

IE School of GPA and RAIA NOW 2022 Summer Research Program



SCHOOL OF
GLOBAL & PUBLIC
AFFAIRS



A RAIA profile on:

Greta Thunberg & Luisa Neubauer

Second part of a six part series on climate
leaders ahead of the 2022 COP27 in Egypt.

Author: Covadonga Gafo

Editor: Joshua Dario Hasenstab



Cofinanciado por
la Unión Europea



Table of Contents

Greta Thunberg & Luisa Neubauer	2
Introduction	2
Greta Thunberg's Background	3
Luisa Neubauer's Background	4
Greta Thunberg & Luisa Neubauer's Stakes	6
Greta Thunberg's Stake	7
Luisa Neubauer's Stake	9
Greta Thunberg & Luisa Neubauer's Defining Moments	11
Greta Thunberg's defining moment	12
Luisa Neubauer's Defining Moment	14
Greta Thunberg & Luisa Neubauer's Solutions	17
Greta Thunberg's Solutions	17
Luisa Neubauer's Solutions	19
Greta Thunberg & Luisa Neubauer's Impact	24
Greta Thunberg's Impact	24
Luisa Neubauer's Impact	25
Fridays for Future's Impact	26
Conclusion	28
Bibliography	30

Sponsorship: This report is a collaboration between the IE School of Global and Public Affairs and RAIA NOW gUG under the umbrella of the 1Planet4All Project.

"1Planet4All is a project that seeks to promote the active participation and commitment of European youth in the fight against the climate emergency. It is part of the DEAR program of Education for Development and Awareness, an initiative of the European Commission Commission and with the support of 14 development and humanitarian aid NGOs—including Ayuda en Acción (Aid in Action)—the 1Planet4All project seeks to bring together young individuals to help achieve the 2030 objectives."

The author, editor and publisher declare no conflict of interest.



Greta Thunberg & Luisa Neubauer

Introduction

Swedish law makes it compulsory for children to attend school, so the moment fifteen years-old Greta Thunberg decided not to return to class after her summer break to protest in front of the Swedish parliament back in 2018, she was not only breaking the law, she was also breaking the silence that had settled around the topic of global warming. Her youth and blunt manner of speaking has led her to become one of the most well-known climate activists of the twenty-first century.

However, Thunberg was not the only youth troubled by the state of the environment and the lack of policies to safeguard it. After the signing of the Paris Agreement for the Climate in 2015, German citizen Luisa Neubauer realized the true distressing situation in which the planet found itself in, and therefore decided to join in. From that moment onwards, she has been advocating to save the environment and tackle global warming. Her involvement in the coordination of the first international strike for the climate, as well as her public discourses, have made of her a beacon of youth leadership in the fight to save the climate.

The following profile will provide an overview of Greta Thunberg and Luisa Neubauer through a lens of her environmental activism, which will comprise four different sections with the aim of providing an in-depth analysis of their motivations, campaigns and influences. Each section attempts to provide a clear understanding of what makes Greta Thunberg a climate leader, as well as how wide-ranging her actions are and how they are able to influence efforts to combat manmade global warming.

The profile on the two climate activists will comprise four sections encompassing her stake, defining moment, proposals to tackle global warming and the policies that are currently in place with that objective. The report will consist of six sections. The present "Introduction" will present both leaders, Greta Thunberg and Luisa Neubauer, to the reader, through a brief summary of their biographies and their journeys as climate activists. The following "Defining Moment" will attempt to analyze the events that became the turning points which transformed them into leading figures in the fight for the climate. Their personal regards and concerns within the climate issue will be tackled in the "Stake" section, as well as the personal circumstances that have influenced their choices. Subsequently, the initiatives Thunberg and Neubauer have proposed - both at the individual and community level - to assist in the climate debate will be presented in the "Solutions" section, while their influence on the public will be studied in the following "Impact Assessment" section. Lastly, the main findings of the present report will be summarized and presented in the "Conclusion".



Greta Thunberg's Background

Greta Tintin Eleonora Ernman Thunberg is a nineteen years-old Swedish environmental activist, widely known for being the face of the global movement Fridays For Future (FFF). The movement was inspired by the sit-down she led in front of the Swedish Parliament in protest of the lack of action on behalf of institutions in efforts to combat manmade global warming. From that point onward, Thunberg changed the discourse on global warming through passionate speeches at international events and regular appearances at protests for the protection of the climate. Her activism has become a mobilizing global force in her attempt to raise awareness of the general population on the matter of global warming and her demands towards national governments and international organizations to take more action in tackling the issue.¹

She advocates for “immediate, drastic, annual emission reductions” in order to reach the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C that was established in the Paris Agreement of 2015². Her strategy to reach this objective is centered on increasing people's understanding of global warming and its potential effects on the planet and life on Earth. To do so, she strives to give a voice to environmental scientists and scholars.

When Thunberg first learned about the climate crisis she was eight years old, and the discovery perturbed her so greatly that she developed depression³. Afterwards, she was diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome, selective mutism and obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD), which has had a great influence in the way she is portrayed by the media and the style of her public speeches. Despite — and because of — these afflictions, which she calls her “superpowers”⁴, she has become an international climate icon, whose activism led to the creation of the biggest global movement for climate protection: Fridays For Future (FFF)⁵.

Despite her popularity, she is also considered to be a controversial figure. Public opinion regarding her character and appearances has been divided, in large part due to her portrayal by the media, particularly in relation to her young age and her gender. Thunberg was a teenager when she started her journey as an activist and, because of this, she has been looked down upon by politicians and senior

¹ Charlotte Alter, Suyin Haynes and Justin Worland, “Greta Thunberg: TIME's Person of the Year 2019”, TIME, December 11, 2019. [Greta Thunberg: TIME's Person of the Year 2019](#)

²Greta Thunberg, “Greta Thunberg: The disarming case to act right now on climate change”, TedTalk January 28, 2019. [Greta Thunberg: The disarming case to act right now on climate change | TED Talk](#)

³ Caitlin Gibson, “Before Greta Thunberg was a global icon, she was a tormented child who refused to eat or speak”, The Washington Post, March 16, 2020. [Before Greta Thunberg was a global icon, she was a tormented child who refused to eat or speak](#)

⁴ Alison Rourke, “Greta Thunberg responds to Asperger's critics: It's a superpower”, The Guardian, September 2, 2019. [Greta Thunberg responds to Asperger's critics: 'It's a superpower'](#)

⁵Fridays for Future - How Greta started a global movement. [Fridays for Future – How Greta started a global movement.](#)



officials, who dismiss her claims of the urgency of the climate crisis by arguing that no “kind and sincere girl”⁶ could have proper knowledge of complex global affairs. In addition to the mockeries concerning her youth, Thunberg has also been accused of addressing the climate issue with “emotionality, hysteria, mental disturbance, and an inability to think for herself”⁷, which are accusations in line with stereotypically feminine labels traditionally used to undermine women’s public speech and the authority of their claims.

Lastly, the media has shed light on the influence Thunberg’s parents exerted on her activism. They are part of the Swedish entertainment industry. Greta’s mother, Malena Ernman, describes her and her husband as “cultural workers”. Ernman studied music and established herself as one of the most well known opera singers in Sweden; whereas Thunberg’s father, Svate Thunberg, has worked as a manager and an actor. He was also involved in the direction of documentaries concerning his daughter’s life and her climate journey.

Both of her parents have shaped Thunberg’s environmental activism, just as she has influenced their lifestyle changes to reduce their carbon footprint on the planet⁸. For example, Greta convinced her father to adopt a vegan lifestyle, while her mother gave up air traveling, and therefore her career as an opera singer. In turn, her parents’ influence on her is evident, as they were the ones who enabled Greta to become a climate activist by allowing her to skip school in order to carry out her very first sit-down protest back in 2018 and facilitated her travels around Europe.

Luisa Neubauer’s Background

Luisa-Marie Neubauer first learned about the climate crisis during a geography lesson in high school. The fact that something that was supposed to be so crucial for the global population could be summarized into a single lesson impacted her so greatly that she decided to pursue a university degree in geography in order to deepen her knowledge on global warming and its potential consequences on the planet⁹.

During her first TedTalk, Neubauer underscored her conviction of the vital link between climate and geography when she told the audience, “I dream of a world

⁶ Sophia Ankel, “Putin says Greta Thunberg is a ‘kind a sincere girl’ but claims she is being manipulated by others”, Business Insider, October 3, 2019. [Putin says Greta Thunberg is a 'kind and sincere girl' but claims she's being manipulated by others](#)

⁷ Camilla Nelson and Meg Vertigan, “Misogyny, male rage and the words men use to describe Greta Thunberg”, The Conversation, September 30, 2019. [Misogyny, male rage and the words men use to describe Greta Thunberg](#)

⁸ Martin Farrer, “Greta Thunberg: climate activism has made her ‘very happy’, says father”, The Guardian, December 30, 2019. [Greta Thunberg: climate activism has made her 'very happy', says father](#)

⁹ Luisa Neubauer, “Why I became a climate activist - and you should, too”, TedTalks, August 1, 2019. [Why I became a climate activist - and you should, too. TedxYouth@München](#)



where geography classes teach about the climate crisis as this one great challenge that was won by people like you and me."

It is through lectures and public speeches such as these that she tries to raise public opinion on the issue of global warming while also demanding that action be taken by national governments and international organizations. In particular, she advocates for the achievement of the goals agreed upon at the youth climate summit in Lausanne in 2019. The goals focus on the decarbonization of global economies and the transition from fossil fuels to renewable sources of energy.

Neubauer's climate journey started in 2015. That year, the Paris Agreement for the Climate was crafted during 20th United Nations Conference of the Parties, in an attempt to strengthen the global response to the threat of global warming by keeping a global temperature rise this century below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5°C. The loss of her father earlier that same year led her to create a link of common grief and loss between both events¹⁰. It was the conjunction of them that propelled her involvement with environmental and social causes that aim to improve the general understanding of global warming and environmental activism by pressuring governments and international bodies to reckon with the current climate situation through the development of appropriate environmental and climate policies.

Another member of her family who had a deep influence in her interest in environmental activism was her grandmother, who was involved in anti-nuclear activism and sensibilized Luisa to the climate problem. From 2015 onwards, Luisa became a collaborator for several NGOs, both at a domestic and international level, such as ONE¹¹ or the German organization Das Hunger Projekt. After her first meeting with Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg in 2018, she became one of the main co-organisers of the international movement for the climate Fridays For Future (FFF) and the face of its German branch.

Her use of social media as a tool to further spread her messages has also led to the increase of the notoriety of her activism and its recognition at the hands of businesses and the media. In 2020, after campaigning to stop the construction of a coal mine in central Queensland, she was offered a position at the energy board of the German industrial manufacturing company Siemens, which she declined after allegations that accepting the post would jeopardize her independence¹².

