

XR UK Budget November 2020 - April 2021

The Interim Budget Group (IBG) has completed a budget for Extinction Rebellion UK for the **next six months**.

This budget builds on the work of the IBG since its formation in May 2020 and uses revenues raised during the September Rebellion which eliminated the XRUK deficit we were in earlier this year, as well as revenues from expected regular donations.

Monthly financial reports to the movement can be accessed at www.comprev.co.uk/fr

After the introduction, the [first part](#) of this document outlines as clearly as possible the budget allocations. For those who would like more understanding, the [second part](#) includes further information on how and why these allocations were made.

Reminder of a part of the IBG mandate:

“Decide what expenditure in practice and principle (when applicable) is essential to the running and building of the UK-wide movement.”

For more info on the IBG, please visit: www.comprev.co.uk/ibg

Introduction

Aims of this budget:

- Maintain XR UK's financial **stability**.
- Prevent a recurrence of the financial crisis that led to XR UK running out of money in Spring 2020
- Sustain the XR UK organism in a responsible manner with funding levels that are currently much lower than we are historically used to.

Working Assumptions:

- Unrestricted revenues for the next six months will be £40,000 per month;
- Existing costs prior to this budget are £18,000 per month (e.g. office and warehouse, servers, accounting etc).

How we got here:

- a. IBG invited budget applications from across XRUK with a deadline of Monday 19 October as follows:
 - Six month budgets from six circles which provide (in the opinion of the IBG) **critical infrastructure** services which benefit the entire movement (**six Critical Infrastructure teams from now on referred to as CI6**)
 - Short term (1 month) applications from other circles in the movement (ie other UK teams in the Support and Operations circles and the UK Nations/Regions).
 - Proposed monthly expenditures for non-CI6 circles (to give us some idea of the needs of the entire movement).
- b. We received applications from the CI6 totalling approx £160k for 6 months
And a further 17 applications from non-CI6 circles totalling approx £30k for one month (which would equate to £180k across six months)

Part 1 - Facts and Figures

The key budget decisions by IBG are as follows:

Decision 1: To allocate £125,563 over the next 6 months for CI6 (c£21,000 per month):

Circle	Applied For	Approved (% of ask)	Number of VLE Positions
Actions (incl. Creatives, Production, Action Support and Regional Action Planners)	£72,000	£42,500 (59%)	6
Arrestee & Legal Support	£13,808	£10,808 (78%)	3
Digital	£24,600	£24,600 (100%)	3
Finance	£22,978	£20,978 (91%)	3
Fundraising	£0	£0	0
Media & Messaging	£27,277	£26,677 (97%)	6
TOTALS	£160,663	£125,563 (78%)	21

- ❖ **Funds allocated for fixed costs cannot be spent on VLE.** These funding requests were granted on the basis that they were critical and essential expenses. (If they are being used for VLE, that means they were not critical or essential to begin with).
- ❖ The CI6 have been allocated funds based on the premise that they are vital infrastructure to the whole movement. **Therefore, the IBG expects that the CI6 circles and sub-circles will do everything they can to support the Nations/regions, XR Youth and other circles. We recommend they directly connect to the Hive's Decentralisation Project Group.**

Decision 2: £38,000 allocated to specific applications from the non-CI6 circles and to settle September Rebellion expenses:

The IBG regrets that there are insufficient financial resources to satisfy most of the requests received from the non-CI6 circles. Most requests were for VLE and the IBG would not be able to sustain this funding even beyond one month. The IBG has spent hundreds of hours talking through the budgets requested, hearing from the needs of the movement and has made the following decisions based on what is believed to sustain the future of the movement, not what would be a short term solution for a handful of people:

- **XR Youth** VLE for over 6 months (£14,100)
- **UK Strategic Assembly** Budget reserve* for the set up and stability of the team (£7,200)
- **Nations/Regions** Budget for key positions for the next 3 months (£10,500).
- **September Rebellion** Settling unforeseen/outstanding costs as well as other outstanding payments (£4,500).

Decision 3: £48,000 to reserve funds for three further specific purposes.

