



A VÉDETT ERDŐ
ÉLŐHELY,
NEM TŰZIFA
GREENPEACE



**2025 ANNUAL PUBLIC
BENEFIT REPORT**
GREENPEACE HUNGARY



**STOP
AKKUSZENNYEZÉS!**
GREENPEACE

FOREWORD

Bálint János Mező, Office Director of Greenpeace Hungary

At the beginning of 2026, as we work on this report, news of extreme weather events is coming in from all major regions of the Earth. Severe forest fires in Chile, floods in southern Europe and landslides in Indonesia are causing disaster. Meanwhile, the world's most powerful leaders are denying scientific facts and making the fight against climate catastrophe more difficult.

At the same time, serious environmental pollution has been coming to light in Hungary. We detected nickel pollution at a battery factory in Göd as early as April 2025, but we did not even expect to find what had actually occurred within. The workers there had been exposed to serious poisoning – we cannot allow this to happen again. The pursuit of profit cannot be more important than human life and a healthy, clean environment, to which everyone has the right.

All it took was one spark, and the Göd pollution case became one of the most defining topics of public discourse. We have been working on this for several years but we have also been active in other cases. As regards pollution in the battery industry, in February we managed to get the rules tightened so that battery factories in Komárom release 150 times less health-threatening N-Methyl-2-pyrrolidone (NMP).

On a global level, the adoption of the Global Oceans Treaty, which Hungary was among the first to ratify, was an important milestone. For years, we have been fighting to ensure that at least 30% of the high seas is protected by 2030. We managed to collect more than 21,000 signatures from around Hungary. A broad agreement is a huge opportunity, but this is just the beginning: the challenge in the years to come will be to designate protected areas and foster real political will. We will continue to play an active role in these matters, and we are counting on you, as well!

In 2025, a historic decision was made in Hungary in the field of climate protection. The Constitutional Court ruled that the current Climate Act does not adequately protect the rights of future generations and does not comply with the commitments of the Paris Climate Agreement. This is a clear message that a new, more effective climate policy is needed that better supports emission reduction and adaptation. We will not stop here: we are working for a new, comprehensive climate law.

After the catastrophic oil spill in Gárdony by Hungarian energy giant MOL, we strived to ensure that the polluter faced up to its responsibility and served the people's needs. Together with local residents, we filed a lawsuit to ensure that the oil giant cleans up the area properly.

Looking at Hungary's forests, it is shocking that even in highly protected areas, they can cut down woods in places where hikers cannot even tread – this simply cannot go on. In November, we launched a campaign for the real conservation of our protected forests, which we will continue this year. The overwhelming majority of Hungarians are with us: 75% of people want logging stopped in protected areas.



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” The world around us is changing rapidly, but our fundamental aim has not changed. We want a world in which we can all live in a healthy, clean environment, surrounded by rich biodiversity. This is something we will continue to work tirelessly towards.

Join us and be a part of shaping the future! ”

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Bálint János Mező'.

Bálint János Mező,
Office Director
of Greenpeace Hungary

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OUR CAMPAIGN FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION

In 2025, a historic decision was made. The Constitutional Court ruled that the Climate Act does not protect the rights of future generations nor comply with the Paris Climate Agreement. A new law is needed that assists in its adaptation and requires stricter emission reductions. We achieved the annulment of the permit for the expansion of the Sarkad shale gas plant.

We demonstrated that there are serious climate- and health-threatening methane emissions in the Nyékpusztá gas field, and we took action against oil and gas projects which jeopardise Natura 2000 areas. We tested air quality in households and advocated for people to enjoy healthier living conditions.

Legal achievement: A new climate law is now a possibility

In 2025, a historic decision was made in Hungary in the field of climate protection. The Constitutional Court [ruled](#) that certain parts of the Climate Act were unconstitutional. This law is unsuitable for ensuring the future enforcement of the right to a healthy environment and the living conditions of future generations, and its provisions for the reduction of harmful emissions are equally unsuitable for achieving the goals undertaken by Hungary in the [Paris Climate Agreement](#). After the Court's decision, Parliament must finally draw up a law that both reduces the damage of climate change and prepares Hungary for its consequences.

