

JUSTICE  
IS GLOBAL

2024  
ORGANIZING HOW-TO GUIDE

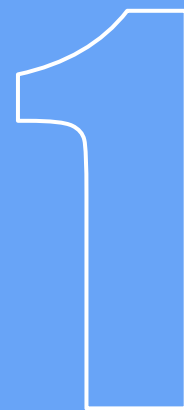


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# GLOBAL CLIMATE COOPERATION:

WHAT WE NEED  
TO ADDRESS THE  
CLIMATE CRISIS



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# SHAPING THE FUTURE OF OUR WORLD



## WHY

**Justice is Global is building a grassroots movement** to make the global economy equitable and sustainable. We started organizing around progressive alternatives to the US-China conflict and global solutions to the COVID-19 pandemic. We're now organizing a new campaign within the US for global climate cooperation. This is sorely needed to address the nationalism and authoritarianism gaining power on the right and the flatfootedness of much of the Democratic party. Outside of the political problems—global problems need global solutions. By defining the progressive vision around progressive internationalism we can ensure effective and smart policy from decision-makers at every level of government. We can shape the future of our country, but we need the grassroots people-power to back it up. That's where you come in.

***(See below for ways to make this happen in your community)***



# THE GLOBAL CLIMATE COOPERATION AGENDA:

**People are experiencing intensifying climate disasters** People are experiencing intensifying climate disasters in the US and around the world. We need to work together across borders to demand our political leaders take bold action in order to safeguard our families and our future.



Combating the climate crisis requires that governments cooperate to rapidly stop burning fossil fuels and transition to a green economy. That means:

## **ENGAGE IN DIPLOMACY AND COORDINATION TO ADDRESS GLOBAL PROBLEMS:**

Support policies and diplomacy that strengthen international cooperation between nations, especially the US, the EU, and China, in order to achieve a sustainable, equitable global economy for people of all countries.

## **ACCELERATE A JUST TRANSITION TO A CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY:**

Divest from fossil fuels and advance green industrial and agricultural policy for a just transition to a clean energy economy. This means supporting fossil fuel-dependent workers and communities and equitably and democratically addressing the ongoing challenges of extracting minerals and raw materials for green technology. Likewise, we should support policies that strengthen workers' rights and collective bargaining around the world and reform international trade and investment rules that hinder climate action.

### **SHARE GREEN TECHNOLOGY EQUITABLY:**

Promote the sharing of green technology with countries around the world, particularly low and middle income countries, with attention to ensuring development and deployment of technologies does not harm any community. We have all the technology we need to address the climate crisis, but currently rich countries and elites hoard technology for private profit.

### **DEBT RESTRUCTURING AND CANCELLATION:**

Support low and middle income countries in building green infrastructure and developing their economies by canceling and restructuring sovereign debt to both public and private creditors. Following decades of neocolonial and exploitative debt deals, including with US financial institutions, many low and middle income countries face debt crises and can't enact meaningful climate policies in their countries because of this debt.

### **SUPPORT FOR CLIMATE REFUGEES:**

The climate emergency has had a disproportionate impact on people across low and middle income countries, particularly in the Global South. We must promote policies that demilitarize borders, and welcome, rather than restrict, the free movement of people fleeing climate disaster and energy conflict.

### **SUFFICIENT FUNDING FOR LOW AND MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRIES TO TRANSITION TO GREEN ECONOMIES:**

Ensure the US provides its share of public international funding that reflects its historic responsibility for the climate crisis, to developing countries to address the impacts of the climate crisis, for adapting to a changing climate, transitioning to green energy, and addressing loss and the damages from climate disasters. This investment should also not further burden developing countries with debt.

[Learn More Here](#)

### **DEMOCRATIC PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP OF ENERGY:**

Invest in the public sector and public goods to ensure that we rapidly and sustainably shift to a green economy. The private sector has not delivered on the urgent need to address the climate crisis and the most efficient, effective, and just transition requires bold public investment in renewable energy infrastructure and a mix of community-owned distributed energy and public control of utilities to be successful.

### **DEESCALATE MILITARY CONFLICT AND CREATE THE CONDITIONS FOR PEACE:**

Support policies aimed at enhancing cooperation and peace-building over conflict. This includes reductions in the US military budget, freeing up public funds for social goods and programs, including funds for a just green transition and to meet human needs in the United States and around the world.

