

Earth Day JEDI Training

by

**Boston Climate
Strike JEDI Team**

**and Environmental
Justice campaign**





group norms!

ground rules!

What is Boston Climate Strike?



**@bostonclimastrike
on instagram!**

What is JEDI?



**Justice
Equity
Diversity
Inclusion**



**BOSTON
CLIMATE
STRIKE**

**BOSTON
CLIMATE
STRIKE**

WHAT

1. Racial discrimination in defining environmental **policies**

2. Discriminatory enforcement of **regulations and laws**

3. Deliberate **targeting** of **minority communities** as hazardous waste dumping sites

4. Official sanctioning of **dangerous pollutants** in minority communities

5. **Exclusion** of people of color from environmental leadership positions

IS

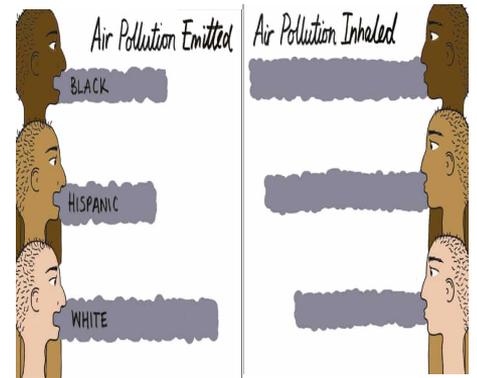
**ENVIRONMENTAL
RACISM**



Benjamin Chavis

Environmental Racism Facts and Examples

- Nearly **half** of the Latino population of the US (25 million) live in the **15 worst** areas for ground level ozone pollution
- **83%** of the population of **most polluted zip code** in Michigan are **African American**
- That same zip code deals with **1.6 million pounds** of chemicals yearly in their communities
- African Americans making \$50-60k are **more likely** to live in polluted areas than white americans who make \$10k
- white people experience about **17% less** air pollution exposure than caused by their consumption
- Black and Hispanic people inhale **56% and 63% excess** exposure, respectively, relative to their consumption.
- **90%** of the discrimination cases presented to the Environmental Protection Agency were dismissed



Systemic Oppression

Systemic Oppression is the mistreatment and disadvantaging of certain groups of people based on their identity. Systemic Oppression is enforced by institutions.

HOUSING

- Americanprogress.org: “ In 2017, more than 1 in 5 American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) people—22 percent—lived in poverty, compared with just 8 percent of white Americans.”
- Displacement among African Americans prevalent
- Gentrification: “the process of repairing and rebuilding homes and businesses in a deteriorating area (such as an urban neighborhood) accompanied by an influx of middle-class or affluent people and that often results in the displacement of earlier, usually poorer residents”
- LGBTQ+ People are not specifically protected under the fair housing act

HEALTHCARE

- The healthcare system has a tendency to be pitted against the LGBTQ+ community, especially the transgender community
- 67% of doctors have a bias against black patients



Systemic Oppression

Wealth

- White families hold 90% of the nation's wealth, black people own 2.6%, and latinx families hold 2.3%
- For every 100\$ a white family makes (in income), a black family makes 57.30\$

Criminal Justice

- Police have much higher contact with People of Color than white people, because of racial profiling and bias
- Black people are 13% of the US population, but 40% of prison population
- After convicted, black people 20% more likely to be sentenced to jail than white people
- Black people see 20% longer sentences than white people for similar crimes
- 58% of transgender people report facing mistreatment from police officers

Education

- 18% of preschoolers are black in the US, yet nearly 50% of suspensions in preschool are black kids
- Black students are 3X more likely to be suspended than white students even if the infractions are similar

Employment

- Black college graduates are 2x a more likely to be unemployed than white college graduates
- Job applicants with white sounding names are 2x more likely to get called back than those with white sounding names



Representation in the Climate Movement

Activists can get cut out of the picture (literally and figuratively)



Climate organizations led by people of color tend to get pushed aside



95% of the \$60bn in annual foundation funding for all causes goes to organizations led by white people

80% of nonprofits are led by white people



Ugandan activist says AP **cropped her** from a press photo with Greta Thunberg

NOW
THIS



Vanessa Nakate, Ugandan climate activist



Impact on Women

Gender inequity places women at a greater risk to climate change and climate-related events and crises.

