

LÜTZI LIVES!

This exhibition tells the story of a small village that became a symbol of the failure of German politics, the last obstacle between us and the catastrophe, and a utopia of living together.

We, the Greenpeace youth group, would like to invite you to experience Lützerath's history as we experienced it. With years of intensive work, countless actions and unbelievable memories of this village.

For us it is a very important topic, because the history is not over yet. The coal is still in the ground and we will continue to resist against the exploitation!

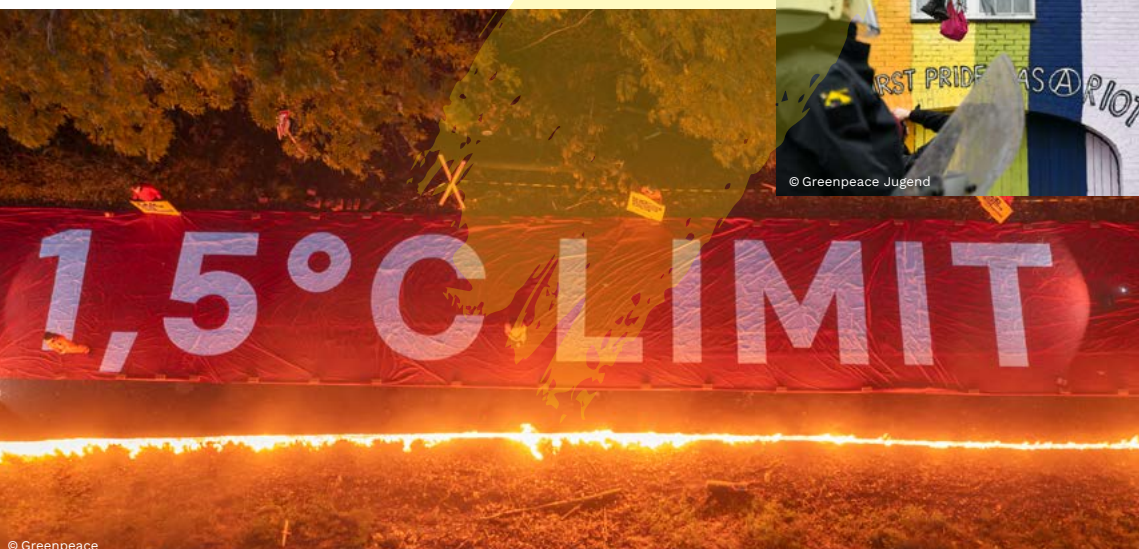
Lütze – what? Lützerath or also affectionately called »Lützi« was a small village in North Rhine-Westphalia near Cologne and was at least 855 years old. Since 2006, people have been resettled and forcibly expropriated to mine it and burn the lignite that lies beneath. The justification for this is that it is necessary for the energy industry, but this claim has been refuted by various studies. For example, studies by the CoalExit Research Group, the European University of Flensburg, the Technical University of Berlin and the German Institute for Economic Research show that even with an improbably high utilization of the coal-fired power plants in the period from 2022 – 2030, there would be enough coal available without dredging Lützerath and burning the coal. There would even be 30 million tons left.

Nevertheless, a deal was struck between the federal government and RWE, in which they agreed to bring forward the coal phase-out in NRW to 2030, not to dredge 5 villages at the Garzweiler open pit mine, but to sacrifice Lützerath in return. The biggest problem is that if the coal is burned under Lützi – around 280 million tons – it will no longer be possible to meet the 1.5 degree target and thus the Paris climate protection

agreement. Even at 1.5 degrees, people are already dying and large parts of our livelihoods are being destroyed, so it is already a compromise. We cannot accept another compromise or even celebrate it as a success. Many people around the world opposed this and showed solidarity with the many activists who transformed the village into a utopia of coexistence after the forced expropriation. There were many mostly peaceful demonstrations, the largest with 35,000 participants. Unfortunately, during the eviction of Lützi and the demonstrations, the police repeatedly used disproportionate, sometimes life-threatening violence.

In the meantime, Lützi has been completely evacuated. Nevertheless, we have achieved a lot. Lützerath is better known than ever before and the failure of German climate policy is being discussed everywhere. It is also important to emphasize that the coal is still in the ground. As long as it stays that way, the fight is not over! We will not give up and neither should you!

Greenpeace Germany e.V. Hongkongstraße 10, 20457 Hamburg, T +49 40 30618-0, presse@greenpeace.de, greenpeace.de V.I.S.d.P. Kai Müller Authors, Idea Greenpeace Jugend Design Henning Thomas Date 12/2023



LÜTZI AS AN UTOPIA!

They can evict us, criminalize us, destroy our structures, our home, but not our resistance. Our resistance lives, Lützerath lives!

Even before I entered the village for the first time, I could feel its utopia. We were standing at the Erkelenz train station in sub-zero temperatures, all completely frozen and much too late, as always with the Deutsche Bahn. All the call buses were full, so we had no choice but to walk 2.5 hours to Lützerath. Just as we were about to leave, a woman came up to us and said she could give us a ride. On the way she told us her story. She now lives nearby, she grew up in Keyenberg. The pit has always been an issue, always threatening. She was there sometimes as a child, but the pit was always far away. But year after year, the hole got bigger, the edge got closer. Villages in the area were demolished, people were forcibly expropriated, resettled. Only to leave a hole where your old family home once stood, where your elementary school was, where you learned to ride a bicycle, and where you used to play as a child. A hole in the ground and a hole in you. At some point she had to wonder if, Keyenberg, her home, would be the next village and soon her home would no longer exist.

