bi-weekly events featured presentations by Greenpeace and external environmental experts.



Our participation in the global activities of Greenpeace

In 2020, the use of online space opened up new frontiers for us, which also provided an opportunity for volunteer teams across the Central and Eastern-European region to build closer ties with each other. In the last months of spring, we held a regional online meeting where nearly 100 volunteers participated in a communal discussion about the direction in which joint projects and knowledge should be developed. As part of the online meeting, we set the goal of organising an online green camp, among other things – this three-day event, focusing on workshops and communal cooking, successfully took place in the summer. At the end of the year, we reunited our team of volunteers online to thank them for their year-round work – we couldn't have found a more fitting occasion for this than International Volunteer Day, 5 December.



Our volunteers launch self-training workshops

Our volunteer team launched self-training workshops on a monthly basis. As part of this series of events, they found out how to make the most of a package-free lifestyle and make use of environmentally friendly cosmetics and cleaners at home. They also experimented with making homemade worm compost together and discussed how to use renewable energy in the home. Much research, co-ordination and organisation went into the topics that arose. In addition, our volunteers [went to the Római riverfront](#) in Budapest in July to help tidy up the shore, picking up waste and sorting it for recycling.



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We support young people involved in climate protection

In 2020, despite the pandemic, we also strived to provide all professional and logistical support to the young climate-protection movement for them to raise awareness of the problem of the climate crisis. We assisted in the technical implementation of [Hungary's first online climate demonstration](#) and provided the logistical background for a spectacular yet socially safe demonstration, in which young people involved in climate protection [stretched a huge banner over Budapest's Liberty Bridge](#).

In the summer, we organised a climate camp for young people involved in climate protection. During the three-day event, dozens of participants could learn how to give a public speech, how to create a well-structured campaign strategy and how to combine activism with the arts.



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THANK YOU!

Fundraising

We are a politically and financially independent environmental organisation

Since our inception, our revenues have come exclusively from private individuals and foundations set up by private individuals, mainly from Hungary, and the Central and Eastern-European Greenpeace office. We do not accept any financial support from states, governments, parties, companies, either in Hungary or from other parts of the world. This guarantees our complete political and financial independence.

Which sources allow us to operate?

Greenpeace Hungary is part of Greenpeace Central and Eastern Europe, comprising eight countries (Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia). In addition to Hungarian sponsors, more than 177,000 private donors supporting the Greenpeace network for Central and Eastern Europe also contribute to our operation, and Greenpeace Hungary also receives their donations.

In 2020, Greenpeace Hungary received 187,683,000 forints of support from the Central and Eastern-European Greenpeace office.

We currently have more than 10,000 active supporters in Hungary. Among them, our regular sponsors contribute an average of 1,500-2,000 forints per month to our work. The total support in Hungary in 2020 came to 121,825,484 forints.

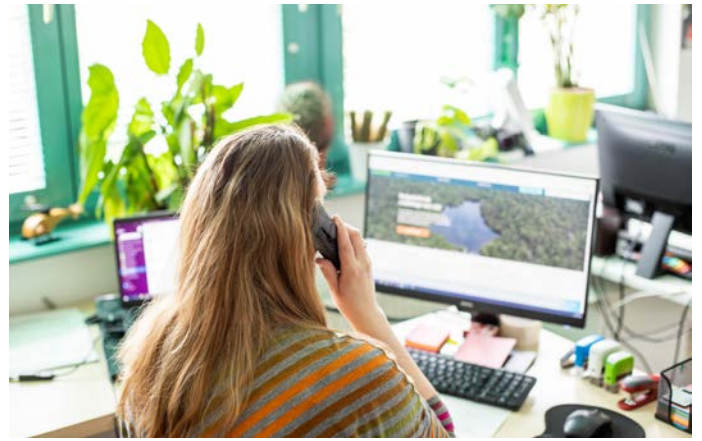
Our domestic fundraising work and revenue in 2020

In 2020, our regular donors supported our environmental work to the tune of 85,972,141 forints. We collected a total of 17,661,912 forints from 1 per cent personal income tax in 2019.



In 2020, we received 4,442,853 forints in support of our fundraising through the post.

In 2020, we also launched a telephone fundraising campaign. To this end, we phoned donors no longer active to rekindle their support as best they could. We also contacted our supporters who had helped our environmental work with a one-time donation, and we asked the signatories of our petitions to support our work with regular donations if possible. The direct (one-time) income from telephone fundraising campaigns came to 271,559 forints, and the regular income was 1,427,800 forints, included in our total regular income.



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Those interested in our work were regularly informed about our campaigns through various channels (Facebook, Instagram, e-mail newsletters, petitions, website) and were asked to support our activities by donating. In this way, with one-off bank transfers and one-off support by bank card, a total of 8,065,238 forints in donations were received in 2020.

In 2020, we continued our work to curb single-use plastics, complemented by an online fundraising campaign. As part of this, our organisation received 5,411,781 forints in one-off donations through the greenpeace.hu/muanyag website in 2020.



Thank you so much for your support once more!

We are an ethical fundraising organisation

The Greenpeace Hungary Association is a member of a group of more than 20 [Ethical Fundraising Organisations](#) and complies in all respects with the strict requirements of the Code of Ethics. This all guarantees that we carry out our donation-generating work in a transparent manner, exceeding 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.