Our other major legal victory was related to the Sarkad shale gas plant. In September 2025, the environmental permit for the plant's expansion was [annulled](#), and the Ministry of Energy ruled that Greenpeace Hungary had been unlawfully excluded from the proceedings in the case of the Békés gas field. This decision affects the entire sector of Hungarian civil society, as the authority ruled that no civil organisation can be deprived of its legally guaranteed client status. The fact that green organisations can have a say in these matters helps to protect nature, a healthy environment and the rights of future generations. This is in everyone's common interest.



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We will continue to fight for a ban on fracking, because its technology not only harms the climate and destroys nature, but it is also [damaging to people's health](#).

In July, we conducted a site inspection of the Nyékpuzsta gas field with the Clean Air Task Force team and found significant [methane emissions](#). Methane is a heat trap that is 80 times more powerful than carbon dioxide over a 20-year period, significantly exacerbating climate change and increasing the type of air pollution that is damaging to human health.

Another important result came in November 2025, when Hungary [received an official warning](#) under the UN Aarhus Convention for failing to ensure the transparency and public involvement in the licensing of the Paks II nuclear power plant. This condemnation is a clear signal to the government that it needs to take transparency and social dialogue seriously. People have the right to see the calculations, ask questions and have a say in what kind of energy our future should be built on, what kind of Hungary we want to live in.

We initiated [legal action in Hungary and within the EU](#) against a new government decree that would allow oil and gas extraction projects to be launched in Natura 2000 habitats. In our opinion, it would be an unacceptable step back in nature conservation if areas belonging to the EU's Natura 2000 network were used for such purposes.

Achievements in the interests of preserving a healthy environment

We took steps to help ensure that people can enjoy healthier living conditions. [Having shown](#) that replacing gas stoves with electric ones means cleaner air and fewer harmful substances, we called for support in this transition for the most affected households.

We organised a series of workshops to find communal solutions for adapting to heat waves. You can download our recommendations [here](#) (Hungarian-only). This can help you cope with particularly hot spells and assist others in need.

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OUR CAMPAIGN FOR A TOXIC-FREE HUNGARY

In 2025, we took persistent action against dangerous pollution: we exposed nickel pollution in Göd, we initiated legal action in the case of oil pollution in Gárdony, we demanded transparency in the battery industry with a petition signed by tens of thousands, and we asked the authorities to prevent hazardous waste from being dumped in a Natura 2000 area in Vértes.



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We took action against battery industry pollution and filed a lawsuit to have Hungarian energy giant MOL clean up the area it had polluted.

We managed to ensure that battery factories in Komárom release 150 times less health-threatening N-Methyl-2-pyrrolidone (NMP). In February, a decision was made by which the Komárom-Esztergom County Government Office, in line with our many requests, finally significantly reduced the harmful NMP emission limits of the SK battery factories in Komárom.

In April, we detected nickel contamination in soil samples taken around the Samsung factory in Göd, which we tested at the request of the Göd-ÉRT Association. One of the samples contained nickel levels that were more than twice the normal limit in Hungary, and its compounds are classified as carcinogenic. We demanded that the authorities investigate previous pollution cases and take effective action against environmental pollution which also threatens the health of local residents.



© Rico Domonkos

Twenty-four thousand people signed our [petition](#) to stop pollution from battery factories, and in October, more than 40 civil and environmental organisations signed a joint statement on the battery industry and battery-waste processing. With this statement and petition in hand, [we demanded](#) legal action and transparency.

After two months of receiving no response from the Ministry, in December we protested against the government's decisions regarding the battery industry by projecting the words '[Ministry of Pollution Protection](#)' onto the wall of the Ministry of Energy.



© Rico Domonkos

In the case of energy giant MOL's catastrophic oil spill in Gárdony, [we filed a lawsuit](#) together with local residents, challenging the decision of the government office, which would have allowed significant amounts of harmful substances, up to 342 times the normal limit, to pervade the contaminated area. We want to ensure that MOL cleans up the area in a correct manner and that such incidents do not occur again. We wrote a series of [open letters](#), drawing MOL's attention to the still unclear circumstances of the spill.

