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Panel III: Moving Forward

Looking Back, Moving Forward

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### Transcript

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WEBVTT

Zulene Mayfield: Oh.

Oswaldo M.S.: Welcome, and everyone as you as you're coming in we're waiting just a little bit longer for a couple of people to come in, before we get started, and feel free to read this poster that on screen right now and we'll get started in just a little bit.

Giovanna Di Chiro: Well Hello everybody. I think we'll get started now. We just had a few issues but we're going to move forward and. I want to welcome everyone or welcome you back to the final day of our webinar looking back moving forward law policy and environmental justice. My name is Giovanna to hero and i'm a professor of environmental studies and the coordinator of the program on environmental justice and climate resilience here at swarthmore college. Along with my two wonderful co organizers of this webinar Mrs ilene mayfield and Dr Chris melee who will introduce themselves in a moment. i'm delighted to welcome you to this third panel titled moving forward. So, yesterday we had a full day of conversations focusing on how far we have come in fighting to bring about environmental justice. And we heard some very powerful and moving reflections from some of the frontline actors in Chester in their lawyers and advocates, who in 1996 filed circle vs saif.

The first civil rights lawsuit in the country charging environmental racism. We also learned about how the fight is continuing today on many fronts in Chester in Chester city a sister city Newark New Jersey and in other communities across the country. who are using environmental law local zero waste ordinances and local and state policy as as powerful Community organizing tools to help to quote change the rules of the game and to mobilize people to action as environmental justice leader Maria Lopez nunez put it yesterday. So, today our panelists will help us to think about what we need to do to keep moving forward and there'll be sharing with us their thoughts. On what they see as the as the next steps and the future visions for advancing environmental justice and for building adjust transition locally and beyond. If you are unable to make it to yesterday's panels, the recordings will be available on the conference website that as Waldo will will drop into the chat in just a moment.

So to start off our webinar today, I would like to invite Oswaldo Morales SOLORZANO, who is the sustainability and engaged scholarship fellow at swarthmore college to offer us a land acknowledgement Oswaldo.

Oswaldo M.S.: Thank you Giovanna. Though virtual this webinar is being hosted by swarthmore college which sits on the Navajo king, the land of the manabe. The name will not be means original people and they will not they are seen by many in the region to be the grandfather people are turtle island. The Navajo king is home to the four directions which we honor the grandfather of the North, who brings us land and physical form to the creator's vision, the grandfather the East who brings the wind and through that brings breath of.

Giovanna Di Chiro: Life.

Oswaldo M.S.: The grandmother of the South who brings fire and spirit grandfather in the West who controls the water and looks over death. will not be hooking is home to animals and plants, it is home to the muskrat who swam down to the bottom of the ocean to grab my to spread on the turtle who grew to become the island. It is home to sumac whose bright red flowers can be used as dies or Roma for tobacco and sasa for us, whose lives can be used in perfumes and aunties. And just home to the waters of bringing us sustenance and the land that grows us, and I hope king is home too much more living or non living beings, and we have time in our lives to speak about. It is expansive reaching across lands now called New Jersey Pennsylvania Delaware in New York.

it's important to highlight that colonialism is non event to the past brother and ongoing structure through false treaties forced coercion and many other violent actions. they're not they have been pushed away from their land today and i'll be are spread out across Oklahoma Wisconsin Ontario and many other places in North America. And through all of this attempted araiza Lennart they have nonetheless remaining community and in story with one another. And so we must understand the ways that we must not situate up in the past, brother in the forefront of our future conversations about land or one of the first steps and dismantling ongoing legacies of colonial violence and honoring indigenous resilience.

We express our deep gratitude to the not pay for shepherding this land and invite you all to think about the ways, you can continue to learn about the land here at swarthmore and Chester or wherever else you may be.

Giovanna Di Chiro: Thank you so much, Oswaldo for that. beautiful and multi layered land acknowledgement, I would also like to acknowledge our co sponsors who have generously supported this webinar. The length Center for civic and social responsibility, the environmental studies program and the office of sustainability at swarthmore college. And the baldy Center for law and social policy and the digital scholarship studio and network at university of buffalo. we're also deeply grateful to the College staff and the students who helped to design and construct our website and who have helped to make this webinar run smoothly. So now, I want to turn the floor over to miss elaine mayfield chairperson of Chester residents concern for quality living and co organizer of our webinar to welcome everyone and to let people know. to let people know who are local about the march today is elaine.

Zulene Mayfield: i'm sorry hi good morning everybody i'll be on screen in a minute, and we want to welcome everybody today. This is the last of our Conference and i'm sure that it's going to be a very productive one. I am the chairperson of Chester resonance concern for quality living you'll also hear us call it circle, because the loan, the name is old and and and. But it circle has been around since 1992. We formed due to the proliferation of. Countless countless waste facilities or waste processing people that want to come to Chester and we've been together, ever since we are still on the battlefield sometimes you you take one step up and you get three steps back, but we're still moving forward, so I welcome you.

Zulene Mayfield: I hope that we have a very spirited dialogue and let's see where we can go from here Thank you so much fun.

Giovanna Di Chiro: Thank you sing. And And so i'd like to now actually Oswaldo if you could just put the screen up of the of the March so so we can just. Let people know that the environmental justice March is happening in Chester For those of you who are local. To be able to will will probably wrap up a little bit a little bit early today, so that we, people who are going to the march can can get there.

Zulene Mayfield: and This March is because we technically don't celebrate Earth Day until we achieve a cleaner air, we will continue to march we're calling it environmental justice day, because that is what we're seeking we're taking equity we're just seeking a right to breed. So that is the purpose of this March, it is celebrate Tory we have enough other issues that we can be sad about, but we want this to be a. Big turnout, we want people to come and to experience with the resident experience but also support each other circle needs all the support it get can get. People say that you need a village to raise a child, but you also need a broad base village to save a child and that's what this March is about, and we hope to see you there.

Giovanna Di Chiro: Thank you so much for listening. So I want to turn the floor over now to Dr Chris Miller, who will introduce himself and lay out some of the prompt questions.

Christopher Mele: hey good morning everyone, and thanks for attending I know Saturday mornings are often precious for a lot of folks and looking forward to the event this afternoon.

Christopher Mele: My name is Chris Bailey i'm a professor of sociology at the University of buffalo and it's been my been very lucky and feeling very honored to be working with saline and Giovanna on putting this conference together over the past the course of the past several months. I want to start with just a very quick overview of what I got out of yesterday's two panels, because I think he kind of sets up where we are today as Giovanna mentioned the first panel, I was really looking back, but it was a kind of a new look in my mind at a case that has been studied.

Christopher Mele: quite a bit in academic circles, and that is circle versus site and the case that has a novel use of Title six of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. During that session the panelists shared their recollections of the suit. The context of the time in which is the suit was launched the innovative strategies that was retold by the two attorneys that were present at the panel yesterday and the limits of using Title six. that are imposed by Federal Court ruling sense and then some of the more recent federal opportunities that are appearing but here's the effects of course It remains to be seen. But one of the main takeaways from the panel was the clear recognition that using courts is a particular strategy based on a really a model of petitioning the state. On the state's terms, where an individual actors such as circle petitions to state to address the claim.

Christopher Mele: That the institutional requirements really shaped the pathway, in which that claim is made, in short, the demands for environmental justice. Are in that process kind of compelled to submit to some of the legal requirements and rulings. In panel one we learn that law is just a tool that might chip away and gain some benefit and good benefit for an organization, but clearly it's not the only path. or even, at times, the preferred path and panel to we took a very different look at what's going on in the present. And the current initiatives of the environmental justice movements, particularly in Chester and in New York New Jersey and the role of student organizations. As support, such as see for the efforts included as jovana mentioned zero waste ordinances and the passages of the passage of the strongest environmental justice law in the country.

The clear takeaway from me from panel to was first, the recognition of no singular reliance on a particular or unique strategies, such as petitioning courts. Instead movements now draw on a number of tools legislative legal direct action, etc, and some of these prove. More effective at particular times than others, and it organizations, need to be nimble flexible and ready to act at what's at hand second. The movements are based less than individual actors acting alone, as we saw, for example in the idea of petitioning the Court and more on working together around the line principles of justice. Building alliances coalition's and networking. What is to be gained and the process of movement building ties these connections together opening up new spaces for new ideas as well, reaching beyond particular places like New York.

And Chester but in alliance together, lastly, when it comes to law and policy, the panel concluded that both are most useful when a community itself determines and drives the process according to its needs. And last I said, lastly, but just one Lastly, we also learned that the role of the legal profession needs to bend in the way of justice that's defined by the communities themselves, not by some academic institutional notion of the law preset. This panel is really our capstone and we're excited about it because it's really the kind of future oriented. What we're going to be asking in this particular panel is what is your vision of the next steps of the ej movement and moving ej it forward in general. With regards to law and policy making what are some of the creative and more practical ways to advance circles goals and the ej movement again more broadly. How can we expand coalition building and to what end how our environmental justice and, for example, indigenous organizations building diverse coalition's.