¹⁰ Abby Young-Powell, "Interview: how can we turn this anxiety into something constructive", The Guardian, January 27, 2021 [Interview: "how can we turn this anxiety into something constructive". 2021 - the Guardian](#)

¹¹ Christiane Böhm, "Warum geht mich das etwas an", Göttinger Tageblatt, June 16, 2016. [„Warum geht mich das etwas an?“](#)

¹² Joe Miller, "Siemens offers climate activist seat on energy arm's board", The Financial Times, January 10, 2020. [Siemens offers climate activist seat on energy arm's board, 2020 - FT](#)



Luisa obtained a degree in Geography at the University of Göttingen. There, she chose the profits of a fossil fuel-based economy as the topic for her thesis¹³. The depth of her studies have continually enabled her to gain a more scholarly and profound perspective on the issue of global warming. In order to further develop her knowledge, she is currently pursuing a Master in Geography at the same university, with a focus on resource management and analysis. She also spent a year as an exchange student at University College London, studying Geography and Political Science. Her interest in politics can also be noted in her membership to Alliance 90/The Greens, Germany's main green political party¹⁴.

However, she is not deeply involved in the dynamics of the political aspect of environmental issues since she considers such involvement could negatively impact the conduct of her activism, even being in complete opposition to the policies imposed by its leaders¹⁵. Despite her academic background on global warming, her youth has led to the dismissive attitudes towards her demands addressed to governments and corporations and fostered claims of "radical activism".

Greta Thunberg & Luisa Neubauer's Stakes

Behind every climate leader, there is a set of motivations and driving forces that lead an ordinary individual to an active engagement in the efforts to combat manmade global warming. Fridays For Future (FFF), the international movement both Greta Thunberg and Luisa Neubauer helped create, has played a huge role in the construction of their respective ethos regarding environmental activism. They embodied the all-encompassing fight against climate change. It must be noted, however, that while Thunberg has been shaped as the face of climate activism as a whole¹⁶, Neubauer has revealed herself as a strong advocate for the particular issue of decarbonisation of global economies by calling for an immediate transition from fossil fuel to green renewable energies¹⁷. This section aims to present a more extensive view of each of their ideological outlooks by analyzing what are their key areas of focus as climate leaders and why those issues are more important to each of them.

¹³ Christiane Böhm, "Warum geht mich das etwas an", Göttinger Tageblatt, June 16, 2016. [„Warum geht mich das etwas an?“](#)

¹⁴ Florian Güßgen, "Luisa Neubauer die Laut-Sprecherin bei Fridays for Future", Stern.de, May 22, 2019. [Luisa Neubauer die Laut-Sprecherin bei Fridays for Future | STERN.de](#)

¹⁵ Charlotte Nijhuis, "Youth Climate movement pushes Germany to step up ambition", Clean Energy Wire, Octobre 22, 2021. [Youth climate movement pushes Germany to step up ambition | Clean Energy Wire](#)

¹⁶ Daniel Kraemer, "Who is the climate campaigner and what are her aims", BBC News, November 5, 2021. [Greta Thunberg: Who is the climate campaigner and what are her aims? - BBC News](#)

¹⁷ Bill McKibben, "It cannot be activism as usual: Kumi Naidoo and Luisa Neubauer on the way forward for climate justice", The Guardian, June 17, 2022 [‘It cannot be activism as usual’: Kumi Naidoo and Luisa Neubauer on the way forward for climate justice](#)



Greta Thunberg's Stake

Greta Thunberg has become notorious for the blunt-speaking manner of her speeches¹⁸, which presents a clear picture of her attitude towards the climate issue. Her activism is based on street protests and public speeches in order to pressure government representatives and multilateral bodies to create new and ambitious policies to tackle the climate crisis and its potential consequences¹⁹. The goals she wants to accomplish with her activism are in line with the ones stated in the Paris Agreement signed in the framework of the UN Climate Change Conference of 2015, but she calls for a more progressive approach to ensure that the objectives agreed upon at the summit are properly carried out. Similar to the demands of the FFF movement, Thunberg seeks keeping global temperature rise below 1.5°C when compared to pre-industrial levels, to ensure climate justice for everyone, and to listen to the best science available to achieve the previously two mentioned goals.

From the moment she started her strikes, Thunberg has made her campaign for the climate the main focus of her life, and she has become a leader for those who share her concerns regarding the climate crisis. In spite of that fact, and probably because of it, she has not presented herself as a defender of any particular key issue on efforts to combat manmade global warming. From the beginning, her focus is to raise her voice in defense of the climate.

Thunberg started her activism at a domestic level, in front of the Riksdag in the streets of Sweden's capital, to demand more action to be taken by the Swedish government to tackle the climate issue²⁰. She did not advocate for the implementation of any specific policy or measure, her demand was a general cry for help, as her popular cardboard sign read ("School Strike for the Climate"). Her strike went viral because of Thunberg's use of social media platforms, such as Instagram and Twitter, to share her actions in Stockholm. These efforts sparked what became known as Fridays For Future, a global movement to increase pressure on national governments and international bodies and raise public awareness about global warming. The creation of FFF culminated with the Summer Meeting that took place in Lausanne back in 2019²¹, in which the

¹⁸ Damian Carrington, "‘Blah, blah, blah’: Greta Thunberg lambasts leaders over climate crisis", The Guardian, September 28, 2021 [‘Blah, blah, blah’: Greta Thunberg lambasts leaders over climate crisis](#)

¹⁹ Björn Lundberg and David Larson Heidenblad, "Greta Thunberg emerged from five decades of environmental youth activism in Sweden", The Conversation, November 4 2021. [Greta Thunberg emerged from five decades of environmental youth activism in Sweden](#)

²⁰ Lin Taylor and Sonia Elks, "Greta Thunberg's rise from teen activist to global climate leader", Thomson Reuters Foundation, November 3, 2021. [Greta Thunberg's rise from teen activist to global climate leader](#).

²¹ Greta Thunberg (@GretaThunberg), "Lausanne, Switzerland #ClimateStrike #FridaysForFuture!", September 27, 2019, 12:18 p.m. <https://twitter.com/gretathunberg/status/1177528047601356800>



demands of the movement were formally specified. Still, no specific policies to tackle global warming were presented by the leaders of the movement at the end of the summit.

The lack of a determined set of policy proposals can be understood on account of the fact that Thunberg is an activist, not a policymaker, and therefore has no active role in the process of creating legislation. This situation constitutes a challenge for her, since it hinders her intentions of increasing the pressure on the individuals responsible for guidelines that will allow her demands to be accomplished. However, it is not the only obstacle Thunberg has faced since her rise as an environmental activist. From the moment she became a mainstream climate icon, denigrating comments have been made by senior individuals in the media and the international political sphere, ranging from her age to her particular medical condition.

First and foremost, the dominant backlash she has received since her first strike lies on her youth. Because she started her journey as an activist at the early age of 15, she did not — and still does not — possess any prior knowledge about legislation or the policymaking process. Therefore, political leaders from multiple countries have criticized her actions and have attempted to diminish her image to that of a mere child, and consequently, the reliability of her requests²².

Brazil's president Jair Bolsonaro has labeled her a *pirralha* (brat)²³ when asked about Thunberg's speeches and public protests; Vladimir Putin, Russia's president, has alleged that "no kind and sincere girl" could have proper knowledge of complex global affairs²⁴, such as global warming and international legislation. Putin even implied Thunberg is being manipulated on the way she is conducting her activism. Statements like the latter one have led to the spread of conspiracy theories concerning herself as well as third parties like her parents, who have been accused of secretly masterminding their daughter's rise to fame, or fellow activist Luisa Neubauer, who was accused of being Thunberg's handler inside the FFF movement.

Another of Thunberg's features that have been used to attack her persona has been her medical diagnosis, which has shaped the way she conducts her activism. After it became known that she had been diagnosed with obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD), Asperger syndrome and selective mutism, the media

²² Camilla Nelson and Meg Vertigan, "Misogyny, male rage and the words men use to describe Greta Thunberg", The Conversation, September 30, 2019. [Misogyny, male rage and the words men use to describe Greta Thunberg](#)

²³ Tom Phillips, "Greta Thunberg labeled a 'brat' by Brazil's far-right leader Jair Bolsonaro", The Guardian, December 10, 2019. [Greta Thunberg labelled a 'brat' by Brazil's far-right leader Jair Bolsonaro](#)

²⁴ Sophia Ankel, "Putin says Greta Thunberg is a 'kind a sincere girl' but claims she is being manipulated by others", Business Insider, October 3, 2019. [Putin says Greta Thunberg is a 'kind and sincere girl' but claims she's being manipulated by others](#)



opposed to her discourse made use of this fact to ridicule Thunberg, and to present her as an mentally-ill person that should not be listened to in an effort to undermine her authority in efforts to combat manmade global warming.

Herald Sun columnist Andrew Bolt wrote that he had never seen a girl so young and with so many mental disorders treated by so many adults as a guru²⁵. Former US President Donald J. Trump tweeted that "Greta [Thunberg] must work on her Anger Management problem, then go to a good old fashioned movie with a friend!" He ended the tweet saying that she should "chill"²⁶, in light of the UN Climate Change Conference, where Thunberg had given a passionate speech for immediate action to tackle global warming before "time runs out".

Albeit remarks that seek to invalidate her voice, Thunberg's stand to fight for the climate and the future of the planet remains unwavered. She does not take a particular focus because she expresses that the global warming issue should be tackled from all angles. Her stake encompasses the whole climate issue, and that is the reason why she has risen as a global climate leader.

Luisa Neubauer's Stake

Luisa Neubauer shared with Thunberg the environmental demands that were established as the ones common to all individuals involved in the FFF movement. However, Neubauer's ideological outlook had one main driving point that influenced her activism since the beginning of her journey as a climate activist: the decarbonisation of global economies through a progressive transition to renewable green energies from a fossil-based system²⁷, in accordance with the goals set in the Paris Agreement 2015. Her demands have focused on the domestic and regional level, with the politicians of her country Germany alongside the senior officials of the European Union being the main recipients of her demands. Even though her activism has mainly focus on street striking and public speeches because of her role as the German face of FFF, she has also undertaken a more formal manner of protesting through the signing of documents advocating for stronger action to be taken on efforts to combat man made global warming on the part of politicians of countries all over the world, alongside the legal suing of official bodies on account of alleged violation of environmental rights²⁸.

²⁵ Andrew Bolt, "THE DISTURBING SECRET TO THE CULT OF GRETA THUNBERG", "Herald Sun", August 1, 2019. [THE DISTURBING SECRET TO THE CULT OF GRETA THUNBERG | Herald Sun](#)

²⁶ Richard Luscombe, "Chill! Greta Thunberg recycles Trump's mockery of her as he tries to stop votes", November 5, 2020. ['Chill!': Greta Thunberg recycles Trump's mockery of her as he tries to stop votes](#)

²⁷ Martina Comparelli, Luisa Neubauer, Linus Steinmetz, Jada Kennedy, Rikke Nielsen, Bianca Castro, Greta Thunberg, Lili Aschenbrenner, Dominika Lasota, and Bjarne Kirchman, "Code Red for Humanity - or Green Light for more climate destruction?", EURACTIV, December 20, 2021. [Code Red for Humanity – or Green Light for more climate destruction? – EURACTIV.com](#)

²⁸ Federal Constitutional Court of Germany, "Neubauer et al. v. Germany", Natural Justice, February 2020. [NEUBAUER ET AL. V. GERMANY | Natural Justice](#)



The actions she has taken are an attempt to increase the pressure on politicians and policymakers with the goal of pushing for more new legislation regarding global warming based on new sources of green energy. Since she is an activist, she is not actively involved in the decision making process of new policies, and therefore all her actions must strive to influence the individuals in charge. Yet, that is not always the case. The proposal made by the European Commission to classify gas and nuclear energies as green and the subsequent passing of said bill, in spite of the many efforts undertaken by Neubauer and fellow activists against the taxonomy legislation, is the most recent example of the limited impact environmental activists truly have at the legislative level the challenges faced by environmental activists. For Neubauer, as an anti-nuclear advocate, the new European taxonomy constitutes a step back of special relevance in the pathway towards economies being fuelled by green renewables.

