

Just Transition Working Group

Meeting #3

November 4, 2020
1:00-3:00 pm



Department
of Labor



NYCERDA



Climate Action
Council

Just Transition Working Group (JTWG)

Meeting #3 Agenda

1. Introduction / Roll Call
2. JTWG November Schedule
3. Just Transition Principles Discussion
 - Overview of JT Principles Research & Methods
 - Common categories of principles
 - Open discussion and feedback
4. Update on JTWG Work Scope
 - Business Impacts
 - Power Plant Inventory & Reuse
 - Jobs Study
5. Next Steps

JTWG November Meeting Schedule

- > Two meeting format for November
 - Two meetings scheduled to accommodate the substantive activity underway on work scope
 - November 4th (1-3pm) – focused on Just Transition Principles
 - November 17th (1-3pm) – focused on Business Impacts
- > Monthly meetings remain scheduled out through March 2021
 - December 3 – 1 to 3p
 - January 6 – 1 to 3p
 - February 3 – 1 to 3p
 - March 3 – 1 to 3p

Just Transition Principles Discussion

1. Overview of JT Principles Research & Methods
2. Common categories of principles identified to date
3. Open discussion and feedback
4. Next steps

Overview of Just Transition Principles Research and Methods

- > From our work plan: “The JTWG will review definitions, principles and examples of just transition efforts in other jurisdiction and organizations already doing work on this topic to settle on a set of principles.”
- > State agency staff conducted research on the scope of principles, definitions, and other language describing a Just Transition articulated by think tanks, governments, nonprofits, and academic papers, aggregating over 300 examples from over 100 such sources
- > Based on this research, the staff team has identified and compiled illustrative principles organized into several categories

Category: Stakeholder Engagement

Example: U. Colorado Boulder Just Transition Collaborative

“ensure that **decision-making processes** for climate and energy solutions are truly **public and representative of those most impacted**”

Example: Just Transition Centre, ITUC

“**Empowering workers and their allies** through sharing examples of Just Transition processes and plans, facilitating **peer-to-peer skill and experience sharing**, and **capacity building** on Just Transition”

“A Just Transition **secures the future and livelihoods** of workers and their communities in the transition to a low-carbon economy. It is based on **social dialogue** between workers and their unions, employers, government and communities. ”

“Starting and supporting **social dialogue processes** involving **unions, communities, government and business**, with participation from investors and experts.”

Category: Planning Toward Long-Term Goals

Example: World Resources Institute

"Taking stock: Policy makers and stakeholders must take stock of communities that will be affected by transitions and communities where transitions are required to achieve social justice. They must work to build **inclusive conversations** with these communities as they **engage stakeholders** in the development of **long-term strategies**. They should also plan to **include communities early** when developing mitigation pathways and actions to ensure that groups are not left out at key stages and are able to raise important issues."

"**Long-term strategies** should plan for the social protections required to complement mitigation efforts."

Example: Canadian Task Force on Just Transition

"Just transition is about more than **supporting workers and communities** affected in the short term; it requires a **long-term path to prosperity**"

Example: Global Catholic Climate Movement

"In a fair and just transition, affected workers, their unions, and communities are equal partners in a **well-planned, carefully negotiated and managed transition** from fossil fuels to clean energy."

Category: Cultural Sensitivity/Recognition

Example: Indigenous Environmental Network

"A Just Transition includes the preservation and revitalization of our Indigenous languages that comprise accumulated ecological knowledge, spiritual wisdom, and **indigenous traditional knowledge** of building and maintaining sustainable communities. Language is our pathway to a sustainable living future."