In relation to their strategies and if you could speak to how your own organization or the organizations that you collaborate with draw on more critical approaches to Community engagement. intersection ality and supporting Community driven solidarity. If you have time, you might want to offer some advice that you would give to folks attending the seminar webinar rather students Community residents researchers lawyers, teachers, etc. So I look forward to a fruitful conversation based on these and any other items that you want to add to today's agenda turn it back to jovana.

Giovanna Di Chiro: Thank you, Chris so now, I just want to turn it briefly back to us Waldo will give us some important logistical information about the webinar today.

Oswaldo M.S.: yeah so as you guys are listening to the panelists and listening to everyone speak. If you have any questions, please feel free to put them into the question and answer section, as you as they come up i'm actually looking at the zoom chat from my own phone right now. And there's a little button that says QA and if you click on that it'll let you answer ask a question and those questions will be sent directly to all of the panelists. And that'll be the easiest way for us to be able to look at and answer all the questions. will probably answer them live, though, if any of them are short enough, we could even get a text response. The chat is a little hard to follow in webinars, so I think really do try to use the Q amp a feature.

On saw you have really have to do is again click the Q amp a button and it'll let you ask a question, you can put your question and you can even make it anonymous if you feel called to. But ask questions as they come up and then sort of at the end of all the speakers will be able to wrap up and go through all those questions for you guys.

Giovanna Di Chiro: Great Thank you as well, so i'm going to introduce. Our panelists and we may shuffle people around it, depending upon when when some of our panel panelists are able to to join the webinar so first we have. Miss cairney Warren, who is a Chester resident and the Philadelphia area organizer for the energy justice network.

Next, we will have Dr kyle powers white who's professor of philosophy and Community sustainability in the school of environment and sustainability at the University of Michigan. we're hoping that Dr Ana battista will be able to join us who's the professor of professional practice in the milano school of policy management and environment at the new school in New York City. Then we will have miss Jackie Patterson, who is the director of the chisholm legacy project and the former director of the naacp environmental and climate justice Program. After Jackie will be miss dorcas Gilmore, who is the principal attorney at Gilmore kanda law firm in baltimore Maryland and a member of the just transition loitering network. And finally we'll hear from miss Carol kezia who is Chester resident activist and candidate for Pennsylvania state representative so and Julian, of course, will. As as our. chairperson of circle and co organizer will also respond throughout the. webinar presentation so. let's start let's start with tyranny. If you could just please, please start us off by sharing with us. As a resident and. As a local activist and organizer. Your goals and visions for bringing environmental justice to Chester to the Philadelphia area and beyond.

Giovanna Di Chiro: Kenny.

Kearni Warren: Thank you G ivana and everyone at swarthmore I miss elaine for having me today. I am a resident of Chester so this work is very important to me, and it is very personal to me, I live here, but I was not aware of the major impacts that incineration was having and I can't even remember how I got involved with miss you lean.

Kearni Warren: semi away I don't even. Remember, but I got involved, and now it has become. part of my. My life's work so when we talk about adjust transition it's not simply a word it's a model that we need to use and it's defined as a principal a process and a practice. And in order for us to move forward to end environmental devastation and to end environmental racism, we have to be willing to look at our ugly and racist past which has violently stolen from and continues to oppress black and indigenous people. Climate destruction is rooted in white supremacy colonization capitalism and patriarchy, so it is not a coincidence that.

Environmental justice communities look the way they do or the reasons why environmental justice communities are a result of the effects of redlining. The EPA defines environmental justice communities as 20% or more of the residents living at or below the federal poverty line. And or 30% or more of the population self identifies as black indigenous people of color so it's important to note that both characteristics, do not have to be. present when speaking about an environmental justice Community black and indigenous a representative representative communities are often over burning. Meaning that there are issues on top of issues on top of issues, and then we have environmental destruction to add on to that. They are frontline communities and residents and activists on the grassroots level must be heard and given space to create an implement solutions towards the just transition. frontline solutions must be inclusive, the process and outcome of a regenerative economy, which is based on ecological. restoration Community protection equitable partnerships justice and a full and fair participatory process, we have to also repudiate Greenwashing. and foster solution terms like trash to steam waste to energy, energy from ways resource recovery facilities, among others, that make their harmful practices sound good and further harm our communities.

When we speak about address transition just transition principles that it's based on their eight. One is the belief that we can live well and live better without having the expense of others, without having to harm people putting people over profits, the rights of people communities and nature must outweigh the rights of the individual. adjust transition relies on human potential and creates meaningful work. Address transition upholds self determination, meaning the right to participate in decisions that impact communities lives. The people who are most affected by the extractive economy, the frontline workers and fence line communities must have the power to shape their economies as producers and consumers. Address transition works against and transforms the current and historic social inequities based on race race class gender. immigrant status and other forms of oppression and reclaim capital and resources adjust transition requires regenerative ecological. economies by building up local food systems local clean energy and small scale production that are sustainable and economically and ecologically just transition must advance ecological resilience to reduce resource consumption and restore biodiversity.

Kearni Warren: adjust transition retains culture and tradition, including reparations for the land that has been stolen and destroyed by capitalism.



Kearni Warren: patriarchy genocide and slavery, it calls for our local, regional, national and global solidarity that confronts imperialism and military ISM. And finally, adjust transition builds what we already know it uses traditional knowledge of the residents, so when we speak about organizing and reference to adjust transition. We must begin with educating and educating our frontline communities with facilitators that resembled them, it makes the most impact, and it can result in connectedness as a former union leader. I know that in order to meet people, we must first agitate i'm sorry educate educate agitate reiterate and then activate.

The Community isn't motivated unless they feel a connection to an issue and that they have to get mad about it in order to take action so as we organize for adjust transition. We have to push for zero waste society, which is the idea of reducing waste utilization and it cleans the three r's reduce reuse recycle. which also includes composting zero waste is defined as the conservation of all resources by means of responsible production. Consumption release and recovery of products, packaging and materials without burning like we do in Chester at the incineration incinerator and with no discharge is to land, water or air. that threaten the environment or human health Chester has a major waste problem we know this, we burn ways here at co banta at the Center. incinerator and people don't waste and then our local government has had issues with picking up residents waste on time.

During scheduled trash days so Chester is ripe for green infrastructure, in addition to zero waste, we should move forward.towards a sustainable and circular economy, creating good Union green jobs that directly involved or indirectly supports, one of the strategies of a circular economy, which is a model of production and consumption. Involving sharing leasing reasoning repairing refurbishing and recycling existing materials and products for as long as as possible, so an example is design, construction, education, textiles, there are industries already in place where we can create a certain circular economy from. Again Chester has a competitive advantage and is a perfect location for a green economy, including transportation so.

As we fight for adjust transition, we have to fight against gentrification which does not include the principles of a just transition, we want our communities to. be healthy be safe, be clean be green we don't mind modernization, but what gentrification does it extracts it stills it takes away all of the. traditions that and history that were once in a community in order to benefit others, and so, in order to have a just transition, we must first. One and seek justice and the goal is to every day get closer to meeting our energy needs in transition, with conservation efficiency when solar. and ocean power, so what I could share. To others to people who are watching to students to young people first, research, where your trash goes right there are communities that are accepting your trash that is aiding environmental devastation and it is mostly in. overburden frontline fence line communities of black indigenous people of color.

Kearni Warren: To the students to law students helped draft policies and resolutions that beginning on a municipal level your your local city borough township and then working towards political legislation on the state and federal levels help passed ordinances clean air acts. You know, students, play a big role in this fight and Miss do lean as well mark has been doing a great job with engaging students, so that they are actually learning real life practices that will put them in place and give them. That will catapult them as they further their their education and then move out into the real world, their their learning and research and activism will truly help communities like Chester move into adjust. transition and in the environmental racism and environmental devastation that me miss Julian and other residents and Chester and communities like Chester all over this country are subjected to.

Giovanna Di Chiro: Thank you so much Kenny. i'm wondering if he might want to just briefly comment on on on your campaign as the as the first candidate representing the Green Party. In Chester last year.

Kearni Warren: Sure Chester has been my home for generations my great grandmother migrated here from the South, and so. growing up and Chester I you know the different generations there's a different vision and experience with Chester so I was lucky enough to have the experiences from a great grandmother grandmother parents and then my generation and to see the changes that have occurred so. When I decided to to run for office and Chester on a Green Party, it was really to affect change because we are not only fighting systemic. issues were fighting our local government, which is really hard to do because a lot of the changes that we want as residents it doesn't appear that our local government wants the same for this city our local government. They don't tell us when when businesses are coming the businesses majority of the businesses that do come are harmful to us there's lack of opportunity here there's lack of transparency here. there's lack of services here and I wanted to change that or at least help support that that change we deserve to live like any other Community you know swarthmore is right next door brookhaven media.

