

Rede cemEND-Bündnis zum Klimastreik

Hi, I'm Judith from Architects for Future Heidelberg and I'm speaking here today for the cemEND alliance.

It's really amazing that we are still here - here on the street - I'm really happy that we are sending a sign together today!

I am here today because we are in the middle of the climate crisis, and I am here because we have to fight to keep our planet habitable! Are you with me?

The fact that we have a climate crisis has now also reached people in the construction industry. The construction industry is responsible for more resource consumption, emissions and injustice than any other sector. More than half of the annual waste, almost 40% of greenhouse gas emissions and countless human rights violations, especially in countries of the Global South, are attributable to the construction industry.

Architects for Future was founded because people who are involved in construction, love building, or are simply interested in it, stand in solidarity with the Fridays for Future movement, because it has become clear to us that the construction industry has such a huge impact on our society, our environment and our climate that we urgently need to change course. The trouble is, this giant is asleep, and we've left it alone and not looked for far too long. The construction industry is super sluggish and, so far, much too little is happening.

Everyone knows by now: To stay within the 1.5° limit, we need an energy turnaround and we need a transportation turnaround. But do you know what we also need? - A building turnaround! Because we will only achieve the climate turnaround if we build better, less, and differently than we have done so far. We can't continue as we have been. We need a turnaround in construction - now!

In January, the petition of Architects for Future for the "Bauwende JETZT!" found over 50,000 supporters. I am still quite euphoric, because this meant that our petition had to be heard publicly in the Bundestag on March 1. That shows: Together we are attracting attention so that the construction sector and the construction industry can finally become part of the climate debate; so that the huge impact that construction has can finally be seen by everyone. We are watching so that no one can get away with "business as usual! No more empty promises!

In the middle of Heidelberg is the headquarters of a company that is part of this huge problem: HeidelbergCement.

HeidelbergCement is the DAX company with the second largest CO2 emissions. A sad second place after: RWE. Yet, throughout the whole climate debate, very few people had the cement industry on their radar. We are here to change that!

Because the cement industry is a climate killer: it is responsible for two to three times as many greenhouse gas emissions worldwide as air traffic and the cement industry gobbles up huge amounts of resources. The most consumed material on earth after water is: concrete! And concrete requires cement. And because such huge quantities are involved, the cement industry also has a huge lever to avert the climate catastrophe and the collapse of our ecosystem. So far, however, it has failed to make sufficient use of this huge lever.

HeidelbergCement is unfortunately an example of an industry that prefers to divert attention from the full extent of the environmental impact of its business activities. The

currently planned climate protection measures - which can be read about on HeidelbergCement's website - are far from sufficient. In fact, if all companies acted the way HeidelbergCement does, they would lead us down a path towards a global warming of 10°C. This is what the start up, *right based on science*, has determined. Ten degrees instead of 1.5.

Added to this is the consumption of resources: Cement production gobbles up vast quantities of limestone, sand, and water. Often entire ecosystems depend on limestone deposits, all the rivers in the world cannot supply as much sand as we consume, and water shortages are already a huge problem in many regions.

Responsible management within planetary boundaries looks different!

And HeidelbergCement must also take responsibility for its subsidiaries: Because through them, the group disregards human rights and international law - in Indonesia, in the Western Sahara, in the West Bank and in Togo.

In Indonesia, the Kengeng Mountains are in danger of being mined due to the construction of a cement plant. The livelihood of the local population, which has long been fighting against the project, is threatened.

In the Western Sahara, HeidelbergCement is mining raw materials in territory occupied under international law and has already built a second cement plant in Western Sahara.

In the Israeli-occupied West Bank, the group is endangering the already delicate peace in the region and is violating international law with its raw materials mining.

In Togo, HeidelbergCement is polluting the environment, causing migration and displacement. Small farmers are not compensated, or not adequately compensated, for the loss of their farmland; protests and critical reporting are met with state repression.

A climate-just world looks different!

Exploitation has no place in a climate justice world. We are here today because we stand up for climate justice!

Fridays for Future, Extinction Rebellion, and Architects for Future in Heidelberg have therefore founded the cemEND alliance together with Watch Indonesia. In the meantime, Greenpeace Mannheim-Heidelberg, the Climate Collective, and Roots in Concrete have joined. And we are watching!

We demand from HeidelbergCement to set in motion ALL the levers that are available - to stop the climate catastrophe and to achieve this goal together and fairly!

We therefore demand the following from HeidelbergCement:

1. Climate and environmental protection now!

HeidelbergCement must continuously reduce its emissions from now on and achieve a positive climate balance by 2035 at the latest - and without finagling around with certificates.

Friends, the target for 2035 here in Germany must be zero if we still want to achieve the 1.5°C limit. This is what the FFF report "CO2-neutral by 2035" from the Wuppertal Institute showed last year.

The destruction of the environment and the ecosystem, especially through sand, gravel and limestone mining must be stopped.

2. Respect human rights!

and dear ones, this is extremely important for a climate-just world:

HeidelbergCement must respect human and international law along the supply chain, and thus also comply with:

- The FPIC Principles (UN Guidelines for the Protection of Indigenous People)
- The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights
- The OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

In addition, compliance with labor and trade union rights, as well as fair compensation for expropriated farmers.

For this, the company must stop its raw material mining in the Kendeng Mountains, the Western Sahara and the West Bank as soon as possible!

Friends, we in the cemEND alliance do not buy into HeidelbergCement's green corporate image. We see the 70 million tons of CO2 emissions per year, the moonscapes after limestone quarrying, and the loss of beaches and entire islands. In a globally connected world, we see the anger and protest of local people - and we have made it our mission to make this protest heard.

The story HeidelbergCement tells us is that they're already doing their best and that's great. *Newsflash* It. Is. Not. Enough. Greenwashing with a few repaired habitats and embellished figures will not give us a climate-friendly world. No more empty promises: Finally, become as green as your marketing department makes you out to be! Everyone for 1.5 - including HeidelbergCement. Become part of the building turnaround - NOW!

I will now read a letter from Gunarti, member of Samin and representative of JMPPK:

Thank you to my friends in Germany who are currently and always taking action to defend Mother Earth in this matter; especially that you are spreading the voices of the friends from Kendeng to preserve the Kendeng Mountains ... Do not give up despite the pandemic situation. We must defend Mother Earth every day; even if the government and companies consider this matter unimportant, we must continue to be loud and dare to say something. Nothing is more important than the preservation of nature, environmental sustainability, and the preservation of Mother Earth so that people will also be sustained by Mother Earth. And we will definitely avoid threats or diseases because we are always in contact with Mother Earth. Keep up the spirit for those who are there. Thank you very much. We are here today representing the friends in Kendeng, the women and JMPPK. We are not giving up either, although it is flooded at the moment, the friends here continue to defend Mother Earth.