Despite the lack of the necessary influence to impact the crafting of legislation is a challenge faced by all environmental activists, the ones involved in FFF, as Neubauer herself, encounter more belittlement due to their youth. People in the political sphere and in the media criticized the aggressive tone of the activists, arguing that they are not aware of the complexity of the process of policymaking and the implementation times of new legislation. Neubauer has been accused of radicalism in the way she conducts her activism, being accused of wanting to blow a pipeline by senior officials²⁹, which has led to further activity against her actions in social media platforms. The aim of these comments is to diminish the effect Neubauer could have as a climate activist, just like Thunberg.

Albeit the different personalities of Thunberg and Neubauer, they both face a common set of challenges because of the features they share: young European climate activists calling out legislators on their inaction to appropriately tackle the climate crisis. Senior officials have disregarded the efforts made to influence the policymaking process because of their role as activists, arguing that they do not possess any knowledge on the crafting and implementation of legislation. In addition to their claims, the youth of the activists is another fact used to reinforce the belief that their opinions should not be taken into account at the high political sphere, pretenses that have been repeated by media outlets from several countries to taunt and play down the part played by the activists with their street strikes and public speeches.³⁰ Their demands have created a chasm between them and parts of the general public. Modern lifestyles have a profound

²⁹Jennifer Collins, "Activists say they must up the ante as world edges closer to climate disaster", Deutsche Welle, June 17, 2022. [Activists say they must up the ante as world edges closer to climate disaster | Environment](#)

³⁰ Domenic Purdy, "Generational gaps: Young people more worried about climate change than their parents", Climate360 News, July 16, 2021. [Generational gaps: Young people more worried about climate change than their parents - Climate360 News](#)



correlation to the increasing severity of global warming³¹. Yet many sectors of the population are hostile to criticisms of their lifestyle that are handed down from two young girls- for the activists, their age and gender both present as obstacles to the perceived seriousness and weight of their critiques.

Regarding the FFF strikes, another challenge has emerged due to the Covid-19 pandemic³². The imposition of lockdowns and social distancing measures in the majority of countries, alongside the closure of the international borders, made it impossible to continue protesting as it had been done up to that point. The organizers of the movement, among whom both Thunberg and Neubauer can be found, created a new form of online activism, based on strikes and discussions being conducted entirely online, so as to not lose the momentum that had been built regarding the demands of climate activists³³. Nonetheless, the effect produced by these steps, although maintaining the relevance of the climate issue, did not produce the same response on citizens as the street strikes had. Also concerning Covid-19, the consequences of the measures taken to reduce the potential damage the pandemic could produce force governments to put on hold certain environmental policies, due to the global economic and sanitary situation that appeared as an aftermath of the pandemic. The need to solve the global economy moved down the global warming issue in the list of priorities of national governments.

The "Stake" explains the reasons behind Thunberg's indistinctive focus on any specific issue within the climate debate, while also analyzing Neubauer's particular position on decarbonisation and the green economies. Additionally, it analyses the effect certain difficulties have presented in their path, from denigrating remarks to outside events like the Covid-19 pandemic.

Greta Thunberg & Luisa Neubauer's Defining Moments

When taking an in depth look into the life story of a relevant figure, it is usually possible to highlight a specific moment that defines the transformation of a regular individual into a leader, Greta Thunberg and Luisa Neubauer are no exceptions. The following section will cover the defining moment that made them

³¹ Sina Löschke and Komila Nabiyeva, "Climate change: a threat to human wellbeing and health of the planet. Taking action now can secure our future", Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, February 28, 2022. [Climate change: a threat to human wellbeing and health of the planet. Taking action now can secure our future — IPCC](#)

³² Martin Kuebler, "Has COVID changed Fridays for Future?", Deutsche Welle, March 19, 2021. [Has COVID changed Fridays for Future? | Environment | All topics from climate change to conservation | DW | 19.03.2021](#)

³³ Sophie Hunger and Swen Hutter, "Online strikes with the usual suspects: How Fridays for Future has coped with the Covid-19 pandemic", London School of Economics Blogs, June 29, 2020 [Online strikes with the usual suspects: How Fridays for Future has coped with the Covid-19 pandemic](#)



into the climate leaders that they are considered today. In order to do so, this section will answer what made the moment impactful and why it inspired people to act.

Greta Thunberg's defining moment

Greta Thunberg's defining moment in her environmental journey was her first act of activism she undertook in 2018: her daily sit down in front of the Swedish parliament to protest against the lack of action to tackle global warming³⁴. That first strike sparked what would become an international youth movement for the climate, known as Fridays For Future (FFF)³⁵. It inspired not only the younger generations, but also forced senior officials and politicians to intensify efforts to combat global warming³⁶.

At the time of her first strike in front of the Swedish Parliament House, Thunberg was 15 years old. The new academic year had just started, but instead of returning to class after the summer period was over, she went to the island of Helgeanshomen, in the center of Stockholm, to sit down in front of the Riksdag with a sign that read *Skolstrejk För Klimatet* (Schoolstrike for the Climate)³⁷. She did so to protest against the inaction of the Swedish government to create suitable public policies to adequately tackle global warming. She continued her strike for weeks. During this time, she also posted her activism on social media platforms, allowing her protest to reach others who shared her concerns, and joined her strike in cities all around the world.

This individual protest slowly set into motion a beyond borders campaign for the climate that led to the creation of Fridays For Future, a youth-led and organized movement that aims to ensure that national governments follow through with the objectives agreed upon on the Paris Agreement of 2015: limit the rising temperatures to 1.5° Celsius in comparison to pre-industrial levels and encourage a progressive transition of the global economies to green renewable energies³⁸.

³⁴Greta Thunberg (@GretaThunberg), "Vi barn gör ju oftast inte som ni säger åt oss att göra, vi gör som ni gör. Och eftersom ni vuxna skiter i min framtid, så gör jag det med. Jag skolstrejker för klimatet fram till valdagen.", August 20, 2018, 9.27 am.

<https://twitter.com/GretaThunberg/status/1031442623653928960>

³⁵Fridays for Future - How Greta started a global movement. [Fridays for Future - How Greta started a global movement](#).

³⁶ Louise Nordstrom, "The Swedish teen holding world leaders accountable for climate change", France 24, January 25, 2019. [The Swedish teen holding world leaders accountable for climate change](#)

³⁷Greta Thunberg (@GretaThunberg), "Vi barn gör ju oftast inte som ni säger åt oss att göra, vi gör som ni gör. Och eftersom ni vuxna skiter i min framtid, så gör jag det med. Jag skolstrejker för klimatet fram till valdagen.", August 20, 2018, 9.27 am.

<https://twitter.com/GretaThunberg/status/1031442623653928960>

³⁸ "Paris Agreement", United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), December 12, 2015. [Key aspects of the Paris Agreement | UNFCCC](#)



Thunberg's decision to skip class and start striking for the climate cannot be understood without explaining her own backstory and the background she was raised in. Her parents exercised a great influence on her decision to start an active campaign to protest against global warming. They not only allowed her to miss school in order to sit at the Swedish Parliament, they also took Thunberg to Helgeandsholmen every single day and stayed with her until nightfall. However, it was not always like that. In the beginning, her parents dismissed her ideas regarding climate activism, but the deterioration of Thunberg's medical condition made them reconsider what was best for their daughter, and decided to support her climate journey.

The day Thunberg decided to stand with her sign to demand more action to be taken on behalf of national governments to increase efforts to combat manmade global warming, she started a wave of change in the way society perceived climate activism. Her posts on social media regarding her activism in the streets of Stockholm reached people from all ages and nationalities. Particularly, those who became more involved with the campaign she had created were her peers, and youth from all around the world. Thunberg's activism transformed from solitary strikes with a cardboard sign to public speeches and demonstrations all across Europe, inspiring school students to strike on Fridays. Her characteristic style of activism, influenced by her unique features and background, contributed to giving her demands the notoriety she was striving for³⁹.

She started to receive invitations from senior politicians and international bodies to participate in events concerning global warming. The first on her long list of official speeches was given during the plenary session of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC) in 2018, where she met fellow climate activist and co-organiser of FFF Luisa Neubauer⁴⁰. This was the first international event in which she gave an official speech, in which she criticized politicians and government officials, whom she accused of "not being mature enough" to properly tackle the climate crisis. From that moment onwards, Thunberg's life became a struggle to ensure climate justice for everyone.

From the moment her protest in front of the Riksdag went viral, back in 2018, Thunberg became a beacon of the fight against climate inaction. She was able to transform an individual street protest in a single European city into an international youth-led movement with the potential of having an active influence in public policies and national governments⁴¹.

³⁹Greta Thunberg, "You did not act in time": Greta Thunberg's full speech to the MPs", The Guardian, April 23, 2019 ['You did not act in time': Greta Thunberg's full speech to MPs](#)

⁴⁰ Luisa Neubauer (@LuisaNeubauer), "Meet Greta", December 6, 2018, <https://www.instagram.com/p/BrCoe5hFCQX/?hl=en>

⁴¹ Suyin Haynes, "Students from 1600 Cities Just Walked Out of School to Protest Climate Change. It Could Be Greta Thunberg's Biggest Strike Yet.", TIME, May 24, 2019. [Students From 1600 Cities](#)



Her own youth at the time of her sitdown in Stockholm is an element that contributes to her perception as a leader for the younger generations⁴², despite the fact that senior politicians and officials have attempted to belittle her image as a climate activist because of her young age⁴³. Thunberg's overpowering of these diminishing remarks has set an example for the future generation, to which she herself belongs, on how to keep the battle for the climate alive in spite of the efforts of external actors to maintain the climate situation as it is. She clearly expressed this very idea in her address to the United Nations Climate Action Summit in 2019, where she said that "You [politicians and senior officials] are failing us. But the young people are starting to understand your betrayal. The eyes of all future generations are upon you."⁴⁴

Luisa Neubauer's Defining Moment

In some cases, what makes a leader is not a single defining moment, but a conjunction of several events and circumstances that can propel the transformation of an ordinary individual into an inspiring figure. That is the case of German climate activist Luisa Neubauer. The following section will analyze the series of episodes that led Neubauer to play an active role in fighting global warming as a climate activist, transforming her into the environmental leader she is today. Furthermore, this piece will display why her journey has become a source of inspiration for future generations in the field of climate activism.

