

The background is a vibrant green with various geometric shapes and line art illustrations. In the top left is a solar panel. In the top right is a large red sun with radiating lines. In the bottom left is a white wind turbine. In the bottom center is a person in a red shirt and blue helmet riding a bicycle. In the bottom right is a yellow water tap with a single drop of water falling from it. There are also various leaves and abstract shapes scattered throughout.

PEOPLE'S PLANNING FOR A DEEP JUST TRANSITION

ACTIVIST GUIDE



**We are running out of time
Accelerate the deep just transition now!**

People's Planning for a Deep Just Transition
Activist Guide

Acknowledgements

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CLIMATE
JUSTICE
CHARTER
MOVEMENT

COPAC
CO-OPERATIVE AND POLICY ALTERNATIVE CENTER



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Glossary

Carbon Lock-ins are carbon-intensive technological, economic and institutional systems that stand in the way of the transition to low-carbon alternatives by creating or locking-in dependence on fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas.

Carbon Sequestration is the process of capturing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and storing it, this can be done artificially but also occurs naturally. An example of natural sequestration is no tillage agriculture that uses different methods to reduce or eliminate tillage through cover crops, crop rotation and free-range livestock. The artificial carbon capture through pumping carbon underground, carbon trading and offsetting give governments and corporations a licence to continue their destructive practices and can be regarded as false solutions.

Climate Jobs are jobs that are decent, without carbon, transform socio-ecological systems and address impacts of climate change, often in the energy, sanitation, food sovereignty, public transport, care services, arts and culture, disaster management, water and biodiversity sectors.

Climate Justice is about socio-ecological systems transformation to end carbon capitalism. It recognises that those least responsible must not be harmed or carry the cost of climate impacts. Hence the needs of workers, the poor, the landless, people with disabilities, grassroots women, children and vulnerable communities have to be at the centre of the deep just transition. The rich and big polluters must carry the costs and the benefits of socio-ecological transformation must be shared equally.

Climate Justice Charter (CJC) is a call to all who care about human and non-human life to act together in advancing a pluri-vision – of people's dreams, alternatives and desires for a deep just transition, developed out of grassroots resistance and dialogue.

Climate Risk Assessment is important to identify the impacts and risks of climate change in our communities, workplaces and sectors so we can incorporate measures into plans to decarbonise and adapt our behaviour to survive on this planet.

Climate Shocks are climate extremes such as droughts, floods, wild fires, tornadoes, cyclones and heatwaves that will intensify with more use of coal, oil and gas.

Commons/Commoning refers to a commonwealth of life enabling systems such as water, land, creative labour, biodiversity and the earth system that are democratically managed by a group or community. This contributes to enhancing such systems while ensuring the needs of a whole community are met. The practice of sharing such systems is called commoning.

Decarbonisation is a key term used to describe the reduction or elimination of carbon technologies, systems and carbon (and other dangerous Green House Gases or GHG such as methane and nitrous oxide), by reducing carbon (GHG) emissions from fossil fuel energy sources or removing carbon from the process chain or everyday use in living. The goal is to create a carbon dioxide (CO₂) and more generally GHG free way of living, as well as, national and global economy.

Deep Just Transition represents a transition from a carbon-based society to a low or zero carbon society, with no person left behind while meeting the needs of grassroots women, workers and the most vulnerable. It seeks to transform energy, food, transport, and all major socio-ecological systems to ensure we sustain life, while making sure that those who are already vulnerable do not carry the cost. The key issue is ensuring the economy is subordinated to the needs of society and nature such that capital and the wealthy must bear the burden of the transition not workers and communities.

Ecosystem includes all the living things – humans, animals and plants – in a particular area and how they relate with each other and to the non-living environment such as the earth, sun, soil, climate and atmosphere.

Energy Storage is the mechanism/process by which electrical energy is converted into another form (captured for later use where it could be converted back).

Extractivism is the process of removing natural resources from the earth through mining for sale on the market, usually paired with an economy that is reliant on those natural resources and their extraction.

Eco-centric Living is to live simply, slowly, and consciously, in harmony with and as part of nature, while recognising the intrinsic value of all life forms, our interdependence and the necessity to practice an ethics of care.

