

ENDE GELÄNDE

CLIMATE JUSTICE NOW



25-29 OCTOBER 2018 IN THE RHINELAND



Foto: CC by Tim Wagner: Activists occupy the Hambach mine 5 Nov 2017

STOP COAL – SAVE THE CLIMATE

What will happen and why?



Thousands of people from all over Europe will block coal-infrastructure around the Hambach mine in the Rhineland coalfield, Germany. They will interrupt mining operations with their bodies in the action period of October 25-29. By doing this, Ende Gelände stands up for an immediate coal phase-out and global climate justice. Ende Gelände has already carried out actions which took place in 2015, 2016 and August 2017, involved up to 3, 500 people and blocked power stations and mines.

Even though the clearance of the old-growth Hambach forest was temporarily suspended, the coal diggers continue to threaten villages, local ecosystems and the global climate. The recent IPCC 1.5°C report once more shows the urgent need to phase-out fossil energies and initiate fundamental structural changes in society. However, the German government delays climate action and plans to exploit lignite until 2045.

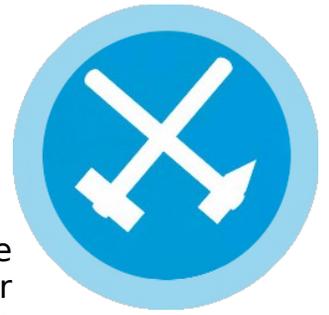
The “coal commission” which is tasked to find an exit strategy is working without the most important stakeholders, such as people of the Global South who are acutely impacted by climate change. Ende Gelände does not expect the commission to produce results which are adequate to face the climate crisis.

Political background

The German government has increasingly come under pressure because it will fail to reach their 2020 climate targets. Germany is the world's largest producer of lignite. 35% of the German electricity mix is still generated from coal. Polls show that 73% percent of German population are in favour of a rapid coal-phase out. A devastating drought and wildfires this summer has made climate change top news in the media, and created more awareness for its threatening impacts.

The „Commission for growth, structural change and employment“ has been convening since June 2018 to discuss until the end of the year how a coal-phase out can be put into practice, considering employment and energy security. Despite ongoing negotiations, the energy giant RWE was set to clear the old-growth Hambach Forest for the expansion of its lignite mine. On October 5, the senior administrative court in Münster ruled that the utility must desist from clearing the forest on the grounds of a pending court-case brought by environmental group BUND, the German branch of Friends of the Earth.

The decision came after weeks of strong protests against the destruction of the forest. The forest occupation, which had been protecting the forest for years, was removed in a massive police operation. This eviction provoked solidarity actions all over the country and in a number of European cities. Up to 10,000 people took part in the weekly “forest walks”. In October 6, more than 50,000 people gathered at the Hambach forest to protest against coal-mining.



Who is behind Ende Gelände?

Ende Gelände is an alliance of groups and individuals who come from different social movements: from the anti-coal and anti-nuclear movement, from the post-growth movement, from the occupation in the Hambach Forest, from climate policy grass roots initiatives. We also receive support and solidarity from large environmental organisations.

Ende Gelände is part of the global movement for climate justice. Activists from all over Europe come to our actions; vice versa, Ende Gelände supports climate camps and actions across borders, such as in Czech Republic or in the Netherlands. Read more about our campaign “Ende Gelände goes Europe” here: <https://www.ende-gelaende.org/en/news/interview-limity-code-rood-and-egge/>

What is the alliance calling for?

We are fighting for climate justice – together with those who are most affected by the effects of climate change and the disadvantages of unjust economic policy.

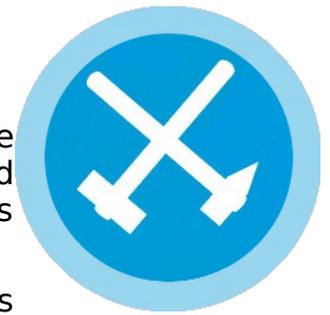
Ende Gelände is calling for an end to the combustion of fossil fuels and, in particular, an immediate end to coal. The alliance is campaigning for a just transition to a social and ecological society. That includes an energy transition which is decentral and based on grassroots democracy, and a transformation of our economy away from profit and limitless growth towards the respect for social and ecological limits and a “good life” for all. Ende Gelände stands for a new form of social organisation which overcomes capitalism.

Why is civil disobedience legitimate?

Parliamentary politics is not reacting appropriately to the urgency of the climate crisis. We are therefore taking the matter into our own hands and will push for an end to coal by using civil disobedience. When energy corporations burn coal and accelerate climate change, destroy landscapes and destroy entire villages, they are complying with the law laid down by the justice system. But for us this is an injustice which we cannot tolerate. We are many and we can stand up to the power of corporations using the power of our physical presence. When thousands of people enter RWE’s property and disrupt operations, they are not complying with the law, but given the destructive effects of lignite extracting, their behaviour is legitimate.

Our action consensus

Our action consensus is a binding framework for this Ende Gelände action. Many groups, individuals and working groups developed and agreed on it through a collective process of open meetings over a number of months. We therefore care deeply about it.



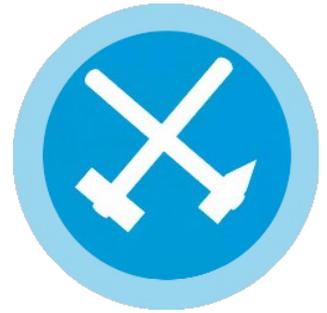
The action consensus lets us run an Ende Gelände action which is transparent and reasonably predictable; it reminds people that even in an action with large numbers of participants we still look out for and support each other. As Ende Gelände, we say what we do and will do what we say. Everyone who joins this consensus can take out in the Ende Gelände action.

An important part of our action consensus is the following:

We will behave calmly and carefully and will not trigger any escalation or put anyone in danger. We will use our bodies to block and occupy. We will not damage or destroy any infrastructure in doing so. We will move through or around police or company barriers and not be provoked. Our action will paint a picture of diversity, creativity and openness. Our action is not directed against RWE workers, RWE contractors or the police. The safety of the activists taking part and that of the RWE workers is our highest priority.

Full action consensus: <https://www.ende-gelaende.org/en/action-consensus/>

Practical information for journalists



Action time period 25-29 October 2017

Contact:

E-mail: presse@ende-gelaende.org

Phone:

Selma Richter: +49 157 87414171

Karolina Drzewo: 0049 152 04560800

Contact for Ende Gelände Train: Robin Herbst: +49 177 1697025

Homepage:

<https://www.ende-gelaende.org/en/press/>

Meeting us:

You are welcome to report about our action, in the days before or right from site of action. We are happy to give interviews. It's also possible to accompany activists into the action.

On **Friday, 26 October at 11.30am** we offer you a public action training where you can take pictures and film. Afterwards, **at 12.15pm**, we invite you to an action briefing which is especially important for those journalists who accompany activists into the action. We will inform you about the exact places for those events on short notice.

This year there will be a **special Ende Gelände train** that leaves **Prague** in the afternoon of **October 25** and will go via Dresden, Leipzig, Berlin, Hannover to Düren in the Rhineland coalfield. Media representatives are invited to travel on this train and speak to activists. If you are interested, we ask you to register early.

Photos:

During the action, you will find photos of the of the day in our [flickr account](#). Here you can also find pictures of previous actions. Please pay attention to the licencing. Most of the photos from the actions are licensed under Creative Commons for free non-commercial use. You will find a labeled file that is free for use also for commercial use. Should you wish to use a photo which is copyrighted, please contact us or the photographer.