Unfortunately, we in Chester, we have to leave our city to go out and put money into other municipalities for the things that we need our daily resources, I knew that Chester has a historical. roots, it is, it is. full of culture, you know, Martin Luther King jr went to seminary here who preaches for sermon here, there were so many. entertainment and and and black entrepreneurship businesses here and I wanted to bring that back for our youth and there there's lack of jobs here for our youth and so i'm. After traveling as a young person to different zip codes and seeing the way that different people live.

And and seeing that those different people who are living in a different way weren't necessarily. All wealthy, some of them were had the same types of jobs that my family members had so I just couldn't understand as a child, why communities were different, even if people had the same type of jobs. So that made me want to fight for change here in Chester and I am running as a Green Party candidate I pushed for green infrastructure.

Kearni Warren: Because I know that studies have shown that, where communities are clean and healthy it changes the attitudes of the residents you can't expect people to. be happy and and feel motivated every day, when you don't live in a place or neighborhood that is inspiring when you don't have. A job to go to I know when there have been times in my life when I wasn't working when I was an unemployed, where I didn't feel good about myself. And so I can only imagine people who are unemployed and who may not even have a lot of skills it's one thing to be unemployed and you're looking for a job. And you know you have this skill set for jobs, but then to be unemployed and know that you don't have the skill set and don't have transportation and don't have the money to to pay for transportation, that is just a vicious. cycle of despair and you know how you feel when people you go to places that are beautiful and inspiring you go home and it makes you it motivates you so that that is what I wanted to do for the residents in in Chester to motivate to help them see their power.

And to see their light and to know that we have been oppressed in Chester and many of us have normalized. Negative behaviors, so it is a transforming of a mindset that needs to take place and we need the strength in numbers to help us do this because, like I said we're not only fighting systemic. issues here we're also fighting a government why say are gatekeepers to the structure of white supremacy, because they they hold on to things that will benefit the the residents here and they don't release them into our Community, but they release. A lot of harmful practices in our Community.

Giovanna Di Chiro: Thanks so much Karen a for for all of your your passion and commitment and, by the way, just to mention kick care needed did not win the seat on city council, but she did gain 20% of the votes so. The next stage I think we're going to move towards victory, and thank you also for for working with my students. As as a partner and we've been we've had just fabulous experience working in partnership with you and we will continue to so I want to to now turn the floor to Dr kyle white. Professor of philosophy. And Community sustainability at the University of Michigan kyle.

Kyle Powys Whyte: Great awesome to be in dialogue with you all and good to hear the powerful words of tyranny and all the work that that they're doing. So, in terms of environmental justice policy, you know I work in the context of tribal nations and i'm a member of the citizen part of automation I live in work here in our homelands and in Michigan. proud of me, people were wearing the snobby people and we're all over the place, not just in the Great Lakes region, but like the tribe i'm enrolled in was relocated to Oklahoma. And so you know, for me the the core my work is empowering indigenous people in climate justice and I wanted to talk a little bit about.

The issues that i'm working through right now, and my role on the White House environmental justice advisory council. One of the things that's really important to notice that you know it was black Brown and indigenous people that put the Biden Harris administration and office.

Kyle Powys Whyte: In one of the organizations i'm part of the mission job at Caucus were a power building organization and it was started by some amazing folks such as Andrea pierce and you know we turned out a lot of people to vote, a lot of native people in Michigan and Michigan's a swing state and. It was a state that that trump did very well in previously, and so it was really the black brown indigenous voters that came out and made the huge difference and so when the Harris administration. Finally, came in, they had a number of environmental justice policies because that's what our voters wanted and we understand environmental justice as it relates to a number of issues, health and culture and.

You know, having access to green spaces and culturally relevant spaces and environments and one of the things that the the Biden. Harris administration developed was this justice 40 policy. And in theory of the justice 40 policy does some things I think are important to note, you know it's official wording is that 40% of the benefits of a good I. benefits not saying clearly defined 40% of the benefits in most major environmental investments. Energy being one or clean water infrastructure being another workforce development tied to climate resilience and energy infrastructure so 40% of the benefits of all of those. Investments must go directly to communities that the United States deems to be disadvantaged.

And so again, what are the things with the policy that's that's important before I get into some issues with how it's been rolled out. But one of the issues it's important is it's actually addressing this fact that many of our communities were left out of every major infrastructure investment that the US ever made. indigenous people, for example, if you look across the decades anytime the US made advancement in something whether it's electrical grids or clean water. They would do they would they would engage in that with privilege communities are many white communities, but native people black people and other brown communities would be completely left out of those investments.

And so we confront a situation where environmental justice as both the fighting against excessive levels of pollution and harm. And the creation of our own self determination like cuny was talking about very significantly and what they shared building our own self determination and self determination. includes infrastructure but infrastructure, not in the way that racial capitalism and patriarchal forms of development of defined infrastructure, but a way that arises from. Our culture's our Community values and the wisdom, we have from living in these lands for for many generations, and while I know that. For native folks We often talk about how we've been here for you know, thousands of years right many black and brown communities have been here for quite a few centuries. as well, and so I think that that land based wisdom that so many of our communities have is absolutely critical to determining what infrastructure means to us what it means to engage in infrastructure development.

So this policy was really ambitious when the build back better Act was on the table, because it would have applied actually to the \$555 billion that ran the last version of that bill before it failed that would have been for climate change.

Kyle Powys Whyte: And it also is a policy that applies to all current federal spending, but one of the issues that the policy has and one of the directions that we need to go. To change policy is that the justice 40 initiative, even though it's in play, and even though it's enshrined by executive order 14008 it actually can't be implemented because. The US Government actually needs to change the way that it understands what it means to roll out an initiative like this and the way they set it up has sort of an hourglass shape. At the top of the hour, glass, where the the sand is you've got all of these resources billions of dollars in infrastructure investment at the bottom of the hour glass.

You have the justice and equity issues you have the communities that have been left behind for generations by previous infrastructure. Development soon who face legacy infrastructure problems and other environmental injustices. And so you've got a lot at the bottom of the hourglass you have a lot at the top of the hour, glass, but the US Government did not invest anything in the actual middle of the hourglass right and it's made it so that. The the actual justice. 40 funds triggers trickle so slowly. That very few communities, even though it's been a year can say that they even know what justice 40 is and that they even have a pathway for being able to actually benefit.

From what is should be billions of dollars of infrastructure funding, and so, for example, the Council, I sit on. is supposed to make justice 40 recommendations for all federal agencies, all of them and there's actually more agencies that we need to comment on, then we have Members on our volunteer. advisory committee, the Council on environmental quality and agency in the White House which oversees the the nepa act. They only have like just a few people that are working on environmental justice and they're actually supposed to coordinate the justice 40 effort across all agencies, not just environmental protection agency's all agencies every single one. Agencies, many of us have not engaged with before or don't know that much about moreover states who are.

In the position to receive justice 40 funds, depending on the politics in that state they can choose to block the funding. They can choose to not pay attention to it if they don't feel that they're mandated to do anything they can choose not to invest in. Staff and policies that would make it so that communities that needed it that put some of these people in office that are elected officials and state would actually receive the funds. There is no federal infrastructure to make sure that things like workforce development within communities actually occurs. And so, in the middle of the hourglass is where you need to open things up, so that the sand falls a lot quicker, but because there's so little there.

In the middle of the hourglass private industry and philanthropy have then criticize the government and wanted to come in and take advantage of the justice 40 policy. And so, in terms of private industry, there are many companies now that want to control the data that determines who's disadvantaged and who's not, why do they want to do that, because if they control. Kyle Powys Whyte: That data if they control that information, then they can make the case to federal agencies about where investment should be occurring.

Kyle Powys Whyte: And then they can coordinate with their other partners and collaborators to then create. A very profitable a business ecosystem, and so this thin middle of the hourglass has actually created a situation that can be very exploitive. And it's a realignment of the regulatory system, which is actually no different from what happened, I know many of you were there at the ground level, and some of these things occur, but what happened when public participation policy. began to become a more focal point within the regulatory process right public participation, huge key and important, but just as quickly as it was established. as a way of doing business within regulation it gets co opted become shallow and hollow it's not fully implemented in meaningful ways and private industry, then. Attempts to have its own public participation activities its own puppetry as an attempt to show that it is fulfilling the spirit of what public participation is supposed to mean.

And so right now we're experiencing another one of these realignments of the regulatory system and it's centered around infrastructure it's centered around workforce development. And it's centered on the importance of being able to know data within communities, so the infrastructure investments can be strategically made. And just going back to what I had said at the very beginning, on the one hand, this is an amazing policy because it gets at aspects of environmental justice that people. oftentimes had excluded and some of their assumptions, whereas for a long time communities, including many tribes. had actually been thinking about environmental justice in this way self determining our own infrastructure. But on the other hand, even when we have really good policy ideas, we have to compete with all the expletive actors that really want to get in on the action and just realize the power and so that the.

