

FOUNDATIONAL MODULE

The Just Transition



CLIMATE JUSTICE
INSTRUCTIONAL
— TOOLKIT —

What's in this module?

Description

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

Contents

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

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](#)



Learning Objectives

01

Analyze the Just Transition framework

02

Identify the need for the Just Transition

03

Determine who is and who should be involved in the Just Transition

04

Consider commitments to the Just Transition

What is the Just Transition?

PART 1



Introduction

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.

The origins of the Just Transition

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.

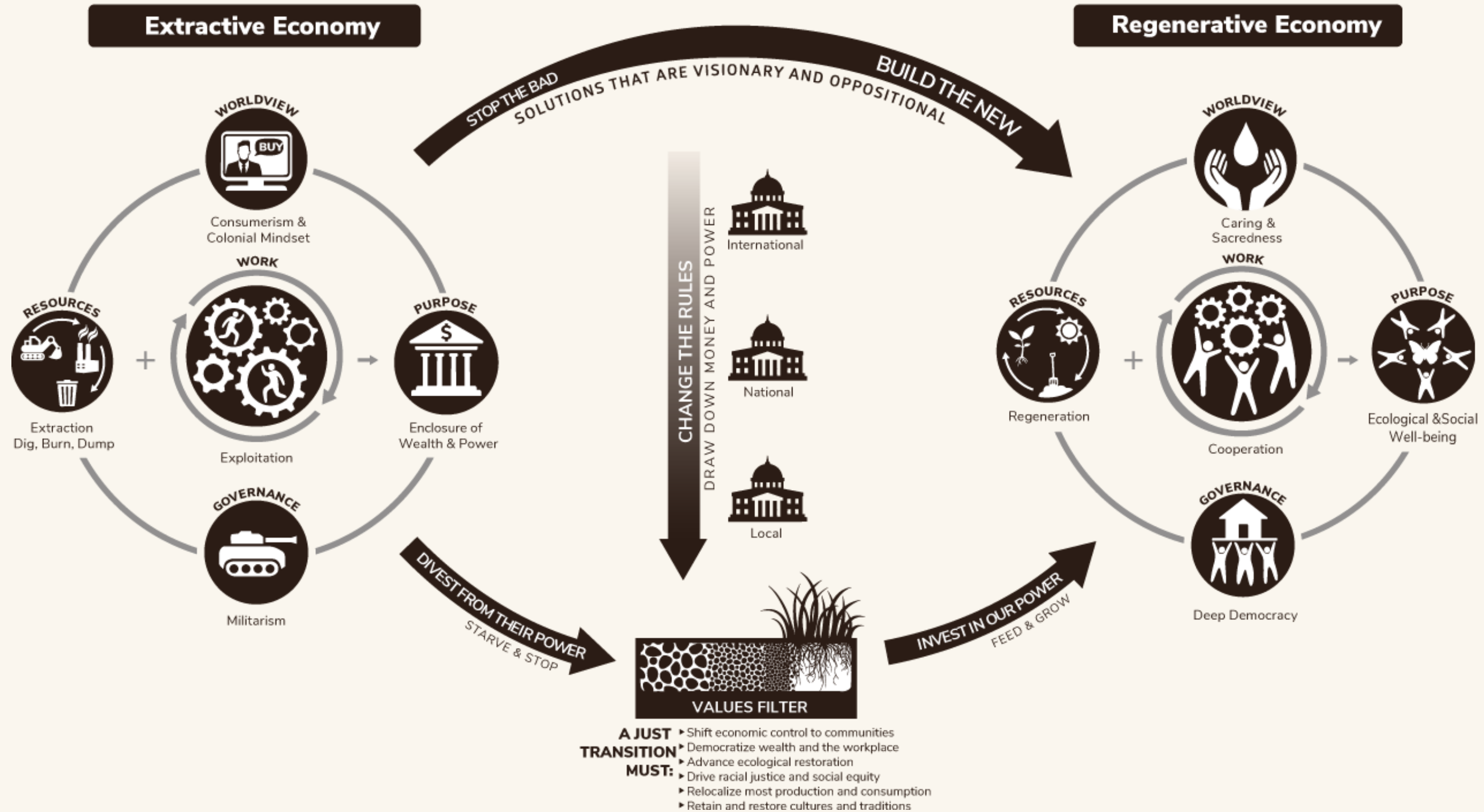
The goals of the Just Transition

- 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



See the [Climate Justice Alliance website](#) to learn more

The Just Transition Framework



CJA's Principles of the Just Transition

Requires Regenerative Ecological Economics

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 wellbeing.