Eco-cidal practices undermine the conditions that sustain human and non-human life. These practices bring about large scale destruction of humans and ecosystems. More fossil fuel burning or land dispossession for mining are such examples

Eco-mobility is the practice of developing and managing local areas, towns and cities to support practical, zero pollution, and environmentally friendly transport systems. It enables and provides multiple options for safe and effective mobility through walking, cycling, as well as public, affordable, clean energy powered transport systems

Eco-village is a community where residents share the commitment to live more sustainably; to use local processes and practices in order to integrate the economic, social, cultural and ecological dimensions of sustainability. These eco-villages can be traditional villages that already exist (some located in developing countries) or intentional eco-communities (which are set up).

Food Sovereignty is a term that emerged from the struggles of the global farmers' movement La Via Campesina and is also championed by the South African Food Sovereignty Campaign. It affirms the right to healthy and culturally appropriate food by constructing a food system controlled by small scale producers and consumers. Food is also produced through ecologically sustainable methods that protect the natural commons (land, water, biodiversity, biosphere and creative human labour).

Fossil Fuels are sources of energy (such as coal, oil, or natural gas) formed in the earth from dead plants or animals over hundreds of thousands of years. Burning fossil fuels produces greenhouse gases (GHGs), such as carbon and methane, that contribute to heating our planet.

Natural climate solutions are actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore natural and modified ecosystems in ways that mitigate climate change, while also addressing other societal challenges.¹ These solutions are based on the understanding that nature as a living being is not helpless in fighting the climate crisis. They are earth-centred, localised and indigenous actions for biodiversity restoration, conservation and carbon sequestration.

Participatory Planning involves the state working in a transparent, democratic, accountable and enabling way with communities and publics to clarify needs, develop plans, allocate resources and organise implementation that ensures bottom up control.

People's Climate Risk Assessment is important to identify the potential impacts and risks of climate change and to incorporate measures into plans to adapt our behaviour to survive on this planet and in the country. Such assessments must be done in communities, workplaces, sectors and in government to develop mitigation and adaptation plans for socio-ecological systems transformation.

Regenerative Agriculture (such as permaculture, agroecology) is a set of farming principles and practices (water management, non-use of fertilizers) that help us fight the climate crisis and rejuvenates the ecosystem by sequestering carbon in the soil.

Renewable Energy Transition is the shift from fossil fuels and carbon (oil, coal and gas) extraction, which is causing irreversible damage to our Earth to renewable, less harmful forms of energy generated. It is aimed at advancing socially owned and

¹ [What are Natural Climate Solutions? - Climate Advisers](#)

community based renewable energy, from a source that is not depleted when used (solar, wind, hydro and tidal power).

Systemic adaptation refers to carbon free and new socio-ecological systems (land, water, energy, transport, production, savings and consumption) that ensure we can survive climate shocks and sustain life. Such systemic alternatives are contained in the Climate Justice Charter to inform the deep just transition and must be championed through democratic planning from below and grassroots power.

Transformative Regeneration refers to a situation such as state failure to manage systems (water or electricity, for instance) or the collapse of adaptive socio-ecological systems in the context of climate shocks and the need to bring back these systems but in a way that improves them for societal and natural relations.

Universal Basic Income is a publicly funded payment or transfer of a financial resource that each person within a country receives regularly. The payment is not means tested, and can include documented immigrants and refugees. In South Africa we refer to this also as a universal basic income (or grant or guarantee).

Water commoning is related to including and empowering people directly to govern, use, build and maintain local water systems to meet their needs and ensure such systems are sustainable.

Zero Waste treats waste as part of the commons and is a system aimed at the conservation of all resources through responsible production and consumption. It encourages the redesign of resource life cycles so that all products are reused and is not wasted. No trash is sent to landfills or incinerators. Zero waste is ethical, economical, efficient and visionary; and guides people to change their lifestyles and practices to emulate more sustainable natural cycles where all discarded materials are designed to become resources for others to use.

Module 1: How to Use the Guide

This guide is an activist tool that is aimed at empowering and enabling all who live in South Africa, with the necessary information to make them knowledgeable about the ecological crisis, our failing carbon based capitalist system, and ways we can use policy to influence change. Climate shocks such as droughts, floods, heatwaves are happening. We need to get organised to protect ourselves from these harms while addressing root causes. These challenges are life and death matters and must be taken very seriously. The guide is focussed on transforming our workplaces, communities, sectors and local government, with a bottom-up participatory approach, in order to make the **Deep Just Transition**. Democratic planning, involving, driven and led by the people, is a crucial mechanism. Government is introducing such a planning approach but it will be top down and will not be guided by people's power from below. The Climate Change law, meant to be the backbone of planning by government for the just transition, is not about meaningful participation, is premised on the continued conquest of nature, does not appreciate the urgency of lived climate shocks (such as our recent drought and flooding in KZN) and is not empowering in terms of transparency. Hence this tool is about democratising just transition planning so it is led by the people, workers, communities and the most vulnerable. We all have to learn about, own and influence such processes so we address the climate crisis together. In addition, this guide is an informative and educational tool, which has been designed for all committed to climate justice activism. The guide challenges activists' to think about socio-ecological systems, which we are part of as human beings, and discusses the need to **end our current carbon-based, ecocidal system** that destroys human and non-human life. The guide should help activists understand the need to displace/replace our current system which is focussed on extracting and burning fossil fuels (oil, coal and gas), overproduction, mass consumption and economic growth. We need a system that sustains human and non-human life.