She said that it has not come to this, we owe only to the protest of the activists. I think we also owe it to people like her, because she is also part of the protest by living the utopia of Lützerath with her helpfulness and her attitude. For me, Lützi is not a place to be mined. It is a place of solidarity, helpfulness, community and self-organized life. There it doesn't matter where you come from, how much money, what kind of limitations, or gender you have. It doesn't matter what religion you belong to or how old you are. In Lützi, everyone is equal.

It was sometimes hard for me to look at the village and see the utopia and not the eviction machines, the cops, and at some point a hole. But I also felt the energy. The power, the willingness to stand up for each other and for all people in this world. To stand up for climate justice. Because, if we're honest, it's no longer just about the coal under Lützi. It's about much much more. It is about a symbol. It's about a lived utopia. It's about our values, about everything we have ever fought for. Because in Lützi not only the 1.5 °C border runs, but also the border between RWE and Aktivist:innen. Between the greed for profit of individuals and the livelihoods of all. Between our capitalist system and an anti-hierarchically organized coexistence and, above all, between absolute destruction on the one hand and radical hope on the other, and more clearly than anywhere else in Germany. As long as we live this utopia and spread it in society, they can never completely dredge Lützerath.

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CHRONOLOGY

It was not only locally that the resistance was great. In 2021, we as Greenpeace youths organized vigils, rallies and solidarity actions all over Germany to draw attention to the village and its importance, to put pressure on politics and to support the local people.

The history of Lützerath begins far before our time: the village existed more than 850 years ago. At some point, everything was to change, because with the beginning of coal mining in the early 20th century, villages and parts of villages were increasingly threatened and resettled. Already in the 1960s, thousands of people have to make way for the coal and the excavators and give up their homes. The hole gets bigger and bigger, in 1983 2 pits are merged to form the »Garzweiler« pit. Only 4 years later, active resistance is shown by the foundation of the Hambach Group, who take to the streets against lignite mining and the destruction of their villages and the Hambach Forest and demand an energy turnaround. In 1997, the general operating plan for the Garzweiler I/II open pit mine for the period 2001 to 2045 is approved. The clearing of localities begins. The Garzweiler II project is controversial in state politics; the Greens are still the only party to oppose the Garzweiler II project. In 2006, operations begin at Garzweiler II and thus, in the same year, the resettlement of Lützerath to Immerath (new) – since 2013, Lützerath has also been deconstructed and in March of the next year, the red-green North Rhine-Westphalian state government announces a reduction of the future open pit area of Garzweiler II, which raises a little hope. However, when Hambacher Forst is to be cleared in 2018 so that coal can be extracted from underneath it, many activists oppose this decision and occupy the forest, putting up massive resistance and ultimately achieving their goal: »Hambi stays«.

We, the Greenpeace Youth, also started to become active in this period. One young person recalls the annual action in October 2018, when we witnessed the very first village walk: »In 2018, we as Greenpeace Youth did our first action on RWE and Garzweiler. With our annual action under the motto »Stop coal mining«, we fought for the preservation of the villages. When we were there for the first time, it became clear to all of

us that RWE has to be stopped – even if it will be a very long way until then. What we couldn't have imagined was what kind of attention and importance Lützerath, the last of a series of villages that have fallen victim to open pit mining, would get.«

When the Federal Parliament and the Federal Council decide in July 2020 on the complete phase-out of coal-fired power generation in Germany by 2038 at the latest & structural aid for affected regions, this also seems to be more of a put-off, because phasing out coal in 2038 will not be enough to meet the 1.5 degree target. In addition, the clearing and demolition work in Lützerath by RWE will begin this year. A vigil is set up and protests break out. Squatting occurs. A protest camp is set up on the farm of farmer Eckardt Heukamp. This year, we also campaigned for the preservation of all villages threatened by coal mining. For example, with nationwide actions in November 2022 under the slogan »Don't leave the villages out in the rain.«

Since we first visited Keyenberg in October 2018, we have been on the ground again and again to support the local resistance. This was also the case in August 2021, when more than 2500 people rallied for the preservation of the threatened villages. Together with the #vote4me campaign, we did another action before the demo to bring the threatened villages also on the agenda of the upcoming federal election and to make the election a climate election. »Your Vote, my Future!« we put on the ground with big cloth letters. After all, it is the young generation that will suffer most from the climate crisis, even if they are not yet allowed to vote for their future.

Greenpeace Germany e.V. Hongkongstraße 10, 20457 Hamburg, T +49 40 30618-0, presse@greenpeace.de, greenpeace.de V.I.S.d.P. Kai Müller Authors, Idea Greenpeace Jugend Design Henning Thomas Date 12/2023



THE YEAR 2022

The year 2022 was a very eventful year for Lützerath. Farmer Heukamp is in 2022 the last farmer of Lützerath who sells his farm, because he was expropriated after the Higher Administrative Court of Münster decided that the expropriation was legal. Since then, only activists live there. The resettlement is completed. The resistance becomes stronger with the knowledge that since 2018 also the villages Berverath, Keyenberg, Kuckum, Oberwestrich and Unterwestrich were resettled.