We [addressed the authorities](#) about the ongoing 'reclamation' in a Natura 2000 protected area in Vértessomló – they had used a covering material containing hazardous waste, which could pose a serious risk, even though the company had been granted a permit. We also protested with several other green organisations against the environmentally damaging activities carried out in the Cica-homok mining area.

At the plenary session of the Budapest Metropolitan Assembly, we [demanded](#) the immediate remediation of the Óbuda Gas Plant. The representatives duly decided in our favour, the majority supporting a request to MVM Next Ltd to carry out the necessary interventions.

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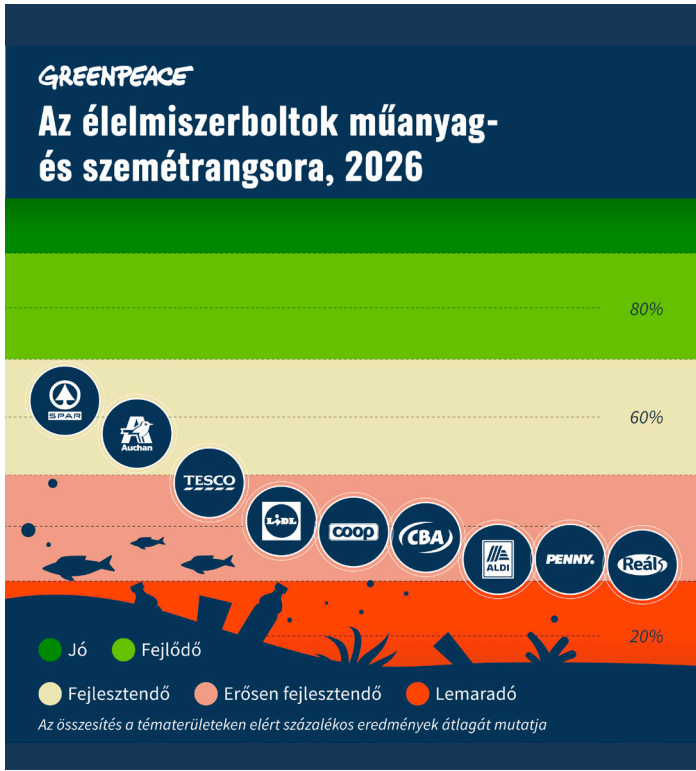
OUR CAMPAIGN TO ELIMINATE PLASTIC POLLUTION

In 2025, together with the non-profit Humusz Association, we visited 39 stores of nine domestic grocery chains to assess their progress in reducing single-use plastics.

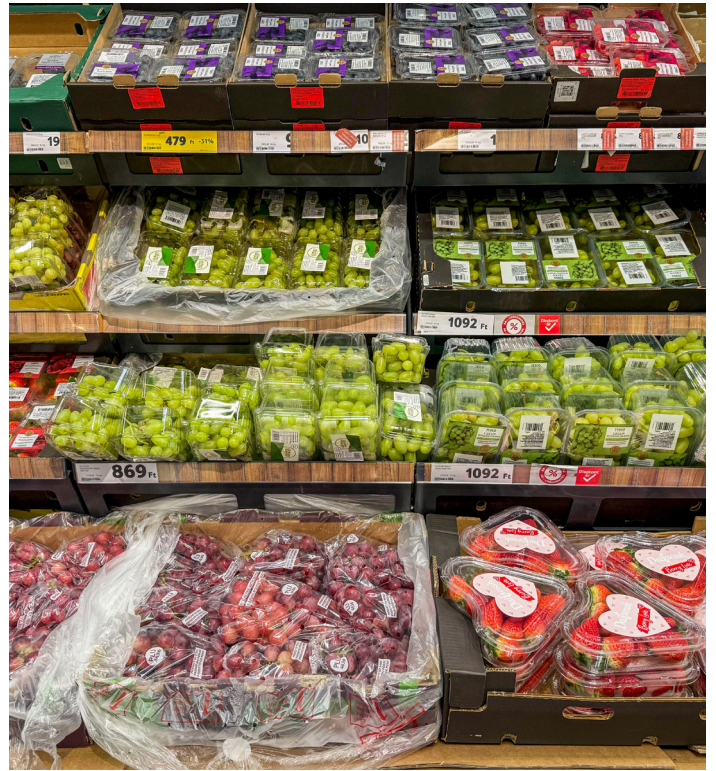
In the run-up to Christmas, we organised a street campaign, addressing passers-by to suggest what we can all do to minimise waste and highlighting the responsibility of decision-makers.

