

Just Transitions, Climate and Environmental Justice Workshop
Zoom Meeting Chat
April 7, 2021 6:00 PM

00:23:13 Environmental Justice Clinic: Feel free to put questions in the chat, we will have discussion groups after the presentations.

00:23:21 Sarah.Phillips: Just Transitions Sub Committee Members: Sue Minter*, Co-Chair Sarah Phillips, Co-Chair

Kelly Klein*

Jennifer Myka (for Sean Brown*)

Chris Campany*

Kiah Morris, Co-Chair

Beverly Littlethunder

Iris Hsiang

Nadia Marquez Pabst, Co-Chair

Virginie Diambou

Danielle Bombardier

Aris Garcia

00:24:14 Sarah.Phillips: Climate Council Members can be found here:

<https://aoa.vermont.gov/content/vermont-climate-council-membership>

00:26:26 amylauracahn: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2021/04/06/environmental-justice-race/>

00:28:17 amylauracahn: <https://www.ejnet.org/ej/swop.pdf>

00:29:14 Sarah.Phillips: Here is a working link for the Washington Post article:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/interactive/2021/environmental-justice-race/>

00:29:18 Chris Campany, Windham Regional Commission: Some excellent reporting from NPR this morning: "Planners of the interstate highway system, which began to take shape after the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1956, routed some highways directly, and sometimes purposefully, through Black and brown communities. In some instances, the government took homes by eminent domain.

It left a deep psychological scar on neighborhoods that lost homes, churches and schools, says Deborah Archer, a professor at the New York University School of Law and national board president of the American Civil Liberties Union. Archer recently wrote for the Iowa Law Review about how transportation policy affected the development of Black communities.

She says the president will face major challenges in trying to rectify historical inequities."

<https://www.npr.org/2021/04/07/984784455/a-brief-history-of-how-racism-shaped-interstate-highways>

00:29:52 amylauracahn: <https://www.ejnet.org/ej/principles.html>

00:30:14 amylauracahn: • Jemez Principles for Democratic Organizing

00:30:21 amylauracahn: <https://www.ejnet.org/ej/jemez.pdf>

00:36:31 amylauracahn: - The CJA defines a just transition as set of principles "that build economic and political power to shift from an extractive economy to a regenerative

economy.” Key to these processes is an emphasis on “redressing past harms and creating new relationships of power for the future through reparations.”

00:51:42 Ruthie Lazenby, she/her, EJ Clinic: City of Providence Climate Justice Plan: <https://www.providenceri.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Climate-Justice-Plan-Report-FINAL-English-1.pdf>

00:51:56 Ruthie Lazenby, she/her, EJ Clinic: o Isle de Jean Charles Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw Tribe Tribal Chief Albert Naquin et al., Preserving Our Place: A Community Field Guide to Engagement, Resilience, and Resettlement: Community regeneration in the face of environmental and development pressures (2019)

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https://static1.squarespace.com/static/59700e9ba803bb186a0f08cc/t/5dd4bf69e6c45a5b97247875/1574223732802/191031_IDJC+Toolkit_Spreads.pdf

00:52:41 Ruthie Lazenby, she/her, EJ Clinic: Additionally, a helpful model for equity screen: o

https://www.nrpa.org/uploadedFiles/nrpaorg/Professional_Development/Innovation_Labs/GARE-Racial-Equity-Toolkit.pdf

00:58:40 Chris Campany, Windham Regional Commission: Maps can also identify what areas have the potential to be or become virtual gated communities. It can be a particular risk when you have a very diffuse land use planning environment.

00:58:57 Kesha Ram: The EPA just added flood prone areas to its mapping tool, which is a huge advance for states like Vermont where our issues include disproportionate experiences of flooding, flood prone housing areas, and natural disasters.

00:59:51 amylauracahn: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-administrator-announces-agency-actions-advance-environmental-justice>

01:19:17 Kiah Morris (she/her): I love this analysis so much. Thank you for this great work Bindu.

01:25:48 Chris Campany, Windham Regional Commission: Bindu - was flood risk limited to FEMA FIRM map assessment or did it also include river/stream corridors? (Thanks for this good work!)

01:36:59 Sarah.Phillips: Bindu - that was great.

01:37:04 Jennifer Byrne: The current legal definition of EJ, used by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) is, “...the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies”

01:58:47 Chris Campany, Windham Regional Commission: The lack of wayfinding and signage associated with outdoor rec opportunities is a major issue. It's white privilege that enables many of us to feel comfortable to hike, fish, hunt or swim where there are no signs saying the public is welcome. The general accessibility to land and water is a great Vermont attribute (even though that accessibility is shrinking), but we need to work on making sure that access truly is for all and, critically, that access feels safe for all.

02:06:02 Kiah Morris (she/her): I also want to lift Senator Ram, the REJOICE team and many others on this call who are collaborating on the great work of the VT Renew platform which is developing policies in line with the proposals and recommendations mentioned here. (Which is also part of a shared regional NE strategy for each state in NE. <http://vtrenews.org> :)

02:21:36 Jane Lazorchak, Director of GWSA: Thank you so much and have a great night.

02:21:42 Sue Minter, Capstone (she/her): sminter@capstonevt.org
02:21:47 Kesha Ram: Sorry Abbey!
02:21:52 Chris Campany, Windham Regional Commission: Thank you! Great information!
02:21:55 Kiah Morris (she/her): Thank you all so much for driving this conversation!
02:21:57 Sarah.Phillips: Thank you, Rachel and team!
02:22:09 John Roberts CVFC: Thank you, an interesting evening
02:22:23 Sue Minter, Capstone (she/her): Very helpful conversation. Thankyou ALL so much for this information and engagement opportunity.
02:22:40 Karen Lowry Reed, Capstone board member: Gotta hop off. This was a rich conversation. Thank you all.
02:22:49 Ruthie Lazenby, she/her, EJ Clinic: Thanks Karen!
02:23:18 L. Dupigny-Giroux: The intersectionality is one of the biggest take-aways from this evening, so thank you to all who presented and most importantly to the Just Transitions Committee for bringing us all together!!!
02:23:54 Jane Lazorchak, Director of GWSA: Thanks Abbey! Good message to end on...:)
02:24:19 Ruthie Lazenby, she/her, EJ Clinic: Some of the great ideas and issues raised by our group:
Creating scoring method to incorporate not only resilience in built world but also social justice and economic issues
Rural adaptation—looking at impacts of client change, higher frequency storms. Mapping increased natural disasters.
Looking at impact to critical infrastructure.
Noise pollution from wind turbines causing serious psychic anguish to local residents, have been largely forgotten.
Considering more macro economic solutions like UBI
02:24:27 Ruthie Lazenby, she/her, EJ Clinic: Please add if I missed anything!
02:24:49 Ruthie Lazenby, she/her, EJ Clinic: *climate change, not client change
02:25:35 Kiah Morris (she/her): UBI - have me swooning over here with that verbiage...yesssssss!!!! In!
02:26:25 Ruthie Lazenby, she/her, EJ Clinic: Thanks so much for coming and sharing your thoughts everyone!
02:26:26 Claire McIlvennie: Thank you!
02:26:44 Ned Swanberg: Thank you!

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