We aim to make this guide easy to follow, and provide examples to learn from with provide clear and practical tools that activists or facilitators can use to plan, design,

and implement **policy alternatives** in pursuit of the Deep Just Transition based on the Climate Justice Charter. The guide should empower people to realise that we need to live harmoniously with and as part of nature.

Module Outlines and Breakdown

The DJT guide is divided into seven modules. Each module includes key facts and information needed to run a workshop and develop deep just transition pathways. There are also exercises which help with exchange of knowledge and practical experiences. *Module 1* provides a quick outline of the purposes of the guide, as well as suggestions for how to use it. *Module 2* introduces the climate science and discusses the current climate and ecological crisis. *Module 3* introduces the Climate Justice Charter. *Module 4* defines Just Transition Pathways with a focus on the total ecological crisis and explores the difference between a shallow versus deep transition pathway and what that means in terms of the role of the CJC: plurivision, decarbonisation, systemic adaptation, transformative regeneration and a people's driven climate justice state.

Module 5 explains the importance of Democratic Planning by exploring why is democratic planning important for decarbonisation, systemic adaptation, transformative regeneration and how does the South African state understand planning and the just transition. The Module reviews the problems being experienced in planning, lessons from international experiences and how to secure a people driven climate justice state and democratic planning. Module 6 provides practical examples for how workplaces, sectors, communities and local governments can promote a deep just transition, and thereafter offers visioning exercises to help activists determine what the deep just transition would look like in their specific communities/workplaces/sectors etc. Module 7 concludes, provides a summary of the guide and gives suggestions for joining the CJCM and supporting its campaign to accelerate and deepen the just transition.

Purpose of the Guide

1. Provide an introductory tool to ensure the democratisation of just transition planning, such that it is led by workers and people, and not hijacked by corrupt government elites and corporations.
2. Enable activists to use the Climate Justice Charter to **develop Deep Just Transition plans, strategies and socio-ecological systems** to transform their workplaces, communities, sectors and local government (such as assessing and mapping out which lock-ins need to be displaced and how to address and displace these).
3. Build the **Climate Justice Charter Movement**, by getting the Charter adopted by institutions, and building capacity and advancing the processes for the Deep Just Transition; build a directory and online learning commons to share ideas and develop policy plans.
4. Lay the basis to develop a suite of complimentary tools to this guide to deepen the just transition and also build our capacity to lead decarbonisation and survive climate extremes, such as floods, droughts, cyclones, tornados and heatwaves.

Key Principles for Process Facilitation

Learning is a continuous process, an everyday activity and an integral part of what it means to be human. Learning is about using knowledge to evolve. It is about developing a critical literacy for action, making our knowledge our power. For real learning and capacitation to take place, an activist or facilitator using this guide should not behave like a lecturer. People cannot be empowered simply by being lectured. The learning process is about opening and awakening critical consciousness so that the fear to live as a full human being, in association with others, is overcome.

When using this guide as a learning and training tool, the following principles in a collective learning process should be kept in mind:

- It is people-centred: it encourages participation, diversity, and puts people first

- It is active: it involves participating in exercises and activities
- It is enquiry based: it continually tries to uncover and explore
- It is critically reflective: self-awareness is an integral part of taking action and it is reflection aimed at gaining insights that will inform future actions
- It builds on existing knowledge and provides processes which encourage people to critically analyse and discuss from their own experience
- It responds and adapts to people's needs and is flexible
- It is holistic: it looks at linkages between the past, present and future, between the individual, group, and environment as well as between local and global

This guide can be used or presented as a workshop. Bottom-up learning is encouraged. In this approach, the facilitator puts into practice the principles of training mentioned above. This method requires participants to form smaller groups, engage, and also present findings. Everyone learns from the next. The theory content of the modules should be presented by the facilitators. Complimenting this is exercises in which the participants engage in this workshop-based training.

