



Ende Gelände

Climate Justice Now

4th/5th November 2017 in the Rhineland



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Activists on the way to the blockade in the Rhineland in August 2017

Stop coal – save the climate

Thousands of people from all over Europe will block coal infrastructure in the Rhineland coal mining area on Sunday 5th November, a day before the start of the international climate negotiations (COP23). In doing so, they are taking a stand for climate justice and an immediate end to fossil fuels. The Rhineland has been an important place of protest for many years, a place where various parties have opposed the extraction of lignite. By going there, the activists will halt the use of coal for electricity generation. Ende Gelände has already carried out actions which took place in 2015, 2016 and August 2017, involved up to 3500 people and blocked power stations and mines.

The 23rd UN climate conference (COP23) will take place from 6th to 17th November 2017 in Bonn under the presidency of the island state of Fiji. The COP will involve further negotiations on the implementation of the Paris climate agreement. And a state which is acutely threatened by rising sea levels will be responsible for managing the contents. The location of the summit, Bonn, on the other hand, is in a state which is one of the main parties responsible for climate change. Very close by is the Rhineland coal mining area, one of Europe's largest CO2 producers.

Our actions are carried out in solidarity with those who are hardest hit by global temperature rises. A group of climate activists from Fiji, the Pacific Climate Warriors, will take part in the protests with a [ceremony in Manheim](#) and a demonstration afterwards. Manheim is one of the villages around Hambach mine which is to be destroyed by the diggers. The people in the Rhineland and the Pacific Climate Warriors will oppose the loss of their homes together and fight for an end to coal and all fossil energy sources.

Who is behind Ende Gelände?

Ende Gelände is a broad alliance of groups and individuals who come from different social movements and political spectra: we are a grouping of people from the anti-coal and anti-nuclear movement, from the post-growth movement, from various groups preparing the climate camp in the Rhineland and Lausitz (Lusatia), from woodland occupiers in the Hambacher Forest, from climate policy grass roots initiatives and from local campaign groups. We also include politically interested individuals and left-wing political groups and do receive support and solidarity from large environmental organisations. We are part of a global grassroots movement which is campaigning for climate justice, against fossil fuels and for a global energy revolution from below.

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. We show solidarity with others' struggles and are acting in solidarity by lifestyles and production methods locally.

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 into one which is not based on profit and limitless growth, but rather which respects social and ecological limits and makes a "good life" possible for all. Ende Gelände stands for a new form of social organisation which overcomes capitalism.

This means that we see the COP negotiations in Bonn from a critical viewpoint. Unjust structures cannot create climate justice. The negotiations reflect international power relationships in which those who are hardest hit by climate change and fossil fuel-based capitalism are hardly heard, while industries which are

causing accelerating climate change have huge influence. Ende Gelände does not believe that in these circumstances the crucial decisions needed for structural changes and staying within the 1.5C limit can be taken.

“Politicians and corporations are focused on maximising profits and gains. A few people in the global North profit at the expense of many others worldwide. We are campaigning for a just world for everyone. Ending the combustion of fossil fuels is a first step in the direction required.” (Dorothee Häußermann, Press Spokesperson)

The industrialised nations of the Global North bear historic responsibility for the warming of the climate. Ende Gelände takes this responsibility seriously. To limit the global average temperature rise to 1.5C, 80-90% of fossil fuels must stay in the ground. The German government coalition negotiations show that we cannot expect the new German federal government to provide the necessary structural changes. So we are asking people not to leave the climate in the hands of governments and corporations, but to take responsibility themselves.

“Politicians and corporations like to present themselves as climate saviours on the international stage, even though one of the main drivers of climate change is only 50 kilometres away. We don’t want to be number one in the lignite league, but rather part of a democratic system of renewable energy provision. We will go into the pit in our thousands and thus ensure climate protection.” (Insa Vries, Press Spokesperson)

Why is civil disobedience legitimate?

Parliamentary politics is not reacting appropriately to the urgency of the climate crisis. We are therefore taking the matter of the climate into our own hands and will force an end to coal using civil disobedience. When energy corporations burn coal and accelerate climate change, destroy landscapes and destroy whole 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 the 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/>

Who supports us?

National and international NGOs have expressed support for Ende Gelände in a [statement of solidarity](#). Numerous other national and international groups and public figures have signed Ende Gelände's [call to action](#).

Ende Gelände is part of the European movement for climate justice. Activists [come to our direct actions](#) from numerous different countries. This summer has already seen seven climate camps and actions in various different European countries, some of which were brand new. [Here](#) you can find a list of the camps and actions.

Background information and positions

Don't hesitate to contact us about information about the urgency of climate change, the Rhineland coal mining area, the connection between capitalist economics and temperature rises, climate justice and gender justice.

We will be happy to put you in contact with experts for interviews about climate justice, UN negotiations, energy provision and civil disobedience/ social movements.

Annex

Practical information for journalists

Action time period 5th November 2017

Contact:

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At the camp

Stay overnight: you can travel to the action from Bonn on Sunday morning. Please contact us in advance.

Preparation, information and networking:

All the latest dates and times are available here:

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

On the morning of Saturday 4th November, we will organise a **public action training session** in Bonn at 09:00 where you can film and take photographs. We will meet at "[Bahnhöfchen](#)" on Rheinaustraße 116, 53225 Bonn. This will be followed by the action briefing for the press, to which you are particularly welcome if you want to follow our action as a journalist.

Photographs: the activists will spend the night before the action in a camp. You can only take photos or videos there on Sunday morning as the action is starting. No cameras are allowed in the sleeping or shower/toilet areas.

Services: unfortunately, we cannot provide you with any workspaces or other services.

Legal information regarding the action can be found in the [legal aid brochure](#).

During the period of the action, you will find an appropriately labelled file with photos in our **Flickr account**. You can use these photos for free for your media. [Here](#) you can find pictures of previous action ready for use. Most of the photos from the actions in August are licensed under Creative Commons for free non-commercial use. Should you wish to use a photo which is copyrighted, please contact us or the photographer.