In addition to general and specific reserves, the IBG has decided to make the following allocations to reserves:

- Support the promotion of **marginalised and oppressed voices** by reserving £3k/month over 6 months (total £18,000) pending clarification of the interaction between specific groups.
- Aware that the movement needs to come to a new support agreement for **XR Internationalist Solidarity Network** from 1 January 2021, the IBG has reserved £5k/month for the first 4 months of 2021 (total £20,000).
- The September Rebellion cost approximately £130,000. The IBG feels it appropriate to start to reserve funds ahead of further fundraising for a possible **Mass Rebellion in spring 2021**. The starting figure is £10,000 which is hoped to increase as funding increases.

**reserve: money set aside for potential future use. This money may not be used, for example if the requests do not fit our Principles and Values, or an agreement can not be made.*

In accordance with [VLE Policy](#), all VLE allocations should be reviewed by their circles every 3 months. The IBG will continue to monitor spending and funding in order to respond to the needs of the movement.

Part 2 - Further Information

For clarity and transparency, the IBG wanted to offer further explanation to some of the decisions that were made and include some resources that could be useful with regards to distributing resources and furthering the decentralisation of the movement.

1. Nations and Regions

It is the intention of the IBG that the amount allocated to the Nations and Regions will increase when our funding increases and we are, as a movement, able to sustainably further provide for the nations and regions of XRUK. The IBG feels it is important for everyone to know that the critical infrastructure of the movement has been funded in order to benefit the *whole* movement (including Nations, Regions XR Youth etc). They will be expected to be distributing their resources, upskilling rebels and supporting Rebel activity across the Nations and Regions.

For more information on each of the circles, how their resources are shared across the movement, how to get in touch with them and other parts of the movement that exist to support us, please see the [Appendix of Useful Information](#) at the end of the document.

2. XR Youth UK

XR Youth UK are considered for specific support as young people will suffer disproportionately as a result of the climate and ecological emergency, yet it can be difficult for their voices to be heard in the movement and many Youth members face financial challenges. XR Youth still have access to all the resources outlined above in the “Nations and Regions” section. These funds help to improve solidarity links with young people in the Global South. Email: xryouthuk@gmail.com

3. Reserve for under-represented communities

Funding requests were received by several groups from across the XR membership. Some of these projects do not currently sit within the XR UK Self Organising System, and some have overlapping aims and objectives (not only with

each other but with existing XR working groups). The IBG created this reserve fund to support the process of bringing marginalised and under-represented communities into the XR UK structures.

4. UK Strategy Assembly/Strategy Development Team

This team will play a crucial role in the coming months. The Strategy Assembly aims to have representation from a diverse group of rebels, so this money has been reserved to make this space as inclusive as possible, and financially support people who may need it. These funds may also be used to bring in professional advice, training and guidance, in order to best equip the Strategy Assembly in designing our 2021 strategy.

5. Rebellion fund

To provide a starting pot of money for the next mass UK-wide Rebellion.

6. Critical Infrastructure

The IBG consider that there are six teams providing essential services across the entire UK movement and whose collapse would be harmful to the movement.

They are: Finance, Actions, Fundraising, Media & Messaging, Arrestee & Legal Support and Digital.

Actions and Arrestee & Legal Support support to sustain our peaceful direct actions in pursuit of our demands; Media & Messaging and Digital are needed for us to communicate with each other and to the public; Fundraising grows our funds and Finance administers their distribution.

This allocation of budget, funds the fixed costs and provisions money for key volunteers to work in these teams in a sustainable manner.

Further reserves equivalent to 1 month of VLE and 3 months of fixed costs (equivalent to £29k) have been set aside to ensure that these teams could continue to function if for some reason all funding ceased.

This practice is in line with charities who rely wholly on donations and it is intended that this would buy our movement some time to stabilise and rectify what would presumably have been catastrophic occurrences leading to such an eventuality.

Final Note from the IBG

The IBG has worked immensely hard under pressure of reconciling the huge needs of the movement during the pandemic with funding levels that preclude easy decisions. It has heard many stories of hardship and dedication to our movement and dearly wishes it was able to meet all of these needs.

For any further clarifications, please get in touch with the Finance team at IBG@comprev.co.uk.

Interim Budget Group

19 November 2020

Appendix of Useful Information

Movement resources to improve decentralisation and offer support to rebels movement wide:

- ❖ For advice on **action design** (including creating inclusive actions, actions from home and socially distanced actions), **support roles** like Wellbeing & First Aid, De-escalation, Stewards, Police Liaison contact: XR-action@protonmail.com

NB: the Actions Circle exists to hold a strategic overview of actions across the UK. If you would like to share your actions with the rest of the movement please get in touch.

