

Ende Gelände

19 to 24 June 2019 / Rhineland



Picture: CC by Line Skov: activists occupy the Hambach opencast mine on 5 November 2017

DISOBEDIENT FOR THE FUTURE

Practical information for journalists

Action period: 19 to 24 June 2019

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Networking

We would like to offer you the opportunity to report about the protests of Ende Gelände before and during the action. Therefore we are available for interviews. There will also be the opportunity to accompany activists into the action or to write and film portraits of activists from the Ende Gelände alliance.

Dates & Events

1) Press conference of the climate movement

On Wednesday, 19 June 2019, a joint press conference of the climate movement will take place at 10 a.m. There we will report on the various actions of the weekend. With: Greenpeace Deutschland, Fridays for Future, „Alle Dörfer Bleiben“ („All villages stay“) and Ende Gelände

Location: Erkelenz (near opencast mine Garzweiler) on the meadow next to the house Borschemicher Straße 32, 41812 Erkelenz

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1RurXGxC64oYVrMH1MfSkjI7-iG08WwdC&usp=sharing>

2) Public action training & briefing before the action

On Thursday, **20 June 2019, at 11.30 a.m.**, we offer you a public action training, where you can film and photograph. Afterwards, at **12.15 p.m.**, a press briefing will take place, to which we invite you in particular if you would like to accompany activists.

We will inform you about the exact meeting points at short notice.

3) Photographing:

During the action days, you will find a marked folder with photos in our Flickr account that you can use free of charge for your media. Most of the photos in the action are licensed under Creative Commons for free non-commercial distribution. If you want to use a photo that is copyrighted, please contact us or the photographer.

Flickr Account: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/133937251@N05/albums>

Background

Thousands of people from all over Europe will block coal-infrastructure around the Garzweiler opencast mine at the end of June 2019. With their presence, the activists will stop climate-damaging coal-fired power generation during the action period (19 - 24 June), thus sending a signal for climate justice and the immediate coal exit. Since 2015, there have been annual Ende Gelände actions in which up to 5,000 people have blocked power plants and opencast mines.

Even after the temporary stop of clearing in the Hambach forest, the coal excavators continue to work and threaten villages, our ecosystems and the global climate. This has not been changed by the so-called "coal compromise" of the German Coal Commission, which provides for another 20 years of coal-fired power generation. The latest reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change impressively demonstrate the need for an immediate phase-out of fossil fuels and a profound transformation in all areas of society. We can still build a better future in which people count more than the profits of corporations.

There is a clear message that has been persistently formulated for months at the Fridays for Future demonstrations: The actions of politics and society must adapt to the urgency of the climate crisis. An exit from coal in 2038 is a long way from that. Politics fails in the face of the climate crisis. That's why Ende Gelände will take the immediate coal exit with civil disobedience into its own hands.

Who's Ende Gelände?

Ende Gelände is an alliance of groups and individuals from various social movements: from the anti-coal and anti-nuclear movement, from the post-growth movement, from the forest occupation in the Hambach Forest, from climate policy grassroots initiatives and citizens' initiatives, but also from larger environmental organizations and left-wing political groups, Ende Gelände local groups and from many politically interested individuals. We are part of a global grassroots movement for climate justice.

What does the alliance demand?

We fight for climate justice - together with those people who are most affected by the consequences of climate change and the downsides of unfair economic policies.

Kathrin Henneberger, press spokeswoman:

"The climate crisis is a cruel reality and we are speeding unchecked towards a four to six degree hotter world. We have to get out of the coal immediately, not in 20 years. Politics and corporations are burning our future. We are not watching this inactivity. With our bodies we oppose the destructive coal excavators of RWE and end the age of fossil energies".

Ende Gelände calls for an end to the burning of fossil fuels and, along with this, an "immediate coal exit". The alliance is committed to a just transition to a social-ecological society. This includes a decentralised and grassroots democratically organised energy transition and the transformation to an economy that is not based on profit and limitless growth, but respects social and ecological limits and enables a "good life" for all. Ende Gelände advocates a new social organization beyond capitalism. The action group calls for the urgently needed structural change to be initiated and for a decentralised, affordable electricity supply with 100 percent renewable energies to be guaranteed.

Why is civil disobedience legitimate?

Within parliamentary politics, there are no adequate responses to the urgency of the climate crisis. If energy companies burn coal and thus fuel global warming, destroy landscapes and entire villages, it is legal under the law. For us it is an injustice that we cannot tolerate. We are many, and we can counter the power of corporations with the power of our physical presence. When thousands of people enter RWE's premises and disrupt the process, it is not legal - but it is legitimate given the destructive effects of brown coal mining.

Our action consensus

The action consensus is a binding framework of this Ende Gelände action. Many groups, individuals and working groups have worked out and decided it in a collective process in open plena over several months. It is therefore very important to us. The action consensus is the prerequisite for the fact that the Ende Gelände action is transparent and well to assess for all participants; it conveys that we also in an action with very many people pay attention to each other and support us. As Ende Gelände we say what we do and do what we say. All people who join this consensus are cordially invited to take part in the action of Ende Gelände:

"We will behave calmly and courteously; we will not endanger people. We will block and occupy with our bodies. It is not the goal to destroy or damage infrastructure. We will not be held back by structural obstacles. We will flow through or around police barriers or plant security barriers. Our action will convey a picture of diversity, creativity and openness. Our action is not directed against RWE workers, RWE contractors or the police. The safety of the participating activists, the workers and all those involved has top priority for us."

Complete action consensus: <https://www.ende-gelaende.org/de/aktionskonsens-2019/>

Who supports us?

Numerous initiatives and individuals support the call of Ende Gelände. A list of the signatories can be found on our website, and 18 non-governmental organisations, including BUND, Oxfam Germany and Campact, have written a declaration of solidarity for Ende Gelände: <https://www.ende-gelaende.org/de/soli-erklaerung-2019/>

Ende Gelände goes Europe

Ende Gelände is part of the European climate justice movement. Activists from different countries travel to the event. Other activities will follow this summer, including Power Beyond Borders in England from 26 to 31 July and a climate camp in Venice from 4 to 8 September, which are supported by Ende Gelände.