We assess how grocery chains are progressing in reducing single-use plastics

In 2025, we repeated our 2022 survey, in which we examined the measures taken by grocery stores to reduce single-use packaging and minimise waste. Together with non-profit Humusz Association, we conducted a survey of nine domestic chains. Between March 1 and April 30, we visited 39 stores in the field and also sent out questionnaires. The rankings and detailed results are [available](#) (Hungarian-only) on the Greenpeace website.



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In the run-up to Christmas, we addressed passers-by beside a Christmas tree decorated with plastic waste on Széll Kálmán tér, a major square in Budapest, about how they could minimise the extra waste generated during the holidays [1] [2].

The campaign also highlighted this systemic problem and the responsibility of decision-makers, manufacturers and supermarkets.

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OUR CAMPAIGN TO PRESERVE BIODIVERSITY

In 2025, we took steps to help protect the oceans, documented logging in our forests in highly protected areas, launched a petition and conducted a public opinion poll. We showed the decline of Hungary's Tisza river in a time-lapse video to highlight the severe water shortages affecting our country, as well as the importance of habitat restoration and landscape-level water retention.

We celebrate a global achievement: the ocean-protection agreement comes into force, and we fight for the real conservation of Hungary's protected forests

For many years, Greenpeace has been fighting for the protection of our oceans, both internationally and domestically. May saw our first significant victory of the year: Hungary was among the first landlocked countries [to ratify the Global Oceans Treaty](#), to the letter of the law. This was also an important step because 60 countries were needed for this hugely important agreement to come into force, and at the time of Hungary's ratification, there were only around 20. The magic number 60 was reached in September, and an [unprecedented collaboration](#) emerged between nations for the protection of the oceans. Thanks to this, almost a third of the oceans might one day become protected areas. This is a huge platform for success, but the hard work is only just beginning. Protected areas must be designated and the goals set on paper must be turned into reality.



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Why is this important to Hungarians? Because human life fundamentally depends on billions of other creatures and communities; for example, half of the oxygen in the atmosphere comes from tiny creatures floating in the sea.

In 2025, we launched a campaign for the real protection of Hungary's protected forests. It is shocking that even in our country's highly protected areas – where hikers cannot deviate from designated trails – forests can be cut down to the ground. This cannot be allowed to continue! In our [petition](#), we summarised the most important things that need to be done in order to protect our forests, and our team documented on-site logging in protected and highly protected areas. The overwhelming majority of Hungarians agree with us. We carried out a [public opinion poll](#), and the results showed that 75% of those surveyed would stop logging in nature reserves, and 71% disagreed with using felled trees in power plants to generate electricity.

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In the autumn, we organized a forest tour, where we experienced and discussed the problems affecting forests together with those taking part, and also got to know the wonders of forest wildlife.

In September, actress Dorottya Udvaros and Greenpeace activists finally gained a [legal victory](#) in the four-year-long lawsuit in the campaign to save the swallows at Lake Fertő. The court finally ruled that protecting nature is in the public interest and not a crime.

We also highlighted the severe water shortage. In 2025, the water level of the Tisza river fell to a record low. We showed this process using time-lapse videos [\[1\]](#) [\[2\]](#) [\[3\]](#), and emphasised that the climate crisis and the destruction of wildlife are connected. Restoring habitats, protecting grasslands, forests, wetlands and water retention at landscape level are essential to alleviate these problems.



VOLUNTEERING AND MOVEMENTS

Volunteers and activists are the driving force behind the work of Greenpeace Hungary. Their participation is essential to the success of our campaigns. In 2025, they participated in plastic and chemical surveys, street demonstrations, photo events, helped with our forest protection campaign and also joined Greenpeace's major international initiatives.