Furthermore, the Action Planners Circle is made up of Regional Action Planners who gather together to collaborate on planning UK wide campaigns. This essentially means that the team designing the XRUK actions are a decentralised team. Please get in touch with your regional action planner to observe these meetings or share your ideas.

- ❖ For **Creative Circle** contacts: [XR Arts - Groups & Campaigns](#) for support with creating visionary actions, including banner making, art blocking etc
- ❖ To contact, engage with or form an affinity group, get in touch with the **Affinity Group Support Network**: xraffinitysupport@protonmail.com

This is a great place to touch base with locally engaged rebels and start forming connections in your local group or region. Some regions include:

South East- Affinitygroup_se@protonmail.com	Scotland & Far North - affinitygroupsupport@protonmail.com
South West - xraffinitysupport@protonmail.com	EoE - xr_cam_ag_support_wg@protonmail.com
Bristol - ags.xrbristol@protonmail.com	Midlands - xrmidlandsAGSN@protonmail.com
London - xr.london.affinitygroups@gmail.com	Wales - Affinitysupportcymru@protonmail.com
North - xrnorthaffinitysupport@protonmail.com	

- ❖ For **outreach** advice: rebellionoutreach@protonmail.com
- ❖ For **legal** queries (for example if you are planning an action and need a legal brief, or guidance on solicitors) email Xr-legal@riseup.net
For post arrest support and advice on arrest support roles like witnessing police behaviour, police station support etc contact XR-arrestwelfare@protonmail.com
If you need support with legal fees for XR related NVDA, some support may be available to you. to apply contact legalfinancialsupport@riseup.net
- ❖ For **digital enquiries** contact tech@rebellion.earth.
Tech Reception: <https://organise.earth/uk/channels/tech-reception> (public reception channel in UK Team, Mattermost)
Web team: xrukwebsites@protonmail.com
The Digital team are always looking to further collaboration and decentralisation of services.
Here is a little more info about the resources the Digital team provide to the movement:

- Delivering the UK Website along with word press templates and support for local & regional sites.
- Online services for comms eg Mattermost, secure cloud storage etc.
- Managing software for our volunteer site, rebel academy, rebel toolkit and arrestee support for the entire movement.
- Building a network of Tech Champions

If you are already signed up to the hub, here are some of the Public Mattermost channels:

- Action Network Support: <https://organise.earth/uk/channels/action-network-users>
- Data Team Reception: <https://organise.earth/uk/channels/datareception>

If you have an unanswered issue from ANS channel, you can reach out in this chat if not one has responded in a few days.

- Analytics General chat: <https://organise.earth/uk/channels/analyticgeneral>

❖ **Media and Messaging (M&M)** resources available movement wide:

UK Nations and Regions M&M **whatsapp chat** - contact Nuala to be added nuala@rebellion.earth

We are developing M&M **trainings around using your local press** etc. These will be publicised through the nations and regions whatsapp chat.

[Weekly Messaging Resources](#) - we try to update this doc weekly with messaging resources - if you want an email notification when it is updated please email Nuala.

Fortnightly **Nations and Regions M&M meeting** - someone from XR UK M&M team attends these meetings

M&M Town Square on **Mattermost** <https://organise.earth/uk-mm/channels/town-square>

❖ For a list of **Talks and Trainings** available visit

<https://extinctionrebellion.uk/act-now/resources/talks-and-trainings/>

Please reach out to the relevant teams if you would like a training delivered in your local group or region. Trainings are a great way of connecting local rebels, upskilling for actions and learning from each other through sharing experiences.

❖ To keep up to date with **movement wide broadcasts**, join the [Rebellion Broadcast Telegram](#) chat

❖ To **connect to other parts of the movement** as well as Global Support Groups, via **Mattermost** and other comms resources, you will need to sign up to the XR Comms Hub! You can do this via a regional or local group coordinator, but if this is all brand new to you please contact: tech@rebellion.earth

using the email address you want to use from then on to log into the Hub/MM/Forum/Cloud, say who they are, which group(s) they're in (region, local, working), and that they'd like an "invite" to the Hub.