- Social constructs and expectations limit women's participation in decision-making, preventing them from being able to successfully advocate for themselves
- Women have a more limited access to economic assets
- While social expectations limit women's power and access to necessary resources and support in times of crisis ... these same social expectations typically expect and place them in a situation where they are the ones who are expected to take care of everybody when these crises happen
 - Women are oftentimes responsible for acquiring and producing food, collecting water, and gathering other resources necessary for herself and her family.
- Women are also less likely to receive an education, and more likely to dropout of school, putting them at a disadvantage

Impact on the LGBTQ+ Community



- The LGBTQ+ currently deal with being denied of health care survival resources, access to emergency shelters, emergency health care and resources. 56% of LGBTQ+ Individuals have confronted discrimination while seeking medical treatment. 19% of the transgender community report lacking health insurance.
- LGBTQ+ are 40% of the homeless population in the US due to housing discrimination , leaving them vulnerable to natural disasters with no safe place to stay during any climate disaster.



- When it comes to fighting the climate crisis the LGBTQ+ community is always fighting for survival and acceptance and they build strong communities as they participate in other acts of activism.



Impact on People with Disabilities

- **Limited access** to resources and services to effectively respond to environmental change
- More **vulnerable** to extreme climate events, ecosystem loss, or infectious disease
- Difficulties during required evacuations or migrations

Impact on Working Class

- Working class people are more likely to be underinsured or uninsured, which will cause them to have more barriers in the way of medical care
- Suffering of working class communities are commonly overlooked by the government
- $\frac{3}{4}$ People living in poverty rely on natural resources and agriculture to survive
- Corporations have, and continue to put working class communities in polluted environments (eg., Cancer Alley)

Impact on Indigenous People

- Barriers to access to governmental support and protection from the impacts of the climate crisis

- Disregard for indigenous sovereignty, taking unceded land to build things such as pipelines (Dakota Access, Coastal GasLink)

- Displacement due to climate related disasters (e.g. droughts, tornadoes)

- Political and economic marginalization, hit much harder by Covid than other places

- Mashpee Wampanoag ordered to be disestablished and have their tribal land taken out of trust. Boston Climate Strike stands with the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe in their fight to keep their land.

Disclaimer: We do not have indigenous people working on these slides, but Boston Climate Strike supports the three bills the indigenous communities in Massachusetts currently have in the state house (Senate versions: S.2593, S.1877, S.1811)

Bias

Implicit bias is formed from past experiences and interactions.

EVERYONE HAS IMPLICIT BIAS

Bias left unchecked can become discriminatory, racist, and harmful behaviour

Managing implicit bias:

acknowledgement

careful evaluation

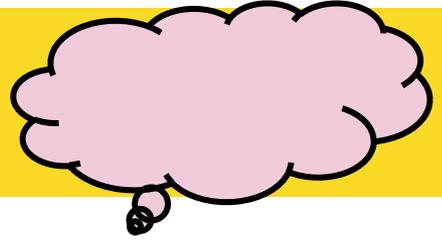
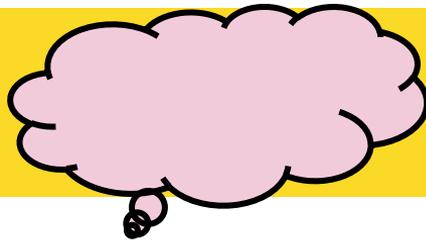
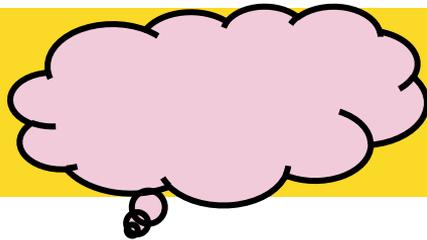
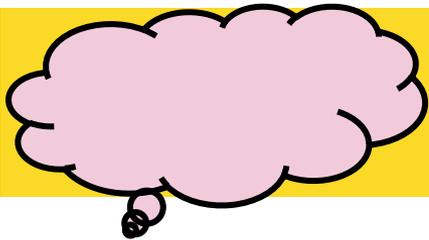
constant self-awareness & honesty

self-regulation



Discussion Time!

