

Environmental Justice Summit
July 20, 2013

Building A Multigenerational Campaign: Workshop Notes

Ideas about what a multigenerational campaign is:

- Multiple generations coming together
- Uplifting voices of all people
- Creating space for everyone
- There is a need for adult support for youth who are trying to make changes.

Suggested definition: A multigenerational campaign is when multiple generations of people coming together to fight for the same cause and involves spaces where all voices can be meaningfully heard.

Examples of multigenerational campaigns and discussion:

- Example of the Roxbury Environmental Empowerment Project (REEP) Grow or Die campaign
 - The campaign started with a visit to Detroit and seeing how there were multiple community gardens built on previously vacant land.
 - REEP looked for vacant lots around Roxbury and Dorchester with adult support.
 - As REEP found the lots, they door-knocked to the surrounding residents to discuss whether people shared the same vision for what to do with the lot.
 - REEP planned lot takeovers with the neighbors.
 - The group cleaned the lot.
 - The group built raised beds and filled them with clean soil.
 - With adult support, REEP grew seedlings in the late winter and early spring.
 - REEP and adults delivered the seedlings to the lots and helped neighbors plant them.
 - REEP and adults stay connected over the summer to see how the crops are doing.
 - REEP continues to seek out new lots where future raised beds can be built.
- Example of public transit campaign
 - Public Transit, Public Good Campaign – this was a Massachusetts campaign where seniors sought affordable fares for the Ride and youth sought an affordable youth pass for anyone up to age 21.
 - People of all ages worked together to promote the demands of elders and youth.
- Important to advocate with people with disabilities and the differently abled.
- Seniors and youth coming together to try to get affordable pensions for seniors and youths (including industry workers)
- Example of transit campaign from Brazil- peaceful protest with hundreds of people won lower fares (20 cents off)
- EJ issues in south coast MA- no rail in low income communities
- Recent victory in southern MA to get bus service later in the day
- Campaigns are growing to shift \$ away from war spending.
- It is not just about jobs or justice: it is about both.

Steps to building a multigenerational campaign:

1. Spend time building relationships with people of all ages through events and activities.
2. Share stories with people of all ages.
3. Find an issue that people care about.
4. Conduct research about the issue and share findings with people of all ages.
5. Be clear about why we are building a multigenerational campaign.
6. Youth and adults create a campaign plan.
7. Develop a clear leadership structure and decision-making process.
8. Youth assume leadership roles. Adults know how to support youth in leadership roles.
9. There is regular communication about how the campaign is going.
10. Evaluate, reflect, appreciate, and celebrate victories together.

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Creating Resilient Communities in the Face of a Changing Climate Workshop Notes

Climate Justice:

1. Vulnerability to climate change: the poor, the elderly, the isolated, certain workers, children
2. Heat waves in MA, west Nile now here, species and ecosystem changes, and hit low income people the hardest.
3. Community organizing- how to prepare a community to deal with disasters/ climate change, and organize around recovery.
4. Need to understand the causes of climate change- immediate organizing needs and long term to build resilience, which is about preventing bad things from happening. So really about adaptation from a justice perspective.
5. Lynn, MA is low-income community of color and on the coast- highly vulnerable to climate change

Global warming solutions:

How do we adapt to climate disruption? What would you want to see in a government report on climate change?

Latest report is silent on EJ, and does not address building residences from EJ perspective, does talk some about vulnerable populations.

Advisory committee is the report- not one member of the committee is a community advocate person. The EJ movement has a lot of work to do to get the state to be more resilient.

What is needed to make communities resilient, which includes recovery and adaptation.

Ideas:

- (a) Alt energy- mitigation adaptation
- (b) Education in the community and the block level
- (c) Healthy food for food deserts is education opportunity and a little piece to building resilience.
- (d) Overcome isolation and build a network
- (e) Programs to rebuild affordable housing
- (f) More self-reliance for local economies.
- (g) Mapping project for communities
- (h) How to combat apathy
- (i) Power structure analysis- why it is important to build communities and mobilization.
- (j) More green space building resilience and improve the community
- (k) Understand the implications of lifestyle
- (l) How to network with those that are apathetic on different EJ movements

- (m) Climate maps/ disaster mapping- good planning and education
- (n) Coordinate evacuation and technology mobile services
- (o) Organize, organize, organize,
- (p) Need to have a goal and vision for building resilient communities.

Peer Level Work:

Climate change workshops youth

Part I:

What is climate change? How does it connect to us? Engagement method: competition

Part II: impact on ocean

Engagement method: Visual demonstrations experiments with water to show what happens to the ocean when it warms/ acidification.

Part III: debunking myths illuminating truths

Engagement method: movement and choice.

Important to let youth be engaged on their own terms- need to empower youth.

What is the government doing and how do you build resilient communities for life?