Until October 2022, there were always uncertainties about whether Lützerath should really be razed to the ground and whether the coal underneath is, actually needed. We carried out various actions throughout the year to protect Lützerath and the other threatened villages

Here, for example, with an action in Osnabrück in February 2022 or an exhibition in Berlin in March.

We also made a statement against RWE in front of Hamburg City Hall.

In August we were again on site in Lützi and participated in the major strike.

In the course of the solar tour, we were on the road with various actions in many German cities as part of the »Exit Fossils, Enter Peace« campaign and in September we again showed an exhibition on Lützerath in Berlin to draw the attention of passers-by to the village and the RWE scandal, to engage in exchange and to set an example for the coal phase-out.

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THE YEAR 2022

Many activists were emotionally affected by the eviction. It was clear to us: Even if the village no longer exists, we must continue to fight for justice, for the coal phase-out, for a future. That's why we did this spontaneous action in Berlin at the end of January 2023.

Then came the decision of the state government in October: the open pit mine is to be reduced in size, Keyenberg, Kuckum, Berverath, Ober- and Unterwestrich are to be retained; Lützerath is to be sacrificed. RWE, NRW Economics Minister Mona Neubaur and Federal Economics Minister Robert Habeck (both Greens) announce at a joint press conference that Lützerath is to be dredged. Thus, it becomes a symbol for the direct phase-out of lignite; the coal phase-out by 2030 is presented by politicians as a compromise, although it is clear that 280 million tons of coal lie under Lützerath and that mining it will fall far short of the 1.5 degree target and thus the Paris climate agreement. The disappointment and anger of the climate movement is intensified when the state of North Rhine-Westphalia (CDU-Green government) in December 22 grants mining law approval for the continuation of the Garzweiler open pit mine from 2023 to 25.

At the end of 2022 it was clear: RWE will try to have Lützerath cleared. It was clear to the activists of the entire climate movement: We will not give up and will do everything to ensure that Lützi stays. According to the order of the district administrator of the Heinsberg district, the eviction by the police begins on 10.01.2023. Day X is proclaimed. Worldwide, thousands of people become active and carry out actions, vigils, rallies, demonstrations, etc., they occupy the village to prevent the mining of coal under Lützerath and to preserve the utopia created in the village. During the eviction, Greenpeace Youth

also had numerous solidarity actions: We had vigils and rallies in Osnabrück, Hamburg, Heidenheim and many other cities throughout Germany.

What is such a meaningful place for many people is violently cleared by the police and razed by RWE. Some people are injured, some seriously. Almost all activists who occupy the village are peaceful and let themselves be evicted peacefully. After only 6 days the village is empty. The eviction is completed. The village had individual, important meanings for many people and was a home to them. In total it was over 855 years old. Shortly before the end of the eviction, there was a large demonstration in which we also participated.

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LÜTZI AND ME!

**To capture the memories and feelings we associate with the village and the struggle for it, a few people answered questions about Lützi... see for yourself.
(some names have been changed)**

1. When did I first hear about Lützerath?

»The very first time I heard about Lützerath was at the end of November 2020. It was in the context of my very first Greenpeace Youth photo campaign. However, it was not yet clear to me what Lützerath actually means. I only learned that in the course of 2021.«

· Mathilda, 16, Greenpeace Youth

»In fact, it was only when it became clear that Lützi was to be dredged for good that the real decision was made.«

· Lili, 21, studies sociology and gender studies

»Lützerath and the history of this village has accompanied me for a very long time. The first time I heard about it at the last federal election and I found it very frightening that nowadays a village should still be dredged for energy production from a fossil fuel.«

· Amelie, 15, Greenpeace Youth, student

»I have heard of Lützi before, but I first became more involved with it in the winter of 2021, when there was a lot of mobilization for the large-scale demonstration.«

· Franka, 17, Greenpeace Youth

»Somehow Lützi was never a big topic in our FFF local group in the early days, but I definitely heard about Lützi already in the „early days“, so especially in the course of 2020/21, but the topic was really present with me only at the central strike on 23.09.21

in Berlin, when a person from FFF Leipzig (with whom I traveled and was on the road) gave me a »Lützerath Lives« button, on which a person and a big yellow X was to be seen. That day there were speeches about villages that were going to be dredged to make way for coal and I realized how big of an issue it already was in the climate movement and since then I've become more and more involved with it as well.«

· Bolle, 19, Voluntary Ecological Year

»On a Monday evening in autumn 2019 at the Fridays for Future plenum, an activist came rushing into the plenum, he had just participated in a blockade at Garzweiler 2, the coal mine for which Lützerath was also to make way. He reported enthusiastically about the great structures on site, the KüfA (the Kitchen for All), the great people he had met, but also told of the huge hole through which excavators as big as airplanes were eating their way. From that point on, it was clear to me that I wanted to be involved in local actions and structures in the future. A good three-quarters of a year later, I heard about Lützerath for the first time and decided to go there directly.«

· Elias, 18, student

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LÜTZI AND ME!

