ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MOVEMENT:
Landscape Assessment
Priorities, Strategies, & Just Transition
AGENDA

→ Introduction
→ Project Background
→ Research Design
→ Landscape Assessment Findings
→ EJ Movement Leadership Program
→ Q&A
The Tishman Environment and Design Center integrates bold design, policy and social justice approaches to tackle the climate crisis and advance environmental justice.

Ana Isabel Baptista, PhD  
Chair, Environmental Policy and Sustainability Management  
Director, Tishman Environment and Design Center  
Co-Creator

Social Movements + Innovation provides space and tools for social justice leaders to explore and experiment with new and innovative ways to address some of society’s most entrenched problems of inequality and repression.

Sujatha Jesudason, PhD  
Professor of Professional Practice  
Director, Social Movements + Innovation  
Co-Creator
The EJ movement's grassroots approach to tackling environmental problems makes it a transformative force for change.
## RESEARCH DESIGN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leadership Program Scan</td>
<td>Leadership and fellowship programs inside and external to higher education</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surveys</td>
<td>70% (116) EJ organizations (self-identified)</td>
<td>167</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12% (21) not part of EJ movement (self-identified)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18% (30) did not identify self or organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interviews</td>
<td>EJ leaders and organizations</td>
<td>48</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

Staff Level
- Senior: 71%
- Middle: 16%
- Entry: 13%

Years in Movement
- >10 years: 42%
- 2-5 years: 26%
- 6-10 years: 24%
- >2 years: 8%

Organizational Size
- >50: 12%
- 20-50: 12%
- 16-20: 10%
- 11-15: 15%
- 6-10: 21%
- 1-5: 30%
ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

**Geographic Focus**
- Local: 38%
- Combination: 38%
- Regional: 17%
- National/International: 7%

**Organizational Age**
- >30 years: 28%
- <5 years: 19%
- 6-10 years: 19%
- 11-30 years: 19%
- 34%

**Budget**
- $0-$50,000: 10%
- $50,000-$100,000: 8%
- $100,000-$250,000: 8%
- $250,000-$500,000: 8%
- $500,000-$1,000,000: 24%
- Over $1,000,000: 42%
TOP PRIORITIES

EJ organizations: n=105
Mainstream: n=18

EJ

- Climate Justice: 76%
- Air Pollution and Cumulative Impacts: 52%
- Just Transition: 47%
- Energy Democracy: 46%
- Toxics and Chemicals: 30%
- Water Pollution and Drinking Water: 29%
- Food Justice/Security: 28%
- Housing Rights/Gentrification: 27%
- Public Health & Lead Poisoning: 27%
- Other: 25%
- Waste, Zero Waste: 17%
- Immigrant Rights: 14%
- Brownfields and Superfund: 10%
- Indigenous Land & Sovereignty: 8%

Mainstream

- Air pollution and cumulative impacts: 50%
- Toxics and chemicals: 44%
- Water pollution and drinking water: 44%
- Climate Justice: 39%
- Just Transition: 39%
- Other: 33%
- Energy Democracy: 28%
- Public health and lead poisoning: 28%
- Waste, zero waste: 22%
- Indigenous land and sovereignty: 11%
- Brownfields and superfunds: 11%
- Immigrant rights: 6%
- Food justice: 6%
- Housing rights, gentrification: 0%
TOP STRATEGIES

EJ organizations: n=104
Mainstream: n=17

Building your Base (Grassroots Organizing): 72%
Coalition-Building: 56%
Policy/Public Advocacy (Legislation): 52%
Leadership Development: 39%
Public Training Sessions & Popular Education: 29%
Communications & Media: 25%
Research & Reports: 22%
Direct Action/Civil Disobedience: 5%
Legal/Lawsuits: 5%
Other: 3%
TOP CHALLENGES

- Funding: 56%
- Political Climate & Receptiveness: 47%
- Capacity to Organize/Expand Base: 40%
- Inadequate Regulatory & Government Responses: 40%
- Industry Opposition: 27%
- Lack of Public Understanding of the Issues: 23%
- More Staff Training or Development: 20%
- Other: 13%
- Weak Coalitions/Collaborations: 11%

Mainstream
- Political climate and receptiveness: 64%
- Inadequate regulatory and government response: 47%
- Industry opposition: 35%
- Capacity to organize: 24%
- Weak coalitions: 24%
- Lack of public understanding: 24%
- Other: 24%
- Funding: 12%
- 6% Staff training
**EJ ORGANIZATIONAL TACTICS**

**Base-Building and Organizing**

“It’s old school, door to door, knocking on doors, doing one on ones with folks, maintaining communication with them, maintaining relationships with them. That’s our priority, maintaining a relationship with the community...because we recognize the importance of base-building, and that's always a priority...” - EJ Activist 12

**Narrative and Culture Shifts**

“I do think that looking at [shifting] narratives has been so impactful for our history, both in developing a climate justice narrative, rooted in environmental justice, at a time where green national groups have been working on climate change and weren’t even considering what justice meant in terms of climate change.” - EJ Activist 3