Learning Outcomes

After reading this guide, the activist should:

- understand the current ecological crisis we are facing
- understand principles of the Deep Just Transition
- realise the need to break free from the destructive capitalist system
- understand the pluri-vision and alternatives presented in the Climate Justice Charter
- understand democratic, participatory planning systems
- be equipped to plan and develop these alternatives into policies and plans
- promote the adoption of the Climate Justice Charter in their communities, workplaces and sectors
- lead democratic systemic reforms to meet the needs of society and nature.

Module 2: Introduction to Climate and Socio-Ecological Crisis

The Climate Justice Charter comes out of several years of campaigning by the South African Food Sovereignty Campaign (SAFSC) during South Africa's worst drought. In 2019, COPAC, an alliance partner of the SAFSC, held extensive engagements with different sectors including, youth and children, workers, faith-based groups, social justice and environmental justice organisations, civil society and media to formulate the Climate Justice Charter². The Charter's preamble spells out the challenges that we are facing as a world:

The Earth is being damaged by this system that puts profits before life. Every year, temperatures are rising with disastrous consequences. With a 1-degree Celsius increase in planetary temperature since before the start of the industrial revolution, everything is changing fast: increasing extreme weather shocks (droughts, floods, wildfires, tornadoes, heat waves), ecosystem collapse, sea level rise, together with major stresses on the Earth's systems.

The Charter is thus a call to all who care about human and non-human life to act together in advancing people's dreams, alternatives and desires for a deep just transition. This guide was developed as a road map to make the Charter a reality through a Deep Just Transition (DJT). The DJT guide is an activist tool for workplaces, communities, sectors and local governments and is aimed to assist and facilitate the thinking around how to translate the systemic alternatives presented in the Charter into transformative policy and plans.

Climate Science

According to the IPCC, the world is now experiencing a 1.2°C increase in planetary temperature since before the industrial revolution (1800s) and heading fast towards 1.5°, a critical threshold beyond which catastrophic climate change will worsen. Carbon concentration in the atmosphere is at over 410 parts per million above the 350-ppm safe level. Global surface temperature, ocean heat content

² The Charter can be accessed at: <https://cjcm.org.za/the-charter/en>

(OHC), sea levels and methane concentrations have all increased to new records, while arctic and Antarctic sea ice have set record lows.³

This is leading to extreme weather events or climate shocks. In 2019, the world faced some of the worst climate shocks in history with extreme fires (California, Australia), prolonged droughts and water shortages (South Africa and the rest of Africa), floods (India) and climate refugees (South Africa, East Africa). In 2021 the USA experienced 20 major shocks (floods, wild fires and hurricanes) estimated at over \$120 billion. The island of Madagascar suffering from a severe drought in 2021 was hit by three cyclones in early 2022, devastating the island. In 2022 Europe faced its worst drought in 500 years. In South Africa in April 2022, floods devastated large parts of Durban in KwaZulu-Natal. Close to 500 people lost their lives. If the government took the climate emergency seriously and ensured the country was accelerating the deep just transition, such loss of life and harm did not have to happen.

Historically, developed countries such as the USA, Japan, and Europe have been responsible for at least 79% of the GHG emissions, while sub-Saharan Africa responsible for only about 1%.⁴ While it is the rich industrialised countries, fossil fuel corporations and the elites in each country that have caused and continue to contribute to climate change, it is the poor and vulnerable communities and countries that are the hardest hit by the impacts of climate change.

The costs of climate change are being socialised and the burden is left with communities (often poor) and the state (mostly least developed and developing). Air pollution and emission of GHG is akin to criminal misuse of atmospheric space and the collusion between corporations and governments must be treated as “the

³ Zeke Hausfather (2019), State of the Climate: heat across earth’s surface and oceans mark early 2019. <https://www.carbonbrief.org/state-of-the-climate-heat-across-earths-surface-and-oceans-mark-early-2019> (accessed August 2019)