2. What was it like to be in Lützi for the first time? To see the tree houses? To see the excavators?

»Seeing the structures for the first time was directly nice for me, but not necessarily something new, we already knew similar places from previous occupations like the Danni. Nevertheless, it is always impressive to see how people manage to build structures on the spot so quickly. The first time at the edge was depressing me and my reference persons arrived in the evening and we were all quite in good spirits, the atmosphere had a bit of a camp atmosphere, the food was great, there was good techno music playing then someone suggested that we could take a walk around the village before we went to sleep there. Then the first time to see the edge of the quarry, has torn us all from the light mood. Of course we all knew the pictures, but to see in real how devastating the destruction is for the direct nature, made us all quite thoughtful. One person in our group cried, but at least we were aware that we were in the right place to stand in the way of capital and government destruction.«

· Elias, 18, student

»Since I was only at the large demo near Lützi, I saw the tree houses only from a distance. But I had the feeling that the people in the tree houses at least also see us in the demo from a distance and we could perhaps send some power over. The whole thing showed me what we are fighting for and what it is all about.«

· Lili, 21, studies Sociology and Gender Studies

»Being in Lützi for the first time was very impressive. Impressive how frighteningly big the coal mine is, and how seemingly easily and quickly the area can be destroyed. The excavators just look like huge monsters to me, especially because they look much bigger in real life than on photos. And that made me angry. The tree houses in Lützerath made me very happy. They seemed so anchored to the surroundings, as if they had always been there and would always remain there. A kind of fortress, but still welcoming to visitors.«

· Clara, 19, Activist

»Lützi began for me before I even stood in the village. On the way there, we were stuck in Reyth in sub-zero temperatures with the prospect of having to walk 2.5 hours to Lützi. Then a woman who lives nearby came and drove us there and on the way told us about her experiences around Lützi. For me she embodied with her helpfulness and the utopia of Lützerath. Being in Lützi for the first time was stark. On one side was this fierce utopia. Attentiveness, solidarity and helpfulness were writ large. People cooked together, sang around the campfire, and discussed police, activism, and the state. Everyone was equally important and everyone was taken into consideration. 50 meters further and I was suddenly standing in front of these gigantic excavators. It was already too dark to see the hole, but the excavators continued to work, day and night, illuminated by huge spotlights. The worst part was the noise. A mixture of screeching and humming. I got goose bumps. I felt as if they were gradually eating everything that was important to me. This sanctuary, the values I stand for, everything I've ever fought for, and ultimately the lives of countless people in the global south.«

· Franka, 17, Greenpeace Youth

»I was the first time in Lützi on 17.12.2022. Excerpts from my Lützi-diary: »We are now in Lützi and it is way too violent. We arrived last night and were super lost, A. took us fortunately (a person who often went to Lützi and lives in Keyenberg), just chatted us up beforehand, she lives nearby and told us very many impressive things. We directly approached whom in Lützi, he gave us a place to sleep. We are a few people, that's why it's quite crowded, but all this gives me security.« The first day I didn't get a good look at the tree houses and all the other structures because it was already completely dark. The brightest light was coming from the excavators. When I spent the first few days in Lützi and had time to look at everything, I was very impressed by what the people had built there and that they partly live in the trees. Like a fulfilled childhood dream of me and my siblings! I was impressed by the people, the cohesion, the community, by how everything works, how people leave their place by the fire as a matter of course to wash dishes in ice-cold water at -7 °C. Of the next morning: »It's all so new and exciting. It's so terrible to know that there is such a wonderful place and that it is going to be destroyed in such an empathetic way. I can't walk through the village without thinking about it. How can the cops march in here, see these living spaces and livelihoods, and still »want« to destroy everything? [...] We first walked all around and looked at the village and the pit during the day and saw colors that we hadn't seen anywhere before. So much life, so much art.«

· Bolle, 19, voluntary ecological year

»When I was in Lützerath for the first time (April 2022) the first thing I saw was the excavators. It was such an incredibly scary and painful sight. The excavators are like monsters. Huge, dark and destroying everything without a shred of compassion (yes ik excavators can't have compassion). In contrast to this was then Lützerath. I was with the Greenpeace youth at a demo and saw so first incredibly many great people and then finally the village. Lützi is so friendly, strong, inspiring, open, colorful, loud, vulnerable, powerful, loving and warm. And I noticed all this even though I was never really in the village, but only walked around it. For me, the tree houses are yet another additional sign of strength, rebellion, and cohesion.«

· Mathilda, 16, Greenpeace Youth

LÜTZI AND ME!

3. What was it like to camp at Garzweiler (if you camped there, when)?

»I was in Lützerath a total of three times, the camp was pretty nice and it was cool to see that all the people were very solidary with each other. I think that's what made Lützerath so special, that there was not only fighting against the environmental policy of our government, but permanently trying to live the utopia of an anti-racist, anti-capitalist community.«
· Elias, 18, student

»I was completely stunned by how uplifted I felt. It was empowering, uplifting, and combative. (Mid-December 2022)«
· Bolle, 19, voluntary ecological year

»I was in Lützi once in the summer and once in January just before the eviction for a few days each time and camped on the meadow. In the summer, when the eviction wasn't imminent, it almost felt like a kind of vacation and I have ultra fond memories of it, but in the winter it was quite stressful due to the eviction starting (I was woken up every morning either by the coal excavator, by screams of securities or activists, or by the alarm) and the knowledge that I could be taken into custody at any moment (luckily didn't happen), although I had actually promised my parents to be back home in time for school.
· Leon