Example: Mexican Climate Initiative

"learn from others by **recognizing multiple actors**, knowledge, perspectives, identities and cultures and their relation to the energy sector"

Category: Repairing Inequities

Example: Climate Justice Alliance

“work against and **transform current and historic social inequities** based on race, class, gender, immigrant status and other forms of oppression... reclaim capital and resources for the regeneration of geographies and sectors of the economy where these inequities are most pervasive”

Example: Just Transition Alliance

“the development of fair economic, trade, health and safety and environmental policies must include both the **frontline workers and fence-line communities** most affected by pollution, ecological damage and economic restructuring”

“The costs of achieving sustainable development, a healthy economy and clean environment **should not be borne by current or future victims** of environmental and economic injustices and unfair free trade policies”

Example: OneNYC 2050

“EXPLORE **NEW MODELS OF OWNERSHIP** for all kinds of organizations and systems that generate and keep value in communities”

Category: Equitable Jobs Transition

Example: The B-Team and Just Transition Centre

“Ensure and support adequate and **sustainable social protection** for job losses and displacement.”

“As part of just transition plans and their implementation, prioritize **retraining and redeployment** of workers, and ensure and support **skills development**, particularly for **vulnerable workers**”

Example: Business for Social Responsibility

“The just transition is an economy-wide process that produces the plans, policies, and investments that build resilient economies and communities with green and decent jobs. This requires **job creation** through seizing new economic opportunities, while reducing the disruption people and communities face in the **transition away from high-carbon business models.**”

Example: Canadian Task Force on Just Transition

“Just transition means that **society shares the costs** of transitioning to a low-carbon economy. It would be unjust for workers and communities in affected sectors to shoulder the full cost of transition. These workers and communities... have earned a better future.”

Category: High-Quality, Family-Sustaining Jobs

Example: Blue-Green Alliance

“Working people should not suffer economically due to efforts to tackle climate change. The boldness of any plan requires that the workers and communities impacted are afforded a just and viable transition to **safe, high-quality union jobs.**”

Example: Global Catholic Climate Movement

“A fair and just transition engages every level of government and business in an all-out effort to maximize public and private investments in **economic development and diversification**, provide **workforce training**, replace lost tax revenues, and create lasting, good jobs that strengthen the economy and **sustain working families**--especially jobs related to clean energy, energy efficiency, and climate-resilient infrastructure.”

Category: Community Redevelopment

Example: “A Roadmap to an Equitable Low-Carbon Future”

“Strong Governmental Support: Policies that provide immediate support to communities and workers negatively impacted by plant and mine closures. Policies that restructure local economies and transform former fossil fuels sites”

“Dedicated Funding Streams: Address short-term needs, such as wage replacement or replacing lost tax revenue when a plant shuts down. Invest in long-term needs, such as seeding new business development and funding long-term training and retraining programs”

“Economic Diversification: Create vision for the economy that re-imagines local economies free of fossil fuel infrastructure... Implementation of community visioning with particular focus on moving away from reliance on single industry”

Example: ILO

"Coherent policies across the economic, environmental, social, education/training and labour portfolios need to provide an **enabling environment for enterprises, workers, investors and consumers** to embrace and drive the transition towards environmentally sustainable and inclusive economies and societies."

Category:

Development of Low-Carbon Supply Chain

Example: “Guiding Principles & Lessons Learnt For a Just Energy Transition in the Global South”

“create **decent work in sustainable infrastructure development**, reflects commitments to support those who are losing jobs and is focused specifically on those who are most vulnerable to climate risks and those who may lose their jobs due to the energy transition”

Example: University of CO Boulder Just Transition Collaborative

"ensure that “**green jobs**” are socially just and **accessible to all**”

Example: International Labor Organization

“A just transition for all towards an environmentally sustainable economy ... needs to be **well managed** and contribute to the goals of decent work for all, social inclusion and the eradication of poverty....The greening of economies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication will require a country-specific mix of macroeconomic, industrial, sectoral and [labor] policies that create an **enabling environment** for sustainable enterprises to prosper and create decent work opportunities by mobilizing and directing public and private investment towards environmentally sustainable activities. The aim should be to generate **decent jobs all along the supply chain**, in dynamic, high value added sectors which stimulate the upgrading of jobs and skills as well as job creation and improved productivity in more [labor-intensive] industries that offer employment opportunities on a wide scale.”

