

The Just Transition



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"Renewable Energy Development in the California Desert" by mypubliclands is licensed under CC BY 2.0.



What's in this module?

Activities

1 video
2 reading
2 listening activities
2 optional activities
1 optional project

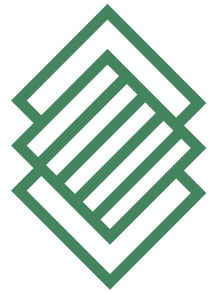
Contents

This module covers the just and inclusive energy transition from fossil fuel based energy to renewable energy.

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



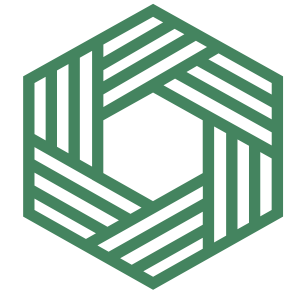
Analyze the
Just Transition
framework



Identify the
need for Just
Transition



Determine who
is & should be
involved in a
Just Transition



Consider
commitments
to Just
Transition

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

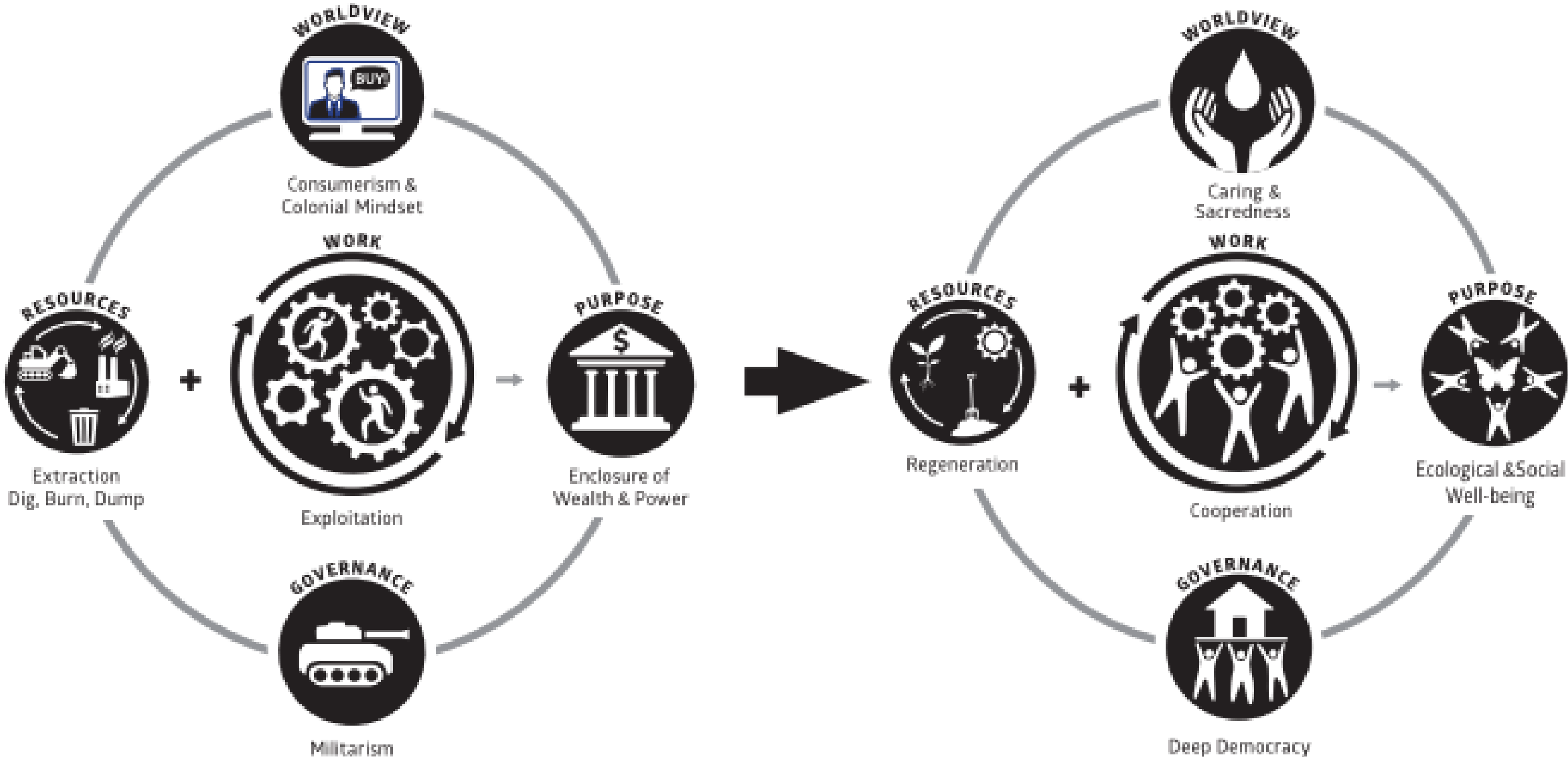
- Just Transition strategies were created by low-income communities of color fighting against environmental injustice, aiming to phase out industries that bring disproportionate harm to the workforce ([Climate Justice Alliance](#)).
- The Just Transition must:
 - Shift economic control to communities
 - 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