Moves us Toward Buen Vivir

The rights of peoples, communities and nature must supersede the rights of the individual.

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.

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.

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.

Embodies Local, Regional, National and International Solidarity

Our solutions call for local, regional, national and global solidarity that confronts imperialism and militarism.

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.

Builds What We Need Now

We must build and flex the muscles needed to meet our communities needs.

ACTIVITY # 1

REAL PEOPLE, REAL CHANGE: GLOBAL CASE STUDIES



Real People, Real Change Strategies for just energy transitions

GSI REPORT

Choose a country to read about

- Poland
- India
- Canada
- Indonesia
- Egypt
- Ukraine

Read your country's case study

Real people, Real Change (p.17-34)

Discussion questions

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. Then, consider these questions:

- 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?

ACTIVITY #2

FOLLOW-UP ON THE PRINCIPLES OF THE JUST TRANSITION

Brainstorm

Write down/think about some thoughts you have about the principle that stands out to you most. Prompting questions:

- 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?

Share out

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.



Case Studies

PART 2



ACTIVITY #2

UNDERSTANDING WHAT THE JUST TRANSITION LOOKS LIKE THROUGH CASE STUDIES

Pick a case study

1. [Climate Conversation: An Appalachian Perspective on Just Transitions](#)
2. [Changing Woman: One Navajo's Fight for a Just Transition](#)
3. [Legacies of Coal: In Search of a Just Transition Panel](#)

Read this white paper

[Changes in the contribution of coal to tax revenues in Greene County, PA, 2010-2019](#)

Discussion questions

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

This activity can be structured as a mini-presentation, group discussion, or another dyad/triad so that each person learns about a case study they didn't look at.

ACTIVITY #3

DIVING DEEPER INTO THE JUST TRANSITION FRAMEWORK

Create a concept map

Construct a concept map of the Just Transition framework, centering one of the two types of media (audio or video and written) that you studied in Activity #2.

This activity builds off of Activity #2.



Taking Action

01

Marketing and sales efforts shifted to higher-ROI channels

02

New pay-per-click ads generated 20% more leads compared to compared to our direct mail advertising campaign of the past three quarters.

03

Acquisition of Ingoude Company will complement our existing product portfolio and will allow us to expand into new markets.

04

Our shift into Web3 began and our groundbreaking technology completely changes the game in this space.

Taking Action

How does a Just Transition relate to your life?

Explore the "Take action by assessing + proposing climate action at your school" section of All We Can Save's "[Assignments to spark action.](#)" The section can be found in the list of Level 2 (Taking action: Community level) assignments.

Research ways the Just Transition might be supported better by your institution

Guiding questions: What labs/groups on campus are focusing on Just Transition ideas already? Where should there be *more* conversations around these ideas?

Share out your ideas with the class and consider these questions

- 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?

For more resources on climate and environmental justice: **Please explore other modules in the Climate Justice Instructional Toolkit.**



Module References

- [Just Transition](#). Climate Justice Alliance. (2023, March 15).
- ClimateX Team. (2017, November 8). [Climate Conversations S2E1: An Appalachian Perspective on Just Transition](#). MIT Climate Portal.
- ClimateX Team. (2018, January 18). [Climate Conversations S2E8: Indigenous Perspectives on Just Transitions](#). MIT Climate Portal.
- Zinecker et. al. (2018, December). [Real People, Real Change – Strategies for just energy transitions](#). International Institute for Sustainable Development.
- Gass, P. (2019, April 8). [In search of just transition: Examples from around the world](#). International Institute for Sustainable Development.