⁴ <https://www.cgdev.org/media/who-caused-climate-change-historically>

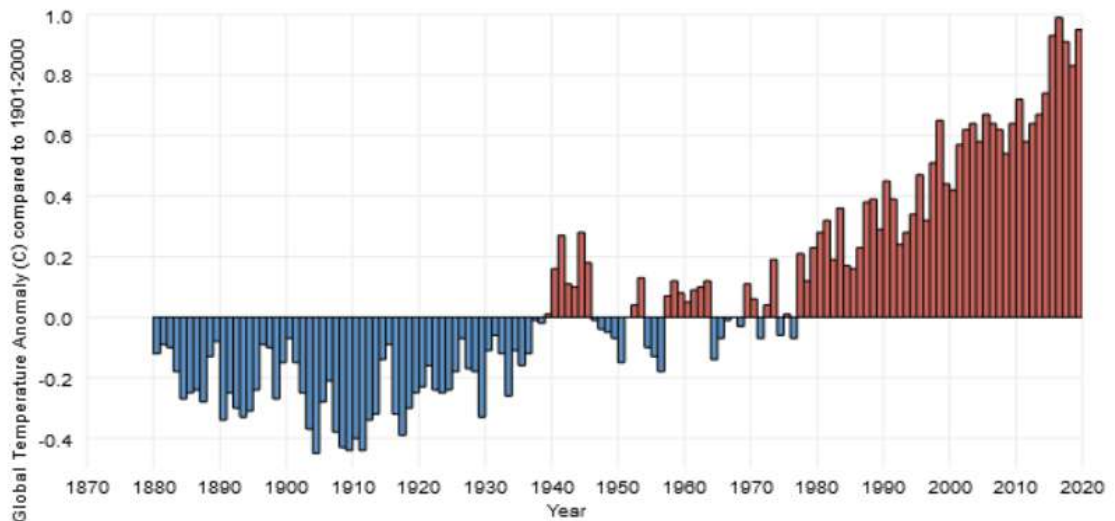
biggest corruption story of our time”⁵. This kind of abuse can similarly be seen in the food, energy and water sectors.

The Current Climate and Ecological Crisis

This climate crisis we are facing will perhaps be the largest crisis that humanity will ever face. The crisis threatens the survival of human and non-human life. The loss of biodiversity, land and water is described as the sixth mass extinction with the possibility of losing 30-50% of all species by 2050.⁶ The impacts of this extinction will hit hardest those who are least responsible for climate change. In order to face this crisis, we need complete changes in the way we live, work and relate to each other, in other words we need system change.

The Industrial Revolution is the benchmark we use when measuring the time from when significant change in the climate crisis occurred. When we discuss the 2°C increase in global average surface temperature, we look at the temperatures since

History of global surface temperature since 1880



⁵ Joubert 2019

⁶ [Half of the Species on Earth Could Go Extinct by 2050: Scientists \(globalcitizen.org\)](https://globalcitizen.org/en/news/half-of-the-species-on-earth-could-go-extinct-by-2050-scientists/)

the pre-industrial era (1880-1900).⁷ This graph ⁸ depicts that history of the global surface temperature, starting in the 1880s.

The United Nations Environment Programme⁹ emphasises the importance of preventing planetary warming beyond the 1.5°C benchmark that the science suggests could have less devastating impacts on our planet and people. The following table illustrates some examples of the differences in climate impact at 1.5°C and 2°C:

Global Warming at 1.5°C	Global Warming at 2°C
Over 70% of coral reefs will die	Over 99% of all reefs will be lost
Insects, vital for pollination of crops and plants, are likely to lose half their habitat	Insects, vital for pollination of crops and plants, are twice as likely to lose half their habitat
The Arctic Ocean being completely bare of sea ice in summer would be a once per century likelihood	The Arctic Ocean being completely bare of sea ice in summer would likely be once a decade
Over 6 million people currently live in coastal areas vulnerable to sea-level rise at 1.5°C degrees	10 million more people will be affected by the end of this century
Sea level is currently rising at 3.6 mm/year	Sea-level rise will be 100 centimetres higher

Ecosystems collapse and species extinction is already underway. About 25 000 species already face an extinction threat. These species include pollinators which are vital for food production, fish which are vital for the marine economy, insects which keep the soil alive, birds and many other species, flora and fauna. Sea levels are also rising which will bring increasing challenges to coastal communities.

⁷ Dahlman and Lindsey 2020....

⁸ The graph, along with further information can accessed at: <https://www.climate.gov/news-features/understanding-climate/climate-change-global-temperature>

⁹ Available at: <https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/climate-change/facts-about-climate-emergency>

The UN reports that close to half a billion children live in areas with water scarcity and vulnerability. This number is increasing daily and it is contributing to infant mortality, typhoid and everyday over 700 children under 5 years of age die from diarrhoea linked to poor sanitation and hygiene due to water shortages¹⁰. The impact of this ecological crisis on human health is devastating. Climate shocks like heatwaves are becoming more frequent leading to an increase in heat related illnesses such as heat stroke. In 2022, both India and Europe experienced devastating heat waves leading to many deaths. The poor, grassroots women, workers, people with disabilities, the homeless and other vulnerable individuals will have a more difficult time sustaining their livelihoods.

