"We have pursued the shadows they have obtained the substance we have performed the labor they have received the profits we have planted the vines they have eaten the fruits off them"
ACE’s EJ Agenda

What is ACE’s EJ Agenda?
ACE members developed the idea to create an EJ agenda in our 5 year strategic plan (2012-2017). Our EJ Agenda relates to ACE’s mission and values. It is a tool to engage people and get them “up to speed” about ACE’s work. It gives us an opportunity to share our messages effectively and show connections across all of the different work we do. The Agenda will change over time and will be determined by members. ACE actively seeks member input and feedback on the EJ Agenda.

How will ACE use the EJ Agenda?
- Have dialogues about environmental justice
- Let people know what ACE is working toward
- Guide development of new campaigns / cases and strengthen existing campaigns / cases
- Build relationships and collaboration (e.g. share resources with other organizations that are working on similar things)
- Show that our campaign demands are what the community wants
- Show cause and effect: Root causes of injustice + Why we care about issues + Action=EJ
- Keep us accountable to community needs and demands
- Give credit to the work we do
- Celebrate ACE’s 20 years of campaigns and cases

What does ACE’s EJ Agenda look like?

Eco-Justice (slightly revised definition from 11/16/13 Retreat)
Eco-justice envisions solidarity and values both ecology and justice. We will not achieve environmental health without economic justice and socially just participation in decisions about how to obtain sustenance and manage community life. Eco-justice expresses a moral position of respect and fairness toward all living beings, human and non-human.

Climate Justice (slightly revised definition from 11/16/13 Retreat)
All people have the right to access the resources they need and obtain those resources when needed in order to have an equal chance of survival.
- Remove the unequal burden/discrimination of vulnerable people
- Building Resistance → politics, power, organizing
- Asserting our Control → politics, power, policies, and systems
- Building Resilience → policies, structures, systems
  o How do we build it? → power and organizing

Health Equity
Health equity is a right. It is the absence of disadvantage to individuals and communities in health outcomes, access to healthcare, environmental and mental health, and quality of healthcare regardless of one’s race, gender, nationality, age, ethnicity, religion, and socioeconomic status.
Members study and review the EJ Agenda packet between now and the end of the 2013
- The packet includes the following pieces:
  - Information about what the EJ agenda is and how we plan to use it
  - A summary of ACE’s Trees of Life
  - Information about key ACE cases, campaigns and opportunities in 2014
  - Definitions of Climate Justice, Eco-Justice and Health Equity from the 11/16/13 EJ Agenda Member Retreat. These are a work in progress.

EJ Team will meet to prep for the 1/22/14 member meeting
- EJ Team members currently include Louise Baxter, Mary Ann Babinski, Olmis Sanchez, Staci Rubin, and Lee Matsueda

Members discuss EJ Agenda packet at the Member Meeting, January, 22, 6-8pm at ACE’s office

Other Potential Next Steps
- Staff and Member Training on how to use EJ Agenda

Members across the organization plan and participate in ACE Member Wednesday activities in 2014
- This can include workshops on connections of race, class and capitalism to climate change and climate justice, eco-justice and health equity. Member activities are currently scheduled on each Wednesday of the month; volunteer nights are on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, Game/Movie Nights are on 2nd Wednesdays, and Member Meetings are on 4th Wednesdays.
Potential Member and Member Opportunities at ACE

POTENTIAL MEMBERS

Support the movement and volunteer: ACE needs your help with calls, mailings, prep for events and actions, etc. Volunteer nights at ACE are on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 5-8pm.

Take a Toxic Tour of Dudley Square: Join ACE members and staff on a walking tour of the neighborhood to learn about environmental justice, and ACE’s work and victories. Topics include youth power, air quality & asthma, food & land use & toxics, transportation, and neighborhood development & gentrification & displacement. For tour dates visit ACE’s calendar online at http://www.ace-ej.org/event.

MEMBERS

Check out and Lead an ACE Member Wednesday Game/Movie Night: Join members across the organization to build community and our skills as organizers and activists. Game/Movie Nights at ACE are on 2nd Wednesdays.

