The Just Transition
# What’s in this module?

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<td>This module covers the just and inclusive energy transition from fossil fuel based energy to renewable energy.</td>
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**Key Resources**

- [The Climate Justice Alliance](#)
- [Real People, Real Change: Strategies for just energy transitions](#)
- [Climate Conversation S2E1: An Appalachian Perspective on Just Transition](#)
- [Changing Woman: One Navajo’s Fight for a Just Transition](#)
# Agenda and Learning Objectives

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<th>Analysis</th>
<th>Identify</th>
<th>Determine</th>
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<td>Analyze the Just Transition framework</td>
<td>Identify the need for Just Transition</td>
<td>Determine who is &amp; should be involved in a Just Transition</td>
<td>Consider commitments to Just Transition</td>
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1. What is the Just Transition?

The Just Transition is a vision-led, unifying and place-based set of principles, processes, and practices that build economic and political power to **shift** from an **extractive economy** to a **regenerative economy** (Climate Justice Alliance).
Introduction

Just Transition strategies were created by low-income communities of color fighting against environmental injustice, aiming to phase out industries that bring disproportionate harm to the workforce (Climate Justice Alliance).

The Just Transition must:
- Shift economic control to communities
- Democratize wealth and the workplace
- Advance ecological restoration
- Drive racial and social equity
- Relocalize most production and consumption
- Retain and restore cultures and traditions
Just Transition Framework

Extractive Economy

- Work: Exploitation, Enclosure of Wealth & Power
- Resources: Extraction, Dig, Burn, Dump
- Governance: Militarism
- Worldview: Consumerism & Colonial Mindset

Regenerative Economy

- Work: Cooperation, Regeneration
- Resources: Ecological & Social Well-being
- Governance: Deep Democracy
- Worldview: Caring & Sacredness

Diagram illustrates the transition from an extractive economy to a regenerative economy.
The Climate Justice Alliance's Principles of Just Transition

A Just Transition:

- **Moves us Toward Buen Vivir**
  
  “The rights of peoples, communities and nature must supersede the rights of the individual.” (CJA)

- **Creates Meaningful Work**
  
  “A Just Transition centers on the development of human potential and creating opportunities for people to learn, grow, and develop to their full capacities and interests.” (CJA)

- **Upholds Self Determination**
  
  “The people who are most affected by the extractive economy have the resilience and expertise to be in the leadership of crafting solutions.” (CJA)
### The Climate Justice Alliance's Principles of Just Transition

**A Just Transition:**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Equitably Redistributes Resources and Power</th>
<th>Requires Regenerative Ecological Economics</th>
<th>Retains Culture and Tradition</th>
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<td>“fights to reclaim capital and resources for the regeneration of geographies and sectors of the economy where these inequities are most pervasive.” (CJA)</td>
<td>“must advance ecological resilience, reduce resource consumption, restore biodiversity and traditional ways of life, and undermine extractive economies, that erode the ecological basis of our collective well-being.” (CJA)</td>
<td>“Just Transition must create inclusionary spaces for all traditions and cultures, recognizing them as integral to a healthy and vibrant economy.” (CJA)</td>
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The Climate Justice Alliance's Principles of Just Transition

A Just Transition:

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<th>Embodies Local, Regional, National and International Solidarity</th>
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<td>“our solutions call for local, regional, national and global solidarity that confronts imperialism and militarism.” (CJA)</td>
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<th>Builds What We Need Now</th>
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<td>“We must build and flex the muscles needed to meet our communities needs.” (CJA)</td>
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Real people, Real Change: Global Case Studies

Activity 1: Read and share case studies
Poland, India, Canada, Indonesia, Egypt, & Ukraine

Students should choose one country to read about.

After reading about one country - pages 17-34 (Country Experiences with Energy Transitions), work in groups of 3-4 with students who read about different countries.

Work with each other to share information about the country you read about.

Questions to consider:
- What stood out to you most?
- What similarities and differences are there in each countries experience?
- What kind of framework could be created for just transitions based on these case studies?

Follow-up Activity
Write down/think about some thoughts you have about the principle that stands out to you most. Some helpful questions to think about:

How does this principle advance the Just Transition? How does it apply to your personal concerns? What about professional ones? Where/how have you seen this principle being acted upon? Does your institution do a good job of enacting it?

Buen Vivir
Meaningful Work
Self-Determination
Equitably Redistributes Resources and Power
Requires Regenerative Ecological Economics
Culture and Tradition
Local, Regional, National and International Solidarity
Builds What We Need Now
As a follow up to this activity, participate in a 2 minute dyad, where in pairs you will each have 1 minute to talk about your thoughts about these principles.

Listeners should not interject, and instead focus on being an active listener.
2. Case Studies

Engaging with podcasts, videos, and readings to help better understanding on what the just transition looks like in the world.
Climate Conversation: An Appalachian Perspective on Just Transitions (Team, C)

Activity 2: Podcast

Listening
Option 1/4

Retrieved from https://climate.mit.edu/podcasts/climate-conversation-s2e1-appalachian-perspective-just-transition

*Students will pick 1) one of options 2-4, and 2) read option 5
Listening Option 2/4

Activity 3: Podcast

Changing Woman: One Navajo’s Fight for a Just Transition

Retrieved from https://climate.mit.edu/podcasts/climate-conversations-s2e8-indigenous-perspectives-just-transitions
Watching
Option 3/4

Legacies of Coal Event: In Search of a Just Transition Panel

Legacies of Coal Event: MIT, April 2023
Changes in the contribution of coal to tax revenues in Greene County, PA, 2010-2019

Activity 5: MIT ESI
White Paper

Reading
Option 4/4
Discussion Questions for these case studies

1. How do they address the principles of the just transition?
2. What are some ways each of these could improve? What communities, if any, were missing from the conversation?
3. How do they talk about how the Just Transition has been helpful for different communities?
4. What can governments, businesses, and institutions do to ethically engage resource stakeholders?

This activity might be structured as a mini-presentation, discussions in groups, or as another dyad/triad, so that each person learns about a case study they didn't look at.
Activity 4

With all of these thoughts in mind, construct a **concept map** of the Just Transition framework, centering one of the two types of media you studied. Go back to slide 6 for reference!
Taking Action

- How does a Just Transition relate to ideas from your life? Under level 2, from the All We Can Save website, look under the category “Take action by assessing + proposing climate action at your school”.

- Do some research on ways in which the Just Transition might be supported better by MIT or your institution. What labs/groups on campus are focusing on Just Transition ideas already? Where should there be more conversations around these ideas?

- As a class, share out your ideas, then consider: how would you go about making these changes? Who would you have to convince, and what voices would you want to uplift? How would you reach out to different communities and stakeholders on campus to make this change realized?
Module
References