Greenspeaker training

At the end of the year, we re-launched the Greenspeaker training courses, in which participants can strengthen their skills in public speaking and conflict management. Thanks to this, we give lectures about Greenpeace in schools and dormitories, the topics always tailored to the needs of any given institution.

Personal presence and interactive sessions broaden any encounter with the organisation and allow outsiders to get to know the work of Greenpeace at a deeper level. Our volunteers who took part in Greenspeaker training courses gave lectures to 25 university students at the Melanchthon Evangelical Vocational College and to 160 secondary school students from the Mátyás Hunyadi Elementary School, Secondary School and Elementary Art School in Halásztelek.



© Petra Papp

The role of our volunteers in our campaigns

In 2025, our volunteers were most active in our campaigns against toxic and plastic pollution.

Supermarket campaign

During the spring, our volunteers surveyed 39 stores of nine supermarket chains to see how each handles plastic waste, and which and how much packaging-free and multi-faceted alternatives they provide for certain products. After each store visit, to complement the study, the volunteers also took part in a tactical planning session, where together we brainstormed as to which offline event we could use to emphasise the oftentimes superfluous nature of plastics. In December, the volunteers decorated a Christmas tree with plastic waste on Széll Kálmán square and talked to passers-by about their efforts to minimize the extra waste generated during the holidays.

Battery factories – petition submitted

Due to the worrying situation of battery factories, in the autumn, with the participation of our activists, we submitted our petition to the Ministry of Energy with 24,000 signatures and a proposal package resulting from the collaboration of specialists from 42 organisations.

Biodiversity campaign

Activists become involved in our biodiversity campaign focused on the oceans and Hungary's own forests.

Convention on the Oceans

The campaign for the Global Oceans Treaty was of particular importance this year. Volunteers took part in three different public events. The concept involved transporting an inflatable whale to various, often absurd locations to raise awareness. The goal was the ratification of the Convention, which Hungary duly agreed to in May.



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© Bence Járdány / Greenpeace

In 2025, Hungarian activists took part in five international awareness-raising activities:

- In July, a large-scale climbing protest blocked a tanker sailing under the Forth Bridge in Scotland, with a Hungarian activist also present.
- Also in July, two of our climbing activists in Pula, Croatia, highlighted the dangers of fossil fuels.
- In August, the leader of the Hungarian climbing team active in the North Sea climbed a gas pumping tower to showcase a work by contemporary artist Anish Kapoor.
- In October, 70 activists from 17 countries blocked vessels loaded with shipments at the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) port in Belgium. Among them was a kayak-activist from Hungary.
- Also in October, a Hungarian activist was part of a demonstration outside the Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO) building in Rome. Its aim was to promote ethical animal husbandry and agriculture.



© Bojan-Haron Markicevic / Greenpeace

Community activities

Throughout the year, our volunteers took part in a number of team-building and community activities. There were visits to a dog shelter, a walk in a Japanese garden, a film club related to our forest campaign, a joint vegan cook-out and excursions. Our volunteers also picked up litter during a four-day canoe trip in summer.

© Greenpeace / Lorenzo Moscia





BOLYGÓ, A COMMUNITY SPACE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE LOOKING TO GO GREEN

In 2025, Bolygó Community space continued to be a vibrant meeting place for young people: we organised 113 events, attracting a total of 2,490 participants. In addition, two classes graduated from the Bolygó Club green activist training course, and we encouraged young content producers with extra training. Through the school community service and the Youth Project Fund, we also supported young people's own green projects.

Creative community-building activities and the Bolygó Club

In 2025, we organised 113 events, involving 2,490 participants. There was graffiti-making using moss, T-shirt printing, an imagination-building activity series, story-sharing circles, a board game night, a clothes exchange and many other exciting activities.

Header Image: © Greenpeace

In 2025, out of two classes, a total of 16 people graduated from our Bolygó Club green activist training scheme, enriched with all-round knowledge. Among other things, they also learned about the connections between the climate and ecological crises, current and future economic systems, and planning. One special feature of the educational programme was that one of the instructors of the second-year class, in addition to Bolygó's colleague Panka Szeszák, was a girl who graduated in 2024.



