

Fridays for Future

We are Rosa and Julia from Fridays for Future Heidelberg.

We have been striking for climate justice with numerous people around the world for over two years.

Recently, together with many NGOs, we successfully filed a lawsuit against the German government at the Federal Constitutional Court. The Federal Constitutional Court decided that the climate law (climate mini-package) is partly incompatible with the German constitution and recognizes that it is important for future generations to keep the 1.5 degree target. This was only possible because of all the people at our demonstrations and on the net! Thank you!

At the same time, of course, this decision means that we now have to fight even harder to make consistent climate policy a reality. It cannot be that first lawsuits have to be filed to acknowledge that our federal government is acting against human rights. And instead of finally developing consistent measures and plans to meet the 1.5 degree target, a second climate mini-package is being passed. We will not allow this to continue, because the climate crisis is already threatening people around the world and destroying lives.

This is why we are standing here today as Fridays For Future and protesting with the Heidelberg *Radentscheid*. Because Heidelberg, like the German government, has also decided on measures in terms of climate policy, but is not implementing them consistently, although even these measures are set far too low. And although the climate protection action plan was decided 1 1/2 years ago and meetings are supposed to take place every three months, the climate protection group only meets every 6 months. In the meantime, the climate crisis is becoming increasingly visible in Germany and also in Heidelberg. Droughts have increased massively in recent years. As a result, among other things, more and more trees are dying, agriculture is at risk, and our water supply is becoming increasingly scarce. However, it must be emphasized that the climate crisis is not yet hitting us in Germany as hard as it is hitting the people in MAPA, i.e. the 'most affected people and areas' in terms of the climate crisis.

MAPA are located in states that have contributed least to the climate crisis and continue to do so today. This is because it is mainly rich industrialized nations that are fueling the man-made climate crisis. It is Western industrialized countries, such as Germany, that have gained or increased their prosperity through the colonization and exploitation of many of today's MAPA regions. It is countries like Baden-Württemberg that want to hold on to their 'prosperity' at all costs through the car or cement industries that export destruction around the world. But we already know today that a different world is possible: local energy supply in the hands of citizens, mobility change from the combustion engine to fair public transport and cycling, the stop of fossil subsidies would finally make climate justice accessible.

Climate justice also means in Heidelberg that the weaker road users - pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users - are put on an equal footing with car traffic. In the case of bicycle traffic this can only be achieved if the 8 demands of the Heidelberg Bicycle Referendum are implemented 100%. This

also ensures more safety for pedestrians, who then have their own paths. Whoever stands up for better bicycle traffic must consequently also strengthen public transport.

In the districts along the Odenwald, only a few citizens can afford an e-bike, and if cycling were to be increased, local public transport would have to be expanded there. Or, if employees from Schriesheim take their bikes along on the streetcar and get around Heidelberg by bike during the day. In addition, a better and faster public transport system would ensure that more people get away from their cars. In a commuter city like Heidelberg, this means emptier streets, especially in the evening rush hour.

You cannot make any compromises with the climate. This is clear to everyone, but apparently not to our politicians. Even though Heidelberg declared a climate emergency 2 years ago, we still do not see any results. For the bicycle traffic hardly anything is done, but with an initiative for an improvement of the bicycle traffic the city of Heidelberg immediately puts stones into the way. Hence we only say:

We will not be stopped with empty words and lazy compromises. That is why we, as Fridays for Future Heidelberg, are calling today to support the Heidelberg Bicycle Referendum. We have reached a point where we can no longer afford empty promises and lack of action. We need a social ecological change in Heidelberg politics and we need it now!

1.5 degrees are not negotiable!

We have to act and we have to act now!

What do we want? Climate justice

When do we want it? Now