»I have stayed in Lützerath / Keyenberg twice and it was a very formative experience, especially the first time. I had never before seen so directly what we were actually fighting for, always only against what. The first time I was in Lützi for four days in sub-zero temperatures. It was just before Christmas, which is why there were fewer people every day, but the atmosphere was totally beautiful despite the cold. Everybody moved together a little bit, everybody helped everybody and there was a totally calm and mindful atmosphere. When I came back a month later, Lützi was a few days away from being evicted and the mood had completely turned around. There were at least 5 times as many

people, barricades were built at every corner, trenches were dug, skillshares were given. There was a buzz of voices everywhere and there was an energy emanating from the village like I've never experienced before. At the last village walk we were more than ever, Annenmaykantereit played and the mood was boisterous. But all the while, the fear of the upcoming eviction and the sadness that they will be forced to leave this wonderful place that so many of them called home in a few days also resonated.«
· Franka, 17, Greenpeace Youth

»I camped once in October and in November 2022 in Lützerath and in January in Our All Camp. I can't really describe what it was like for me, the experiences are too great to do it full justice, but it was a very special atmosphere, how nice the people there were to each other, how it was no question at all that you help each other and share things with each other and the needs of all Menschis are taken into account. I felt very welcome even though I wasn't there that long each time. It was great to experience this togetherness in Lützerath, to stand together starved in front of the kitchen for everyone, and to develop plans against the eviction. And I'm mega happy to have been part of this utopia and mega sad that Lützerath will never exist again like this, and mega angry at the politicians who simply destroyed it all.«
· Clara, 19, Activist

»I was able to sleep with friends for the night after the large demonstration in the camp of all of us and had the feeling that I was entering a different world. I knew so few people and yet I immediately felt at home. It was just super nice to see how many people come together so quickly, what structures can be built and simply work because everyone works together and how community feelings can develop so quickly!«
· Lili, 21, studies Sociology and Gender Studies

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LÜTZI AND ME!

4. What is my best memory of Lützi?

»Unfortunately, I have never been to Lützerath myself, but I still have many fond memories of the village. Especially the cohesion, the togetherness and the lived utopia. When I think of Lützerath, a colorful picture comes to my mind's eye, in which I see people who are carefree and happy. People who take care of each other and live in harmony with nature. There is no hatred, no pressure to perform and no jealousy. People there lived the life I would want anywhere in the world.«

· Amelie, 15, Greenpeace Youth, student

»I think I'd have to think about that for a while, so I'll just write what pops into my head. There were so many small, wonderful moments. How so many people came together there and how much Lützerath bonded me and my friends. All that gave us something that no one can take away from us. Those who have never been there will never understand. I thought it was so wonderful that Lützerath was a bit better than the rest of the world and that we could live in the bubble for a while. I think what touched me the most was that Lützerath reached so many people, that there was so much talk about it, that so many people felt the same way I did and we all fought there together.«

· Bolle, 19, voluntary ecological year

»For one thing, the campfire moments. When it was particularly cold, the campfire was the gathering place where someone always sang protest songs, discussed or simply ate and chatted. For me personally, however, it is also this one evening to sit down for two at the edge and talk into the night about this and that, how we are doing and process all that we have experienced. And looking as a matter of course as a view on a huge floodlit excavator. In retrospect, it's an absurd picture, but in Lützi, the boundaries for what's normal were shifted.«

· Franka, 16, Greenpeace Youth

»The common.«

· Lili, 21, studies Sociology and Gender Studies

»I think the times I was in Lützerath were badly chosen, each time I stayed only a few days and then the political pressure on the village community was great. Therefore, there was always a lot to do and often only a few moments to rest. Nevertheless, there were many nice memories for me, like the discussions about utopias around the campfire, evenings where people made music, but also the demonstrations, where I always realized what kind of energy emanated from this place.«

· Elias, 18, student

»I can't say that exactly. As I said, I was only at two big demos in/near Lützi and didn't get to see all the utopia structures personally. But just the whole vibe and atmosphere of everything there is so inspiring to me that it definitely passes as a highlight.«

· Mathilda, 16, Greenpeace Youth

»Whew, that's hard to pick out one memory, I had so many wonderful experiences in Lützi. One thing that stands out in my mind was my arrival in January. It was already dark and the whole situation looked quite surreal because of the stormy rainy weather and the lighting from the coal excavator and the spotlights of the securities and the many activists in painter suits. Although there was a lot of stress in the open pit mining area and everybody was doing things hectically, although we were strangers and didn't know anybody, we were welcomed super warmly (»Nice that you are here«, »There is kitchen for everybody, do you want something to eat?«). The way new people were welcomed into the community really impressed me.«

· Leon

»Many. A very nice memory is definitely sitting by the fire buoy at the end of the vigil watching the sunrise together with very awesome people.«

· Clara, 19, Activist

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LÜTZI AND ME!