© Greenpeace

New training, pilot projects

We held a training session called 'Voices of Impact' for young content producers and those looking to get involved. The participants learned how to communicate about the climate and ecological crisis, and the role of communication in helping solve it. They also learned how to use the equipment in our podcast studio, after which they were able to create their own podcasts, and so set up new channels. Some organised a live podcast, where the audience could listen to the discussion which was also recorded.

We continued our school community service programme, in which our secondary-school students carried out various experimental projects: they made leather from kombucha, painted materials using plants, grew objects from mycelium (root structure of fungi) and produced bioplastics.



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We put out a call for applications under the name Youth Project Fund, in which we will support the implementation of five green projects conceived by young people with mentoring and financial backing. The winning entries include the construction and study of a communal composter, the promotion of sustainable fashion, the production of a zine on food waste, workshops mapping alternative economic systems, and research into the development of the wool-processing industry.

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FUNDRAISING

We are a politically and financially independent environmental organisation.

Since our inception, our revenue has come exclusively from private individuals and foundations set up by private individuals. We do not accept any financial support from states, governments, parties or companies, whether in Hungary or in other parts of the world. This guarantees our complete political and financial independence.

What are our sources of funding?

Greenpeace Hungary is part of a global Network of Greenpeace organizations, from which it received a grant of HUF 385,558,877 to fulfill its purpose. Revenues from domestic sources amounted to HUF 171,013,082 bringing the organization's total support revenues for 2025 to HUF 556,571,959. Domestic donations accounted for about one-third of total revenues.

OUR 2025 DOMESTIC FUNDRAISING WORK AND INCOME



153 846 937 HUF

In 2025, in Hungary more than 6,600 supporters contributed a total of HUF 153,846,937 to our environmental work through one-time or regular donations.



17 166 145 HUF

In addition, 1,504 people decided to donate 1% of their tax to our organization in 2025. These donations generated a total income of HUF 17,166,145.

We carried out our fundraising activities through several channels. We contacted our supporters by mail and continued our telephone fundraising campaign, making more than 17,000 calls. In addition, we informed the public about our campaigns and asked for their support through newsletters, petitions, our website, and social media platforms.

In the fall, we launched the [“Adopt a Sea Animal”](#) campaign, which called attention to the protection of oceans and marine life. Supporters could symbolically adopt ocean creatures on an interactive globe, give them names, and receive a certificate and eco-friendly stickers as a thank you. In 2025, 98 regular supporters joined the campaign.



Also in the fall, we launched the [“Protect the Forests”](#) campaign, in which supporters could help us stop the destruction of forest habitats, protect forest dwellers, and preserve the balance of nature that sustains all our lives with their monthly donations. As a token of our gratitude, we sent our new regular supporters a unique Greenpeace canvas bag. Sixty-six people joined the campaign, increasing the number of our regular donors at the end of the year.



Our 2026 Greenpeace calendar also focused on forests. Our goal was to bring the beauty and power of nature to people’s homes with the help of nature photographers.



WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT!

We are an ethical fundraising organisation

The Greenpeace Hungary Association is a member of the [Ethical Fundraising Organisations group](#) and complies in every respect with the strict requirements of its code of ethics. This guarantees that our fundraising work is carried out in a transparent manner, going beyond the required legal framework.



**ETIKUS
ADOMÁNYGYŰJTŐ
SZERVEZET**

The Greenpeace Hungary Association has been operating since 2002. It is a financially and politically independent, non-profit, public environmental organisation, with more than 6,600 Hungarian supporters and an online following of hundreds of thousands. We work to protect our natural environment and the health of all of us to make Hungary a cleaner, more liveable country.

Currently, there are Greenpeace offices in more than 55 countries around the world. Greenpeace Hungary is one of them. We share a common name, goal and values, continuously, openly and boldly raising awareness of environmental problems – and their solutions – through non-violent means. We actively work for positive change for a liveable and peaceful future.

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