Powerful people they change the power doesn't change, but some of the people that are the ones that we know to be the powerful ones. They change and we're seeing new actors coming in, right now, and we're seeing a change in the regulatory process it's important as advocates that we stand up to this and that we call it out and that we. do what we can to stop a problematic realignment that's going to continue to disempower communities.

Giovanna Di Chiro: Well, thank you so much kyle. i'm wondering if you. either now or later in the conversation can speak to some of the some recommendations or suggestions you have for communities like Chester to be able to stand up. To this power realignment. You know what, what are the strategies for for doing that.

Kyle Powys Whyte: Sure happy to discuss later.

Giovanna Di Chiro: Okay Thank you so much. I am going to turn the floor now to. Dr Ana battista, who is the professor of professional practice in the milano school of policy management environment at the new school in New York City Donna.

Ana Baptista: Thank you lana and apologies all of you for joining late, I the universe conspired this morning, along with my computer to.

Ana Baptista: get me you're late but i'm here and i'm. Very. very happy to be in this Community with you and see so many amazing colleagues and comrades factor Wade and Jackie and many of you um I was just going to speak to. Maybe one or two of the prompts around my own experience working in a coalition in New Jersey with environmental justice activists pushing for. more meaningful environmental justice laws that protect communities that have historically been overburdened and been the subject of. quite a bit of environmental racism in terms of the concentration of industrial pollution New Jersey, is a very industrial state with a long legacy of racial residential segregation. income inequality and communities in Newark trenton camden rahway all across the state has struggled to.

Stop the continuous litany of polluting industries from situated in concentrating and growing in in our communities, for many, many generations. And this is not a unique dynamic, of course, we know that in places like Chester many of the same industries, in fact, the same corporations like Kobe into incinerator are are located and so. there's a cold, you know we're relatively small State, so we actually have a very tight knit community of environmental justice activists who have been doing environmental justice work for a long time before I would say became sexy I feel like. You know 2030 years ago when we were protesting outside the DTP, I remember, I was a young student and you know we made cardboard boxes in the shape of coffins we protested outside the state regulated regulatory agency over the permitting of a cement factory in camden.

They thought we were crazy they're like you know this is business as usual and there's no such thing as environmental justice injustice proven right there was. No, there was a lot of pushback that whether this thing called environmental injustice even existed, they didn't even want to name it. But now Everybody talks about environmental justice it's in every agency report and and policy, it seems quite ubiquitous but um but what does it really mean because after 3040 years of having the same arguments about. We don't want any more pollution in our communities, the same exact permitting decisions were being made in the same exact way and state agencies would say to us well we don't believe we have the authority. The legal authority to say no.

To industries, on the basis of cumulative impacts, the EPA has not given us this authority the Clean Air act and clean water act doesn't give us this authority. Now we disagreed we being environmental justice activists in New Jersey. among us there are lawyers and teachers and you know many different activists who have done this for a long time, and we believe that they did have a legal jurisdiction with existing laws to say no to use their discretion. They disagreed, and so we spent over a decade trying to craft legislation, both at the state and federal level that spoke directly to giving the authority to. state agencies federal agencies to say no, on the basis of cumulative impacts and ej communities in New Jersey, we had a republican Governor, for a long time.

And so we spent eight years struggling to even raise these issues and those eight years the Governor of New Jersey actually build four major power plants, all in ej communities.

Ana Baptista: Also fuel plans, and so we turned our attention to local advocacy so we actually pass an environmental justice ordinance in the city of Newark. And in the city of Camden also pass the similar ordinance and we did that, because we thought you know let's take our political capital work locally, where we have potentially some organize an organizing base and some accountability with we had a new mayor Roscoe Faraone who has sympathetic. But we had to push you and push push for four or five six years to get an environmental justice ordinance in Newark. And then we were able, with the passage of time, and the democratic change over in.

In the state legislature, we were able to find the sympathetic not only sympathetic but really a leader in one of the State legislators Troy Singleton who worked with us to really champion. Good bill there had been a lot of EJ bills, in the past, but they didn't have any teeth, in other words, they said let's study cumulative impacts let's do an analysis let's create some maps let's add more public participation, but none of those laws said Oh, you must use cumulative impacts in decision making and take it into account and potentially say no to industries. And so choice Singleton and representative tracing will actually work with us to crop the builder closely that actually said, the state shall consider, it must consider cumulative impacts and communities that are overburdened and we did a lot of work in our coalition to craft the language of that bill, so that our communities recovered both by income or race or linguistic isolation. And we did that purposely because we wanted to cover as many communities as we could and, to be honest with you. The political will to do this type of very strong bill only came about because we had a confluence of events, not just the democratic governor. And a legislator that was interested, but we had over.

13 years of working on this policy mobilizing our communities and trying to build a coalition, not with environmental organizations, we did not build. necessarily these coalition's with the traditional NGOs and the environment movement we actually built those coalition's with a double a CP with the Latino Action Network. with social justice groups throughout the state that we're not traditionally involved in environmental policymaking, but they represented the same communities that we were working with in so. Those were really important coalition's that we built and we asked the environmental NGOs to stand behind the EJ coalition and take our leadership on the crafting of this bill because they did not speak for those communities and they did not represent those communities and so. You know, surprisingly, they actually listened.

: I have to say that, because you know they actually stood back and let the EJ coalition really lead on the crafting of this legislation. But as I said, the confluence of events wasn't just the political moment, it was also the murder of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter movement and the COVID pandemic that was devastating our communities and those things really opened up an opportunity to hold people accountable to the rhetoric of Black Lives Matter, and here we had a bill in a democratic legislature and the governor that's talking about racial justice.

Ana Baptista: And this was a bill that said okay we'll put your money where your mouth is and really that helped us push this forward in a in



an aggressive way that probably might not have happened otherwise. Anyway, just say all that because I think there's you know it, there are many times that it seemed like impossible to pass a really strong bill in the State of New Jersey. Any level local or State level or federal level, but I think the coalition state together stayed strong built our mobilization and our partnerships with sort of non traditional groups and that really helped us and I, I believe that there's. Some lessons there some insights that I think might be helpful and we're certainly working with a lot of groups and other parts of the country ej groups. sharing our lessons learned and helping in any way we can the lessons that we learned from doing that policy at the state and local level and also we were involved. With Senator Booker on the ej for all act at the federal level as well, so we have some experience there and i'm happy to share more about. It folks are interested.

Giovanna Di Chiro: Thank you so much, absolutely folks are interested, and of course we have here again in the sister city to Newark New Jersey and Chester we have several. amazing activists. Who are who are. running for public office will will hear later from Carol because same, but we would love to have these conversations, so thank you so much. So I want to now turn that the floor to miss Jackie Patterson, who is the director of the chisholm legacy project and former director of the naacp environmental and climate justice Program.

Jacqui Patterson: Thank you so much, yes okay great Can you see and hear me. yep okay great so thank you so much it's really just an honor to be on the. On the panel, with everyone and. And to follow the great comments that have already been made. By Kenny and and kyle and. drama so. So yeah as as as a book robustly demonstrated the in and their comments and the amazing work of the host the Chester was residents concern for quality.

Living who, through their name circle for sure for sure it demonstrates there and race, of the need for a circular economy and already been in a model how that's happening. And we see that as alternatives to the fights in which so many have engaged over the decades against toxic donuts cancer clusters sacrifice zones. and so forth we've made progress and stopping them bad and yet we still have a long way to go, at the same time, when it comes to building the new. The laws and the policies used to advance solidarity economy principles and practices are on the rise and that's why we're excited about and so we're definitely here for it. it's just a legacy projects role as a resource out for black frontline climate justice leadership is to advance them support and scale Community rootedness and solidarity economies.

As we continue to fight the bad, we see a living circular economy as a critical brick on the path of black liberation and, more broadly, as we join arms with our brothers and sisters. Jacqui Patterson: We see this as a key, as they say, to liberty and justice for all, so I want to talk about some of the existing examples that that we're working towards scaling that the great folks are modeling around the country. as an alternative to housing insecurity that proliferates in too many of our communities Community land trust our rate is a great model for affordability for living in harmony with the land and for cooperative ownership.

Jacqui Patterson: groups like the earth seed collective is a Center for Community resilience through cooperative ownership of land and resources. And I want to just kind of give words from them so they could speak in their own voice, and I just me speaking about them, they said. We are a transformational response to systemic oppression committed to centering people of color and other communities pushed to the margins our mission is to remember. And reimagine our relationship to ourselves to each other and to the land and pursuit and practice of collective liberation.

So I wish I could show you an image of their beautiful faces and how they are and community to each other, you can just it comes through when you when you're in community with them. So as an alternative to food insecurity which they're also working on with LDC collective and. The end the domination of big AG, who are doing things like producing genetically modified foods and single cycles scenes that work against literally the very laws of nature, we have groups like Leah pin people like Leah penniman. In her group the soul fire farm that is modeling what it can look like to really live in close connection with the land and enjoy the the the abundance that the land produces for us. at the national level, we have folks like Darren Cooper with the national black food and justice alliance it's helping models like that ugly opinion, like the earth see collectives to really go to scale. as an alternative to energy and security, including the fatal energy shut offs that are happening around the country where people are. are paying the price of poverty, with their very lives when their electricity shut off for non payment and they use a space heater.

