
Transit Equity



Be Brotherly.

Presentation by Together for Brothers to 11/04 Climate
Action Taskforce

Environmental Racism & Jemez Principles

Environmental racism is racial discrimination in environmental policy making, the enforcement of regulations and laws, the deliberate targeting of communities of color for toxic waste facilities, the official sanctioning of the life-threatening presence of poisons and pollutants in our communities, and the history of excluding people of color from leadership of the ecology movements. - Ben Chavis (1982)

Jemez Principles for Democratic Organizing

Meeting hosted by Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice (SNEEJ), Jemez, New Mexico, Dec. 1996

Activists meet on Globalization

On December 6-8, 1996, forty people of color and European/American representatives met in Jemez, New Mexico, for the "Working Group Meeting on Globalization and Trade." The Jemez meeting was hosted by the Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice with the intention of hammering out common understandings between participants from different cultures, politics and organizations. The following "Jemez Principles" for democratic organizing were adopted by the participants.

#1 Be Inclusive

If we hope to achieve just societies that include all people in decision-making and assure that all people have an equitable share of the wealth and the work of this world, then we must work to build that kind of inclusiveness into our own movement in order to develop alternative policies and institutions to the treaties policies under neo-liberalism. This requires more than tokenism, it cannot be achieved without diversity at the planning table, in staffing, and in coordination. It may delay achievement of other important goals, it will require discussion, hard work, patience, and advance planning. It may involve conflict, but through this conflict, we can learn better ways of working together. It's about building alternative institutions, movement building, and not compromising out in order to be accepted into the anti-globalization club.

#2 Emphasis on Bottom-Up Organizing

To succeed, it is important to reach out into new constituencies, and to reach within all levels of leadership and membership base of the organizations that are already involved in our networks. We must be continually building and strengthening a base which provides our credibility, our strategies, mobilizations, leadership development, and the energy for the work we must do daily.

#3 Let People Speak for Themselves

We must be sure that relevant voices of people directly affected are heard. Ways must be provided for spokespersons to represent and be responsible to the affected constituencies. It is important for organizations to clarify their roles, and who they represent, and to assure accountability within our structures.

#4 Work Together In Solidarity and Mutuality

Groups working on similar issues with compatible visions should consciously act in solidarity, mutuality and support each other's work. In the long run, a more significant step is to incorporate the goals and values of other groups with your own work, in order to build strong relationships. For instance, in the long run, it is more important that labor unions and community economic development projects include the issue of environmental sustainability in their own strategies, rather than just lending support to the environmental organizations. So communications, strategies and resource sharing is critical, to help us see our connections and build on these.

#5 Build Just Relationships Among Ourselves

We need to treat each other with justice and respect, both on an individual and an organizational level, in this country and across borders. Defining and developing "just relationships" will be a process that won't happen overnight. It must include clarity about decision-making, sharing strategies, and resource distribution. There are clearly many skills necessary to succeed, and we need to determine the ways for those with different skills to coordinate and be accountable to one another.

#6 Commitment to Self-Transformation

As we change societies, we must change from operating on the mode of individualism to community-centeredness. We must "walk our talk." We must be the values that we say we're struggling for and we must be justice, be peace, be community.

This and other environmental justice documents can be downloaded from: www.ejnet.org/ej/

Health Impact Assessment (HIA) & Social Determinants of Health

Access to Education

Access to Employment

Access to Recreation

Promoting Healthy Habits
(Eating & Exercise)

EDUCATION

75% of young men of color surveyed said they would be more likely to attend and not skip class with a free youth bus pass.



Be Brotherly.

EMPLOYMENT

78.4% of young men of color surveyed said it would be easier to find a job with a free youth bus pass.



Be Brotherly.

RECREATION

81.3% of young men of color surveyed said they would be more likely to access recreation activities with a free youth bus pass.



Be Brotherly.

HEALTHY HABITS

69.9% of young men of color surveyed said they would be more likely to walk more in their neighborhoods with a free youth bus pass.



Be Brotherly.

—

Transit Equity Health Impact Assessment (HIA) & Stories

[https://www.togetherforbrothers.org/
health-impact-assessment](https://www.togetherforbrothers.org/health-impact-assessment)

Transit Dependent Riders & Transit Gentrification

Transit Dependent

Households having no or only one car in the household

Low income households & people of color households

International District & Westgate (and South Valley in the County)

We know and can map which households are transit dependent and where they need to travel

Transit Gentrification

Prioritizing resources for commuters or transit opt in riders.

How much do commuter routes cost?

How much resources for ART and bus rapid transit? What happened with San Pedro station?

What about the routes, frequency and bus stops in transit dependent communities?

Transit Sovereignty: *people most impacted, transit dependent riders, make their own decision about transportation and are at the decision making table.*



Some Transit Equity Solutions

- Transit Advisory Board (TAB) meeting times, participation and representation
 - Community input like surveys, town halls and more
 - Cultural Access and Language Equity
 - Free Summer Bus Passes
 - Transit Equity Day
 - Bus stops and information
 - Youth and Free Fares During COVID
 - Eliminating all fares
 - Route and Frequency Study and Input
 - Harassment and Violence Free Spaces
-

Questions? Contact:

www.togetherforbrothers.org

baruch@togetherforbrothers.org

christopher@togetherforbrothers.org

luis@togetherforbrothers.org