- What have you learned from this training so far?
- What are some takeaways you have?
- Identify some emotions you're feeling. Are you feeling surprised, uncomfortable, sad, empowered to make change? Think about why you're feeling this way and what you want to take away from these emotions.
- What actions can and WILL you take after this training?



Additional Resources (videos)

- Environmental Racism:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TrbeuJRPm0o>
- A future with Climate Action:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d9uTH0iprVQ>
- Documentary: <https://www.paristopittsburgh.com>
- Green New Deal explained:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GxIDJWCbk6I>
- Climate change is increasing pandemics:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=91OhlQi9s-o>



Additional Resources (policies)

Rent Strike Demands

(all compiled and made by RentStrikeMA with the assistance of Allston Brighton Mutual Aid)

Keep Your Rent

COVID-19 has adversely affected all of greater Boston including low-income and working poor residents. If you don't have the means to pay your rent on April 1st,

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TO

- Eviction proceedings are halted in Massachusetts Housing Court until at least May 4.
- Per Massachusetts law, if you receive a 14-day or 30-day notice to vacate, **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO LEAVE IN 14/30 DAYS.** You only have to vacate a rental unit when a judge tells you to leave, after having gone through a formal eviction process.
- If you are on a lease in Massachusetts, your landlord cannot charge you a late fee **UNLESS** specifically permitted to in your lease and **ONLY** after 30 days from the rental period due date. If you are not on a lease, you cannot be charged a late fee **AT ALL.**

Voters Deserve to Know Pledge

There is the Voters Deserve to Know Pledge that reads:

- "As a Massachusetts state legislator, I believe in a strong democracy, accountable government, and active voter engagement. Therefore, I pledge to:
1. Make all my committee votes publicly available upon request, including electronic polls and study orders
 2. Move to make public all votes and testimony of committees of which I am Chair, including electronic polls and study orders. If the committee rules prevent me from doing this, I will motion to amend the rules to make all votes and testimony public, and ask for a roll call vote on that motion.
 3. Stand for roll call when a member asks for a recorded vote on any bill or amendment which I have co-sponsored or which deals with substantively the same issue as a bill I have co-sponsored."

Financial Assistance Legislation

HD. 4950:

An Act Providing Emergency Access to Equity and Justice for all in response to COVID-19.

HD. 4926:

An Act Establishing the COVID-19 Quarantine Assistance Fund.

HD. 5031:

An Act Providing Hazard Pay for Essential Workers in the COVID-19 Emergency

Covid-19 Demands: Public Transportation Legislation

HD. 4939:

An Act Establishing a COVID-19 Emergency Fund for Regional Transportation Authorities

Decarceration Legislation

HD. 4963:

An Act Regarding Decarceration and COVID-19

Indigenous Legislative Agenda

S. 2593:

An Act prohibiting the use of Native American mascots by public schools in the Commonwealth.

S. 1877:

Resolve providing for the creation of a special commission relative to the seal and motto of the Commonwealth.

S. 1811:

An Act to Protect Native American Heritage

Environmental Justice Legislation

H. 4264 (House version) / S. 453 (Senate version):

An Act Relative to Environmental Justice in the Commonwealth.

H. 4262:

An Act Relative to Housing Reform.

S. 464:

An Act Relative to Environmental Justice and Toxics Reduction in the Commonwealth

Demands for Squatters

Proposal: Squatter's rights and reinforcing property by use

- If not outright property by use, we can push for:
- Reduction of the current time of occupation from 20 years to 3 years
 - Remove the arbitrary maintenance requirement; people should be able to live however they please in their home.
 - Ban eviction of squatters who demonstrate they cannot find other better quality long-term housing and require landlords to prove they have immediate need for the property.
 - Allow for collective inhabitation of squats and allow for collective declarations of squatters rights rather than requiring only a single person to claim rights.

Clean and Renewable Energy Legislation

H. 2836 (House version) / S. 1958 (Senate Version):

**An Act transitioning Massachusetts to 100 per cent renewable energy
An Act re-powering Massachusetts with 100 percent renewable energy**

Public Health Legislation

H. 4503:

An Act Relative to Strengthening the Local and Regional Public Health System.

Action items

Call your representatives to support the BCS policy demands at:

bit.ly/litdropform

bit.ly/standwithmashpee

bit.ly/earthdayrsvp

<https://bit.ly/litdropcovid-19>

