

ANOTHER WORLD IS POSSIBLE

Youth in the forefront of climate activism (Germany)

26:47 minutes, airing on public television in 2023



CLIMATE ACTIVIST HELENA MARSCHALL, 20, HELPS LEAD A MOVEMENT IN GERMANY TO GET POLITICAL LEADERS TO ACT. AND THEY'RE LISTENING.

At a fragile time when inaction seems to bring us closer to an irreversible climate reality, young people, feeling the pressure of an unstable future, are mobilizing to reverse global warming.

ANOTHER WORLD IS POSSIBLE follows the work of Helena Marschall, who leaves no doubt that urgent action is imperative. But she also offers hope, and a roadmap to impactful activism.

Helena organized one of Germany's first school strikes for the cause. Now 20, she coordinates strategies and national campaigns for Fridays for Future Germany when not studying economics at Leuphana University in Lüneburg.

Fridays for Future emerged as a grassroots movement after teen activist Greta Thunberg held up a "School Strike for Climate" sign in 2018 at the Swedish parliament. Strikers in hundreds of cities have followed her example, skipping Friday classes to go out to spur environmental awareness.

Germany has hosted some of the world's largest Fridays for Future protests. In the biggest one, in 2021, Greta Thunberg led more than 100,000 marchers through the streets of Berlin. Helena's film takes us there.

Young activists also regularly protest in Lützerath, an epicenter of coal extraction. Coal burning is a major driver of the climate crisis, and Germany is the world's largest producer of lignite. In Lützerath, Helena talks to fellow activists while they protest plans to bulldoze the village to expand a mine.

Such protests have forced some concessions: The energy company RWE has pledged to phase out coal burning by 2030. Fridays for Future activist Linus Steinmetz sued the government over climate policies in 2020 and won.

Helena's father shares his generation's perspective. "These kids," he says, "are teaching older folks a real lesson in change."

KEY SCENES IN "ANOTHER WORLD IS POSSIBLE" INCLUDE:

- The climate scientist Mojib Latif explaining the issues
- A large hole being dug in the mining town Lützerath
- An interview with the activist Linus Steinmetz
- A Fridays for Future Berlin meeting to discuss climate change and prepare for their first Berlin strike post-pandemic lockdown
- Greta Thunberg addressing the crowd and leading a march during a strike
- Cordula Weimann, founder of Grannies for Future, onstage at the multigenerational Berlin strike

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT—Helena Marschall

The climate crisis seems big and scary, and as young people we often feel powerless. I've found that when we come together, we can rise up and truly transform the world. This film tells that story. Every day I'm inspired by the activists around me and what we have accomplished, and I hope that sharing that with a wider audience, with Anja's help, will allow more people to recognize their power and join us in pushing for change.

MENTOR'S BIO—Anja Baron

Anja Baron is an Emmy-nominated award-winning documentary filmmaker, producer, director and editor. Her work has been screened at prestigious festivals worldwide and shown on U.S. and European television. As a correspondent for UNICEF, she reported on crises and human rights abuses impacting women and children around the world.

MENTOR'S STATEMENT

Watching Helena and her fellow activists hard at work to protect this planet has been an eye-opening experience. Thanks to their unyielding commitment, willpower and stamina, impressive change has already started to happen. It is our hope that audiences will not only connect to the case for change laid out before them but embrace it passionately. It's hard to resist this film's urgent call to action.

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

Stephanie Apt and Holly Carter

ABOUT BYKIDS

[BYkids](#) produces real-world films for kids, by kids. Talented young storytellers from around the world are paired with seasoned filmmakers to create powerful documentaries about their lives. In partnership with public television and education innovators, we share the films and their educational resources to help make global issues feel personal, relevant and actionable for millions of students. Our work serves as a catalyst for change, igniting important conversations and inspiring a new generation of social activists.