

# Climate Ethics and Equity Forum

## Breakout Session Summaries

### 1. Green Jobs and a Vibrant Economy

#### Key Ethical Principles

- a) Justice – good jobs and access to them
- b) Universality – greatest good for the greatest number
- c) Empowerment – through community organizing

#### Key Ethical Actions

- a) Build stronger relationships between labor, environment and faith ex. dialogue, joint camp, actions
- b) Reach out and empower individuals to be part of a network for change ex. neighbors, house parties with Weatherize for Good
- c) Engage to support big picture change ex. Influence Sen. Merkley, state letter to support cool schools

### 2. Profits, Debt and Climate

#### Key Ethical Actions

- a) Distribution of any aid or savings to NGOs
- b) Keep public records of how global south is spending aid or savings
- c) Have the progressive faith communities be more vocal and active in the political arena

#### Practical everyday steps

- a) Being informed consumers of products of foreign countries – understand what the product has on its social structure
- b) Communicate the moral imperative of the global north to support debt relief and take action on climate change
- c) Get policy makers to communicate their stand on this

### 3. Biodiversity and Wildlife Habitat

#### Key Ethical Principles

- a) All species have value
- b) Preserve natural system stability
- c) Loss of biodiversity affects some people disproportionately
- d) Doing nothing is unethical
- e) Doing something can also be unethical – e.g. forcing people to change their nature-based culture

#### **4. Transportation Access and Climate**

##### Observations/Important Info./Questions

- Transportation improvements will also result in better communities – keep money in community
- How can we shift balance between cars and alternative transportation. Important to get public transit to low-income, both because of equity and climate
- Tri-met's legal monopoly limits choice
- Question to ask "what is the best way to provide transit?"
- Metro is actively engaged in transit planning
- One third of CO2 comes from transportation
- How can we talk about limiting choices without raising resistance?
- Can frame the question as a way to increase choice for all
- Need transportation that works for all
- Transportation vis a vis "food deserts"
- Transportation costs limit the ability of low-income folks to make other healthy choices
- Different communities may have different moral vocabularies

##### Key Ethical Principles

- a) Equity: Everyone deserves to have their needs met, benefits and burdens need to be shared, everyone deserves a voice
- b) "Just Faith" – solidarity – Stand by one another, people who are affected must have a voice
- c) Equal access to transportation "Fairness"

##### Key Ethical Actions

- d) Choice vs. equity "may have to limit choices"
- e) Gentrification needs addressing
- f) Affordable housing [is connected to transportation and needs to be addressed]
- g) May need to put more transit time in the day, make this a spiritual practice – e.g. "walk to the bus"
- h) Unique opportunity for faith communities to push for/model better transportation models
- i) Metro – listening to what motivates participants [please get involved and contact them]
- j) Make sure all "at the table" are heard

#### **5. Indigenous Rights**

##### Observations/Important Info./Questions

- Preservation and use of forests, water, resources
- Stewardship by Indigenous people (compensation)
- Indigenous people tied to land and experiencing effects of climate change now. ex. water, caribou, fish

- Changes in forestry and agriculture increase demand for water, more polluted water and less available for local people
- Diminished resources i.e. food
- Increased health effects.
- Lack of representation at US and global forums
- Mitigation strategies can result in displacement i.e. biofuels, dams

#### Key Ethical Actions

- a) Involvement/ representation by indigenous people [in decisions and processes]
- b) Empowerment of women
- c) Listen to Indigenous people's solutions
- d) Create dialogue
- e) Educate people about their rights
- f) Eradication of debt
- g) Sponsor conference on Indigenous peoples and climate change
- h) Support organizations working to
  - o Empower women
  - o Eradicate debt
  - o Protect resources Indigenous people rely on
  - o Recognize and support rights of Indigenous people
- i) Renewable Energy Policies and Justice

#### Key Ethical Principles

- a) Do the least harm (to humans and the environment)
- b) Equity of benefits
- c) Urgent action is required
- d) Local economic development

#### Key Ethical Actions

- a) Life cycle analysis [for renewable energy]
- b) Inclusiveness in decision making
- c) Grassroots support for policies that promote investment of private capital with [adequate rate of return.
- d) Distributed energy production and community ownership of renewable energy [facilitated by policies such as a true feed-in tariff].

## **6. Renewable Energy Policies and Justice**

#### Key Ethical Principles

- a) Do the least harm (to humans and the environment)
- b) Equity of benefits
- c) Urgent action is required

- d) Local economic development

#### Key Ethical Actions

- a) Life cycle analysis
- b) Inclusiveness in decision making
- c) Grassroots support for policies that promote investment of private capital with ROI
- d) Distributed energy production and community ownership of renewable energy

### **7. Real Energy Costs vs. Actual Energy Prices and Small Business, Big Business and the Chamber.**

#### Key Ethical Principles

- a) Honesty/integrity/transparency
  - Messaging and pricing
- b) Equity/Equality
  - Ability to be heard
- c) Quality of life
  - Benefits of change
  - Real freedoms/choices
  - Inclusiveness

#### Observations and Key Ethical Actions

- a) Honest pricing, sustainable tax code, hopeful, protection/preserve, stability, BAU – extremists, relate to American core values, inclusive, moral movement – taking care of each other, shared language, positive stories, engaging narratives, need new business models, green as fundamental, makes economic sense –long-term/lifecycle thinking, take what you need – no more, all of us, into the future

### **8. Climate Ethics Initiative**

#### Key Ethical Principles

- a) Universe as communion of subject not a collection of objects
- b) Co-benefits to climate solutions – no either/or

#### Observations/Info./Questions

- Is ethics a way to move people?
- Economics and environment
  - a. Cost to health and environment
- What motivates us?
  - b. vision, connectedness, common good
  - c. water issues – very key
- start where you are, where passion is
- Transitions – Abundance in the future
- Fossil fuel dependence hard to confront, an addiction
- Need to start at grassroots , will come to corporate level

#### Key Actions

What creates change? (Notes from participants response to the question)

- Multiple entry points
- Million letter march – May 22<sup>nd</sup> faith
- People who have time should take the time to lead
- Self-education
- Congregations can educate their own
- Create a vision – keep it simple
- Include everyone
- Be ready for future because it will be different
- Create experimentation
- Do one small thing
- Courageous visionary leadership (providing for grassroots orgs/inst.)
- Transition Town movement – a new vision and strategies to get there
- Hope
- Love
- Help people understand values and implications of those values
- Denial/addictions/isolation moving to community and connection
- People change when they see other people change – not motivated by ethics and theology, but social strategies
- Participation and inclusiveness, bringing all voices to table, build bridges
- Fun and excitement are also part of what motivates change!