# THEORY OF CHANGE: HOW WE CAN BUILD A JUST AND SUSTAINABLE GLOBAL ECONOMY

# 2



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**Progressive change always comes from the bottom up.** It comes from working people coming together, taking collective action, and demanding change. As Frederick Douglass famously said, "power concedes nothing without a demand."

We're up against some of the most powerful people in the world—fossil fuel companies, mainstream politicians beholden to military contractors and financial interests, and billionaires invested in the status quo. If they have their way—our world becomes more dangerous, more volatile, and more unequal, which is especially threatening for the most marginalized communities in our world.

So we need to think clearly about how to make our demands and push for our vision of a just and sustainable economy. We want to not just make demands, but think about how we can win a whole agenda for global climate cooperation.



## Our theory is based on the 3 faces of power

(You can read more about this from our friends at the grassroots policy project [here](#))

# 3 FACES OF POWER



**POWER TO WIN DEMANDS**  
ORGANIZING PEOPLE &  
RESOURCES FOR DIRECT  
POLITICAL ACTION



**POWER TO DRIVE THE AGENDA**  
BUILDING MOVEMENT  
INFRASTRUCTURE



**POWER TO SHAPE COMMON SENSE**  
MAKING MEANING ON THE TERRAIN OF  
IDEOLOGY & WORLDVIEW



### FACE 1 Power to Win Demands

This means organizations campaigning for city council resolutions, unions striking and winning negotiating worker first contracts, and campaigns running and electing progressive candidates. Think of the recent examples of successful campaigns—the UAW's recent powerful strike or Sunrise Movement and the Green New Deal.



### FACE 2 Power to Drive the Agenda

This means infrastructure to support movements, elected officials, and other decision makers. This could be policy organizations that develop policy proposals or communications firms who develop narrative strategy or think tanks that convene partners and build alignment across organizations. When this works well, a whole ecosystem of organizations are using their unique resources to push for policy change. The right has historically been very successful at building infrastructure to push their agenda. Think for example of the Heritage Foundation, Cato Institute, American Enterprise Institute, and the Koch Brothers Donor



### FACE 3 Power to Shape Common Sense

This is about narrative change and includes the media, celebrities, and other cultural producers. This face of power and the organizations that operate here helps people make sense of the world and what kind of visions for the future they want. Think for example about the power of the idea that the free market that can lead to disastrous policy-making decisions or about the narratives about public safety that lead to police violence in the case of George Floyd and others murdered by police.



## RIGHT, BUT PRACTICAL

**Justice is Global aims to fight on all three of these faces.** We want to make progressive internationalism common sense—with compelling stories that help people realize that our vision is not only right, but practical! We want to organize other organizations in the progressive ecosystem behind this agenda—groups that don't necessarily work in this issue area like domestic climate groups or diaspora communities—to support and shape what decision makers consider when making policy decisions. Finally, we want to build the grassroots muscle to show that not only is the climate cooperation agenda the most just and sensible policy, but that it is popular!