The Ecological Crisis in Southern Africa

The impacts of climate change for South Africa are felt by the majority of the population, those most vulnerable in society. The Southern African region is considered a 'hot spot' as it is more vulnerable to climate change compared to other parts of the world, for three reasons:

1. **Exposure** to comparatively 'stronger' climate change

The Southern African interior has warmed at about twice the rate of global warming over the last five decades. Climate models suggest that this pattern will continue for the rest of the century.

2. **Lack of 'coping capacity'**

Made up of developing countries, there is a gap in disaster management systems, infrastructure, and money to spend on climate adaptation. Our economies are very sensitive to changes in the climate because we tend to be reliant on the natural environment, particularly agriculture and tourism.

¹⁰ Read UNICEF Report on water and the climate crisis: <https://www.unicef.org/research-and-reports>

3. Southern Africa is a naturally **dry and drought prone** region

Projected to become drastically warmer, and drier, leaving limited options for climate change adaptation.

Adaptation to climate change needs to be viewed as an integral part of the broader developmental challenges facing Southern Africa.

The Climate Science Future for South Africa

In South Africa, temperatures have followed the global trend and risen significantly over the last 60 years and are predicted to continue increasing. An increase in temperature of 1-2°C is expected in coastal regions, and a 3-4°C increase is expected in interior regions by 2050. Rainfall patterns are also shifting, although this is a little more variable and unpredictable.¹¹

South Africa is one of ten climate hot-spots in the world and will experience temperatures at the twice the global average. When the earth overshoots 1.5°C globally, South Africa will be at 3°C. The country can expect the intensification of extreme weather-related disasters such as heavy rains, more frequent floods and droughts, stronger storms, and extreme heat and cold. These changes will be experienced differently across the country. For example, the western part of the country is predicted to get drier while the eastern part is predicted to get wetter. All of which we are already experiencing across the country. Eight out of the nine provinces were declared disaster areas in 2016 due to the ongoing drought. South Africa is naturally drought prone and goes through cycles of drought that occur on average over 3 years. The 2016 drought led to collapsed food production, the retrenchment of farm workers and water stress in many communities. The

¹¹ <https://www.carbonbrief.org/state-of-the-climate-heat-across-earths-surface-and-oceans-mark-early-2019>

corporate controlled food system will increasingly fail us as the cost of basic foods such as maize and wheat will become unaffordable to the poor majority of South Africa. Climate change will make this worse as it will increase the frequency and severity of droughts. We can expect a serious lack of water resources, desertification, and hunger that will affect all life on earth – both human and non-human.

Our future within a 'stable' climate is no longer guaranteed. As we continue on this destructive path of fossil fuel use and consumption which will bring us increased climate shocks, severe droughts which are destroying people's livelihoods leading to hunger, climate refugees and congested cities. The government needs to commit to climate justice and address these issues with society to ensure the vulnerable are protected. Climate change is widening the inequality gap as the poor do not have the resources to mitigate climate shocks nor deal with a climate stressed economy.

The disconnect between us and nature, the capitalist system, and the lack of leadership around climate change, has resulted in what we can now only come to understand as a **critical socio-ecological crisis or ecocide (the mass destruction of human and non-human life)**. The demand of Climate Justice invites us all to end this crisis by ending this system of death and chaos. Climate science¹² is on our side, and so we remain hopeful in working towards a pluri-vision of protecting all life forms and ending the war with nature.

The idea of living peacefully amongst nature, co-existing and not dominating, can be a reality. This can be done if we change our behaviour, change our systems that are feeding this ecocide and change our current destructive path. Capitalism is rapidly depleting life enabling systems and worsening inequalities that are contributing to the climate crisis. There can be no climate justice without social justice, which means that we need to shift towards socially owned renewable

¹² Read 'A Climate Science Future' available at: https://www.safsc.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Climate-Science-Doc_June-2020.pdf

energy sources, a food sovereignty system, create a zero-waste economy, ensure we create climate jobs, and develop plans that can be implemented into practical policies to pursue the Deep Just Transition.

Key factors indicate that there are increasingly low levels of employment, increased vulnerability of women and youth, and a large amount of people who are food stressed and lack adequate nutrition. The economic and social challenges experienced in society need to be redressed in order to transition to a system that protects these individuals, and secures their survival. A deep just transition approach addresses all these issues; it is transformative in placing the needs of society and nature at the centre of change.