To heat their homes or they're using a or if their oil and gas is cut up or they're using candles to light their homes, people have literally burned down their homes. And couldn't and paid the price of not being able to pay a couple of \$60 utility bills, with their very lives, while the people who own these companies are making on average \$9.8 million. In compensation, a single person and the share of shareholders are making millions and millions of dollars in profits.

And we see the pollution from the fossil fuel economy that's impacting the health and well being of the frontline communities that host these fossil fuel operations. Not to mention their role in driving climate change it's harming us all, so the solidarity. academy models, such as Community solar provide affordable clean energy, while supporting local community communities, we see that work, work with the. With the native renewables in California, where they've transitioned from the Navajo generating station, one of the biggest most political firepower plants in the country to a Navajo old solar solar. Solar farm we have groups like the local clean energy Alliance also in California folks at the black Mesa water coalition in North Dakota. and Indian war in Washington DC groups like solely united neighbors are helping us to become the increasingly the more moving us towards the norm. energy policies, such as the future energy jobs act in Illinois also window in Maryland and the portland clean energy fund also model, how we can utilize power. policies to build power and to build that in to build the types of models and attempts this the this.

Jacqui Patterson: Community on solar and otherwise to proliferate and they did this, the success of those three policies in particular was through the coalition building through. Through bringing folks who are formally incarcerated folks with Labor folks with. gender justice groups really all coming together and making sure that the policy represents the needs and the interest of each of those different sectors of society, using. Multi solving approaches that include job creation that. include Community economic development and also environmental protection through clean energy. And also, energy and affordable ability and access for all, so all of that included explicitly in these policies, was a key to the success into the building and the strength of the coalition.

as an alternative to the threats to the sacred waters, as well as the travesty of water insecurity in a world that is, two thirds water. As well as an alternative to water privatization and the human rights atrocity of water shut us we have groups like the water protectors. such as the witching Steering Committee in Alaska who have been battling the red dog mine, which has violated the clean water act 800 times. While other other in human life, you know, is it is really the the very epitome of corporation corporate personhood having better rights than even humans in terms of where we have these three strikes laws with a very with even the most petty of crimes.

So we have groups like we, the people of Detroit who model Community participatory practices that Center water access affordability and quality as basic human rights. as an alternative to landfills and incinerators that are poisoning our air and water, we have the work of circle. And the work of Gaia the global alliance for incinerator alternatives and zero waste Detroit and a group I recently came to know called meebo that actually creates. The the resist materials and creates durable furniture, which is interesting and other groups who are fighting the bad by blocking permits shutting down polluting facilities.

And, but then advancing that good in terms of circularity of producing durable goods and reusing materials, reducing and reducing in the first place, as as our sister said. as an alternative to punitive immigration policies that result in children in cages or people being greeted by officials. on horseback using the reins to hurt human beings when the US is 4% of the global population, you have 25% of the admission that drive the very climate change. that's driving people from their land and their homes to seek not riches but just survival. So, in the words of war, so i'm sure he is a Kenyan born Somali poet, no one puts their child in a boat unless the water is safe for them the land. So as an alternative to the narratives of scarcity and in recognition of the abundance that we have in the United States, the dream defenders and others are seeking more equitable humane and welcoming immigration policies.

While groups like grassroots international aggressors global justice advanced finance trade Labor and other policies that seek to end the practices around climate change. And and called the global economic domination to advancing the finance trade Labor and other policies so that we don't have. These the circumstances that are driving people from their lands in the first place.

Jacqui Patterson: And as an alternative to the corporatocracy where industry exert control or politicians or policies of regulations and regulators over courts in court decisions we have folks like Kenny Warren. Like our inspiration for the chisholm legacy project shirley chisholm who ran on the slogan unbuttoned unbiased we have groups like the democracy initiative and move to a men who are working to D link the influence of money interest in the courts so in closing.

In addition, and as a compliment to our hyper local work on the ground of the typical legacy project with communities. Facilitating the development of vision and strategy and action and resource plans. we're developing a model repository of these model policies called Baloch has an alternative to Alec the American legislative exchange Council it puts out so many of the harmful policies around.

Prison privatization school privatization water privatization and everything else bad no or else we're developing Baloch, which is a black American legislative equity Council. So do this database we're working to uplift these examples of policymaking support just transition we're also drafting model just transition policies where there are gaps. will work to support those on the front lines of who are pushing for policy change, so these policies and practices and principles, become the norm. It will take that circle that we talked about the beginning that our host model in terms of linking arms in solidarity and interconnectedness and uncooperative collective action.

So we participated in the formation of adjust transition lawyer and project which in support of movement embodies these principles and practices so i'm really. Quite honored to be followed by darkness Gilmore as an awesome catalyst facilitator and model of just transition loitering and action and, as a dear sister friend so i'll hand it back to you, thank you.

Giovanna Di Chiro: Thank you so much Jackie I always am out of breath. When when I you you visit swarthmore or talk to my students and we hear. How how many despite the still need to fight the bad. That that obviously is. nationwide worldwide, that there is so much happening, and that we all can build create those those ongoing stories together, so thank you, we will certainly be in touch.

Zulene Mayfield: i'm live now Giovanni.

Giovanna Di Chiro: dueling. Where.

Zulene Mayfield: Do you what are you saying i'm lady.

Giovanna Di Chiro: yeah i'm just saying, where we're happy we're happy that you're here we're happy to see you and and.

Giovanna Di Chiro: And I i'm I hope that you had been able to.

Zulene Mayfield: be listening to. It yeah. i'm sorry Carol hi causing.

Giovanna Di Chiro: So, yes Carol has joined us to which is awesome so what what what So what we have we've had also have some see for students who have. joined us so. What I would what I would like to do because. The see for students have to leave in a few minutes is have the students speak first then i'll move it to dorcas who will. tell us a little bit about the just transition loitering and the work that that they are doing. And then we will. We will sort of go to Carol kazem will bring it full circle, so to speak, to back to Chester and then open up the conversation. So I want to yesterday Zulia after we heard from the to.

See for students shontelle and Tyler, who are both graduating seniors so they will be leaving, even though we mentioned that once your you built a relationship here with circle and in Chester you will always be be part of the Community so you'll be back, but. Julian wanted me to ensure that some of the. students who will not be graduating who will still be around who are involved with see for get a chance to talk about what they see as as their participation and their sense of the. Of the of the future of see for supporting the goals of environmental justice in Chester so I believe we have. Chris folk and Sarah radius who will. speak for a few minutes about what's up with see for. The organization that is supporting the work of Chester can you.

Giovanna Di Chiro: unmute yourself.

Chris Folk: yeah sure hi. i'm Chris i'm a junior at swarthmore. This is my first year really being involved in C four and I think it's been really exciting to kind of see all these people come together at swarthmore. With like a common cause. Last semester through Giovanni, Giovanni class. I helped put on this event that essentially was trying to. educate and appeal to children and school age kids and talk about environmental justice, and I think. As see for us begin to have conversations about what we want to see in the future. We really wanted to start appealing to. kids in high school and middle school and elementary school and really appeal to. You. Youth and Chester. I mean. yeah that these connections are what are going to allow us to like bring this into the future and. build deeper connections within the Community. I think we're all very aware of.

Our position of going to like pretty rich institution kind of removed, and we want to be very cognizant of how we. approach our work and be in this position of empowering. Rather than trying to bring in outside solutions and figure out ways we can fit in so as as the organizations before kind of comes back online and we're getting a lot of like just really brilliant people in the organization. These conversations and connections are going to start are being hired inspections are going to be filled you built yeah.

Giovanna Di Chiro: Thank you, Chris and. And radius are you able to unmute yourself now.

Sarah Reyes: Yes, hi i'm Sarah res Sorry, I have a little bit of background noise i'm not in the ideal place to be speaking, but hopefully people can hear me um yeah Thank you Chris for sharing that i'm a first year at swarthmore so I also.

Giovanna Di Chiro: just joined.

Sarah Reyes: See for this year um and I think, for me it was really beautiful and incredible to see so many young people deeply engaged and committed with committed to environmental justice organizing. As led by folks in circle and really rooted in local conditions and local leadership and, like the history of the organizing that's been going on for such a long time um I think yeah building off of what Chris was sharing. i'm hopeful in the next couple of years that we can do more work to move resources from swarthmore to support circles work we've started doing a lot of that Thailand chantelle spoke about it yesterday. How we can access the resources of an institution like swarthmore to support.

The work that circle is doing and also moving that into kind of our personal relationships to how can we build relationships of reciprocity and mutual aid structures. Between Chester communities and communities at swarthmore um and really try to help like more folks at swarthmore build deep relationships with the broader community of Chester um. it's amazing that we have these close relationships with circle, but I think we've talked a lot about to trying to embed more deeply in the full kind of movement ecology of Chester and support kind of in any way that we can.

yeah so thanks for for listening we're really excited to keep working with circle.