Neubauer's was a transformation motivated by a combination of personal situations, international events and spontaneous encounters, which started in 2015 with the passing away of her father and the crafting of the Paris Agreement; and culminated three years later, when she met fellow climate activist Greta Thunberg at a climate summit in December of 2018. The two events in 2015 had a deep influence on her perception of loss and grief, — which she associated both with her father and the decaying situation of the planet due to global warming — and drove her initial involvement in climate advocacy. It was not until she met Thunberg that she decided to engage in concrete acts of climate activism, which led to Neubauer organizing the first international strike for the climate in early

[Just Walked Out of School to Protest Climate Change. It Could Be Greta Thunberg's Biggest Strike Yet](#)

⁴² David Wallace-Wells, "Greta Thunberg and Her Hail Mary Climate Movement", New York Magazine, September 17, 2019. [Greta Thunberg and Her Hail Mary Climate Movement](#)

⁴³ Somini Sengupta, "Greta Thunberg Joins Climate March on Her Last Day in Davos", The New York Times, January 24, 2020. [Greta Thunberg Joins Climate March on Her Last Day in Davos - The New York Times](#)

⁴⁴ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs - Youth, "Greta Thunberg tells world leaders 'you are failing us', as nations announce fresh climate action", UN News, September 24, 2019. [Greta Thunberg tells world leaders 'you are failing us', as nations announce fresh climate action](#)



2019. Henceforth, her activism has inspired millions of young people to get involved in strikes and protests all around the world.

In every interview regarding her first steps in efforts to combat manmade global warming, Neubauer has always highlighted the year 2015 as a turning point, not only in her journey as a climate activist, but also in her life. She learned her father was terminally ill at the age of 19, and that created in her a sense of anxiety and uncertainty regarding the future like she had never felt before. After his passing in early 2015, Neubauer was left with loss and grief⁴⁵. Those same feelings reemerged later that same year, at the UNFCCC that took place in Paris, during which the Paris Agreement was crafted and signed. The necessity of an official international agreement to combat manmade global warming led Neubauer to the realization that the situation in which the planet found itself had reached a critical point of almost no return.

The sense of potential loss of our planet, alongside the mourning of her father, drove her to get involved with environmental NGOs and social causes. This is how her journey as a relevant figure in the fight against global warming began, and it would evolve into an international and youth-led climate movement, currently known as Fridays For Future.

In 2018, Neubauer had already been involved in climate advocacy for a couple of years, but she still had not engaged in any action that could be considered activism. In December of that year, she was invited to the UNFCCC in Katowice, Poland as the head of a German Youth Delegation for the Youth4Climate⁴⁶, which unites young figures in the field of climate advocacy in order to boost youth-driven climate solutions⁴⁷. Over the course of the conference, she had the opportunity to meet Greta Thunberg⁴⁸, who had recently acquired notoriety because of her School Strike for the Climate in front of the Swedish parliament.

Neubauer, impressed by Thunberg's commitment to the efforts to combat manmade global warming, decided to join in the sit-down she was undertaking at the summit. She considers that protest in Katowice her first act of climate activism. It set the stage for her involvement in the organization of the first international strike for the climate in March of the following year, which would

⁴⁵ Abby Young-Powell, "Interview: how can be turn this anxiety into something constructive", The Guardian, January 27, 2021 [Interview: "how can be turn this anxiety into something constructive", 2021 - the Guardian](#)

⁴⁶ Luisa Neubauer (@luisamneubauer), "Wir sind junge Menschen aus der ganzen Welt, zusammengebracht von der Klimakrise, die unsere gemeinsame Zukunft gefährdet. Wir sind #Youth4Climate - und wir gucken nicht nur zu. #COP24", December 3, 2018, 2:31 p.m. <https://twitter.com/luisamneubauer/status/1069584807951253504>

⁴⁷ Youth4Climate (@Y4Cofficial). <https://twitter.com/Y4Cofficial>

⁴⁸ Luisa Neubauer, "Why I became a climate activist - and you should, too ", TedTalk, August 1, 2019. [Why I became a climate activist - and you should, too. TedxYouth@München](#)



evolve into an international and youth-led climate movement known as Fridays For Future. Her active role in the strike as a co-organiser culminated her process of becoming a climate leader, casting her as one of the main faces of the movement.

Therefore, as it was previously stated, it is not possible to identify a key defining moment in Neubauer's climate journey. Rather, it was prompted by a shared sense of loss and grief for her father and the planet she lives in back in 2015, and it reached its landmark with her implication in the climate campaign started by Thunberg in the streets of Stockholm.

Luisa Neubauer has proven that it is possible to overcome grief and turn that feeling into fuel to achieve a positive outcome. In spite of her youth, and also because of it, she has been able to reframe the general public's perception of what environmental activism really is about: saving the planet through alliances of ordinary citizens, from all countries, ages and social backgrounds.⁴⁹

Both Greta Thunberg and Luisa Neubauer are pioneering environmental activists that have acquired a high degree of notoriety and relevance because of their association with the Fridays For Future movement, which they helped launch. Yet, the course until reaching the point in which they acquired the public consideration of climate leaders was unique for each of them in the way their personal backgrounds had a powerful impact in their decisions in their path of climate activism.

Thunberg's strike in front of the Riksdag already shaped her as an aspiring figure for future generations in regards to climate activism, and from that first moment on she continued her involvement in public protests. As for Neubauer, she did not actively engage in environmental activism from the start of her journey to becoming a leading figure in the fight against global warming, and therefore was not perceived as such from the beginning like Thunberg was. Neubauer's concerns for the current climate situation drove her to associate with several NGOs and organizations that were advocates of the climate issue, but without taking an active role in climate activism.

However, similarities can also be found between Thunberg and Neubauer when analyzing their respective key events as climate leaders. They both got involved in climate advocacy at a very early stage in their lives, with none of them having reached their twenties, and both of them have been diminished in their demands because of it. But their spirit never flattered, and they took advantage of their youth to join forces and inspired the younger generation to join them in protests

⁴⁹ Tedx Talks, "Why I became a climate activist - and you should, too ", August 1, 2019. [Why I became a climate activist - and you should, too. TedxYouth@München](#)



and strikes all around the world⁵⁰. They both helped in the creation of a global movement to protect the climate led by the youth of every country, with the goal of increasing the pressure put on national governments and multilateral organizations to fulfill the objectives set in the Paris Agreement. That accomplishment is what made both of them, to the eyes of the world, leading figures in climate activism.

Greta Thunberg & Luisa Neubauer's Solutions

The following section explores the defining moments that began the transformation of Greta Thunberg and Luisa Neubauer from regular citizens into climate leaders. It unravels the causes and consequences of Thunberg's first ever strike in Sweden back in 2018, as well as explaining the reasons behind Neubauer's first involvement in climate advocacy up until the previously mentioned year, when she organized - alongside Thunberg - the first international strike for the climate.

All leaders face many challenges throughout their journey, and in order to face these challenges, solutions must be proposed. Greta Thunberg and Luisa Neubauer are climate activists. Therefore, they are not actively engaged in the policymaking process, nor do they have the capacity to exert serious influence on the crafting of global warming legislation. However, their methods of climate activism have increased public pressure on politicians, which has, in some cases, translated into the modification of certain regulations regarding environmental policies. This section will attempt to explain the proposal both of them have started with the objective of defending the planet and raising the awareness of the public regarding the climate issue.

Greta Thunberg's Solutions

As previously stated, Greta Thunberg does not have a specific environmental focus area. Her activism encompasses all aspects of efforts to combat manmade global warming, and therefore it can be argued that her overall objective is to help mitigate the effects of global warming. Nonetheless, even though she has not proposed any particular policy to mitigate the effects of global warming at the legislative level, her activism led her to launch several projects to increase the awareness of the general public on the climate issue.

After the first international strike for the climate, organized by the FFF movement back in 2019, the book "No One Is Too Small to Make a Difference" was

⁵⁰ Simon Hattenstone, "The transformation of Greta Thunberg", The Guardian, September 25, 2021. [Greta Thunberg: 'I really see the value of friendship. Apart from the climate, almost nothing else matters'](#)



published⁵¹. It consists of a compilation of Thunberg's most popular speeches regarding global warming and the climate crisis, which range from her first public speech "Our Lives Are in Your Hands" that was delivered in the streets of Stockholm a few weeks before she started her first protest, to her addresses to the United Nations General Assembly ("The World Is Waking Up") and the World Economic Forum in Davos ("Our House Is on Fire").

Thunberg recently announced the launch of a new book titled "The Climate Book", created by her and in partnership with over a hundred experts from all fields, ranging from oceanographers to economists⁵². The book's purpose is to explain the full scale of the climate issue to an audience that does not possess significant familiarity with environmental challenges and to offer a set of potential solutions that can help decrease the impact of global warming on the planet. In the book, Thunberg also offers her take on the issue of "greenwashing" and how she believes it is affecting society. However, she avoids developing the details of what actions she believes should be taken regarding the climate issue and how to alleviate its impact on the environment, expressing that "it has nothing to do with me [Thunberg]." This statement is in accordance with the posture she has expressed in previous speeches, in which she implies that the adults in position of shaping legislation regarding the environment are the ones who should be suggesting new policies to tackle the climate issue.

She also undertook initiatives in the film industry, alongside her father Svante Thunberg, who was already involved in the sector as an actor and producer. Her first audiovisual project was a documentary film released in 2020 under the name "I Am Greta", which follows Thunberg on her "international crusade to get people to listen to scientists about the world's environmental problems"⁵³. Months later, a documentary series offering an in-depth look into Thunberg's most recent campaigns and travels pursuing her activism was released⁵⁴. "Greta Thunberg: A Year to Change the World" consists of three episodes during which Thunberg attends talks in order to hear experts' input about the complex and diverse effects of global warming and explores different methods to combat global

⁵¹ Greta Thunberg, "No One Is too Small to Make a Difference", Penguin Random House, November 21, 2019. [No One Is Too Small to Make a Difference by Greta Thunberg - Penguin Books Australia](https://www.penguin.co.uk/books/446610/the-climate-book-by-thunberg-greta/9780241547472)

⁵² Greta Thunberg, "The Climate Book", Penguin Random House, October 27, 2022. <https://www.penguin.co.uk/books/446610/the-climate-book-by-thunberg-greta/9780241547472>

⁵³ Nellie Andreeva, "Greta Thunberg Documentary Set At Hulu, Chronicling Climate Activist's Global Rise", *Deadline Hollywood*, December 16, 2019. <https://deadline.com/2019/12/greta-thunberg-documentary-hulu-greta-climate-crisis-b-reel-films-nathan-grossman-1202810111/>

⁵⁴ Jake Kanter, "BBC Studios Making TV Series With Greta Thunberg". *Deadline Hollywood*, February 10, 2020. <https://deadline.com/2020/02/bbc-studios-series-greta-thunberg-1202856214/>



warming. In addition, the series shows Thunberg speaking at summits and protesting on the streets.

At an individual level, Thunberg has herself become a solution to the challenges that she faced as a young climate activist and which have been presented in the Stake section.

