



Fridays For Future #UpRootTheSystem! Викорінію систему!

The Organisational Council in Ukraine

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PRESS-RELEASE

Youth demand to clean up the Ministry of Energy of Ukraine from dirty coal corruptors!

Photos from the action 2021.XII.10 : [Google Drive](#)

Video: <https://fb.watch/9OXqxvthkD/>

On Friday, December 10, climate activists Fridays For Future Ukraine and Extinction Rebellion Ukraine (XR Ukraine) were picketing the Ministry of Energy, demanding the unblocking of Ukraine's climate policy and the dismissal of Minister Herman Galushchenko, who was recently compromised by numerous accidents at Burshtyn thermal power plant and failed electricity sector reform. Dozens of young people took part in a protest in front of the ministry in gas masks and with drums.

"We have a question whether the Ministry of Energy really acts in the interests of the population, as in terms of actions - it is obvious that it serves the interests of the oligarchs, and not our security, health and life of future generations. The situation with numerous accidents at Burshtyn TPP, which is the dirtiest coal-fired power plant in Europe, clearly shows this," - said Ilyess El Kortbi, Secretary at the Fridays For Future movement in Ukraine.

Climate activists also called to revise the National Emission Reduction Plan towards a clear timetable of decommissioning the obsolete coal plants and paving the way for the development of renewable energy sources, including specific closing dates for the Burshtyn TPP and coal-fired boilers at Darnytsya CHP and its ash dump in Kyiv.

"We are outraged that the Ministry of Energy in November postponed for the second time the implementation of the National Plan for Reducing Emissions from TPPs and CHPs, neglecting the constitutional rights of citizens to a clean and safe environment, as well as Ukraine's international obligations and statements in support of the European Green Deal. The Ministry of Energy has also withdrawn a statement on the coal phase out in the power sector made by the government at the UN COP26 climate summit in Glasgow," - said Igor Sumlenny, regional coordinator of Fridays For Future in Ukraine.



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According to an investigation by the Anti-Corruption Center and “Schemes” tv programme, in early November an accident occurred at Burshtyn TPP, which was part of DTEK Zakhidenergo, when up to 10 hectares of the station territory and outside it were flooded with dark liquid. Ukrainian and foreign experts confirm that there has been a break in the ash and slag pipeline with toxic ash and slag, which is waste from coal combustion. The company was trying to conceal the accident and poured water from a toxic spill into the Burshtyn Reservoir. The State Ecological Inspectorate of Ukraine was denied access to the TPP (for the 5th time in 2 years). For this, DTEK Zakhidenergo will pay a fine of only UAH 765. Another accident at Burshtyn TPP occurred on November 28, killing one worker of the station and injuring three others.

"In light of recent events, we, young, environmentally conscious citizens of Ukraine, are outraged by the blatant corruption of officials and the brutal irresponsibility of big business, which is literally burning not only our future but their own employees," - said Hryhoriy Kolodyazhny, Extinction Rebellion Ukraine coordinator.

Burshtyn TPP is part of DTEK Zakhidenergo, the beneficiary of which is Ukrainian oligarch Rinat Akhmetov. Half of the power units of the Burshtyn power plant work to export electricity to EU member states in the “coal by wires” arrangement.

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