# Extinction Rebellion disrupts BIBA conference for third year with dramatic climate protest



Extinction Rebellion's (XR) Insure Our Survival campaign continues its ongoing commitment to climate activism by disrupting the British Insurance Brokers’ Association (BIBA) conference for the third consecutive year. This year’s event, held in Manchester, turned into a vibrant protest, featuring dramatic performances that highlighted the insurance industry’s role in facilitating fossil fuel projects while demanding a shift towards sustainable practices.

The campaign, which took place on 14 May 2025, underscored the critical relationship between insurers and fossil fuel developments. Sarah Brown from XR Macclesfield articulated the campaign's aim: “Any big fossil fuel projects — pipelines, coal mines, whatever it is — they all need insurance companies to back them. So if you get the insurance companies to say they won’t back them, you can’t have any more fossil fuel projects.” This sentiment echoes ongoing criticisms of the insurance sector, which, despite its significant social responsibility, continues to underwrite ventures that exacerbate the climate crisis.

Activists joined forces with organisations such as Friends of the Earth and Manchester Greenpeace to create a day filled with artistic and symbolic acts. The highlight was a striking life-sized model of a Lamborghini, designed to appear as though it were sinking into floodwaters — a powerful visual metaphor for the urgent consequences of climate change. In an ironic twist, while the theme of this year’s BIBA conference was “A New Era”, many activists sought to push the delegates towards a truly transformative understanding of sustainability.

Throughout the day, attendees witnessed performances from the Oil Slicks, an XR theatre group that draws attention to the perils of oil spills and the broader implications of fossil fuel consumption. Activists managed to engage in conversations with over a hundred delegates, distributing leaflets urging them to become “climate heroes” by reconsidering the complicit role their industry plays in environmental degradation. Some delegates expressed a willingness to change, claiming their companies no longer insured fossil fuel projects, while others were less receptive, with some openly dismissing the concerns.

This disruption in Manchester is part of a broader trend of protests aimed at the insurance industry, which has faced increasing scrutiny for its support of high-risk fossil fuel projects. Earlier actions included a similar event at Howden's London office, where activists targeted major players like Swiss Re and Munich Re, further emphasising the need for an industry-wide shift in practices. The movement is fuelled by an array of global efforts that seek to hold these companies accountable, especially as natural disasters linked to climate change intensify.

Martin Porter, a spokesperson for the coalition organising the Manchester protest, articulated the paradox the insurance industry faces: “The insurance industry, whilst it makes a profit from these projects, makes a loss on the consequences of climate change, having to pay out for the floods, the fires, and the consequences of extreme weather.” He urged for a proactive change in mindset, stressing that “the insurance industry does not deny the science. They understand the risks of not taking action.”

As protests escalate, the call for insurers to abandon fossil fuel projects grows louder. The debate is transforming not just public opinion but also the internal discussions within the insurance sector. As climate activists continue to persistently challenge the status quo, the conversations initiated at these conferences could be pivotal in ushering in a new era of responsibility and sustainability in the insurance industry.