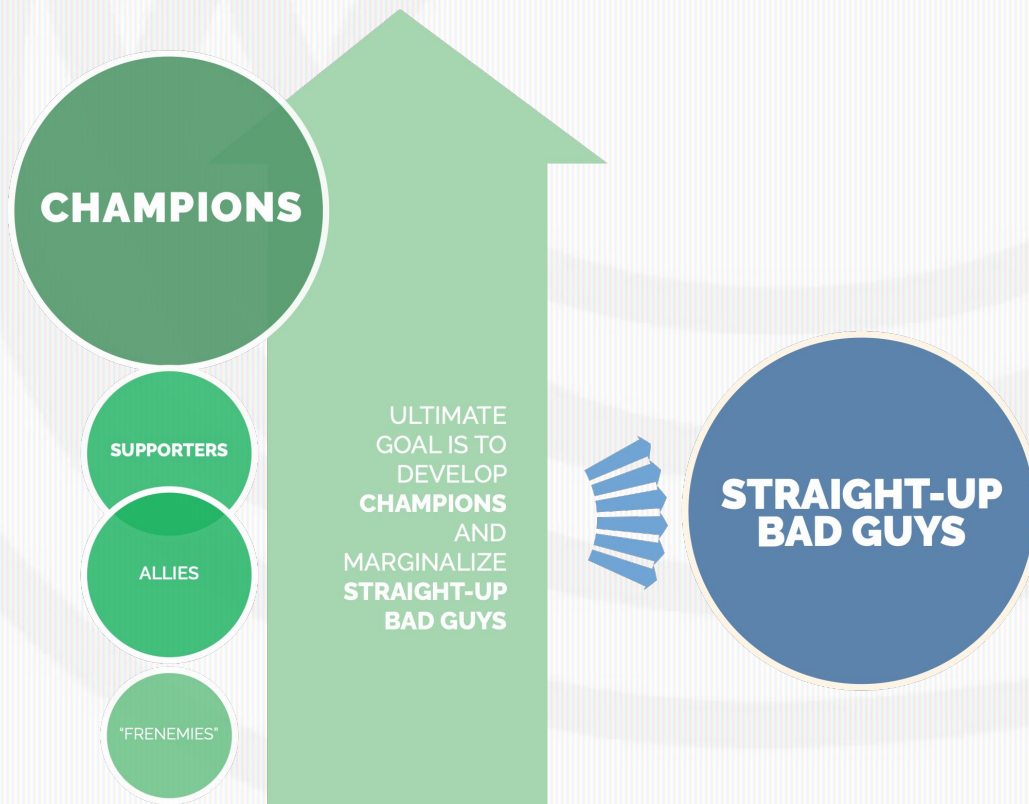
*Where you come in is by helping us build the people power and spreading the narratives about climate cooperation. So what does that look like concretely?*

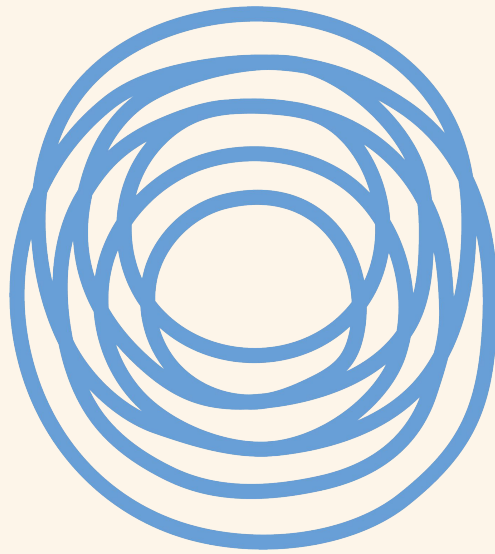
# OUR GRASSROOTS STRATEGY

**In the first face of power, we're building a movement of working people and community members.**

People who are not experts, who maybe have never done this kind of thing before. The way this movement makes change is by engaging in the democratic process intentionally beyond just voting or canvassing. Our job is to inspire and motivate champions for climate cooperation. We also want to polarize our "frenemies" i.e. people who say they support climate action and global justice but advance policies that hurt us and get in the way of building a just and sustainable global economy. Together this will put our agenda on the map.

By meeting with legislators, and encouraging them to take action and lead in the public arena on our issues, we can elevate our narratives and win the common sense. We can also advance meaningful policy change in the short term. **Because here's the thing—most people agree with us.** Polling on international development, global solidarity, climate action, and racial justice are high. We just need to make people see these are legitimate policy options with the power to back them up—against our very powerful opponents. So we need grassroots action especially in districts where we might have champions.





# LIVE IN A DISTRICT WITH A CLIMATE COOPERATION CHAMPION?

**We have identified districts with legislators whom we think either are or could be leaders in the fight for climate cooperation.** These are folks who not only sign onto bills, but members of congress who want to make this a policy priority. They can conduct hearings, sponsor legislation, or organize other legislators to support our agenda.

Right now our priority list is:

**D-WA 7**

**D-MO 1**

**D-MN 5**

**D-IL 3**

**D-NY 16**

**D-TX 35**

**D-IL 9**

In one of these districts you can help build the movement by trying to encourage your member of congress to take bold action, be public and visible in support of climate cooperation, and work with us to elevate this in congress. In some cases we can also defend these champions or potential champions from attacks from the right and the center. This is where you might polarize our frenemies—and make clear that attacking climate cooperation will have political costs.