Zulene Mayfield: Thank you guys so much john I cannot tell you how excited I am. Because there will be a continuation of see for because of people like Chris and Sarah and so many others who are just committed committed to making sure that they broaden their circle and their perspectives on life. As I have told the students that I meet with that this is a two way street, we are not in an organization where we're going to give you a task and just tell you what to do. We don't have time to babysit you. But we also want to give you the freedom to give us new ideals to to express yourself and to see things and and to direct us also as circle, there has been some extremely innovative work that have come out of C four and see for the campus coalition concerning jester. i'm glad that they chose that name, we didn't pick it. We didn't form you guys that happened many years ago. But it is a good relationship, because we don't live in a bubble when you all are done with with your education you go into a world that is full and diverse.

And like I said. They will teach you practices and protocols and processes in college i'm going to give you real life stuff. And it's going to make you a better human being, because you already are you know you're you're awesome you guys are awesome and what you give a Community like Chester. We could never pay back. you give us access to your brains you give us access to. The technical things that you're learning at school, you give us access to information, and you can pull that information together for us that we would not be capable of doing timelines or. technologically wise we you know there's just a disparity, but it is wonderful and to see. The relationships that are going to be built, not only for you guys, but for our our kids our kids need debt based broaden to they need to see that there's old different spectrum.

Zulene Mayfield: Of the world with different people different ideals different colors different nationalities and it's a great thing, so I see my dude coming on hey Tyler.

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Zulene Mayfield: Tyler is one of our graduates of Nice going to Boston Boston but i'm glad it's Boston instead of Berkeley he'll only be a couple of hours away. When I had need up in.

Giovanna Di Chiro: Thanks thanks Julian for for lifting up the. Important work of the students and and I will say that. That I spoke with will Jones who spoke yesterday. who had just gone yesterday during Earth Day to Lincoln university, one of the historically black colleges and universities in this area and said that there was so much Earth Day stuff happening. And that we need to. sort of be better at reaching out to actually to have the hbc us that are nearby also cheyney university so.

Thank you so much, so i'm going to turn the floor now to dorcas Gilmore the principal attorney at Gilmore kinda kinda our la la for law firm and also. A member of the just transition loitering network so dorcas, the floor is yours. Thank you do wanna, thank you for the invitation.

Dorcas Gilmore: It this has been an amazing conversation so great to be with folks who really understand our charge and our purpose here. And to follow. If I might say miss. roseline and the the call to action. In terms of all of us being committed to learning and connecting and in our communities really appreciate that and appreciate the students who are showing up. In the Community where you are, which is the charge for every human being. And and it's, the only way that this work is going to happen, thank you two circles work amazing to hear about the Multi decade work that has been underway and reflects the the dedication across communities. And thank you for this amazing panel sharing just the range of work across the country it's always heartening on a Saturday morning.

To hear about good people doing good work where they are and so i'll talk a little bit about the just transition wiring institute i'm in baltimore have been here for the past 18 years. i'm a native floridian.

Dorcas Gilmore: and have the experience in my own community of the kind of environmental injustice that that is the focus here and that and through that understood that it was only through organizing it was only through the Community having. Dorcas Gilmore: It voice united only through collective action. And then those who liked the folks on this panel, who are willing to offer their. Institutions their privilege to support in my case, a black farm worker community. That had been struggling still struggling. To have the kinds of basic services that we're talking about here today.

Dorcas Gilmore: And so, for me, this is also personal and it's important that we route this work in our personal experiences and that we all have experiences to bring to bear.

Dorcas Gilmore: Jackie amazing sister friend and, as you hear from her every time she speaks phenomenal advocate in this work. Late laid out a framework for. In addition to blocking the bad that we, we also are. Those who have to be. stored in. What the future looks like so what a regenerative economy actually looks like i'm sorry i'm a little sick, so my voice might go in and out. And and there's lots of that work happening as well, and so my work is focused on building the regenerative economy growing the returner. In alignment with other lawyers who are committed to that as well, and so as a part of.

A just transition loitering Institute. We are working with 60 practicing lawyers from about 25 states and Puerto Rico. To think about what the students are thinking about now, how do you utilize your education and your skills to actually do what is in service of community. And frontline communities leading what that looks like. The Institute is a really a 14 week Program. Where these practicing lawyers have committed to really re learning retraining reorienting around what it means to be in service of frontline communities where they live in their region and across the country.

And so i'm going to talk to you a little bit about. i'm sorry i'm having. Allergies as well um. What the curriculum looks like So what does it mean for lawyers to actually think about reorienting. From the extractive economy to a regenerative economy. And Why is that important in the context of what we've been talking about today. And what do we mean by that kind of reorientation so the curriculum of the just transition loitering is to has four parts. It is a fall and a spring curriculum and in the fall, which is past we talked about two major things from exploitation and extraction to reparations and sustainability. And in that it is really learning things that, even though I was a law teacher. That you had to find just you know the right course to talk about. What. This country is rooted on in terms of extraction, then the role of the law in that, and so this curriculum focuses on. The historical background and ways that colonialism.

That racial capitalism. shape the climate crisis. And the way on which lawyers even understand our roles. and refer reference to this work, so how do we unlearn and relearn. What these tenants really are. And the roots of. The extractive economy. So that's the That was the first element of the song, the second is. That lot is often talked about as a sword and shield. And That the power to protect the defensive work of. Ensuring that organizations like circle that are holding protests and are doing direct actions that they have the kind of support that they need, as. Legislators like in my home state of Florida. are attacking even the right to protest in justices that are in our communities, so how can lawyers and law be used to really think about yes domestic environmental climate policy and climate mitigation and. The ways in which we ensure that those who are in Community saying what is right standing up for what is necessary for their own communities that they're supported and have lawyers who are able to. stand behind and stand with them, as they say what they need. In addition, thinking about the role of lawyers and equitable that disaster recovery, as we know, the climate crisis is disproportionate impact in our communities and time of human



created and natural disaster. also requires our response well, so the fall was focused in that way, and then the spring, we are now.

Talking about building the new and we use the language of building the new but for many of our communities, this is going back to the old. It is actually thinking about what does it take to support the kinds of practices that that Jackie lifted up that are happening all across the country that promote and enable in our a circular economy in in local places so that means really understanding. Community self determination and Community power built and what are examples of Community governance collective stewardship of land cooperative finance, what does that look like what's the role of the law world of lawyers. And then, all of this requires healing. and requires reparations in order to move into the new and So what are the legal tools that support.

A repetitive Community healing approach and what are the practical things that lawyers can do to advance adjust transition, so that is the work of the just transition loitering Institute, which is building. A network of lawyers that will. have had a level of a reorientation and retraining and reconnection to the power of the law as a. tool in service of and with frontline communities. And in that work. I would say our. calls to action are really to to understand the law, the laws of tool. right that it is not the end that we're not actually seeking. legislative and policy change as as the goal. But that it is a means to the kind of. Society and communities that we all deserve. And that, particularly for lawyers and advocates to be. more creative. To have open our minds and see to see the vision that Community see for themselves. And, and to be in service of that. And then really as the students have have demonstrated beautifully. it's to start from where you are. there's work to be done everywhere, and so that we all have the opportunity to do something now. And, and to do it, starting from. Wherever we find ourselves in the world. And so I will stop there, and look forward to continue the conversation.

Giovanna Di Chiro: Thank you so much darkness and. Just inspiring words about the the idea of. The law or loitering be in in in the service of social justice and frontline communities, I know that's something that our students who are interested in going to law school themselves are very committed to and so certainly. Being in touch with this Institute will be an important important way for them to see this in action, so thank you so much. i'd like to now. Ask Carol kazimir to. sort of. we're so glad that you were able to to make it today, I know that you just heard about a terrible loss but.

Giovanna Di Chiro: Thank you for joining us. Carol and Carol is. A Chester resident and activist and a candidate for the Pennsylvania state representative and i'd like to turn the floor over to you Carol to share your thoughts about about. Moving forward and the the future of environmental justice, the future of a regenerative economy for Chester and beyond so take the floor is yours Carol.

Carol Kazeem: Thank you G ivana just want to thank everyone and. Yes, you know, was a little off this morning, but you know the fight has honestly continued still so even through you know. ups and downs.

Carol Kazeem: But I just want to thank everybody for the work that they do, and have done, and even myself have become a little bit more informed. After listening to some of the speakers and the work that they do in different you know communities, so thank you for that um honestly I was one of those residents, you know that here in Chester still here in Chester that wasn't really educated, you know when it comes to environmental. And when we say, even if our missile just even our the way that we live, you know here, the way that we treat. Our Community you're not at all played a factor in our environment. and watching you know miscellaneous remember seeing her when I was a little younger. angled so your age. But you know it's something where when you watch she.

