

Community Led Strategies for Working Together as Part of the Moving Forward Network Zero Emission Truck Work Group

Equitable community led development strategies allow frontline communities to participate in and benefit from policy decisions that shape their neighborhoods to have greater impact. As a group that is committed to prioritizing environmental justice organizing and community, we know that work groups between EJ and Environmental organizing can only move at the speed of trust. We have drafted a set of principles and practices that will help guide our work together as part of this work group and build a relationship based on trust and move solutions that support equity and environmental justice as we draft, recommend, adopt, and implement zero emissions policies.

This document will be a living document and edited and added to as needed while adhering to these principles.

Principles

BUILD JUST RELATIONSHIPS

Relationship and trust building working alongside environmental justice leaders. Set time to build relationships and move at the speed of trust.

BE INCLUSIVE

Frontline organizations resources and capacity allow them to leverage big green technical expertise. Frontline organizations are stretched thin because every action affecting their community is a priority but need to be part of the decision making process.

TRANSPARENCY

Big Greens being transparent and held accountable Make time to learn from environmental justice leaders and share what you know with them.

FRONTLINE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES

Community organizations and leaders are experts working on the ground making sure policies benefit their community. Environmental Justice leaders know firsthand the daily impacts affecting their community.

BOTTOM UP ORGANIZING

Frontline organizations are included in processes, activities, and informing of decision making of policies. Community led solutions and ground up approaches inform policies.

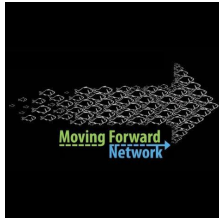
ALIGNMENT AND FRONTLINE EXPERTISE

Identify equitable policies. Partners will always check-in with frontline organizations about any policy that can affect their community.

TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION

Partners will communicate effectively, always being aware of the audience and scientific terminology being utilized. Partners will ensure technical expertise is understood or find a way to check in and make sure there are no questions.

Having this shared vision and alignment as described above, that integrates these environmental justice principles into the MFN-ZET Work Group we will foster stronger partnerships together achieve our goals and advance environmental justice solutions.



At times we agree to principles of democratic organizing and bottom-up strategies but have found that in practice these principles become lost. We wanted to include a section that is by no means comprehensive but speaks to the practical application of *the principles*, specifically relating to achieving the goals of this MFN-ZET Work Group. Examples are as follows:

Public comment, communications, and correspondence with decision makers (including sign on letters)

We commit to incorporating the following as part of our process and practice. The majority of the signatories are from environmental justice communities and transparent process. The timeline for the correspondence is reasonable, and environmental justice organizations have the capacity to contribute and weigh in. Authorship of the correspondence should center frontline groups. This means that EJ and local representatives will be the primary contacts. This includes external communications such as social and earned media.

Resources

We acknowledge that to achieve the goals of the MFN-ZET Work Group we need to expand the pool of resources for the grassroots organizations. We are committed to sharing resources including access with EJ organizations in order to achieve our goals.

External Stakeholder Meetings

Based on access and capacity often work group members are able to be part of meetings and policy tables where strategies and decisions are being made regarding Zero Emissions. We want to make sure that we are bringing the principles, vision, goals, and strategies to these meetings outside the MFN- ZET Work Group and advocating equity and environmental justice as part of the process.

Internal Organizational Communication

Organizations need to make sure that internally they are sharing information with other offices and staff and who are involved in MFN -ZET Work Group. Internal communication is important to ensure that there is coordination with the MFN-ZET Work Group around reaching out goals. State/branch offices who may not attend the MFN-ZET Work Group should be informed, if there are any local strategies or updates that work towards our greater mission/goals. Information and updates gathered from the state/branch office should be shared with the MFN-ZET Work Group. There should be consistency and coordination within the organization around the strategies to achieving zero emissions. When conflicts or miscommunications arise, we are committed to taking the time to respectfully address them in order to move forward together and be accountable to one another.