Member Meetings: ACE and its programs - the T Riders Union (TRU) and the Roxbury Environmental Empowerment Project (REEP) hold regular member meetings. For meeting dates visit ACE’s calendar online at http://www.ace-ej.org/event.

ACTIVE MEMBERS

Join a program committee: TRU and REEP have organizing campaigns and projects that are led by riders and youth respectively. For more visit http://www.ace-ej.org/programs_and_campaigns.

Become an ACE intern: Each year there are opportunities with TRU, the Environmental Justice Legal Services (EJLS) program at ACE, and with the ACE Development (fundraising) and Communications Teams. For more info visit http://www.ace-ej.org/volunteeropportunities.

MEMBER LEADERS

Elected Member Opportunities: ACE’s board, REEP Youth Organizers and the TRU chairperson and vice-chairperson are members elected by their peers. Member responsibilities and election cycles vary by program and position.

Train to lead ACE Toxic Tours: Members who go through a training series lead ACE Toxic Tours and receive a stipend for each tour.

For more info contact Lee at 617.442.3343 x229 or lee@ace-ej.org.

NOTE: visual taken from ACE’s member leadership develop wheel and adapted from S.O.U.L
“We know there is land nobody is doing anything with, so we want to make it a community space,” said Hakim Sutherland, an 18-year-old Dorchester resident and youth organizer for REEP and its "Grow or Die" initiative.

Youth leaders of the Roxbury Environmental Empowerment Project (REEP) grew tired of seeing low-income neighborhoods full of blighted, abandoned lots, alongside high rates of illnesses resulting from a lack of healthy, affordable food. After a year of research and development, we launched a youth-led campaign in 2011, Grow or Die, that works with residents of Roxbury and Dorchester to challenge disparities in food security and land rights by turning vacant lots into neighborhood gardens.

Today, we’ve built five community gardens and many more household gardens at the homes of our members. “Growing food is uplifting for the community and a source of joy for the people who live there.” (Melissa Lopez, REEP youth Alumni)
We deserve healthy affordable food.
Companies manipulate us into eating foods that lead to illness and death.
All we have is corner stores, liquor stores and fast food restaurants.
As a result, we have higher rates of diabetes, obesity, high blood pressure and heart disease.
The food system we know is rooted in racism, poverty and corporate greed.
Food should be about life, growth, health, community and justice.

We need to grow our own food.
Many of our families have experience growing food.
We should be proud of our own resources and provide for ourselves.

We will use vacant land to grow food.
Our neighborhoods are full of empty lots that have been unused for years.
The existence of so many lots is a result of Boston’s history of racism and classism.
Neglected and empty land causes problems for our neighborhoods, but we can change that by building gardens.
We will grow food together.  Strengthen our neighborhoods and improve our health now and in the future.

For more information about the Grow or Die campaign, visit ace-ej.org/reep or contact us at reep@ace-ej.org or (617) 442-3343 x224.

Nosotros merecemos alimentos saludables y asequibles.
las grandes compañías nos manipulan a consumir alimentos
que afectan nuestra salud e incluso pueden conducirnos hacia la muerte.
Todo lo que tenemos es tiendas de esquina, licorerías y restaurantes de comida rápida.
Comoresultado, tenemos altos índices de diabetes, obesidad, presión sanguínea alta y enfermedades del corazón.
El sistema de alimentación que conocemos es construido con base en racismo, pobreza y ambición corporativa.
Alimentos deberían considerarse vida, crecimiento, salud, comunidad y justicia.

Nosotros necesitamos cosechar nuestro propio alimento.
Muchas de nuestras familias tienen experiencia sembrando alimento.

Nosotros deberíamos sentirnos orgullosos de nuestros recursos y proveernos de los mismos.

Nosotros utilizaremos terrenos baldíos para sembrar nuestro alimento.
Nuestros barrios se encuentran llenos de lotes baldíos que no han sido utilizados por años.
La existencia de tantos lotes baldíos es un resultado de la historia de racismo y clasismo de Boston.

Terrenos abandonados y baldíos causan problemas para nuestros barrios, pero nosotros podemos cambiarlo por medio de la construcción de huertas.