The Insure Our Survival campaign is poised to maintain its momentum, with future events planned for London and other locations, illustrating that the fight for climate accountability in the insurance sector is far from over.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://extinctionrebellion.uk/2025/05/26/insure-our-survival-disrupts-insurance-brokers-conference-for-third-year/), [[2]](https://www.insurancetimes.co.uk/news/extinction-rebellion-set-to-protest-at-biba-conference-with-lamborghini-model/1455184.article)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://extinctionrebellion.uk/2025/05/26/insure-our-survival-disrupts-insurance-brokers-conference-for-third-year/), [[3]](https://www.insurancebusinessmag.com/uk/news/environmental/insurance-conference-at-howdens-london-office-met-with-protests-522593.aspx), [[4]](https://healthforxr.com/15th-may-2024-hxr-nw-take-part-in-british-insurance-broker-association-conference-manchester-protest/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[5]](https://www.insurancebusinessmag.com/uk/news/environmental/extinction-rebellion-to-insurers-insure-our-survival-512353.aspx), [[6]](https://www.insurancetimes.co.uk/news/extinction-rebellion-occupy-office-of-top-50-broker-in-latest-protest/1454121.article)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://extinctionrebellion.uk/2025/05/26/insure-our-survival-disrupts-insurance-brokers-conference-for-third-year/), [[7]](https://www.commondreams.org/news/xr-insurance-industry)
* Paragraph 5 – [[4]](https://healthforxr.com/15th-may-2024-hxr-nw-take-part-in-british-insurance-broker-association-conference-manchester-protest/), [[5]](https://www.insurancebusinessmag.com/uk/news/environmental/extinction-rebellion-to-insurers-insure-our-survival-512353.aspx), [[6]](https://www.insurancetimes.co.uk/news/extinction-rebellion-occupy-office-of-top-50-broker-in-latest-protest/1454121.article)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://extinctionrebellion.uk/2025/05/26/insure-our-survival-disrupts-insurance-brokers-conference-for-third-year/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.insurancetimes.co.uk/news/extinction-rebellion-set-to-protest-at-biba-conference-with-lamborghini-model/1455184.article> - Extinction Rebellion (XR) plans to protest at the British Insurance Brokers’ Association (BIBA) Conference in Manchester on 14 May 2025. The protest will feature a life-sized model of a Lamborghini, symbolising the impact of extreme weather events caused by climate change. XR demands that the insurance industry stops backing fossil fuel projects and supports clean energy initiatives. The protest aims to inspire delegates to become 'climate heroes' and change the industry's approach to sustainability.
3. <https://www.insurancebusinessmag.com/uk/news/environmental/insurance-conference-at-howdens-london-office-met-with-protests-522593.aspx> - On 29 January 2025, Extinction Rebellion and student groups disrupted an insurance conference at Howden's London office. Protesters targeted firms like Swiss Re, Munich Re, and Hannover Re for supporting high-risk fossil fuel projects. Inside the conference, activists presented testimonies from individuals affected by climate change. Outside, a model of a green sports car, designed to appear as though sinking into floodwaters, symbolised the consequences of fossil fuel investments. The protest aimed to pressure the insurance sector to cease underwriting fossil fuel projects.
4. <https://healthforxr.com/15th-may-2024-hxr-nw-take-part-in-british-insurance-broker-association-conference-manchester-protest/> - On 15 May 2024, members of Health for XR North West participated in a protest at the British Insurance Brokers’ Association (BIBA) Conference in Manchester. The demonstration, organised by Extinction Rebellion's Insure Our Survival campaign, aimed to pressure insurers to stop supporting new coal, oil, and gas projects, and to invest in clean energy. The protest featured a climate choir, samba drummers, street theatre, and testimonies from people affected by extreme weather events. The event was part of a broader campaign against fossil fuel projects like the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) and the West Cumbria coal mine.
5. <https://www.insurancebusinessmag.com/uk/news/environmental/extinction-rebellion-to-insurers-insure-our-survival-512353.aspx> - From 28 October 2024, Extinction Rebellion (XR) held weeklong protests across the UK as part of their 'Insure Our Survival' campaign. Activists targeted insurance companies such as AIG, AXA, Howden, Liberty Mutual, Markel, Marsh, Tokio Marine, Travelers, Swiss Re, and WTW, urging them to stop backing new oil, gas, and coal projects. In Manchester, protesters carried placards and banners with messages like 'Only fools insure fossil fuels' outside the premises of several insurers. XR Manchester's Lisa Ridley emphasised that insurers could be 'climate heroes' by ceasing to support fossil fuel projects and investing in a cleaner, greener future.
6. <https://www.insurancetimes.co.uk/news/extinction-rebellion-occupy-office-of-top-50-broker-in-latest-protest/1454121.article> - On 8 January 2025, Extinction Rebellion (XR) occupied Marsh's UK office in Manchester as part of their campaign against fossil fuel projects. Protesters called for Marsh to stop 'funding our destruction' by insuring fossil fuel projects and instead 'insure our future' by moving towards a green economy. Marsh is ranked second in Insurance Times' Top 50 Brokers 2024 report, with a revenue of £1.76bn for the year ending December 2023. The protest highlights XR's ongoing efforts to pressure the insurance industry to cease underwriting fossil fuel projects.
7. <https://www.commondreams.org/news/xr-insurance-industry> - At the British Insurance Industry Awards Night, Extinction Rebellion (XR) activists disrupted the event to draw attention to the insurance industry's role in exacerbating climate change. Activists held up photos of massive flooding in the UK, worsened by the climate emergency, and signs reading 'Stop Insuring New Fossil Fuels' and 'Insure Our Survival.' The Oil Slickers, an XR performance group, symbolised the dangers of oil spills and the need for urgent action to keep fossil fuels in the ground. A choir performed a song to the tune of 'Imagine,' including the line, 'Imagine all insurers, fighting for us all.' The activists distributed business cards warning attendees that continued support for new fossil fuel projects would lead to direct actions targeting their reputations and profits.