

Action Agreement (EN)

People vs. Polluters: Tata Steel

June 2023

Mass action against pollution

This action agreement is a binding framework for the action and aims to highlight our values and principles and make the action safe, accessible and transparent for all participants. This will allow us to take care of each other and ourselves during the action. Only after reading, understanding and agreeing to the action agreement can you participate in the action. All participants in the action must have read, understood and agreed to this action agreement before participating. Organizing these actions is an effort of many people, and we expect everyone to respect the action agreement while participating in the action.

Why we take action

The Netherlands is home to one of the largest and most polluting steel plants in Europe, in the middle of an area where hundreds of thousands of people live. Time after time, the dirty fossil Tata Steel plants emit poisonous clouds that damage people's health and the climate enormously. The government now refuses to close the most sickening parts because of pressure and false promises from Tata Steel's top brass, who put profits before people. The Tata bosses want to close the most sickening plants only if billions in taxpayer money are provided in return. This is blackmail.

Our health and that of future generations must come first. That is why the government must close the most sickening parts of Tata Steel immediately and stringently enforce the rules that big polluters like Tata Steel consistently break. This is how we stand up for public health and the climate. A just transition for the workers is important. Given the seriousness and urgency of this problem, we believe it is necessary and appropriate to go one step further: from public protest to peaceful acts of mass disruption. This is why we come together in action against major polluter Tata Steel.

Principles and values:

- **We are determined and peaceful.** We will not use verbal or physical violence.
- **We will use our bodies to change Tata Steel's "business as usual"** that continues to fuel the climate crisis and harm local residents' health. Our goal is not to destroy or damage infrastructure or property, but we will not let structural obstacles stop us.
- **The safety of everyone involved is our top priority.** We will prepare properly for safe access to the action site and a safe environment during the action. We will look out for ourselves and each other.
- **During the action, we will watch our behavior.** We will act calmly. We will not provoke escalation or respond in any way to provocation. If the situation does escalate, we will do what we can to de-escalate, and ensure the safety of ourselves and others before, during and after the action.
- **We strive to be an inclusive network.** We condemn any form of discrimination. We actively work to create safe, accessible spaces where everyone is welcome and feels welcome. We commit to respect the physical, emotional and mental boundaries of our fellow activists.
- **Each of us participates in the action in the way that best suits ourselves.** It is important that everyone feels comfortable at all times during the action. Everyone is responsible for their own actions and ensures that their activity during the action is in accordance with the action agreement.
- **Our action is not directed against the workers of Tata Steel,** but against the policy of the management and the government. Because the management continues to choose profits with pollution and the government does not intervene.
- **It is not our desire to take disruptive actions,** but unfortunately social reality demands it: many demonstrations, petitions, surveys, opinion articles etc are of great value, but have not yet led to the necessary change and some companies continue to pollute. Civil disobedience is necessary to achieve change.
- **As activists in the Netherlands, we recognize our privilege.** We stand in solidarity with other activist groups outside the Netherlands and recognize that our fight for climate justice is interconnected. We also strive to create a safe environment for activists of color or with a non-Western migration background.
- **We do not campaign under the influence of alcohol or drugs and we do not bring weapons or sharp objects.** Nor objects that could be interpreted as weapons.
- **We respect a diversity of tactics within the movement,** and will show solidarity with other actions taking place at Tata Steel, as long as they remain within this action agreement.