# WAYS TO ENGAGE

1

## Map your district

to identify possible allies, important institutions or communities you might want to engage

(You can find our existing power mapping [here](#))

2

## Conduct outreach

through cold calls or emails, through friends or family, or through attending community events and bringing flyers

(Resources we're developing for outreach are [here](#))

3

## Run an event

like a teach-in, a community building event, or even a grassroots action

4

## Schedule a meeting

with your member of congress and bring other constituents with you!

5

## You could also try your own tactic—

want to make buttons or have a banner drop or host a speaker at your house for a house party?

6

## Rinse and repeat!

# NOT IN A PRIORITY DISTRICT?

**You still have a vital role to play!** You can help educate and engage people in your community, elevate our narratives on social media, meet with your elected officials to elevate this as a policy priority (even if they won't become champions we could move them to support), and you can help us build infrastructure for decentralized organizing around the country. Also if you know people in other districts you can invite them to connect to our organizing.

Finally while we'll plan to move pieces of legislation in congress—we're also tracking what else is moving related to our agenda. This will provide concrete ways to engage and asks to make of members of congress, when you meet with them.

# ORGANIZING ON-RAMP: HOW TO GET PLUGGED IN?

# 3



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# HERE'S AN ON RAMP FOR ENGAGEMENT

**This should give a brief overview of how JIG is structured,** what teams we have and all the different kinds of support you can get to build power for climate cooperation.

# THE STRUCTURE OF JIG

**Justice is Global is a small and scrappy organization.** Here are the teams and people to know/meet. We're friendly, feel free to reach out to get to know someone, connect, and find ways to be involved or stay connected.

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## STAFF TEAM:



**Director:**  
**Sandy Shan**  
[sshan@justiceisglobal.org](mailto:sshan@justiceisglobal.org)



**Political Director:**  
**Valentina Dallona**  
[vdallona@justiceisglobal.org](mailto:vdallona@justiceisglobal.org)



**National Organizer:**  
**Ben Levenson**  
[blevenson@justiceisglobal.org](mailto:blevenson@justiceisglobal.org)

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## VOLUNTEER TEAMS

**Organizing Team:** we have people from Los Angeles to Boston to Chicago to Atlanta. This is the place where we check-in on projects and find ways to move our organizing forward. You are more than welcome to join and check it out. **We meet biweekly on Monday evenings at 7pm Eastern, reach out to Ben to get a link!**

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## EVENTS

We have regular **community calls** to connect, meet folks, and develop our understanding of current events and social movement organizing. These are on Mondays.

Sporadically we have **national virtual events** with writers, thinkers, members of congress, and other movement leaders like you to help build popular support for our work.

We also run dedicated **fundamentals of organizing trainings** that are half day, 2 day or even weeklong. These are the spaces to get clear about your stake, your role, and the skills to build power.

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## COMMUNICATION



We have an active slack workspace and invite you to join (sign in [here](#) and say hi! it should only take a few seconds).

We also have social media—facebook, twitter, and instagram—and hope to be more active there as we develop our campaign. Help us build our presence online!





# ONBOARDING

## 1

### Entry Point

Sign the [Pledge](#),  
Attend and Event, Meet an  
organizer/volunteer

## 2

### Meet with an Organizer 1-1

(someone should reach out  
to you, but if not contact  
Ben to get in touch for a call.  
Even if you're not sure what  
you're interested in or just  
want to understand how it  
all works.)

## 3

### Get Involved:

- a. Join Biweekly  
Organizing Team Calls
- b. Join a project
- c. Attend an action or  
event
- d. If you're in a priority  
legislative district help  
engage legislative  
champions
- e. If you're not in a priority  
district help build  
infrastructure and  
engage community  
members
- f. Join Slack to  
communicate and stay  
in touch

## 4

### Build Your Leadership:

- a. Host or engage people  
in your community
- b. Recruit people to sign  
the pledge
- c. Take on a leadership  
role or a coaching role  
to support newer  
organizers
- d. Organize a  
congressional meeting
- e. Join a Leadership  
Development Table  
cohort for training,  
accountability, and  
support

## 5

### Grow the Movement

- a. Bring friends, family, coworkers, neighbors into the organizing
- b. Invite people to contribute as sustaining donors of JIG

TOOLKITS  
AND SKILL  
BUILDING:  
HOW DOES ALL  
THIS WORK?



