

# **Practical information for Ecodharma Bearing Witness Pilgrimage to WestGermany, in the Spirit of the Zen Peacemakers May 8-12, 2024**

We will be starting soon, here is some more information about the frame.  
We still welcome further participants.

## **We will be at 3 different "stations": Lignite mining area - Military airbase – Ahrtal**

**1. on Wednesday evening, 6 pm, we will meet in Buir (Kerpen).** Meeting point: S-Bahn station. There are plenty of free parking spaces and a good train connection from Cologne. We will spend the next 2 nights outdoor near the Hambach Forest, accompanied by a local expert. We will also be at the Hambach lignite hole on Thursday, walking, sitting, sharing...

**2. Friday morning we will walk to Nörvenich,** the military airbase and meet guests.

**3. Friday afternoon we will take a bus to the Ahrtal,** to the small village Schuld. We will also spend the night there (perhaps in the parish house)

**- Saturday until Sunday we will hike through the Ahrtal all the way to Altenahr** (until approx. 1 pm after lunch).

- If you would like to join us only at one of the stations, we will be happy to send you a more detailed schedule in the near future. We are happy if you are there the whole time so that we can form a good core group, but it is also possible to join us on a station-by-station basis.
- The programme of the retreat, the food and the sleeping accommodations, most of them, will not be prepared before the retreat, only rough ideas. For the rest we will trust in our own creativity, cocreation, inventivity and meeting friendly people who will help us find our way.
- Please be prepared to spend the night outside in a very simple way

*Not knowing, bearing witness and caring will be our tenets and main practices, in the tradition of the Zen Peacemakers founded by Bernie Glassman Roshi. Our approach will be similar to street retreats and bearing witness retreats. Ingredients of the retreat will be at places where the destruction of all our livelihoods has become visible., meeting with people connected to the ecocrises, connecting with nature, meditation, rituals and council circles (talking stick circles). The retreat follows a series of Ecodharma activities since 2022, reports can be found here: [www.bearing-witness.eu](http://www.bearing-witness.eu)*

## **Here is a recommendation for the packing list:**

- Please pack lightly in a rucksack!
- Food for the potluck dinner in the first evening. We will get the rest of the food together on site, please do not bring anything else with you
- a warm (!) sleeping bag, a lightweight insulating sleeping pad,
- good walking shoes,

- protection against sun, wind and rain and cold - all weather conditions are possible in May!
  - something to sit on the ground (you can also simply use your rucksack or a light angler's stool)
  - Drinking (thermos)bottle , bowl/plate, knife, spoon
  - a towel, possibly swimwear (perhaps there will be an opportunity to go swimming)
  - Your washing utensils, there will certainly be opportunities in between where we can (simply) wash ourselves
  - Of course private things, medication or even a talking piece for the circle
  - Costs: we estimate 250€ - 300€ for transports, food and Donations for lodging along the way during the pilgrimage, If you have difficulty with financing this, please let us know. Please consider making a donation to support participants with limited financial resources.
- If you have concerns or physical limitations, just talk to us, we will look for possibilities that are suitable for you. Language: English (although meetings with people may be in German and will be translated for whoever needs it)

*In this retreat, we will reconnect to the Earth and reflect on how we in our society treat our sacred environment. We will honor and celebrate the beauty of nature and feel and share how the ecological crises affect us. We may end up with more questions than answers or solutions, but we will at least try to no longer look away. There will be space for multiple perspectives and inspirations and for the authentic experience and insights of each participant.*

***The organization team is looking forward to welcoming you warmly***

Svenja Wildflower Hollweg, Dieter Mueller and Patrick Avalokiteshvara van der Hofstad

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us:

[pilgrimage@bearing-witness.eu](mailto:pilgrimage@bearing-witness.eu)



# Ecodharma Bearing Witness Pilgrimage May 8-12, 2024

This retreat will be a pilgrimage in West Germany in the spirit of the Zen Peacemakers. We will be at places that are connected with the ecological crisis. It's time to listen to the earth!  
Info & Registration: [www.bearing-witness.eu](http://www.bearing-witness.eu)

Foto: Harry Aaldering

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