

## **FACT SHEET ON CODE ROOD, OUR ACTION + CAMP 2018**

### **WHO IS CODE RED?**

Code Red is a collaboration between people who fight against the fossil industry and its power. This therefore concerns - all forms of - oil, gas and coal. We are tied together by the idea that climate change and the damage caused by the extraction of fossil fuels can not be stopped with only individual actions but that the companies responsible for the extraction, shipment and burning of fossil fuels as well as the governments that let these companies operate without limit must be stopped with collective action.

The largest oil and coal ports in Europe are in Amsterdam and Rotterdam. Europe's largest gas field lies in the Groningen. The Dutch state therefore bears a big responsibility in the climate problem. Code Red contributes to building a resistance movement by organizing an annual mass action in which the aim is to disrupt the infrastructure of the fossil industry and to actually (temporarily) stop it as far as possible. Our ultimate goal is hereby to provoke structural changes in the energy supply.

Code Red wants to make civil disobedience as a form of resistance visible and tangible by lifting it to a larger scale. This is done by publicly announcing the campaign day and mobilizing it nationally and internationally. Code Rood supports the local communities that experience the direct consequences of the extraction of fossil fuels. Code Red also believes that the workers in the fossil industry should not suffer from the necessary transition to green forms of energy. This is why Code Rood, for example, expressed support for the FNV's (Dutch workers union) call for a coal fund for employees in the ports and coal-fired power plants. Code Red also stands in solidarity with other movements that fight against the fossil industry and climate change or other forms of injustice, exploitation, oppression and discrimination.

On June 24, 2017 was the first large-scale action of Code Rood, where around 350 people have blocked the coal terminal in the port of Amsterdam. Because Code Red does not exist for very long, we are still working on forming an identity and (long-term) strategy. Code Red is completely dependent on donations from sympathizers, participants and solidarity funds.

### **HOW IS CODE RED ORGANIZED?**

Code Red is organized horizontally in action conferences, working groups and a Coordination Platform (CoPla). An action conference is a public meeting in which the most important decisions are taken. We also see these conferences as a meeting of interested parties and those involved in various working groups.

The decisions are made according to the principles of consensus decision making, a creative and dynamic way to make decisions between all members of a group. In consensus decision making, the group tries to find solutions that are actively supported by everyone, or where everyone can at least live with, instead of simply voting on a subject and having the majority decide. Consensus decision making is based on the principles of equality, freedom, cooperation and respect for the needs of everyone.

The different working groups are responsible for specific parts of the organization of the camp and the action. For example, the mobilization work group is responsible for the national and international mobilization, the media & communication working group for providing our own media and contact with the press. Working groups in principle work fairly independently and only have to submit fundamental decisions to an action conference.

## **CODE RED AND GRONINGEN**

Code Red is aware of the struggle that has been fought for years by local groups in Groningen and wants to support these by organizing a blockade with as many people as possible. At the moment Code Red is therefore organizing an action camp in the earthquake area in Groningen, from 24 to 31 August 2018. The main day of action will be during Gronings Ontzet on 28.08.2018 (Groningen's National Liberation Day). This decision was taken by considering and discussing various action objectives at several action conferences, and eventually choosing Groningen for a large meeting with more than fifty people on Tuesday 12 December. At the following action conference in January the date of the camp and the action was chosen.

## **ACTION AND CAMP**

### **Camp program:**

- Workshops, music, performances, action trainings, legal advice

### **Action**

- Our action will qualify as a civil disobedience action. However we will have an action consensus that will limit the scope (duration) and means of our action. We will decide on the content of the action consensus during our next action conferences in May/June

## **IN DEPTH INFO ABOUT GRONINGEN AND GAS**

- Gas production from the Groningen field started in 1963 and in response to recent protests the government announced to end gas extraction around 2030.
- The gas field is owned by the Nederlandse Aardolie Maatschappij (NAM), which is jointly owned by Shell and Exxon Mobil.
- The Netherlands is now the EU's biggest gas producer, and Groningen, generating billions of euros every year, is the jewel in its crown.
- The Groningen field is currently (spring 2016) being produced by means of 258 wells at 22 production locations. Treatment facilities are present at twenty of these production locations, and the gas of the other two well sites is transported by pipeline to the nearest gas-treatment location. There are also 28 observation wells for reservoir management and a number of injection wells to inject the produced water back into the reservoir.
- The Earthquakes:
  - As more gas was extracted – the field is about two-thirds empty now – pressure changes deep underground become more severe and unpredictable. Nearly 1,000 manmade earthquakes, ranging from 0.1 to 3.6 on the Richter scale, have occurred in Groningen since the early 1990s. A 3.6 magnitude earthquake is not a terrifying experience, although in 2012 it was strong enough to shake groceries off the shelves in a Groningen shop. But

because the earthquakes take place at the shallow depth of 3km, and many Groningen buildings are built on soft clay, the damage caused is greater than their small Richter-scale magnitudes suggest.

- Gas extraction in Groningen is a class issue:
  - 1 in 3 residents of the province of Groningen live on the verge of poverty. This means Groningen is No. 1 in poverty in The Netherlands. Even though Groningen is one of the wealthiest regions within the EU
  - Thanks to a Napoleonic law dating back to 1810, the government is entitled to the gas, not the land owners. As a consequence, while the rest of the Netherlands is linked to the gas distribution system, the land owners in Groningen are not, because this wouldn't be "profitable"

→ NAM has received more than 50,000 damage complaints from people seeking compensation.

## **INTERESTING ARTICLES, PODCASTS AND ANIMATIONS:**

### **Financial Times**

[https://www.ft.com/content/ab953430-10a6-11e8-940e-08320fc2a277?accessToken=zwAAA WGZAna4kdOrlTQwEKYR6NOUDggyD8Kidw.MEQCIDg4pXg2iCo1uCTXvg6JuJc33iPaSW QJfd\\_fVhPfoinVAiB8U4TboB0PyhhGRmFsJN3azuZm177UKdnqld-LX06-cw&sharetype=gift](https://www.ft.com/content/ab953430-10a6-11e8-940e-08320fc2a277?accessToken=zwAAA WGZAna4kdOrlTQwEKYR6NOUDggyD8Kidw.MEQCIDg4pXg2iCo1uCTXvg6JuJc33iPaSW QJfd_fVhPfoinVAiB8U4TboB0PyhhGRmFsJN3azuZm177UKdnqld-LX06-cw&sharetype=gift)

### **Guardian 2015**

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/oct/10/shell-exxon-gas-drilling-sets-off-earthquakes-wrecks-homes>

### **Podcast**

<https://www.foeeurope.org/listen-new-podcast-gas-groningen-260218>

### **Animation earthquakes in Groningen**

<http://www.dwarshuis.com/earthquakes-groningen-gas-field/visualisation/>

### **Video by Unicorn Riot from Code Rood action 2017**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smfDTnPfwVs&t=1s>