5. How / as what did I perceive Lützi?

»Lützi was for me a place where I could be the person I wanted to be, without social constraints or people judging me. Lützi was a refuge for me from bourgeois society with its pressure to perform and people who patronize you. I was really free for the first time. It sounds very romantic now, but everyone was accepted there as they are.«

· Leon

»Lützi is for me an inspiration, a utopia and a border. This border has been crossed for the most part but the coal underneath has not yet been burned and must remain in the ground. And Lützi belongs to a dream. A dream for a just future.«

· Mathilda, 16, Greenpeace Youth

»Lützi was a place of just living together outside this selfish system. A place where the stressful life around you stopped short. A place of resistance, of standing up for each other and for your convictions. A place created for people, for all people. And even though I was only there for such a short time, I would say for me it also became a bit of a home.«

· Franka, 16, Greenpeace Youth

»Lützerath was much more than just a small village for me. It was so big and strong. For me, Lützerath symbolized a safe and incredibly strong place full of the joy of life. Something that couldn't be destroyed by anything or anyone.«

· Amelie, 15, Greenpeace Youth, student

»As it appears from my diary, I perceived Lützerath as a community, as a piece of utopia, a piece of threatened utopia. Excerpt from the diary: »In general, I forgot all my own big and

small worries here. [...] I have the feeling that I am fighting for something great and that outweighs everything. At the same time, it hurts even more than anything else. In a completely different way. The helplessness is the worst.« I wanted to save Lützerath so badly, however infinitely naive it may sound. Lützerath has brought so many people together and connected them. For that, I'm grateful.«

· Bolle, 19, voluntary ecological year

»As a place that has brought so wonderful people together. A place that has made quite an impact on people, although I was only there for such a short time, I have been able to talk to many people on whom Lützi has and had a mega impact. No matter from where and how – Lützi has moved quite a lot!«

· Lili, 21, studies Sociology and Gender Studies

»Lützerath was a project for me, honestly I knew from the beginning that it would be difficult to keep the place in the long term and to save it from destruction and even if I was unfortunately right with my assumption, the fight for the place was nevertheless successful, the utopias that we lived have not simply died but live on. Politically, too, we were able to achieve quite a bit through the pressure we exerted. The coal phase-out in NRW was brought forward to 2030.«

· Elias, 18, student

Greenpeace Germany e.V. Hongkongstraße 10, 20457 Hamburg, T +49 40 30618-0, presse@greenpeace.de, greenpeace.de V.I.S.d.P. Kai Müller Authors, Idea Greenpeace Jugend Design Henning Thomas Date 12/2023



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LÜTZI AND ME!

6. What did we do all about it?

What was my favorite action on Lützi?

»My favorite action was definitely the large demonstration in April 2022. Otherwise, we held a vigil and a rally with our Jag. The rally was shortly before the eviction and was extremely motivating and helped me not to completely resign and sink into despair. And then during the eviction, I was still at the big demo.«

· Mathilda, 16, Greenpeace Youth

»I don't want to comment on this specifically. I took part in various actions and helped to further build up the structures on site, there was a lot to do here, especially shortly before the eviction. I also helped a lot in the Kitchen for All, cooking, peeling and chopping. I especially liked the Greenpeace action in October 2021, when some activists lit up the street in front of Lützerath with smoke flares to show that a red line had been crossed with the clearing of the site.

· Elias, 18, student

»My favorite action was the big demo on Jan. 14, 2023, I was there with good friends, it gave us so much strength and energy (back) again – although everything was already almost too late.«

· Bolle, 19, voluntary ecological year

»As Greenpeace youth, we dealt very intensively with the issue around Lützerath. There were various vigils, banner campaigns and, of course, on-site actions in Lützerath. I personally also found it totally enriching to exchange ideas with different people on the street about Lützerath.«

· Amelie, 15, Greenpeace Youth, student

»My favorite action was definitely being together again with 35,000 others at the big demo in front of Lützerath towards the end of the eviction. It made clear after so many days of violent images the anger but also the power of society and it was an

incredible feeling when we came onto the field and suddenly saw that from all directions people were coming that didn't fit through the narrow village streets anymore.«

· Franka, 17, Greenpeace Youth

»My favorite action was the big demonstration on 14.1. It was very empowering to see so many people, but the police violence I saw already scared me. I definitely had several »fuck, what am I doing here« moments, like when an aggressive police officer with a baton (oh no, »multi-purpose baton«) in his hand walked right up to me because I was apparently in the way.«

· Leon

Greenpeace Germany e.V. Hongkongstraße 10, 20457 Hamburg, T +49 40 30618-0, presse@greenpeace.de, greenpeace.de V.I.S.d.P. Kai Müller Authors, Idea Greenpeace Jugend Design Henning Thomas Date 12/2023



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LÜTZI AND ME!

7. What does the situation do to me now / during the eviction?

»The eviction wore me down. I checked witter way too many times to see what was happening and what had been destroyed again now. I couldn't go to the eviction for various reasons and felt so helpless and like I had to do something. At the same time, many of us saw the pictures and heard the stories. We were (and are!) so angry at the cops, the unjust violence, the shitty RWE club and the Greens. I literally broke down when the eviction was officially announced as complete. I am very lucky to live with people who felt similar and so we were able to pick each other up. We developed a new coping strategy. Putting ourselves in one place, gathering the anger, turning it into energy, and letting it all out by screaming as loud as we could. That's what the eviction did to me. The situation now seems frozen. Is anything still moving? For the most part, people have returned to their everyday lives. Me too. The memories remain, Lützi lives on in us and we won't give up as long as the coal is still in the ground.