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# TOOLKITS

We have several toolkits in development:

**1**

## LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

meeting with your  
congressperson for climate  
cooperation

**2**

## BIRD DOGGING

**3**

## TABLING AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**4**

## SOLIDARITY ACTIONS AND SHOWING UP FOR OTHER MOVEMENTS WHILE SUPPORTING CLIMATE COOPERATION

**5**

## HOSTING A TEACH-IN TO ENGAGE YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

# RESOURCES:

GRAPHICS,  
FLYERS, AND  
STICKERS YOU  
CAN USE

# 5



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# RESOURCES

There is a file with that we're constantly updating [here](#)

For example here is a postcard you can print and use as a handout or flier. If you make graphics or design—send them our way and we'd love to make sure everyone can benefit from your creativity! We also have a canva pro account if you'd want to support our design!

## I SUPPORT THE JUSTICE IS GLOBAL CLIMATE COOPERATION PLEDGE

- ENGAGE IN DIPLOMACY AND COORDINATION TO ADDRESS GLOBAL PROBLEMS
- SHARE GREEN TECHNOLOGY EQUITABLY
- ACCELERATE A JUST TRANSITION TO A CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY
- SUFFICIENT FUNDING FOR LOW AND MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRIES TO TRANSITION TO GREEN ECONOMIES
- DEBT RESTRUCTURING AND CANCELLATION
- DEMOCRATIC PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP OF ENERGY
- SUPPORT FOR CLIMATE REFUGEES
- DEESCALATE MILITARY CONFLICT AND CREATE THE CONDITIONS FOR PEACE

 SIGN THE PLEDGE FOR GLOBAL CLIMATE COOPERATION

 JUSTICE IS GLOBAL

team@justiceisglobal.org   
@justiceisglobal  

# KEY TERMS

WHAT DOES ALL  
THIS MEAN

6



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# TERMINOLOGY

**Action/Direct Action:** An action is a way to bring our power to bear on decision makers. Think of the march on Washington or the Montgomery or the 1937 sit down strike or Occupy Wall Street. Actions are best when they are strategic tools to move campaigns and help us tell our story with all of our people power. Tons of great action ideas [here](#).

**Agitation:** Agitation is an organizing practice to help us be our boldest and biggest versions of ourselves. Often what gets in the way of our organizing are stories about power and worth that keep us small, especially along lines of race, class, gender, nationality, disability and other kinds of identity. Agitation is an intentional conversation to highlight the things that are keeping us small and offer opportunities to take bold steps into our power.

**Bird Dog Action:** This is a specific kind of action where a community member engages or confronts a decision maker in a public forum. The goal is often to invite a response and if we're strategic about framing, we can use the response to put pressure on them.

**Campaign:** A campaign is a clearly defined project to win a specific policy, piece of legislation, or move a concrete amount of power (in a fundraising campaign for instance). Campaigns have demands or goals so that you can say whether or not it was successful. Effective campaigns have strategies (a theory of how to achieve the goal) and tactics (small steps that can move the strategy forward). For global climate cooperation our targets are members of congress, our strategy to move them is to engage constituents and allied organizations to lobby these elected officials. With enough pressure at the right moments, we can shift the whole ecosystem to make climate cooperation a reality.

**Decentralized Organizing:** This is organizing (see below) that focuses on providing tools and resources so people can organize their own communities, as opposed to structured organizing which would be on the ground in the community.

**MOC:** Member of Congress

**Organizing:** What is organizing? The clearest description would be that organizing is about power. When everyday people come together to take back power, run campaigns, and make their lives and communities better.

**One to One:** An intentional conversation to connect about vision, values, goals, and motivations. These are the building blocks of any organization because an organization is based on relationships!

**Power Building:** Organizing is about power, which is a good thing. Power is the ability to act and affect change. We want to take power back from those who are destroying our world and threatening our communities.

**Power Mapping:** Power mapping is a tool that we can use to figure out our strategy. We can identify the power players in a particular district or particular constituency. Our goal here is to think about who has influence on our target, in this case the member of congress, and whether or not they align with us.

**Tabling:** An easy way to get involved AND learn as you go. Tabling involves sitting at a table at an event, action, or other event where people would be interested in finding out about us, getting a sticker, and maybe signing a pledge or petition.

**Target:** This is the person we want to move in a campaign.



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