Nosotros cultivaremos alimentos en comunidad, fortaleceremos nuestros barrios y mejoraremos nuestra salud ahora y en el futuro.

Para mayor información acerca de la campaña cultiva o muere, visite ace-ej.org/reep o contáctenos a reep@ace-ej.org o (617) 442-3343 x224.
FUND IT: Dedicate significant new, progressive revenue to public transit
A robust transit system for the twenty-first century requires significant new revenue to maintain current transit infrastructure, attain an acceptable state of good repair, and ensure that service can meet the needs of our communities. Due to insufficient funding, each year regional transit authorities (RTAs) use more than $30 million of federal funding meant for capital investment to pay operating expenses, resulting in fewer resources for capital needs. RTA’s, too, are forced to borrow to pay for all expenses before being reimbursed at the end of the year due to the lack of ‘forward funding’. In the MBTA, Big Dig debt service costs $120 million per year- twice as much as the MBTA would have saved when it proposed to eliminate more than 100 bus routes last year. The debt burden accounts for most of the T’s annual budget deficit.

The state needs to raise about $270 million each year to cover the costs of operations of our transit systems, to say nothing of the money needed for the capital improvements that will make our transit system robust. In order for the new revenue to be equitable and dependable, it needs to:
- Come from a diverse and well-balanced set of revenues that can promote the stability of funds through economic downturns and be dedicated to transit.
- Add to, rather than replace, current existing baselines for transit systems.
- Be progressive so that it does not unduly burden low- and moderate-income people and spreads the burden across all beneficiaries (riders, drivers, businesses, schools, etc.).
- Encourage the necessary investments in other community services.

MAKE IT FAIR: Establish a More Equitable Public Transit Fare Structure (H. 3059, S. 1655) Lead Sponsors: Senator K. Donnelly, Representative S. Garballey

The Need: In order to promote environmental sustainability, meet the needs of diverse populations across regions of the state, and support and encourage economic development and job growth, we need a robust transportation system throughout the Commonwealth. To meet operational needs, our transit authorities will continue to look for ways to raise revenue through various usage fees. But simply raising fares on individual riders will disproportionately harm low-income individuals.
- Fare hikes keep low-income riders (including youth, seniors, and people with disabilities) from accessing transit and the services, goods, and resources they need. Low-income residents rely more heavily on public transit and have fewer resources to absorb the added costs.
- While the goal of the rest of our transit system is to encourage ridership growth, transit authorities are increasingly looking to the farebox to discourage paratransit riders from taking the trips they need. The recent increases in paratransit fares in the MBTA area have resulted in dramatically decreased ridership since July 2012. Some RTAs have also proposed severe and disproportionate increases in demand-response fares.
- Public investment in transit is critical to the health and continued growth of our private and non-profit sectors, connecting workers to jobs, students to school, and clients and customers to goods and services. But,
many institutions of higher education and businesses do not have a direct opportunity to contribute to public transit.

- Youth who are not pursuing a traditional high school or higher education tend to have fewer resources than others, but are not covered by the student fares in many transit authorities.

Solutions proposed in our bill:

- Limit fare hikes to rises in area wages, ensuring that transportation costs do not rise more quickly than riders’ resources.
- Implement a tiered fare structure for paratransit.
- Create a University Pass program, requiring all colleges and universities near transit service to buy discounted passes for students and staff.
- Create a voluntary Employer Pass program, allowing employers with more than 50 workers to buy discounted passes for employees.
- Pilot a low-cost youth pass for riders between the ages of 12 and 21 years old, who may be going to work, job training programs, or GED classes.

FIX IT: Establish More Public Input into Public Transit Decisions (H. 3034, S. 1707)

Lead Sponsors: Senator K. Spilka, Representative C. Coakley-Rivera

The Need: Throughout the state, decisions about transit service, fares, and capital investments are made without the resources needed or the institutional voice of riders and workers. The systems show these failings.