· Bolle, 19, voluntary ecological year

»When I heard in via Instagram that now the day X had come and Lützerath was to be destroyed for good, a world collapsed for me. Lützerath was for me one of the most beautiful and safest places in the world. I had followed the debate about what should happen to Lützerath constantly, but I never thought that Lützerath would really be destroyed. But then there it was, the day when the excavators rolled in to flatten the village once and for all. That evening I was sitting on the sofa, watching the terrible pictures of the eviction on the news, and tears came to my eyes. I just couldn't understand it, I felt so incredibly powerless. There was only one big question in my head: why?»

· Amelie, 15, Greenpeace Youth, student

»Somehow I manage quite well to move on and not let the whole thing get to me so much anymore. During the eviction, I had a huge emotional chaos. It fluctuated the whole time between anger, fear, despair, sadness, motivation and lack of understanding. It definitely stirred me up a lot and kept me very busy for several weeks. I think Lützi is something that human beings never forget.«

· Mathilda, 16, Greenpeace Youth

»The situation during the eviction was psychologically extremely stressful for me, because I was at school the whole time and a) had a guilty conscience about not being there, b) missed a person who was there and who is very important to me, and c) was blatantly worried about acquaintances of mine who I knew about via the Infoticker that they had just been evicted, and then on top of that all the reports about police violence, it all pretty much wore me down.«

· Leon

»The time during the eviction was incredibly stressful for me, especially since I had to be at school the whole time and noticed there how little of an issue it was with other people. I was always alternating between being angry, sad, or just incredibly distraught. I often read news in the Lützi Ticker for several hours a day and was in class in livestreams. I cried a lot or stared into space for hours. During eviction week, I wasn't really present. I have never felt so powerless before. I wanted nothing more than to go to Lützi and give everything to stop this madness. Everything that ever mattered to me was destroyed and I sat around at home. At that time nothing else mattered. I've since returned to everyday life and successfully repress it most of the time, but Lützi has left its mark and it will forever, because the despair that remains.«

· Franka, 17, Greenpeace Youth

»With many people in my environment I got that the situation after the eviction was very stressful. To be honest, I felt quite differently. Of course it was a pity that we had lost Lützerath. However, I had the feeling to have done everything in my power to protest against the eviction, even if this may sound naive or cynical, I see the blame for this now with the government and all the people who did not stand in the way of the destruction. So why should I feel bad. Of course, a sour taste still remained. After some time, I became quite angry. About the ignorance of this exploitative system that destroys our natural resources so ruthlessly. In Lützerath I also learned many things about neo-colonialism in particular, I was then sorry to see how exactly this system then caused the end of Lützerath.«

· Elias, 18, student

»I feel a bit helpless and like I'm in a vortex that is slowly sucking us up. All over the world, some kind of decisions are being made by governments that are only about profits and economic growth, or the satisfaction of comfortable people who don't want to see the seriousness but can't skip their skiing vacation no matter what. I sometimes don't know whether to cry or scream. I'm so angry and so sad at the same time that so much is just not taken seriously.«

· Lili, 21, studies Sociology and Gender Studies



LÜTZI AND ME!

8. What do I want to say to Lützi?

What to politics?

What to society?

What RWE?

»We absolutely must continue, many remain and we must become louder. We are more than it sometimes feels and that gives hope! At some point the government can no longer »think« us as second, third or fourth prio. We won't stop fighting and we'll be louder than all the bullshit-diggers, drills, planes, cars, money taps, luxury thoughts, and any other bullshit that goes along with it!«

· Lili, 21, studies sociology and gender studies

»In Lützerath we saw how greedily capital exploits but also how much the state supports these interests. I found it frightening to see how repressive the state reacted here when property relations and existing structures were questioned, especially the police intervention during the eviction was quite shocking, but had probably also politicized a new generation of activists. It was nice to see that so many young people were there, and even if Lützerath is no longer standing, our struggles will continue.«

· Elias, 18, student

»Lützi is more than a village razed to the ground. A whole new dynamic of the climate movement has come out of it, and I'm very impressed with what all the people who worked to preserve the village have accomplished. It became clear to me what can be possible and that it is always worth fighting. Thank you, Lützi.«

· Bolle, 19, FÖJ

»I am incredibly grateful and happy that Lützi has become such a well-known place. I am totally proud of all the people who have fought for Lützi over the past years. But I am also infinitely disappointed and angry at the RWE government. What still has to happen before people are finally put above profits? Until we can dream our future with peace of mind? Until the 1.5 degree

target is met? And I believe that our society still has to rethink in many ways so that we can achieve all this together. And for that, we all have to be willing to learn and listen.«

· Mathilda, 16, Greenpeace Youth

»We have seen in Lützerath again clearly that politics will do nothing to stop this catastrophe and the economy even less. We, the society, are our last hope. We must stand up, make ourselves loud. We have to shut down school and work. We must paralyze all of Germany and take to the streets. Then they can no longer ignore us! The 35,000 people in Lützi were only a small beginning, but it showed what we are capable of when we stand together, show solidarity and thus continue to live the utopia of Lützi.«

· Franka, 17, Greenpeace Youth

»Lützerath was a totally strong village and the people who lived there and also us from home gave everything to save this village. It was a fatal mistake on the part of politicians to leave this village and the coal that lies beneath it to RWE. Here, the climate goals to which Germany has committed itself will be missed and people and areas in the global south will have to suffer extreme consequences.«

· Amelie, 15, Greenpeace youth and student

Greenpeace Germany e.V. Hongkongstraße 10, 20457 Hamburg, T +49 40 30618-0, presse@greenpeace.de, greenpeace.de V.I.S.d.P. Kai Müller Authors, Idea Greenpeace Jugend Design Henning Thomas Date 12/2023



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THE LAST DAYS OF LÜTZI!