**Coalition-Building and Collaborations**

“One of the things that has always helped us and I know that folks like you are very aware of, is developing collaboratives, mutual collaboratives with science folks, and community folks, and researchers ... where everybody has a stake at the table or everybody can contribute, and where things can be put in place that guarantees that somebody’s not going to become the expert on somebody else’s harm.” - EJ Activist 19
Local, Intersectional Efforts

National - Culture/Narrative Shifting Campaigns

Standing Rock shifted the way that we talk about what needs to happen...The American political system was laid bare when you had private security shooting at peaceful protestors as the Nation closed its eyes. For a generation of folks who have been looking for some sort of hope, some sort of political platform for climate justice - Standing Rock became the center of gravity for the way that people talk now.

- EJ Activist 16

Photo courtesy of: watergrabbing.net
“It actually takes a lot of careful work to bring people together and to **cohere around a common language, common agenda, common vision**. And sometimes that’s tactical. Sometimes that’s strategic.”

“... We need enough resources so that people can fail and learn from failure, and also **have the political space to advance new experimental thinking**. We need to throw a lot of tactical spaghetti on the wall to see what will work because no one has the answer so we have to try different things and take risks.”

“Given the urgency of climate, given the crisis of the economy, and given the crisis of democracy, it’s forcing people to really be like, **‘What does it mean to build power? To have governance? To have community control, but also to really think outside of the constraints of what is possible?’**

- EJ Activist 1

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**WHAT WE HEARD: Movement Impact**

**Interview Responses for Suggested Leadership Program Components**

- Strategic Planning
- Campaign Strategy
- Organizing for Alignment/Coalition Building
- EJ History Curriculum
- Technical Resources
- Organizer Training
- Technical Skills
- Leadership Succession Strategy and Training
- Peer Mentorship
- Cohort
- Networking
- Transformative Justice Theory
- Strength Based Theory
- Time for Self-Care
- Space to Develop Innovative Strategies
- Tactical Tools
- Organizational Management & Support
- Coaching
- Power Analysis
- Research Science
- Legal Support
WHAT WE HEARD: Themes, Issues, Strategies

Themes:
- Just Transition
- Climate Justice
- Energy Democracy
- Public Health

Issues:
- Worker Rights
- Organizing
- Organization Management
- Economic Cooperatives
- Just Communities
- Voting Rights
- Experimenting
- Capacity Building
- Indigenous Practice and Knowledge
- Waste & Toxics
- Racism/Classism
- Trust and Relationships
- Transport Equity

Strategies:
- Amplify Message
- Solidarity Economy
A STRATEGY FRAMEWORK FOR JUST TRANSITION

RESIST — RETHINK — RESTRUCTURE

Extractive Economy

- Consumerism & Colonial Mindset
- Enclosure of Wealth & Power
- Militarism
- Extraction, Dig, Burn, Dump

WORLDVIEW

WORK

RESOURCES

GOVERNANCE

Living Economy

- Caring & Sacredness
- Regeneration
- Cooperation
- Ecological & Social Well-being

WORLDVIEW

WORK

RESOURCES

GOVERNANCE

PUPPOSE

Consumerism & Colonial Mindset

- Enclosure of Wealth & Power

- Militarism

- Extraction, Dig, Burn, Dump

Stop the Bad
Solutions that are Visionary and Oppositional

Build the New
Change the Rules
Draw Down Money and Power

Invest in Our Power
Feed & Grow

Developed by Movement Generation with Our Power Campaign, Climate Justice Alliance

Design by Micah Bazant
Movement Generation developed with the Our Power Campaign, Climate Justice Alliance
PROGRAM DESIGN

Political opportunity
- critical mass
- vulnerability

Repertoires of contention
- violent
- disruptive
- constrained

Social networks
- solidarity
- mobilizing structure

Frames
- creating meaning
- recognizable resonance
PROGRAM DESIGN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Innovative mindsets for disruptive impact</th>
<th>Generate transformative ideas for Just Transitions</th>
<th>Test disruptive and risky ideas for Just Transitions</th>
<th>Implement &amp; scale disruptive ideas/strategies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Phase 1: Leadership Development</strong></td>
<td><strong>Phase 2: Idea Generation</strong></td>
<td><strong>Phase 3: Idea Testing</strong></td>
<td><strong>Phase 4: Scaling</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>6 months/ 3 retreats</td>
<td>6 months/ 2 retreats</td>
<td>6 months/ 1 retreat</td>
<td>6 months/ 1 retreat</td>
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</table>

“It [the program] really should support the many experiments of what scaling up a true Just Transition looks like in frontline communities and support the thinking, the acting and the practice of Just Transitions....”

-EJ Activist 10
QUESTIONS?

Please submit questions using the Q&A box and we will do our best to answer everything.
Thank You

If you have more questions please reach out to Marouh Hussein, husseinm@newschool.edu

Next Steps:

Fall 2020 Launch

Stay up-to-date!

https://www.tishmancenter.org/eifellowship