

# ABOUT COAL AND THE WORLD

1 Millions of years of solar power are stored in coal. This energy is released through burning. In the process, large amounts of both carbon dioxide and heavy metals are also released into the atmosphere. This is **HARMFUL** to the climate and environment – and to our health too.

2 The impact of digging coal is tremendous. Whether in open-cast or underground mines, mining coal **DESTROYS** nature, **POLLUTES** water, **DAMAGES** homes and forces the relocation of entire villages.

3 Coal-fired power plants are not very efficient. Most of the energy is **LOST** as heat.

4 Nevertheless, coal remains the second-most **IMPORTANT SOURCE** of energy in the world, after oil.



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Emissions from burning coal are increasing in Europe despite its climate policies. Germany, Britain and Poland are the biggest **CULPRITS**.



Our governments have committed themselves to protecting the climate. If global warming exceeds 1.5° Celsius, it will be impossible to manage the **CONSEQUENCES** of climate change.

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7 To reach the climate target, 88 percent of all known coal reserves must **REMAIN IN THE GROUND**.

Despite all warnings, coal continues to be **SUBSIDIZED**. EU member states continue to support coal projects with taxpayers' money.

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9 Private banks finance coal projects worldwide; but in the hope of fighting poverty, development banks also invest **PUBLIC FUNDS** in coal.

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The coal industry is well-connected and uses lobbying, generous campaign donations and well-paid climate sceptics **TO SLOW** the switch to renewable energies.

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Worldwide opposition to open-cast mining and other coal projects is growing. **PROTEST** takes many forms – human chains, blockades, demonstrations and online campaigns.



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Creating economies that rely on renewable energy rather than fossil fuels is a major challenge of our time. **SOLUTIONS** are being sought around the world. They will radically change societies.