Her medical condition was used to taunt her and diminish her image on media outlets and social media platforms, but she decided to embrace this part of her identity and transform it into a driving force to inspire other people to become activists for the climate. She has called her diagnosis, in particular her Asperger syndrome, a “superpower”⁵⁵ that has allowed her to go further as an activist by inspiring other young people with the affirmation that being different is good.

Another attempt to denigrate her as a symbol of climate advocacy was centered around critique of her youth. Since she was only fifteen years old when she became a popular figure in environmental activism, critics have argued that “children” have no knowledge of the complexity of drafting legislation and therefore the demands of Thunberg and her peers should not be taken into account in high-level decision making⁵⁶. However, she took advantage of these remarks to highlight the importance of the involvement of young people in the climate debate, since the upcoming generations will be the ones having to live with the consequences of the current climate inaction of political leaders. She has also consistently emphasized the high potential for what could be achieved if more people decided to work together to solve the climate crisis, such as when she said “But I think that if a few children can get headlines all over the world just by not going to school for a few weeks, imagine what we could all do together if we wanted to”⁵⁷. The same idea as the one presented in her book “No One Is Too Small To Make a Difference”, in which she explained her perception regarding the existing difference between the different generations regarding the climate issue, and the importance it receives from the public.

Luisa Neubauer’s Solutions

As of today, Luisa Neubauer has been involved in climate advocacy for 6 years. In that period of time, she has developed several initiatives and projects to increase the existing pressure on politicians with the aim of influencing national and international legislation regarding climate policies and increasing public

⁵⁵ Joanne Limburg, “Is my autism a superpower?”, The Guardian, November 3, 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/nov/03/is-autism-a-superpower-greta-thunberg-and-others-think-it-can-be>

⁵⁶ Camilla Nelson and Meg Vertigan, “Misogyny, male rage and the words men use to describe Greta Thunberg”, The Conversation, September 30, 2019. [Misogyny, male rage and the words men use to describe Greta Thunberg](#)

⁵⁷ TED Talk, “Greta Thunberg: The disarming case to act right now on climate change”, January 28, 2019. [Greta Thunberg: The disarming case to act right now on climate change | TED Talk](#)



knowledge regarding global warming and its potential impact on the future generations.

As mentioned in the previous section, Neubauer has become a central figure in the struggle for decarbonisation of the economy and a progressive transition towards greener and more sustainable sources of energy. She has focused on these issues at the national and European levels, as demonstrated through her calls for greater environmental accountability within German institutions as well as within bodies of the European Union⁵⁸.

Neubauer is the face of the German branch of the Fridays For Future movement⁵⁹. In this role, she has criticized the government's lack of political will to enact tougher measures regarding environmental policies and the enabling of German business in deals favoring the use of fossil fuel energy instead of greener energy sources.

Neubauer, alongside fellow climate activists, has sued the German government because of its inaction and lack of ambition to take "serious measures" to combat manmade global warming. The lawsuit - which was the first environmental lawsuit against the federal government - was filed in front of Germany's Federal Climate Protection Act. In it, it was argued that "the [German] law's target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 55% by 2030 from 1990 levels was insufficient and consequently violated their human rights as protected by Germany's constitution"⁶⁰.

The victory of the plaintiffs was considered as a turning point in climate activism, since it set a precedent for future climate litigations against national governments, and even international bodies, because of their failure to fulfill the objectives established at climate conferences.

That same year, she protested against the opening of a coal mine in Australia that was partly financed by the German energy company Siemens. The public strikes that followed the announcement led the CEO of the German branch of the company to offer her a position as a consultant on Siemens' environmental board. Neubauer declined the offer with the justification that she desired to remain "independent" as a climate activist and acceptance of the position would potentially foster conflicts of interest⁶¹.

⁵⁸ Bill McKibben, "It cannot be activism as usual: Kumi Naidoo and Luisa Neubauer on the way for climate justice", The Guardian, June 17, 2022. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/jun/17/it-cannot-be-activism-as-usual-kumi-naidoo-and-luisa-neubauer-on-the-way-forward-for-climate-justice>

⁵⁹ Paul Hockenos, "The Face of Germany's Climate Strikes", Berlin Policy Journal, April 5, 2019. <https://berlinpolicyjournal.com/the-face-of-germanys-climate-strikes/>

⁶⁰ Federal Constitutional Court of Germany, "Neubauer et al. v. Germany", Natural Justice, February 2020. [NEUBAUER ET AL. V. GERMANY | Natural Justice](#)

⁶¹ Kate Connolly "Climate activist turns down Siemens' offer of seat on energy board", The Guardian, January 13, 2020. [Climate activist turns down Siemens' offer of seat on energy board](#)



Another institution that has found itself the target of criticism from Neubauer has been the German bank Deutsche Bank, due to its involvement in the financing process of a pipeline in Africa. The East African Crude Pipeline, commonly referred to as EACOP, is a 1.443 km potential crude oil export pipeline that will be in charge of transporting Uganda's crude oil from Uganda to Tanzania. The criticism made by Neubauer and other fellow activists has been the fact that the EACOP project will force the displacement of thousands of the inhabitants of the regions through which the pipeline will pass by, as well as creating key risks for the wildlife and the environment of the region⁶². As a response, the campaign against the construction of the pipeline #StopEACOP was born.

The last protesting campaign she has been involved in has been against the taxonomy bill passed by one of the main institutions of the European Union⁶³. The taxonomy bill crafted by the European Commission attempted to respond to the obstacles of the current war in Ukraine, which has heightened the threat of gas and electricity shortages to European states. The bill called for modifications to the current taxonomy regarding nuclear and gas energy, specifying that these types of energy can be classified as "green sources of energy" in accordance with EU regulations. In response, NGOs from all across the continent, alongside climate activists such as Neubauer, organized protests with the aim of reducing the likelihood of the bill's passing and accused the European Union of an "unbelievable act of greenwashing" sources of energies that are hurtful to the environment and "undermining all previous efforts to tackle the climate crisis".

Beyond her participation and leadership in climate activism in the political sphere, Neubauer has also created several initiatives that aim to increase the knowledge of the general public surrounding the climate issue and the negative consequences global warming can exert on the planet's population.

Since the start of her involvement in the FFF movement, she has participated in multiple summits and conferences related to the issues of global warming and global warming. She has been a guest speaker as a climate activist at international summits such as the UNCCFF as well as at several national ones in Germany. The last speech she offered was at an event called re:publica 22 that took place in Berlin. Under the speech title "Let's not fuck this up"⁶⁴ Neubauer explained, during half an hour, the recent climate phenomenon and criticized the lack of action taken by high-end organizations to tackle global warming in a more appropriate manner to fulfill the objectives set at the 2015 Paris Climate

⁶² "People from across the globe are coming together to demand #MarshdropEACOP", StopEACOP.net, June 30, 2022.

<https://www.stopeacop.net/our-news/people-demand-marsh-drop-eacop>

⁶³ "Not My Taxonomy: Final Mobilization", The Movement Hub, June 13, 2022. [Not My Taxonomy: Final Mobilisation - The Movement Hub](#)

⁶⁴ Luisa Neubauer, "Let's not fuck this up", re:publica, June 14, 2022. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Stw6M2YP7iE>



Agreement. Alongside official political conferences, she has also granted interviews to domestic and international news outlets.

As part of a personal initiative, Neubauer is the co-author of two books (*hasta la fecha*) regarding the climate debate. "Von Ende der Klimakrise: Eine Geschichte unserer Zukunft"⁶⁵ was published in October of 2019, only a couple of months after the first international FFF strike took place. Her second book "Noch haben wir die Wahl: Ein Gespräch über Freiheit, Ökologie und den Konflikt der Generationen" is a collaboration between Neubauer and German journalist Bern Ulrich, in which they explore the turning points that took place in Germany's story during the year 2021, and how they have influenced the climate debate⁶⁶. Furthermore, she is the host of an original podcast under the name of "1,5 Grad", which explores, in collaboration with the streaming platform Spotify, the questions about "the greatest challenge of our time: the global climate crisis".

Neubauer first became involved in climate advocacy in 2015. While she was a legal adult at the start of her climate activism, her relative youth compared to the age of people she directed her critics at - mostly older, senior politicians - was still weaponized against her to diminish the importance of her demands. As in the case of Thunberg, she has been belittled by more senior officials and people from the media. Furthermore, the launch of her previously mentioned initiatives has led to her becoming a frequent target of criticism. She has been labeled as a "radical" because of her take on how she conducted her activism. The latest controversy arose in June 2022, when Neubauer posted a video on Instagram with several other climate activists during a protest, in which they proclaimed they were "planning how to blow up a pipeline", in reference to their desired obstruction of the EACOP pipeline construction plans⁶⁷. Nonetheless, she decided to embrace the "radical" label as an indicator of her impact and success as an environmental activist. She stated proudly that "activism cannot be conducted as it always has been."⁶⁸

Thunberg and Neubauer share the same characteristics, at the personal and professional activism levels, and therefore the similarities between their journeys are easy to discern. They faced the similar challenges, both as individual activists

⁶⁵ Norbert Häring, "Was die Generation Greta umtreibt", Handelsblatt, November 8, 2019, https://www.handelsblatt.com/arts_und_style/literatur/buchtipp-vom-ende-der-klimakrise-was-die-generation-greta-umtreibt/25197370.html

⁶⁶ Frédéric Schwilden, "Für den Klimaschutz blutig ins eigene Fleisch schneiden", Die Welt, July 24, 2021, <https://www.welt.de/politik/deutschland/article232713067/Luisa-Neubauer-Fuer-den-Klimaschutz-blutig-ins-eigene-Fleisch-schneiden.html>

⁶⁷ DW Deutsch, "Pipeline sprengen - Ist Luisa Neubauer zu weit gegangen?", 27:04, June 14, 2022, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qf2ywxJSSII>

⁶⁸ Bill McKibben, "It cannot be activism as usual: Kumi Naidoo and Luisa Neubauer on the way for climate justice", The Guardian, June 17, 2022, <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/jun/17/it-cannot-be-activism-as-usual-kumi-naidoo-and-luisa-neubauer-on-the-way-forward-for-climate-justice>



as well as members of the FFF movement, and have advocated for coinciding solutions to those problems.

In an attempt to increase the impact of climate activists, both at an individual and community level, in the policymaking process, they have shared their activism and campaigns on social media platforms, in particular on Instagram and Twitter, where they can reach other young people who share their concerns regarding the climate issue. Through their accounts, Thunberg and Neubauer have shared the effects of global warming in the form of climate catastrophes, alongside scientific evidence that explains the drivers and the consequences of global warming, in an effort to increase the attention given to the science behind global warming, and how it can offer solutions to deal with its potential aftermath. The broadcast of present day extreme climate catastrophes, like floods, hurricanes and fires, have also become contemporary examples of the importance that climate legislation carries, arguing that it should be considered a priority at the decision making level.