We spoke with Sophie, an activist who was on the ground in Lützi. She told us about her experiences.

Since summer 2020:

The resistance movement in Lützi has begun. Sophie visits the place for the first time in the fall of 2020. The special interaction and togetherness there seem like a utopia to her. In Lützerath, people are away from the stressful everyday life. She experiences how people's needs are put above profits; it's about people as people. Everyone is welcome and supports each other without expecting anything in return. For Sophie, Lützi was not only a place of solidarity, but also of climate justice. The small place has become like home to Sophie over the 8 – 9 months she has spent there.

02. 01. 2023:

Large vehicles with gravel arrive, floodlights are set up, ramps are built into the open pit. These are all preparations by the police for the upcoming evacuation.

10. 01. 2023:

The police announce to start the evacuation around Lützerath. Sophie now has the option to stay in the tree house or barrio. She has to decide, does she stay in Lützi as a private person or does she leave the village with Greenpeace to help outside? She decides to leave the village with the hope of going back to the village the next morning to continue peaceful resistance.

Since 11. 01. 2023:

But it does not work. Because already early in the morning the police advances to Lützerath. The entire village is surrounded by police cars. The fence construction begins. Everything happens very quickly. Sophie is in the Greenpeace container now »only« contact point for evicted activists. Partly the experiences of the activists are traumatic. The whole eviction is psychologically extremely exhausting. They try not to let the events get to them completely and to hold on to small "positive" things.

Even considering the police violence, this is of course difficult. The measures seem partly arbitrary, the police like a stooge of RWE that they should actually defend a constitutional state, not always visible. The container is also a station for demoesantitärer:innen, people arrive here with broken arms, legs and noses, but they are also broken inside. Sophie's hope, and that of many other activists, was that there would be a social change big enough that Lützi would not be evicted. But now, at the latest, it is clear that this will not happen. Sophie has been trying all January not to let the events get to her out of self-protection. Nevertheless, life in Lützerath before the eviction was like a utopia for her – all the less she understands now how, in view of the climate crisis, this home of many people is still to be destroyed for lignite. She is stunned, desperate and incredibly angry. In order to deal with this, Sophie tries to help, to take responsibility and to establish interpersonal contact.

The protest in Lützerath showed Sophie how many people can stand up for the same thing, but also how much the police and government are holding back much-needed climate activism and pushing the climate crisis further.

Greenpeace Germany e.V. Hongkongstraße 10, 20457 Hamburg, T +49 40 30618-0, presse@greenpeace.de, greenpeace.de V.I.S.d.P. Kai Müller **Authors, Idea** Greenpeace Jugend **Design** Henning Thomas **Date** 12/2023



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14 JANUARY 2023

The world (did not) end on January 14, 2023

The Greenpeace Youth has been campaigning for environmental and climate protection since the 90s. Ever since Fridays For Future received media attention around the world, it has become clear: the future and the climate are very important to many young people. For them, the climate crisis is more than just a concept that is difficult to grasp.

The scientific facts have been on the table for a long time. The young people know the studies and forecasts, know what tipping points there are and how fragile the situation we find ourselves in is. They know that fossil fuel companies like Exxon Mobile have long been aware of the impact of their business models on the global climate (at least since the 1970s) and have covered them up through lobbying and deceptions such as the carbon footprint. The young people know who bears a large part of the responsibility for the crisis (the global north through its exploitation and historical emissions since colonial times) and who are the victims of the crisis (the people in the global south and marginalized groups in the global north).

For them it's about the political decisions that have to be made now. Despite their high commitment, the great media attention and support from science and large parts of society, the necessary decisions from politics and business are not being made. This leads to strong feelings for many young people – from anger to helplessness and fear. Anyone who reads the studies and sees how great the young people's commitment to the climate is can certainly understand that.

The decision to leave Lützerath as a place of confidence and the underlying coal to RWE was all the more devastating. The mood among young people was more than depressed after January 14, 2023. The big question was what was actually being advocated for when there was a lot of support for climate protection but the decision-making bodies weren't taking action. The helplessness, the sadness – for some even the despair – was obvious.

The idea for this exhibition emerged from this situation. The aim was to support the young people in processing their own experiences and to show that the world has not yet ended on January 14, 2023. That the coal is still in the ground and it's worth fighting for every tenth of a degree. The young people designed this exhibition themselves, wrote texts, conducted interviews and selected images. This Exhibition reflects the way

they perceive the world and what they want to communicate. It is an unadulterated picture from spring 2023 that well conveys the mood within the Greenpeace youth at the time. The contributions come from young people from the Greenpeace Youth, but also other young people and personal contacts in the young climate justice movement.

Greenpeace demands that politicians set the right course so that we can get out of fossil fuels and switch to 100 percent renewable energy.