This guide is focused on how we can organise ourselves to ensure people led planning of the deep just transition now in our communities, workplaces, sectors and local government.

Exercise 1: Ending the War with Nature

Small Group Exercise

Participants should form small groups of two to four and discuss the following questions:

1. Are human beings part of nature?
2. Can human beings survive without nature?
3. How does the current system advance the war against nature?
4. What does this mean to all of us?
5. What kind of relationship must we develop with the land, forests, rivers, plants, oceans, and other species? Why?
6. What is climate justice?
7. Why should your struggles also be a 'climate justice' struggle?

Module 3: The Climate Justice Charter¹³

Background to the Charter

The Climate Justice Charter emerges out of six years of campaigning, during the worst drought in South Africa's history, by the South African Food Sovereignty Campaign and the Cooperative and Policy Alternative Centre. It has been informed by grassroots input from water stressed communities, the media, labour, faith-based communities, youth, climate scientists, academics, women's organisations, environmental and social justice organisations, as well as think pieces by leading activists. A climate conference held in November 2019 consolidated a draft which was then placed online for public comment. A final round of public input was provided at a Climate Justice Assembly held on 16 June 2020. The document is the outcome of this process of dialogue and climate justice resistance. It was launched on 28 August 2020 by South Africa's leading eco-feminists. The Charter was developed to further the Deep Just Transition, by presenting systemic alternatives for transformative change.

In this module we provide the goals of the Charter and the systemic alternatives presented in the Charter, including an introduction to the Climate Justice Charter Movement, and a discussion on what will happen if we don't advance the CJC as the basis for the deep just transition and a vision for communities, workplaces and sectors and the state.

A Strategic Transformation Through a Climate Justice Project

"There are people's alternatives to fossil fuels, which can meet our basic needs, enhance our capacity to deal with climate disasters and prepare us to regenerate life-supporting systems. Such systemic alternatives have been imagined and are part of people's struggles to decarbonise societies now as part of the deep just

¹³ The Climate Justice Charter can be viewed at: <https://cjcm.org.za/the-charter/en>

transition. We are committed to advancing such alternatives and democratic systemic reforms from below”

The Charter presents alternatives towards the Deep Just Transition that includes socially-owned and community-based renewable energy, climate jobs, food sovereignty, and democratising the water commons. All these alternatives are championed by workers, grassroots women, the unemployed and the most vulnerable. The CJC brings these ideas together, these systemic alternatives, to form the basis of a Climate Justice Project for the entire country. The Climate Justice Project seeks to develop capacities, aggregate grassroots power, advance clear policies based on the CJC and strengthen grassroots practices. Hence, we have the following strategic priorities:

The first strategic priority is to **accelerate and deepen the deep just transition** in communities, workplaces, sectors and in local government. This requires building a mass orientated climate justice activist that can advance an understanding of the worsening climate crisis and its interconnections, the importance of the CJC pluri-vision and the systemic alternatives of the CJC in concrete grassroots processes. We need a mastery of the modalities of the deep just transition and have to develop relevant activist tools.

The second strategic priority is to advance **policies** based on the CJC pluri-vision. This means harnessing capacities, knowledge and contributions. Currently work is being done on developing policies informed by the CJC. More volunteers and activists have to come forward to figure out and develop these evidence based policies. Our policy working groups have to be dynamised. These policies must inform deep just transition struggles at the grassroots and in macro processes

The third strategic priority is **mass-based communication and popular education** on the CJC, CJCM interventions, campaigns, climate science and critiques of the carbon ruling class and other relevant areas of work. This also includes networking the media, harnessing social media tools and building a more vibrant communication capacity.

The fourth strategic priority relates to the CJC Movement. The CJCM was born out of the campaigning work of the South African Food Sovereignty Campaign (SAFSC) that emerged from a national dialogue in 2014 and was formally launched in 2015. This coincided with the worst drought in the history of the country. This priority is about **building a mass CJC Movement** in communities, workplaces and sectors of South African society.

This requires building solidarities and convergences, effective campaigns, an active membership recruitment program, fundraising strategy, institutionalising the CJCM and ensuring it has a clear identity. Activist training and education has to be central to this process.

What Happens If We Do Not Adopt the Charter?

The charter is a transformative visionary tool. It is an example of what participatory planning and lived democracy looks like. If South Africa does not adopt the CJC and we do not build a mass based CJCM then the future looks bleak. We are already experiencing serious climate shocks as seen with increasing frequency and extreme droughts, flooding, tornadoes, fires – resulting in socio-ecological systems collapse. Such a collapse will impact hardest the most vulnerable. Socio-ecological collapse is already contributed to failing food and water systems.