Another challenge both Thunberg and Neubauer have faced has been the ramifications of the Covid-19 pandemic. The imposition of lockdowns, social distancing restrictions and travel bans made it impossible for environmental activists to advocate for their demands via their traditional methods. A change was required, and thus, street campaigns and public speeches were adjusted as online strikes and conferences, in order for the community to continue their activism in spite of the condition of the global pandemic. The challenging circumstances were ultimately seized by the activists as an opportunity to increase global diversity in the climate debate⁶⁹. Activists from African and Asian countries were invited to speak at the online summits, which has allowed for a greater international platform for the non-Western approach within climate activism. The broader-scope experiences and testimonies offered a perspective that the effects of global warming are not merely hypothetical and demonstrated the necessity in building a climate activism movement that extends beyond the concerns of developing countries and recognizes global warming's threat to the entire planet.

In "Solutions", Thunberg and Neubauer's proposals to engage in the climate debate are studied. From their first initiatives as climate activists to the public discourses at international conferences, it is attempted to present to the reader all the projects each of them has undertaken during their journey as climate activists, both at the individual and community level.

⁶⁹ Martin Kuebler, "Has COVID changed Fridays for Future?", Deutsche Welle, March 19, 2021. [Has COVID changed Fridays for Future? | Environment | All topics from climate change to conservation | DW | 19.03.2021](#)



Greta Thunberg & Luisa Neubauer's Impact

Climate activism's mission is not limited to the condemnation of lack of action on behalf of governments to take part in the drafting of ambitious climate policies. Environmental advocates attempt to create initiatives and projects that will raise public awareness and general knowledge regarding the climate issue. For these proposals to be considered successful, it is compulsory that they create an impact on society. Both Greta Thunberg and Luisa Neubauer have this feature.

The following section will attempt to cover the impact the policies implemented by the Fridays For Future (FFF) activists had on its group target and how they have influenced public and senior officials regarding the debate about global warming and its consequences in the short and long term. Since neither Thunberg nor Neubauer are in a position to actively engage in the creation of new climate legislation, as it was stated in the previous section, the impact assessment of their initiatives will be analyzed through a lens that focuses on their influence.

Greta Thunberg's Impact

Greta Thunberg has become the most widely recognised climate activist of modern times. She has been a speaker at international summits and has helped organize youth-led strikes all around the world. Her popularity and her persona as the embodiment of the climate fight has been denominated as the "Greta Thunberg Effect"⁷⁰. Her success can be attributed to her proclamations of hope and the possibility of a real change taking place at the highest level. She has enabled people from all segments of population to feel empowered to demand and create change within the climate debate by challenging powerful leaders and institutions.

Yet, what has been considered her main triumph has been the mobilization of the younger generations so that they become part of the movement in defense of the climate by taking part in climate strikers every Friday "for the sake of their shared future on this planet"⁷¹. Thunberg herself has become a beacon of youth engagement in the climate debate; her own book's title reads "no one is too small to make a difference"⁷². Her impact is not merely constrained to the youth activists, older generations have also been influenced by Thunberg's action for

⁷⁰ Anandita Sabherwal, Sander Van der Linden and Janet K. Swim, "The Greta Thunberg Effect: People Familiar with Thunberg are More Likely to Act", The Society for Personality and Social Psychology, March 10, 2021. [The Greta Thunberg Effect: People Familiar with Thunberg are More Likely to Act | Society for Personality and Social Psychology](#).

⁷¹ Anandita Sabherwal, Sander Van der Linden and Janet K. Swim, "The Greta Thunberg Effect: People Familiar with Thunberg are More Likely to Act", The Society for Personality and Social Psychology, March 10, 2021. [The Greta Thunberg Effect: People Familiar with Thunberg are More Likely to Act | Society for Personality and Social Psychology](#).

⁷² Greta Thunberg, "No One Is too Small to Make a Difference", Penguin Random House, November 21, 2019. [No One Is Too Small to Make a Difference by Greta Thunberg - Penguin Books Australia](#)



the environment. A study conducted by a group of researchers from several prestigious universities found that familiarity with the persona of Greta Thunberg had a direct correlation with the motivation to engage in climate action⁷³.

Luisa Neubauer's Impact

In spite of the fact that Luisa Neubauer has not yet acquired the level of notoriety attributed to Thunberg as the beacon of the fight against global warming, her initiative cannot be disregarded.

The lawsuit she filed⁷⁴ alongside a group of other young German climate activists against the German government because of an alleged violation of environmental law was described as “historic” by international media outlets. The ruling, which ordered the government to strengthen legislation to “protect future generations”⁷⁵, created a novel precedent in environmental law and the way that climate cases are presented, tried and resolved in court..

However, not all the initiatives she has undertaken have been successful. The campaign against the new taxonomy bill, which concluded with a street sit down and base camp in front of the headquarters of the European Parliament in Strasbourg⁷⁶, did not avoid the passing of the rebranded regulation. Even the strikes she was involved in January 2020 against the Siemens's initiative for a coal mine in Australia — which lead to a job offer at the Siemens Energy Council for Neubauer — did not culminate in the interruption of the project⁷⁷. Notably, the present opposition to the construction of the East African Oil Pipeline (EACOP) has yet to bear observable fruit.

The failure to stop the passing of the taxonomy bill or to stop the construction of the coal mine in central Queensland show the obstacles climate activists face during their journey to protect the environment. Their inability to play an active role in the decision making process because of the existing limits, inherent to their roles as advocates and not policymakers, hampers the accuracy with which an impact evaluation can be conducted.

⁷³ Anandita Sabherwal, Sander Van der Linden and Janet K. Swim, “The Greta Thunberg Effect: People Familiar with Thunberg are More Likely to Act”, The Society for Personality and Social Psychology, March 10, 2021. [The Greta Thunberg Effect: People Familiar with Thunberg are More Likely to Act | Society for Personality and Social Psychology](#).

⁷⁴ Federal Constitutional Court of Germany, “Neubauer et al. v. Germany”, Natural Justice, February 2020. [NEUBAUER ET AL. V. GERMANY | Natural Justice](#)

⁷⁵ Kate Connolly “Historic’ German ruling says climate goals not tough enough”, The Guardian, April 29, 2021. [‘Historic’ German ruling says climate goals not tough enough | Germany | The Guardian](#)

⁷⁶ “Not My Taxonomy: Final Mobilisation”, The Movement Hub, June 13, 2022. [Not My Taxonomy: Final Mobilisation - The Movement Hub](#)

⁷⁷ Kate Connolly “Climate activist turns down Siemen’s offer of seat on energy board”, The Guardian, January 13, 2020. [Climate activist turns down Siemens' offer of seat on energy board](#)



Fridays for Future's Impact

Greta Thunberg and Luisa Neubauer are separate individuals, who have created their own path through their individual actions and ambitions. However, the conjunction of similarities between them both regarding age, and concerns for the future of the planet and coming generations led them to act together, trying to achieve more goals than what they were able to do on their own. The moment Thunberg and Neubauer joined forces is considered by many as the turning point for climate activism, in particular regarding the new generation of young adults. Fridays For Future is considered the driving force behind the recent changes in the youth's perception in terms of political compliance regarding climate policy⁷⁸.

Recent studies showed that, although young adults have been linked to political lack of interest, the FFF movement has started a trend that has led to increasing engagement in the political sphere. In the elections for the European Parliament of 2019, the coalition of The Greens - the alliance that encompasses green parties at the European level - experienced an unexpected increase in the polling ballot⁷⁹. The newly acquired position of the Green candidates was reported to be a turning point in the politics of the continent, who would move forward green policies into the decision making process. Additionally, it must be noted that the green trend has reached the highest level of European politics, with European Commission's President Ursula Von der Leyen announcing a new piece of legislation labeled as a "European Green Deal" as a top priority for her mandate⁸⁰.

It has been speculated that this turnaround has been deeply influenced by the strikes for the climate that were impulsed by the FFF. The numerous international strikes preceding the European elections of 2019, during which FFF faces such as Greta Thunberg and Luisa Neubauer publicly labeled them "climate elections", have been reported to be one of the main driving forces behind the political swift experience in polls⁸¹. The increased focus on the global warming issue and the increase of the public consciousness has been mainly attributed to the impact the movement has exercised on the population, specially the youth. A particular

⁷⁸ Anne-Marie Parth, Julia Weiss, Rodja Firat and Manuel Eberhart, "How Dare You!"—The Influence of Fridays for Future on the Political Attitudes of Young Adults", Institute of Political Science - University of Heidelberg, December 22, 2020.

<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpos.2020.611139/full>

⁷⁹ Emma Graham-Harrison, "A quiet revolution sweeps Europe as Greens become a political force", The Guardian, June 2, 2019.

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/jun/02/european-parliament-election-green-parties-success>

⁸⁰ Daniela Braund and Constantin Schäfer, "Issues that mobilize Europe. The role of key policy issues for voter turnout in the 2019 European Parliament election", SAGE journals, Volume 23, Issue 1, September 6, 202. <https://doi.org/10.1177/14651165211040>

⁸¹ Marc Fabel, Matthias Flückiger, Markus Ludwig, Helmut Rainer, Maria Waldinger and Sebastian Wichert, "The Power of Youth: Political Impacts of the 'Fridays for Future' movement", Center for Economic Studies and ifo Institute (CESifo) CESifo Working Paper, No. 9742, May 2022.

https://www.econstore.eu/bitstream/10419/260872/1/cesifo1_wp9742.pdf



remarkable case is that of Germany. The political landscape of the country experienced a profound transformation in elections held between the year 2019, in which FFF international mobilizations started, and 2021. The Alliance 90/ The Greens, Germany's green party, soaring polling numbers have been directly traced back to FFF protests, amounting to 7% of the vote gains in comparison to previous elections⁸². As a consequence of the newly acquired public awareness of the climate situation, parties that were not associated with climate measures decided to "turn green"⁸³. In order to stay up to date with the priorities of the German population, groups from all across the political spectrum increased their environmental proposals, regarding energy consumption, fossil fuels and the international sustainable goals for 2030.

The effect of the movement in the political sphere has also been analyzed through a social media lense, showing a positive causal link between the spreading of FFF's actions on internet platforms.

Furthermore, the platform has granted the upcoming generation a tool to become engaged climate advocates, despite their geographical, social and economic situation. The magnitude the movement has acquired since Thunberg started her protest in Stockholm back in 2018 has allowed globalism to achieve a new dimension. Young activists from Western countries, such as Thunberg and Neubauer, have been able to share their concerns, opinions and beliefs regarding the state of the world and global warm with their FFF peers from abroad, like in Uganda⁸⁴, where the impact of global warming is already disrupting the lives of its inhabitants.

It can be concluded that, despite the fact that neither Thunberg nor Neubauer have been able to have an active political influence in the decision making process regarding environmental legislation, the situation has not constituted an impediment in influencing the political process. The synergies that emerged from their individual and joint protests and projects are proof of the impact they have exercised as climate leaders at all levels.

⁸²"Climate Protests Helped the Greens in Germany's 2019-2021 Elections", ifo Institute München, 17 May, 2022.

<https://www.ifo.de/en/press-release/2022-05-17/climate-protests-helped-greens-germanys-2019-2021-elections>

⁸³ Austin Davis, "German political parties go green for EU `climate election'", Deutsche Welle, May 24, 2019.