Category: Aligning Industrialization & Decarbonization

Example: B-Team and Just Transition Centre

"Choose **emissions reductions plans that also promote sustainable development** – that drive environmental sustainability, jobs and decent work, social inclusion and poverty eradication."

Example: UN Sustainable Development Platform and Grantham Research Institute

"The just transition means **managing both the positive and negative social and employment implications of climate action across the whole economy**. It means thinking ahead and managing fast-paced and often disruptive change. It involves developed and developing countries and tracking social impacts along global value chains. It places climate action in the broader context of the future of work. It joins the dots between a number of the Sustainable Development Goals. It focuses attention on the [**decentralization**] of **energy systems**, the importance of place and the need to [**prioritize marginalized**] **communities**. And it needs to be delivered at a time of growing concern about unequal economic and financial systems."

Category: Climate Adaptation

Example: B Team and Just Transition Centre

"Anticipate and plan for how the workers and communities will face climate risk, and **strive to build resilience.**"

Example: Global Catholic Climate Movement

"A fair and just transition engages every level of government and business in an all-out effort to **maximize public and private investments in economic development and diversification**, provide workforce training, replace lost tax revenues, and create lasting, good jobs that strengthen the economy and sustain working families--especially jobs related to clean energy, energy efficiency, and **climate-resilient infrastructure.**"

Category: Protection of Natural Systems

Example: Climate Justice Alliance

“Just Transition must **advance ecological resilience**, reduce resource consumption, restore biodiversity and traditional ways of life, and undermine extractive economies, including capitalism, that erode the ecological basis of our collective well-being. This requires a **re-localization and democratization of primary production and consumption** by building up local food systems, local clean energy, and [small-scale] production that are sustainable economically and ecologically.”

Example: Movement Generation, Justice and Ecology Project

“**shift the economy** from dirty energy to energy democracy, from funding highways to expanding public transit, from incinerators and landfills to zero waste, from industrial food systems to food sovereignty, from gentrification to community land rights, and from rampant destructive development to **ecosystem restoration**”

Questions and Discussion

**Stakeholder
Engagement**

**Planning Toward
Long-Term Goals**

**Cultural Sensitivity/
Recognition**

Repairing Inequities

**Equitable Jobs
Transition**

**Community
Redevelopment**

**High Quality, Family-
Sustaining Jobs**

**Development
of Low-Carbon
Supply Chain**

**Aligning
Industrialization &
Decarbonization**

Climate Adaptation

**Protection of Natural
Systems**

JT Principles: Summary and Next Steps

- > Draft language will be developed by staff based on the input of JTWG members
- > Today's input will be supplemented via follow-up outreach to Working Group members along with written comments from Working Group members
 - Written comments should be emailed to Kara Allen (kara.allen@nyserda.ny.gov) by 11/25
- > Staff will present the compiled language at the December meeting for continued discussion

JTWG Work Plan Update

- > Business Impacts Subgroup
 - Subgroup meetings have commenced
 - Focus on EITE
 - Report out planned for November 17th JTWG Meeting
- > Power Plant Inventory and Reuse Subgroup
 - Subgroup meetings have commenced
 - Will be discussing inventory development and issues/opportunities identification further at second meeting next week
 - Report-out planned for December 3rd JTWG meeting
- > Jobs Study

Next Steps

- > November 17 – JTWG Meeting
 - Focus on Business Impacts
 - Discussion: Energy-intensive industries and related trades, led by Business Impacts subgroup
 - Report-out: Other subgroups
 - Preparing for JTWG status update presentation to CAC in November-December.

Thank you for attending!

- > Please visit www.climate.ny.gov for regular updates about future activities of the Just Transition Working Group, other Advisory Panels, and the Climate Action Council at large.