Zulene Mayfield: doesn't know my agent. For all of your. I thought she led.

Carol Kazeem: wow. I was a little younger. But when you watch, you know women or individuals like her, who are fighting different fights you know you're young to where you don't really know but you're always curious you see them, so you remember and. I felt like I remember hearing that periods of time, where I remember hearing, I think I think it was my grandmother or someone saying oh yeah. And this is crazy because I wasn't was around but I wasn't really looking into that and I think they said yeah you know she's going to. Make sure i'm trust on pads body or something we going to get out there with her or something lay down or cut down on the ground, or something to not let them through when cabana. was here, years ago, and you know just thinking about first thing I thought about they're going to stand in front of a truck and the truck is just going to let go to the run them over it was it that deep whether that series and.

Zulene Mayfield: And now it wasn't.

Carol Kazeem: Working and now that I think of it.

Zulene Mayfield: It was definitely.

Carol Kazeem: That deep and it still is that different series, and now that I became a little bit more educated I started participating more in. Making sure that i'm either you know hosting or supporting other efforts around cleaning up our environment, educating people. The younger people, because I was really that young child myself really just not caring you know not really understanding the effects, you know that command Center or other industries that are around played a factor and send our help you know. Knowing that I had a child, a young age, you know and came back to Chester to a period of time my daughter ended up developing as. When I came back, I was in at the at the time I didn't have any issues and then I started having a lot of upper respiratory issues going on with her and. You know they didn't said Oh well, she developed as somebody just developed asthma at the age of like seven years old, out of nowhere. And again, I still didn't know you know that that played a factor, then I have my son and my son, which is porn all types of things going on, and then I was in Chester.

Carol Kazeem: You know, and I was actually living when I got pregnant, I was down here near tonight loan, I was over there up industry, you know so that was closer. So to this very day, I still deal with him seizures and all types of medical issues you know and it's, not to say that that probably came, but I really believe it contributed into that. And then even myself, I now have so many allergies and Upper respiratory you know infections as well that I know I did not have you know that developed over the last about 1015 years now, so I say that to say that. It was that deep for them to be in front of those trucks to not allow them to pass by inside our neighbors so muscle becoming more educated and understanding. why things are the way they are now why we're looking at more higher cancer rates crozier. I can't even count how many times, probably from when I was a kid up until when I had my daughter, and my son and I probably walked in closer so many times since so many kids coffee. Pregnant women in there before is even there do Tom constantly breathing issues it's putting us in a premature death. it's at a point where a lot of younger individuals that i've met with and talk with even here in our Community do not even want to have children. Not right now, because there's so many major health issues that nobody's listening to.

So here I am and i'm taking the leadership from individuals like rosaline clarity and so many other people and Mike. Will you know and seen for and so glad to see students like that, because we didn't have that around for us well, maybe swap more but for us, we weren't really tuned in today, but when I start thinking about the legislation aspect and also well who allow cabana to be here. Who allow industries to come in and pollute communities, like my blue areas like can. Blue areas like to truly Chicago. And then I said well who didn't stop this, but then, when you start looking back into who's in their seats, the investments that come out of them. The money that they make out of there. So it's literally saying that they're putting money over people lives, the health of the people. And I then said know what I have to educate myself some more so moving forward, I said i'm going to stand up and i'm going to be their representative, because the 159.

Actually services pretty much all of the municipalities that are affected by having incinerators like advanced right there. I will represent not just Chester retrained is sitting right there on the borderline and market, so they have so many pipelines. Every day i'm driving down to 90 when I see nothing but thick smoke in the air polluting the air of the residents in their own backyard and then I have residents who say well i've always been around this, this is what we're used to this is what we're born with. And then we wonder why they have so many cancer rates why they have so many health issues in their areas to. And then, when we think about climate change, we think about our representatives, the General Assembly, even on a congress level they don't believe it. And I know it's hard for sometimes they don't want to believe in it, because of different beliefs and. But the truth of the matter is, we do have a climate change, which now, I believe, and this is why i'm also stepping up, we are now at a public health crisis, we should be at a state of emergency right now. This is out of control, every day we wake up every time I turn around here but new infection new disease, a new virus.

Carol Kazeem: But yeah everyone said we don't know where it's coming from, but here we are, we have scientists, we have the research, we have the data it is proven people are walking around is walking testimonies telling you how they thought that they were going to die. And yet we still are, at a time where we're saying no it's not so. So I know that there may be a few that are representing us in the state. But for Pennsylvania, to be still so far behind moving forward, we have to start seeing more progression we're going to need leadership, as well as to sit down and at least hear.

What these organizations and nonprofits and scientists and researchers are going to say we have to be willing to sit down and look at that data. And that's what we're not seeing. I can't say any representatives that are right now. Someone that's a direct contact that circle could call. organizations like see for like students can call. and say, this is the issues that we're dealing with and that's a problem. So I want to make sure that i'm representing those communities that are highly directly affected by this, not just this generator even just so many of us companies my sister I don't know how many times that she had an inspection done and they detected carbon monoxide in our home. And we didn't even really understand or was educated than we so what how did they get into basic well how do we know what's here. Nothing looks molded it's an air that's what they kept saying it's not healthy is this is that you're gonna have to get the kids and we're like well how did this who didn't detect it. And at that time she was living right there and they're throwing money kept being detected.

10 crows your nurses. are fighting hard to sit here and say I remember standing there with the nurses saying we keep telling them and convince us called. Asthma nobody wants to listen to the nursing went to school, nobody wants to listen to the doctor who wants to school and got the degree, so we need people a place that's going to respect that someone took their time to find out why are we having issues that we're having. that's how we're going to be able to move forward that's the way to move forward. We have to start looking at more green infrastructures.

I understand that the cheap way it's probably the way. And I understand that energy to a lot of those that may say oh it's going to cost more. But it's honestly going to be working we're just gonna have to find a way to balance that for people that may worry about that, but when we get more education, like the other one that spoke before that really educated people to understand, are we going to keep going cheap. And then died at an earlier age than what we deserve to continue to live or we're going to invest that time. and put our money efforts to make sure that we could continue to live, so we can see our grandkids, and so our grandkids can live. Because if we continue to keep going in this path, then we're going to continue to keep seeing that as the years go on the lesser of the age children are no longer going to be here. And that is the problem that I have as a resident in the city of Chester, that is, the, that is, the motivation that i'm going to continue to move forward with. And that is the motivation and i'm going to continue to keep working with organizations like you all to be able to make sure that we're bringing that on the front line.

Carol Kazeem: And I know it's only me and it's about few of them, maybe in Philadelphia representatives that are willing to push this, but I believe the more that we can add more people. That are willing to sit down and hear the cries of those residents that are willing to hear the research of the scientists, the data that the students that organizations are bringing for the testimonies of people who've lived it. I believe that we can get somewhere. At least the steps to get there, so moving forward, I just continue to X organizations to continue to still do the work that you guys are doing. Because by the grace of God leaders like myself and others we're going to continue to keep moving forward with you all continue to keep pushing it into the limelight. And that's what i'm here planning to do to continue to move forward, and thank you once again, you know, for all the work that you guys are all doing Thank you Givana for hosting. And thank you once again for just accepting my authority has something I would not have done today. But this is something that we do have to continue for those that are not here to you know push this forward, you know that believed in this in this mission, so we cannot let this out, so thank you once again i'm gonna turn it back over to you.

Zulene Mayfield: Know i'ma take the MIC from Giovanni because um I can. I just want to applaud um. You know it's one thing to not know where your toward your baton is going to land that. When you, of course, is over, but I am proud, and I am pleased to see the new leadership and these young women and young men who were created in the city of Chester. spreading their wings and i'm hopeful about the future for our city. Under this new leadership and new energy that is is is. being cultivated and coming out of the cocoon and and and i'm proud I am so proud of the young women that have been on here with us today. From my city of Chester you know because everybody has an image of the people that live in Chester that we're all monochrome we do you know when drugs selling drugs are about to go to jail for drugs that ain't the case Okay, we got PhDs they come out of the city vhs or.

Whether they go to school or not i'm PhD in please foods don't want to be, but i'm there. So, but I just want to encourage kearney and Carol and will any you the new leadership that's going to push this old board out that helps these types of industries come to our city in a welcome and they cheerlead for them against their own residence, so I thank you all. hear me and Karen.

Giovanna Di Chiro: hey amen absolutely and. I. I think you know if if. If you were to come to Chester and watch. Carol and Carol me and Julian and will, with a microphone in their hand speaking. You would see what an impassioned and empowered commitment to the community into the future is, and so I think I think all of you.

Zulene Mayfield: I we used to have a slogan Manchester what. tester makes makes Chester. leaders.

Giovanna Di Chiro: yeah exactly exactly and i'm i'm definitely honored to be.