<https://www.dw.com/en/german-political-parties-go-green-for-eu-climate-election/a-48816129>

⁸⁴ Cai Nebe and Sam Baker, "Vanessa Nakate: 'Many people are not yet aware of the dangers of climate change'", Deutsche Welle, September 2, 2020. [Vanessa Nakate: 'Many people are not yet aware of the dangers of climate change' | Environment](#)



Conclusion

The present report attempts to conduct a deep-end analysis on Greta Thunberg and Luisa Neubauer's leadership in the fight against global warming and government inaction in the climate crisis. As environmental advocates, they have changed the discourse on how the general public perceives climate activism, as well as displayed the impact future generations can exert on the decision making process while often lacking an active role in it. Through street strikes, public speeches, and personal initiatives, both Thunberg and Neubauer have been able to inspire other citizens to join in their demands for change in the methods by which global warming is tackled by governments and international institutions, rendering them climate leaders.

Greta Thunberg is widely regarded as a **climate leader and activist** at a global level. Although her first strike meant to raise awareness of the climate debate was at the domestic level, the streets of Sweden would only be the first scenery upon which she would proclaim her demands to the world. The sit down Thunberg started in front of the Riksdag, a protest against the hesitancy of politicians to take a more ambitious approach to tackling global warming in the country, became a turning point in her life. It initiated her journey as a climate activist, as well as established Thunberg as a leading figure in the fight for climate.⁸⁵ Furthermore, her strike became the flame that sparked an international awakening that would grow to become the Fridays For Future (FFF) movement, a youth-led and organized movement that inspires people to take action to protect the environment against global warming.⁸⁶ As the face of the movement, Thunberg has been invited as a speaker on several occasions to express what the movement demands current political leaders and senior officials to do to alleviate the effects of global warming. Her interventions at international conferences, such as the United Nations Conference for the Climate or the World Economic Forum, as well as her addresses to national governments,⁸⁷ became mainstream because of her blunt-speaking style and explicit criticism of current environmental policies due to their lack of urgency.

The combination of Thunberg's street protests, public addresses, and personal initiatives, all enhanced by her use of social media platforms to promote her message, encouraged citizens from all nationalities and social backgrounds to take a stand for climate justice. The increase of engagement and awareness - in

⁸⁵ Charlotte Alter, Suyin Haynes and Justin Worland, "Greta Thunberg: TIME's Person of the Year 2019", TIME, December 11, 2019. [Greta Thunberg: TIME's Person of the Year 2019](#)

⁸⁶ Fridays for Future - How Greta started a global movement. [Fridays for Future – How Greta started a global movement](#).

⁸⁷ Greta Thunberg, "Greta Thunberg: the speeches that helped spark a climate movement - video", The Guardian, 2:06, September 28, 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/video/2019/sep/28/greta-thunberg-the-speeches-that-helped-spark-a-climate-movement-video>



particular among the youth - that emerged in the fight to protect the environment from further exploitation has been largely attributed to her advocacy; identified as the "Greta Thunberg effect."⁸⁸

All the previously stated points are features that allow Thunberg to be considered a climate leader activist, despite her youth and a lack of an active role in the policymaking process. Through her public appearances and speeches, she has been able to increase the pressure on politicians and senior officials to implement new - and more ambitious - policies regarding environmental regulation.

On her part, **Luisa Neubauer** can also be considered a **climate leader and activist**. However, since her demands as an environmental advocate have been focused on the national and European level, Neubauer has been deemed a prominent figure in climate activism at a regional level. The influence of her advocacy has been particularly noted at the domestic level among the German population. Neubauer's role as the face of the German branch of the FFF movement gained her the public notoriety she currently holds, having inspired her fellow citizens to take a stand to defend the environment by demanding German politicians to take a more ambitious approach concerning the climate issue.⁸⁹

Neubauer's leadership in the fight for the environment is also derived from her knowledge on the matter previous to her joining Fridays For Future (FFF). Her prior experience is founded on her higher education and her involvement with NGOs. A university degree in Geography and an active engagement in various social causes allowed Neubauer to deepen her understanding of the climate issue and its potential consequences for the planet. Furthermore, her background has enabled Neubauer to take a more policy-oriented and orthodox approach to the manner she conducts her activism, specifically through the proposal of legislation and the signing of open letters. Yet, she has also undertaken public initiatives that attempt to increase global warming awareness amongst the public. Neubauer's ultimate aim with these efforts is to see a similar increase in the pressure experienced by the politicians to do more to fight global warming. Finally, it can be concluded that Neubauer is a leading figure in the field of climate activism, despite the regional limits that her role as such present.

In conclusion, both Greta Thunberg and Luisa Neubauer can be viewed as both climate leaders and activists due to the recognition they have acquired as advocates for the environment. Their personal initiatives, but especially their joint

⁸⁸ Anandita Sabherwal, Sander Van der Linden and Janet K. Swim, "The Greta Thunberg Effect: People Familiar with Thunberg are More Likely to Act", *The Society for Personality and Social Psychology*, March 10, 2021. [The Greta Thunberg Effect: People Familiar with Thunberg are More Likely to Act | Society for Personality and Social Psychology](#).

⁸⁹ Luisa Neubauer, "Why I became a climate activist - and you should, too ", *TedTalks*, August 1, 2019. [Why I became a climate activist - and you should, too. TedxYouth@München](#)



impact as the faces and co-organisers of the Fridays For Future movement, have become a driving force for individuals all around the world to take a stance for the climate, more than ever before.⁹⁰ Their influence on the general public's awareness regarding the climate issue has already been felt in the international political landscape. The swift in the priorities has already been noted, where the greens parties have undergone a wave of support that has translated into soaring victories in the polls⁹¹. The European elections of 2019, and the months leading up to it, were the culmination of the impact of the movement in the population.

In regards to the next steps in Thunberg's and Neubauer's journeys as climate leaders and activists, it must be noted that they, as climate activists, are a fairly recent phenomenon in the climate debate, whose impact is still to be properly analyzed. That said, their achievements regarding climate policy and the viral spread of their demands on media networks, both at the individual and community level, represent the first steps of a groundbreaking process in the manner in which global warming is tackled and perceived by both leaders and the general public around the world.

Bibliography

- Abby Young-Powell, "Interview: how can be turn this anxiety into something constructive", The Guardian, January 27, 2021 [Interview: "how can be turn this anxiety into something constructive". 2021 - the Guardian](#)
- Alison Rourke, "Greta Thunberg responds to Asperger's critics: It's a superpower", The Guardian, September 2, 2019. [Greta Thunberg responds to Asperger's critics: 'It's a superpower'](#)
- Anandita Sabherwal, Sander Van der Linden and Janet K. Swim, "The Greta Thunberg Effect: People Familiar with Thunberg are More Likely to Act", The Society for Personality and Social Psychology, March 10, 2021. [The Greta Thunberg Effect: People Familiar with Thunberg are More Likely to Act | Society for Personality and Social Psychology](#).
- Anne-Marie Parth, Julia Weiss, Rodja Firat and Manuel Eberhart, "How Dare You!"—The Influence of Fridays for Future on the Political Attitudes of Young Adults", Institute of Political Science - University of Heidelberg, December 22, 2020. <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpos.2020.611139/full>

⁹⁰ Joost de Moor, Katrin Uba, Mattias Wahlström and Magnus Wennerhag, "Introduction: Fridays For Future - an expanding climate movement", Composition, mobilization and motives of the participants in Fridays For Future climate protests on 20-27 September, 2019, in 19 cities around the world (pp.6-33), February 2020. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/339487182_Introduction_Fridays_For_Future_-_an_expanding_climate_movement

⁹¹ Emma Graham-Harrison, "A quiet revolution sweeps Europe as Greens become a political force", The Guardian, June 2, 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/jun/02/european-parliament-election-green-parties-success>



Andrew Bolt, "THE DISTURBING SECRET TO THE CULT OF GRETA THUNBERG",
"Herald Sun", August 1, 2019. [THE DISTURBING SECRET TO THE CULT OF
GRETA THUNBERG | Herald Sun](#)

Austin Davis, "German political parties go green for EU `climate election'",
Deutsche Welle, May 24, 2019.
<https://www.dw.com/en/german-political-parties-go-green-for-eu-climate-election/a-48816129>

Bill McKibben, "It cannot be activism as usual': Kumi Naidoo and Luisa Neubauer
on the way forward for climate justice", The Guardian, June 17, 2022 ['It cannot
be activism as usual': Kumi Naidoo and Luisa Neubauer on the way forward for
climate justice](#)

Björn Lundberg and David Larson Heidenblad, "Greta Thunberg emerged from
five decades of environmental youth activism in Sweden", The Conversation,
November 4 2021. [Greta Thunberg emerged from five decades of
environmental youth activism in Sweden](#)

Cai Nebe and Sam Baker, "Vanessa Nakate: 'Many people are not yet aware of
the dangers of climate change'", Deutsche Welle, September 2, 2020. [Vanessa
Nakate: 'Many people are not yet aware of the dangers of climate change' |
Environment](#)

Caitlin Gibson, "Before Greta Thunberg was a global icon, she was a tormented
child who refused to eat or speak", The Washington Post, March 16, 2020.
[Before Greta Thunberg was a global icon, she was a tormented child who
refused to eat or speak](#)

Camilla Nelson and Meg Vertigan, "Misogyny, male rage and the words men use
to describe Greta Thunberg", The Conversation, September 30, 2019. [Misogyny,
male rage and the words men use to describe Greta Thunberg](#)

Charlotte Alter, Suyin Haynes and Justin Worland, "Greta Thunberg: TIME's Person
of the Year 2019", TIME, December 11, 2019. [Greta Thunberg: TIME's Person of
the Year 2019](#)

Fridays for Future - How Greta started a global movement. [Fridays for Future -
How Greta started a global movement](#).

Charlotte Nijhuis, "Youth Climate movement pushes Germany to step up
ambition", Clean Energy Wire, October 22, 2021. [Youth climate movement
pushes Germany to step up ambition | Clean Energy Wire](#)

Christiane Böhm, "Warum geht mich das etwas an", Göttinger Tageblatt, June 16,
2016. [„Warum geht mich das etwas an?“](#)

"Climate Protests Helped the Greens in Germany's 2019-2021 Elections", ifo
Institute München, 17 May, 2022.
[https://www.ifo.de/en/press-release/2022-05-17/climate-protests-helped-gree
ns-germanys-2019-2021-elections](https://www.ifo.de/en/press-release/2022-05-17/climate-protests-helped-greens-germanys-2019-2021-elections)

Damian Carrington, "Blah, blah, blah': Greta Thunberg lambasts leaders over
climate crisis", The Guardian, September 28, 2021 ['Blah, blah, blah': Greta
Thunberg lambasts leaders over climate crisis](#)



Daniel Kraemer, "Who is the climate campaigner and what are her aims", BBC News, November 5, 2021. [Greta Thunberg: Who is the climate campaigner and what are her aims? - BBC News](#)

Daniela Braund and Constantin Schäfer, "Issues that mobilize Europe. The role of key policy issues for voter turnout in the 2019 European Parliament election", SAGE journals, Volume 23, Issue 1, September 6, 202.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/14651165211040>

David Wallace-Wells, "Greta Thunberg and Her Hail Mary Climate Movement", New York Magazine, September 17, 2019. [Greta Thunberg and Her Hail Mary Climate Movement](#)

Domenic Purdy, "Generational gaps: Young people more worried about climate change than their parents", Climate360 News, July 16, 2021. [Generational gaps: Young people more worried about climate change than their parents - Climate360 News](#)

DW Deutsch, "Pipeline sprengen – Ist Luisa Neubauer zu weit gegangen?", 27:04, June 14, 2022. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qf2ywxJSSII>

Emma Graham-Harrison, "A quiet revolution sweeps Europe as Greens become a political force", The Guardian, June 2, 2019.

