

Esther Blik

As I grow older, I increasingly realize my own simplicity as an individual and the complexity of the world we live in. Yes, I just called myself simple. For a large share, my norms and values are the product of my surroundings, relationships, education, the *zeitgeist* and the way my talents fit in. Had life unfolded differently, my cradle been elsewhere or in another era, I'd most probably have my jacket blow in other directions. However: **Any way the wind blows, it kind of really matters to me.**

I consider myself lucky and privileged to be who and where I am right now. That is, an involved Dutch citizen working in IT & Education at [Leiden University](#), studying [Industrial Ecology MSc](#) in Leiden and Delft, and volunteering as a board member at [Industrial Ecology Study Association \(IESA\) Shift](#).



With a bachelor's background in Psychology, Industrial Product Design, a pinch of China studies and work experience in yet a different field I cannot only call myself BSc and engineer, but also inquisitive and versatile. I care about ambiance and the state/course of affairs that cross my path and generally enjoy participating. Wanting to do something when I see room for improvement never comes as a surprise.

Among many other things, love brought me vegetarianism; this led me to the green rabbit hole's entrance. **I'm worried about the world and the impacts of climate change.** The immensity and complexity of the task ahead of us to quickly shift the tide in order to mitigate climate change is frightening. At the same time it is exciting and heartening to see numerous green initiatives being launched, conversations getting started and hands joined. **We need all hands on deck:** I want to use my talents to contribute in this battle and find it motivating that you probably want the same (*I mean; why else would you visit this webpage and read this article?*).

Through my masters' program I want to educate myself on the topics involved to "know my sh*t", and avoid chasing or creating solutions that cause worse problems. Through volunteering I surround myself with like-minded people while collaborating and gaining experience in the field of sustainability. Through my actions and purchases I try to lower my own climate impacts, and by talking about this with the people around me I hope to inspire others or at least spread awareness. We may be individuals, but **we're always a part of another individual's surroundings.** Through this article I wanted to give you a glimpse of myself and my pursuits regarding sustainability.

I am hopeful for the future. Let's light that fire: if we all light up we can scare away the dark.