Giovanna Di Chiro: Working together with community leaders in Chester and I just want to echo something that Kyle said earlier that it was Black Brown and Indigenous. Communities that brought the Democrats into power that that brought Biden and Harris into power and so it's going to be leaders Black Brown and Indigenous leaders from the communities as we've seen from all of our all of our speakers today. Referencing that, including our students that. I think will move us into building the new. I I have we wanted to to to end a little bit early because we want to ensure that people can can make it to the. To the March to the environmental justice March and Chester so what I'd like to do is to ask each of our panelists to share just a couple of words or a take home message. For for our audience today. That you would want to leave us with.

Just anything that has come to mind, as you have been listening to the speakers today and just a take home message that you would want to leave with us, so I think I'm going to start with Kenny.

Kearni Warren: Thank you Joanna I just want to say that for for people who are new to a movement or activism or advocacy.

Kearni Warren: Those of us who are on the front line, this is not just something that we're doing just to say we're activists we're advocates or we're just a part of something whenever the wind blows This is our life. Many of us didn't choose to be here, I certainly didn't choose to be here my life stretch trajectory was someplace else far far away from what I'm doing now. But I am a resident here in Chester born and raised, as I said earlier, this has been my home for generations My family has been a business owners and here owning Convenience Stores property owners Barbecue owners. educators in this in the school district pastors Community activists so. I have a responsibility. To those who are not aware of what's happening here all of us have a responsibility to.

Each one teach one right you heard Carol speak you heard many people speak about leaving myself not being educated. On the impacts of the incinerator here in our in our city that is a form of environmental racism, so when you see people from these front front line and fence line communities out marching and talking, this is not something that we are doing, because. We take lightly, this is our livelihood and people's health life and death is on a line. For the causes that we are fighting for.

Giovanna Di Chiro: Thank you Kenny. So I'd like Kyle do you have some take home message or final words that you'd like to share.

Kyle Powys Whyte: yeah absolutely you know in tribal and Indigenous traditions, you know, and most of all I'm familiar with, including, though, what I'm really familiar with nationality traditions. You know, we always thought that the best leaders that the experts, the scientists were the people that stayed local. And I think you know colleges like Swarthmore, for example, need to fight against that idea. That when success is measured by getting more abstract getting more regional state national, international and actually to realize that that's like the United States thing, and maybe a thing for some other places.

Kyle Powys Whyte: But for a lot of cultures in the world that doesn't check out historically and it's really messing us up because it means that it's harder to stay. In many of our communities, because every opportunity is about leaving and imagine if we could push back against that that if we could put an end to that narrow conception of success. and imagine what that would mean we'd be able to do in our communities when opportunities for big resources come about.

Giovanna Di Chiro: Thank you for that incredibly important message. Coming from the university system absolutely. So. i'd like to turn our final comment. From Ana buck to stuff on a.

Ana Baptista: Thank you um yes, I someone who I grew up in Newark New Jersey my whole life, and I was actually. I, too, thought about leaving home and never coming back and on myself back home, much like many of you and it's really been my privilege to work in my own home. And for my in with my Community for all these years so i'll just say that you all have friends in New Jersey, I also sit on the board for the New Jersey ej Alliance, I know, Melissa couldn't be here today, but. I definitely want to convey that we are in solidarity with with you and we are here to support in any way we can and to be in partnership with you all.

In your in your fights because we have similar fights and I think we're stronger together fighting many of the same same actors and systems together so anything that we can do to partner with you all. Let us.

Zulene Mayfield: get off there i'm getting right right right off the word city home.

Ana Baptista: Anyway, i'll just leave it at that and I also work at a university Center called the tishman environment and design Center at the movie.

Zulene Mayfield: I don't come up that way. And what the Center money.

Ana Baptista: And i'll leave my Ebola here in case, our Center can also be a support to the folks in Chester because we are always.

Ana Baptista: happy to collaborate with Community based groups in any way we can you know offer technical support or other types of support to our vocal groups which we do, often, so let us know.

Giovanna Di Chiro: Oh, thank you, are you, you can count on it Thank you so much, so I wanted to turn to Jackie now final comments.

Jacqui Patterson: Oh yes, thank you yeah just just again what a what an honor it has been to be here with you all and to and to really appreciate the fact that. that everyone is coming to this this push for just transition and from there, different purchase. and recognizing that every last person has something to contribute to this push whether it's in one's home or in a space like this, or. In one's Community or from the purchase of university and so just appreciating how this is a

representation of that, like everyone is coming from their own on place. In this in this move, and also to ECHO as honest said as as the chisholm legacy project we are very much here for. Any of the organizations that might be represented here and, as we said we are a resource hub for for frontline leadership, and so we have we want to bring all of that to bear and be in service of any any ways that we can be of service So yes, onward whoa Thank you.

Giovanna Di Chiro: Thank you so much, and standing on the shoulders of the great shirley chisholm too so absolutely. So.yeah. So so i'll turn it now to dorcas for final.

Zulene Mayfield: Excuse me, I need to i'm sorry because I really got to get to this March, because the city is really act on full up there, I want to thank everybody Jackie dorcas I wish, she was up here today dork would probably go need a cup lawyers, when I get up here. No, I agree, gay active day blocking off streets, so we arcane and put barricades up and they have their give them up people hell so i'm covering take some help them, so I gotta go, but I think everybody I know we have to be in touch. We have to come up with an allegiance and alliance. To support you all one another. I don't see us anywhere being successful without us doing this, we need to unionize Okay, we need to do something, but solidarity we know is there. But when they mess with Jackie they gotta know they got to deal with elaine when they mess with dorcas they got to deal with me when they mess with me dorcas of the Internet call arms.

It should be one blast to go out and say Okay, they mess around with the people in New York less blast emails phone calls protests. Whatever we can do when the local government down in Washington DC you know why we're not being heard because they know we're segregated. We all have you know we're busy with life we're in survival mode, most of the time for people color in America, but we have to get it together they meet often on how they can beat us. They meet all the time, even their enemies industry enemies, they meet and have think tank so how to beat us. it's no reason why we shouldn't be doing the same thing, because we can beat them, we are beating them we won't be doing generator that's why they have their act them, for now, but i'll see you guys shortly.

Giovanna Di Chiro: Thank you will see you shortly, thank you.

Zulene Mayfield: All right, bye bye.

Giovanna Di Chiro: So i'm. Moving moving on it's it's always working without a net. dorcas of final comments. So thank you again not too much else to say, I think the panelists.

Dorcas Gilmore: have captured it quite well and I think the only thing that that stands out for me is this quote, that is to change everything it takes everyone. And that we are the were the people to to actually make this happen, we also are standing ready to support in a variety of ways, and there are a number of lawyers.



Dorcas Gilmore: In the region who are interested in learning more and being of assistance, so please do reach out, and please share the the information related to the trust transition loitering Institute and.

Giovanna Di Chiro: Absolutely, will do. Thank you so much. I just wanted to give if a C for student is still on do you have a final statement that you want to make.

Giovanna Di Chiro: Chris Reyes.

Chris Folk: Oh sure yeah i'm. just that. You know we're kind of just joining this fight i'm at a stage in my life, where i'm just becoming aware of all the injustice in the world. And I think the work we're doing today we're going to be doing tomorrow and every day moving forward is going to be what. really just makes everything. Okay, in the world, I guess. it's a bit it's a bit hard to be alive certain sometimes but. joining this fight, as I think what keeps me going a lot of the time yeah.

Giovanna Di Chiro: yeah Thank you. Thank you so much, Chris. Carroll dude do you have a final statement that you want to make.

Carol Kazeem: Yes, I would definitely love to say just remember that when you fight a good fight you're going to be met with opposition. And you're going to have people that it's going to step away so even when you're standing alone, if you really believe in what you're fighting for and it's something that helps benefit the people, please remember, even if you're alone just keep going don't give up. don't give up because, at some point they'll join, so if you're new to activism or you've been doing it before.

You know, keep going that's all I have to honestly say just keep going keep showing up she gone, because the people are going to need you, even if they're not standing out there which you because they may not know or they're afraid, but as I said, it was joining us at some point of time. Thank you sheila.

Giovanna Di Chiro: Thank you so much Carol and as Jackie has put in, in in the chat the important principle of a boon to I am because you are all for one and one for all, so I think that's a beautiful. statement to to think to say thank you to all of our amazing panelists to all of the participants and attendees who came today to my co organizers Chris and Julian quick Chris I wanted to make sure if you would like to have a final statement.

Christopher Mele: Now, I just want to say, thanks to all the panelists today this is amazing, the when we put together this third panel, we were curious as to what what happened, the idea of employing folks imagination, where could it go, but what we see is, it is obviously a shared commitment. To the ideas and principles of social justice that make it not imaginary but really achievable and realizable and and in the works as we speak, and that's great to hear an amazing way to end this three day to day web webinar.

Christopher Mele: So thank you.

Giovanna Di Chiro: Yes, thank you to everyone, and we will we will be in touch, yes, we will continue to work together, thank you, everybody.

Kearni Warren: Thank you everyone.

Giovanna Di Chiro: Thank you.  
Take care.