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/jun/02/european-parliament-election-green-parties-success>

Federal Constitutional Court of Germany, "Neubauer et al. v. Germany", Natural Justice, February 2020. [NEUBAUER ET AL. V. GERMANY | Natural Justice](#)

Florian Güßgen, "Luisa Neubauer die Laut-Sprecherin bei Fridays for Future", Stern.de, May 22, 2019. [Luisa Neubauer die Laut-Sprecherin bei Fridays for Future | STERN.de](#)

Frédéric Schwilden, "Für den Klimaschutz blutig ins eigene Fleisch schneiden", Die Welt, July 24, 2021.

<https://www.welt.de/politik/deutschland/article232713067/Luisa-Neubauer-Fuer-den-Klimaschutz-blutig-ins-eigene-Fleisch-schneiden.html>

Greta Thunberg, "Greta Thunberg: The disarming case to act right now on climate change", TedTalk January 28, 2019. [Greta Thunberg: The disarming case to act right now on climate change | TED Talk](#)

Greta Thunberg, "Greta Thunberg: the speeches that helped spark a climate movement - video", The Guardian, 2:06, September 28, 2019.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/video/2019/sep/28/greta-thunberg-the-speeches-that-helped-spark-a-climate-movement-video>

Greta Thunberg (@GretaThunberg), "Lausanne, Switzerland #ClimateStrike #FridaysForFuture!", September 27, 2019, 12:18 p.m.

<https://twitter.com/gretathunberg/status/1177528047601356800>

Greta Thunberg (@GretaThunberg), "Vi barn gör ju oftast inte som ni säger åt oss att göra, vi gör som ni gör. Och eftersom ni vuxna skiter i min framtid, så gör jag det med. Jag skolstrejkar för klimatet fram till valdagen.", August 20, 2018, 9:27 am. <https://twitter.com/GretaThunberg/status/1031442623653928960>



- Greta Thunberg, "No One Is too Small to Make a Difference", Penguin Random House, November 21, 2019. [No One Is Too Small to Make a Difference by Greta Thunberg - Penguin Books Australia](#)
- Greta Thunberg, "The Climate Book", Penguin Random House, October 27, 2022. <https://www.penguin.co.uk/books/446610/the-climate-book-by-thunberg-greta/9780241547472>
- Greta Thunberg, "You did not act in time": Greta Thunberg's full speech to the MPs", The Guardian, April 23, 2019 ['You did not act in time': Greta Thunberg's full speech to MPs](#)
- Jake Kanter. "BBC Studios Making TV Series With Greta Thunberg". *Deadline Hollywood*, February 10, 2020. <https://deadline.com/2020/02/bbc-studios-series-greta-thunberg-1202856214/>
- Jennifer Collins, "Activists say they must up the ante as world edges closer to climate disaster", Deutsche Welle, June 17, 2022. [Activists say they must up the ante as world edges closer to climate disaster | Environment](#)
- Joanne Limburg, "Is my autism a superpower?", The Guardian, November 3, 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/nov/03/is-autism-a-superpower-greta-thunberg-and-others-think-it-can-be>
- Joe Miller, "Siemens offers climate activist seat on energy arm's board", The Financial Times, January 10, 2020. [Siemens offers climate activist seat on energy arm's board. 2020 - FT](#)
- Joost de Moor, Katrin Uba, Mattias Wahlström and Magnus Wennerhag, "Introduction: Fridays For Future - an expanding climate movement", Composition, mobilisation and motives of the participants in Fridays For Future climate protests on 20-27 September, 2019, in 19 cities around the world (pp.6-33), February 2020. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/339487182_Introduction_Fridays_For_Future_-_an_expanding_climate_movement
- Kate Connolly "Climate activist turns down Siemens' offer of seat on energy board", The Guardian, January 13, 2020. [Climate activist turns down Siemens' offer of seat on energy board](#)
- Kate Connolly "'Historic' German ruling says climate goals not tough enough", The Guardian, April 29, 2021. ['Historic' German ruling says climate goals not tough enough | Germany | The Guardian](#)
- Lin Taylor and Sonia Elks, "Greta Thunberg's rise from teen activist to global climate leader", Thomson Reuters Foundation, November 3, 2021. [Greta Thunberg's rise from teen activist to global climate leader](#).
- Louise Nordstrom, "The Swedish teen holding world leaders accountable for climate change", France 24, January 25, 2019. [The Swedish teen holding world leaders accountable for climate change](#)
- Luisa Neubauer, "Let's not fuck this up", re:publica, June 14, 2022. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Stw6M2YP7iE>



- Luisa Neubauer (@LuisaNeubauer), "Meet Greta", December 6, 2018, <https://www.instagram.com/p/BrCoe5hFCQX/?hl=en>
- Luisa Neubauer, "Why I became a climate activist - and you should, too ", TedTalks, August 1, 2019. [Why I became a climate activist - and you should, too. TedxYouth@München](#)
- Luisa Neubauer (@luisamneubauer), "Wir sind junge Menschen aus der ganzen Welt, zusammengebracht von der Klimakrise, die unsere gemeinsame Zukunft gefährdet.
- Wir sind #Youth4Climate - und wir gucken nicht nur zu. #COP24", December 3, 2018, 2:31 p.m. <https://twitter.com/luisamneubauer/status/1069584807951253504>
- Marc Fabel, Matthias Flückiger, Markus Ludwig, Helmut Rainer, Maria Waldinger and Sebastian Wichert, "The Power of Youth: Political Impacts of the 'Fridays for Future' movement", Center for Economic Studies and ifo Institute (CESifo) CESifo Working Paper, No. 9742, May 2022. https://www.econstor.eu/bitstream/10419/260872/1/cesifo1_wp9742.pdf
- Martin Farrer, "Greta Thunberg: climate activism has made her 'very happy', says father", The Guardian, December 30, 2019. [Greta Thunberg: climate activism has made her 'very happy'. says father](#)
- Martin Kuebler, "Has COVID changed Fridays for Future?", Deutsche Welle, March 19, 2021. [Has COVID changed Fridays for Future? | Environment | All topics from climate change to conservation | DW | 19.03.2021](#)
- Martina Comparelli, Luisa Neubauer, Linus Steinmetz, Jada Kennedy, Rikke Nielsen, Bianca Castro, Greta Thunberg, Lili Aschenbrenner, Dominika Lasota, and Bjarne Kirchman, "Code Red for Humanity - or Green Light for more climate destruction?", EURACTIV, December 20, 2021. [Code Red for Humanity - or Green Light for more climate destruction? - EURACTIV.com](#)
- Martina Igini, "Gas and Nuclear Turn Green as EU Parliament Approves New Taxonomy", Earth.org, July 7, 2022. [Gas and Nuclear Turn Green as EU Parliament Approves New Taxonomy | Earth.Org.](#)
- Nellie Andreeva, "Greta Thunberg Documentary Set At Hulu, Chronicling Climate Activist's Global Rise", *Deadline Hollywood*, December 16, 2019. <https://deadline.com/2019/12/greta-thunberg-documentary-hulu-greta-climate-crisis-b-reel-films-nathan-grossman-1202810111/>
- "Not My Taxonomy: Final Mobilisation", The Movement Hub, June 13, 2022. [Not My Taxonomy: Final Mobilisation - The Movement Hub](#)
- Norbert Häring, "Was die Generation Greta umtreibt", Handelsblatt, November 8, 2019, https://www.handelsblatt.com/arts_und_style/literatur/buchtipp-vom-ende-der-klimakrise-was-die-generation-greta-umtreibt/25197370.html
- "Paris Agreement", United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), December 12, 2015. [Key aspects of the Paris Agreement | UNFCCC](#)



- Richard Luscombe, "Chill! Greta Thunberg recycles Trump's mockery of her as he tries to stop votes", November 5, 2020. ['Chill!': Greta Thunberg recycles Trump's mockery of her as he tries to stop votes](#)
- Simon Hattenstone, "The transformation of Greta Thunberg", The Guardian, September 25, 2021. [Greta Thunberg: 'I really see the value of friendship. Apart from the climate, almost nothing else matters'](#)
- Sina Löschke and Komila Nabiyevea, "Climate change: a threat to human wellbeing and health of the planet. Taking action now can secure our future", Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, February 28, 2022. [Climate change: a threat to human wellbeing and health of the planet. Taking action now can secure our future — IPCC](#)
- Somini Sengupta, "Greta Thunberg Joins Climate March on Her Last Day in Davos", The New York Times, January 24, 2020. [Greta Thunberg Joins Climate March on Her Last Day in Davos - The New York Times](#)
- Sophia Ankel, "Putin says Greta Thunberg is a 'kind a sincere girl' but claims she is being manipulated by others", Business Insider, October 3, 2019. [Putin says Greta Thunberg is a 'kind and sincere girl' but claims she's being manipulated by others](#)
- Sophie Hunger and Swen Hutter, "Online strikes with the usual suspects: How Fridays for Future has coped with the Covid-19 pandemic", London School of Economics Blogs, June 29, 2020 [Online strikes with the usual suspects: How Fridays for Future has coped with the Covid-19 pandemic](#)
- StopEACOP.net, "People from across the globe are coming together to demand #MarshdropEACOP", StopEACOP.net, June 30, 2022. <https://www.stopeacop.net/our-news/people-demand-marsh-drop-eacop>
- Paul Hockenos, "The Face of Germany's Climate Strikes", Berlin Policy Journal, April 5, 2019. <https://berlinpolicyjournal.com/the-face-of-germanys-climate-strikes/>
- Tom Phillips, "Greta Thunberg labelled a 'brat' by Brazil's far-right leader Jair Bolsonaro", The Guardian, December 10, 2019. [Greta Thunberg labelled a 'brat' by Brazil's far-right leader Jair Bolsonaro](#)
- Youth4Climate (@Y4Cofficial). <https://twitter.com/Y4Cofficial>
- Suyin Haynes, "Students from 1600 Cities Just Walked Out of School to Protest Climate Change. It Could Be Greta Thunberg's Biggest Strike Yet.", TIME, May 24, 2019. [Students From 1600 Cities Just Walked Out of School to Protest Climate Change. It Could Be Greta Thunberg's Biggest Strike Yet](#)
- United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs - Youth, "Greta Thunberg tells world leaders 'you are failing us', as nations announce fresh climate action", UN News, September 24, 2019. [Greta Thunberg tells world leaders 'you are failing us', as nations announce fresh climate action](#)