

Notes from 11/12/19 meeting bringing together many groups to discuss what we want as immediate climate action.

**Present were (in order of seating)** -- Eugene Chislenko, Judy Morgan, Sus Volz, Caleb Colvin, Ray Bailey, Mitch Chanin, Pat Libbey, Izzy Pallat, Maryam Abobu, Dave Moscatello, Jason Sandman, Tammy Murphy, Pratima Agrawal, Brent Groce, Frank Fortino, Jeanne Myers, Emily Davis, Meenal Raval, Tanya Seaman, Lynn Robinson, Mehdi Entezari, Freyda Kornblum, Bernard Reed, Emily Wallace, Su Stout, Audra Wolfe, Pouné Saberi (27)

**Groups represented were (alphabetical)** -- 350 Philly, All Together Now PA, Climate Dads, Drexel University, Eastern Service Workers Association, Extinction Rebellion, LILAC, Neighbors Against the Gas Plants, NW Philly Climate Action Network, Physicians for Social Responsibility, POWER, Ready for 100 Philadelphia (12)

## Policies Following on Ready for 100

### Introductions & issues people want to address

- Green New Deal
- refinery transformed to solar park
- equity in decisions - unclear if we meant equity in decision making, or decisions to create equity.
- electric school buses
- helping people get into action - awareness raising
- Bringing in more people that are traditionally underrepresented
- List specific actions
- List what can (we) City government do in the next five years, not just long-term
- Need measurable policy goals,
- United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 7 -- Affordable & clean energy -- address people living in poverty (leaving during flooding, paying for heat and A/C)
- Fossil-free Philly
- End capitalism
- Look at our ideas with an anti-racist lens

## Adoption of the Jemez Principles for Democratic Organizing

### Action Proposals from the group

- Actionable plan with short- medium-, and long-term results; not try to do everything, but focus Short meaning less than 5 years, medium meaning 5 years, long meaning 10 years.
- Climate narrative project: to talk about fear, anxiety, and solutions; climate empowerment project to give voice to people who generally don't have a voice; rotates in different neighborhoods to pick up people who should be represented and bring them to meetings like this one
- People liked the Climate Action Platform (CAP) for its structure and ideas, that make our systems sustainable so that by default we have smaller carbon footprints and hire more people locally. Start with the CAP as a basis for our 3 meetings
- Renewable energy for space heating, as mentioned in the CAP.
- Reference to Project Drawdown and reducing food waste – give extra food to community refrigerator for people who have none (example of Madrid) - put a refrigerator in Dilworth Plaza
- “Deadly energy policies” mean people pay for utilities instead of food and medical care; make sliding-scale rates to protect low-income people. Most utilities must convert to renewable energy by 2030, and the cost of this should be borne by the utilities, which have caused this problem, and not with rate increases. End shut-offs on those who can't pay their utilities. Right now, gas is being shut off before winter starts, and not restored in winter to avoid the regulation which prevents winter shut offs. The regulation and how it is enforced should be revisited. Referred to UN Sustainable Development Goals # 7 and #13
- Thinks PECO is unmovable; can we re-municipalize PECO? Want Council hearings on this.
- PGW transition from gas to renewable could be an angle to municipalize our electricity.
- Candidates have already spoken about City control over our utilities; unclear which candidates.
- Agriculture: buying local/reducing purchase radius.
- Can't continue to let utilities profit from what they're currently doing; should not use their capital to deny the impacts of heavy industry.
- Let's have some shared principles; the environmental groups have too narrow a focus, and should work with other groups working in justice, poverty, etc.
- Let's build on momentum that's been building. Candidates agreed to a number of things on the People's Platform at one of the debates.

- PGW transition study not quite what we asked for. What was asked for? What will the study entail?
- Specific actions: (Pie in the sky -Beyond this group, Nationally: Repeal the law that says stockholders come first.) No new gas lines in new construction starting now.
- Revisit property tax abatement: put energy efficient requirements in place
- Where is the city on asking City Council to declare a climate emergency
- There's a disconnect when trying to electrify one's house. There needs to be a massive education campaign of the HVAC industry toward electrification and away from gas.
  - Need to bring along the workers who will be affected by a change like this
  - Create a toolkit by someone who's already done it.
- Office of Sustainability to coordinate efforts, presumably after we come to our agreements.
- Get labor involved and on board.
- Renewable energy options are not available to people on the CAP program (subsidized utilities). We need to change this, but the reason is that renewable electricity option prices are unpredictable, and often increase after 6 months. Price controls are needed to protect low income consumers.
- Outreach to bring in students to efforts like this.
- What organizations should be in the room? There are so many different communities that are not here being represented. What ideas do people have on who to bring?
- Developing handouts for Indivisible for climate talking points - climate education resources

## Process

- What is our organizing goal and approach? Strategy, prioritization, how do we work together
- Ideas for organizing strategies. As a discussion topic -- How do we do this work? Do we vote/agree by consensus? Do we represent our organizations? Can we represent our organization?
- What goals did the organizers have for these three meetings?
  - 2050 is irrelevant to the problem; it's too late.
  - City Council will be choosing a new chair for the Environment Committee. If we get this together, we can present a policy paper to the new chair. Opportunity for advocacy.
  - Purpose of this group as opposed to the Climate Collaborative by OOS is that the Collaborative is geared toward large entities.

- Sierra Club Action Plan: reviewed its own years'-old plan and looked at what other groups are asking for: Sunrise and Alliance; added to its scope; list of 150 policies. People, planet, profit, and time.
- Have we spoken with other cities that have done this?
- Burlington, VT converted their energy in 2014)
- Have reviewed other cities' climate action plans for things they liked.
- Connect with people where they are
  - Inclusion means going to places other than an evening meeting; people don't know what climate change is or where it's coming from. Organizations need to work together; need to go out to the people. Perhaps this is a long-term strategy so that with enough exposure, people who now don't know about climate change can participate. This is how to bring the voice of residents – with petitions.
  - The above comment is important for educating the public and activating some. Can't bring in all people to a meeting, but when people hear something 7 times, then they may 'll act
- Demand our local news media report on the crisis and efforts to eliminate contamination; this will educate the community and motivate them.
- What are our common goals? What can we get majority agreement on? What can we get passed in the first three months of 2020, to prove success and keep going?
- What goals do we have on climate change or building a base and building tangible benefits? Lift up existing demands This seems very redundant or else needs to be #1
- What are the existing laws? For example, with a public utility and keeping its rates down, and sustainability.

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