

PRINCIPLES FOR ALLIANCE WITH GREEN GROUPS

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PREAMBLE

Over the last ten years, there has been some history of collaboration between environmental justice organizations and green groups. In many instances there has been at best unprincipled behavior and at worst abuses that have taken the form of opportunism, racism, classism, and a low or no value ascribed to community-level impacts. Additionally, scant progress has been made in increasing the number of People of Color on green groups' staff, boards and membership base. An alliance is a mutually agreed to strategic partnership between green groups, community groups, and commonly shared environmental justice goals. The following principles can serve as a guide to a *just* collaboration between environmental groups and environmental justice organizations.

1. Prior to forming an alliance, green groups shall show respect for the history, culture, traditions, and capacity of the community.
2. Green groups, their staff, members and volunteers must actively seek to gain a substantive understanding of environmental racism and environmental injustice, as defined by the Environmental Justice Movement.
3. There must be a good faith belief amongst all alliance members that the alliance will maximize the opportunity to create new solutions, agreements and decisions for greater value.
4. All members of an alliance, regardless of resources and status, should be treated as full and equal partners.
5. Green groups professional and decision-making staff, board, membership, and vendors will reflect the full richness and racial diversity of America.
6. Prior written consent should be obtained before the use of a partner organization's name in connection with endorsements of initiatives, policies or funding.
7. There must be a prior agreement on how resources should be sought, administered, allocated, and how costs should be borne.
8. There should be notification of meetings, press opportunities, and inclusion in key meetings and negotiations.
9. Given that there is a continued disparity in funding, alliances should build the long-term capacity of EJ organizations which have not had the benefit of the 20 to 30 years of continuous funding that Green Groups have experienced.
10. The alliance should work together to educate government agencies, foundations, and other funding sources on the value of directly funding Environmental Justice groups.
11. Fundraising for collaborative projects must be a joint effort.
12. Alliances should create a space where conflict can be respectfully resolved.
13. Members of an alliance should not engage in unilateral decision-making or actions. There should be a process in place that ensures input from all alliance members.
14. Green groups should only work on Environmental Justice issues at the invitation of or with the consent of the community group.
15. Green groups will respect the right of the community groups to set the agenda, including identifying the problem, determining the goals, and defining success.
16. Credit for outcomes should be shared.