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:

Equitably Redistributes Resources and Power

“fights to reclaim capital and resources for the regeneration of geographies and sectors of the economy where these inequities are most pervasive.” (CJA)

Requires Regenerative Ecological Economics

“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)

Retains Culture and Tradition

“Just Transition must create inclusionary spaces for all traditions and cultures, recognizing them as integral to a healthy and vibrant economy.” (CJA)

The Climate Justice Alliance's Principles of Just Transition

A Just Transition:

Embodies Local, Regional, National and International Solidarity

“our solutions call for local, regional, national and global solidarity that confronts imperialism and militarism.” (CJA)

Builds What We Need Now

“We must build and flex the muscles needed to meet our communities needs.” (CJA)

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?



Global Subsidies Initiative. (2018). Real People, Real Change Strategies for Just Energy Transitions. International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD). <https://www.iisd.org/sites/default/files/publications/real-people-change-strategies-just-energy-transitions.pdf>.

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

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?

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.

- 01 Buen Vivir
- 02 Meaningful Work
- 03 Self-Determination
- 04 Equitably
Redistributes Resources and Power
- 05 Requires Regenerative Ecological Economics
- 06 Culture and Tradition
- 07 Local, Regional, National and International
Solidarity
- 08 Builds What We Need Now

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

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

Activity 3: Podcast

Listening

Option 2/4



Retrieved from <https://climate.mit.edu/podcasts/climate-conversations-s2e8-indigenous-perspectives-just-transitions>

Legacies of Coal: In Search of a Just Transition Panel

Activity 4: Video

Watching

Option 3/4



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

Just Transition. Climate Justice Alliance. (2023, March 15). <https://climatejusticealliance.org/just-transition/>

Team, C., MIT Center for Energy and Environmental Policy Research, Review, M. T., & Initiative, M. E. S. (2017, November 8). Climate conversation S2E1: An Appalachian perspective on just transition. MIT Climate Portal. <https://climate.mit.edu/podcasts/climate-conversation-s2e1-appalachian-perspective-just-transition>

Team, C., Review, M. T., Initiative, M. E. S., MACA - MIT Alumni for Climate Action, & MIT Joint Program on the Science and Policy of Global Change. (2018, January 18). Climate conversations s2e8: Indigenous Perspectives on just transitions. MIT Climate Portal. <https://climate.mit.edu/podcasts/climate-conversations-s2e8-indigenous-perspectives-just-transitions>

Real people, Real Change – strategies for just energy transitions. (n.d.). <https://www.iisd.org/system/files/publications/real-people-change-strategies-just-energy-transitions.pdf>

8, P. G., & Gass, P. (n.d.). In search of just transition: Examples from around the world. International Institute for Sustainable Development. <https://www.iisd.org/articles/just-transition-examples>