- An analysis we conducted of several regional transit authorities across the state revealed that it takes an average of 4.8 times longer to commute by bus than by car.
- Currently, Advisory Boards comprise city managers, mayors, and chairs of the board of selectmen (or the designee). The only rider guaranteed to be on these Boards is a non-voting representative of users of paratransit.

Solutions proposed in our bill:

- Require each transit authority to perform a community-led comprehensive service assessment that includes a market analysis, a performance analysis of the existing service, and recommendations to better align services with local demand, regional job creation goals, and statewide environmental goals.
- Include a regular rider of the MBTA and a labor representative on the MBTA/MassDOT Board of Directors and regular riders and labor representatives on regional transit authority advisory boards.
- Require a study assessing the feasibility of establishing one or more facilities for the purposes of overhaul and other major repair, manufacture or assembly, installation and upgrade of mass transit vehicles in service throughout the Commonwealth.
**The Fight to Stop the Pioneer Valley Energy Center**

A Climate and an Environmental Injustice!

For more than five years, a determined group of Westfield Concerned Citizens (WCC), with the legal assistance of Alternatives for Community & Environment (ACE) and the organizational guidance of Toxics Action Center (TAC), has...

- delayed the start of construction by several years;
- been successful in getting additional and more protective conditions added to air permits;
- achieved getting stronger mercury limits and monitoring requirements added to the sewer permit;
- helped to get stronger and more comprehensive conditions added to the wetlands permit;
- organized and educated hundreds of Westfield residents to oppose the dirty power plant.

But, we are not done! We are determined to continue the fight to **stop** this power plant from being built here or anywhere. We continue because...

**NO!** We CANNOT afford the risk of **MORE** air pollution!

**NO!** We **DO NOT** need another fossil fuel power plant in Massachusetts!

**YES!** This plant **WILL** negatively impact public health, public safety and the environment!

**YES!** This plant **WILL** contribute to **Climate Disruption**!

HELP STOP the PVEC Power Plant!

*Clean Air Does Not Come From a Smokestack*

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**STOP the PVEC POWER PLANT**

The Proposed Pioneer Valley Energy Center
431MW Gas/Oil fired Power plant
Ampad Road, Westfield, MA

**A Fossil Fuel Power Plant that will...**

- use 2 million gallons of water per day from the Tighe-Carmody Reservoir;
- emit 1.3 million tons per year of Carbon Dioxide (CO2);
- receive a 95% Tax exemption (TIF);
- put the Barnes Aquifer, which is a source of drinking water for 60,000 people in four communities, at risk;
- not guarantee a 100% safe operation;
- produce tons of significant toxic emissions - ammonia, carbon monoxide, and particulate matter;
- store 15,000 gallons of ammonia;
- store 750,000 gallons of fuel oil;
- put thousands of residents at risk - including school children and elderly;
- be located in an environmental justice community;
- spew toxics less than 1/2 mile away from residences.

**A mistake for any neighborhood and for our low income environmental justice neighborhood!**
DISCUSSION

Backwards in the Fight Against Climate Fuel Plants. This power plant will be a major step toward ensuring that wind and solar power are the future, especially with the Westfield need to be abandoned. We support Westfield's need to be abandoned. We support Westfield's need.

Learn more at our website: www.example.com

Action

Alternative Solutions Do Exist...

Disproportionately in lower-income communities in MA, environmental justice issues are already localized. Because power plants are already localized, environmental justice issues are already more pronounced. It is an environmental justice issue in every city. It is an environmental justice issue in every city.

There are five schools, two daycares, and five mobile homes communities within three miles of the proposed site. Westfield is already overcrowded with children. There are five schools, two daycares, and five mobile homes communities within three miles of the proposed site. Westfield is already overcrowded with children. There are five schools, two daycares, and five mobile homes communities within three miles of the proposed site. Westfield is already overcrowded with children.

The Risks Far Outweigh the Advantages...

Dirty oil and natural gas power plant in Westfield, MA. Valley Power Counter (VPC) plans to construct a 439 MW dirty oil and natural gas power plant in Westfield. VPC, the parent company of Progress Energy, is expected to pay the $100 million cost of the power plant. Progress Energy is the parent company of Progress Energy.

The Threat...