Politically, the state will not survive a further weakening of democracy. Corruption and looting by the ANC government has stolen the future of our youth and weakened the state. There is deep mistrust and a crisis of legitimacy facing the ANC government. Top-down technocratic planning threatens our democracy as it results in policies that are detached from the actual needs of the people. Policies such as exporting food during a hunger crisis are an example of what will continue to happen. This means the poor will continue to starve. The weakening of chapter nine institutions (Human Rights Commission, Gender Commission) and courts through the appointment of compromised individuals, systematic defunding, politicisation and delegitimising such institutions threatens the survival of the state. For example, the appointment of Advocate Busisiwe Mkhwebane as the Public

Protector in 2016. There was a view that the office was compromised because of her close ties to the previous president Jacob Zuma.¹⁴

This carbon-based energy path based on a minerals energy complex will only serve a few. More coal, oil and gas will not create jobs but will make a few very wealthy while more greenhouse gasses are emitted and more climate harms increase. The ANC government is obsessed with coal, oil and gas because of vested interests. This will feed into widening inequality and poverty with women carrying the burdens of this crisis; this is climate injustice. With such high unemployment and hunger, our democracy is not stable, it may be one bread march away from civil breakdown.

South Africa's peak, plateau and decline emissions strategy will lead to further GHG emissions with a false promise of reaching so called 'net-zero' by 2050. This is too little too late. In the next ten years South Africa will face 3°C heating, when the world overshoots 1.5°C. This will threaten everything. About 100 million Africans will be displaced by climate shocks in coming decades. There is no scientific evidence to support cutting emission by 2050. It has been popularised by governments all over the world due to the power of the fossil fuel industry lobby groups who want to lock in carbon and delay systems change. If South Africa continues extracting coal, oil and gas it will continue to be on the list of leading climate polluters and as other countries phase out coal (while we are building new plants) this will make us a carbon criminal state. We will be isolated by countries taking the climate crisis seriously. African countries harmed by climate change will also turn on South Africa. Failure to adopt the charter and ensure its vision guides the just transition will mean that we continue to invest in offshore drilling, in fracking and in the so called floating kettles; the ships that use liquefied natural gas to produce electricity. Fossil fuels are not the future. We are not investing in the future when we invest in more coal, oil and gas but rather are increasing climate risks like droughts, floods, heatwaves, cyclones and wild fires. We need democratic

¹⁴ [Public Protector compromised? Mkhwebane's Vrede report leaves more questions than answers - Briefly.co.za](https://www.briefly.co.za/public-protector-compromised-mkhwebane-s-vrede-report-leaves-more-questions-than-answers/)

and transformative systemic changes from below that addresses the needs of the most vulnerable. That is what the charter stands for.

Exercise 2: Understanding the Climate Justice Charter

Small Group Exercise

This exercise must be done in small groups of two to four.

Discuss:

1. Where is South Africa heading to with more corruption, failing state practices and increasing coal, gas and oil investments?
2. Why was it necessary for the Climate Justice Charter to be developed?
3. What do you think needs to be changed to develop an alternative to our current economic and political system? What should be the first thing to change?
4. If we advance the CJC and policies based on it will South Africa be transformed or will it stay the same?
5. Why is it important to build the CJC movement in communities, workplaces, sectors and nationally?
6. What do you understand your role to be in building the CJC M to accelerate and deepen the just transition?

Each group can write/draw/map their key points down and share it with the entire group. All contributions can be added to a wall or a visual chart for future reflection.

Module 4: Defining the Deep Just Transition

Why a Deep Just Transition?

The ecological crisis is presenting itself differently, across countries. The way each country responds is also different. While the Paris Agreement¹⁵ does have guidelines of what needs to be achieved, it is a non-binding agreement, which means that each country can set their own GHG reduction plan and there is no accountability if they set the bar low and do not meet their commitments and climate obligations. Also, rich countries that caused the climate crisis, including South Africa (which has used coal for over 100 years), are not willing to finance the just transition in poorer countries and they are not willing to take responsibility for the harms they have caused. It is the lack of commitment at a global governmental level that demands a climate justice movement that has a strong adherence to the Climate Justice Charter and that is guided by the principles of climate justice namely socio-ecological systems transformation so those least responsible must not be harmed or carry the cost of climate impacts. Those most vulnerable have to be at the centre of the Deep Just Transition.

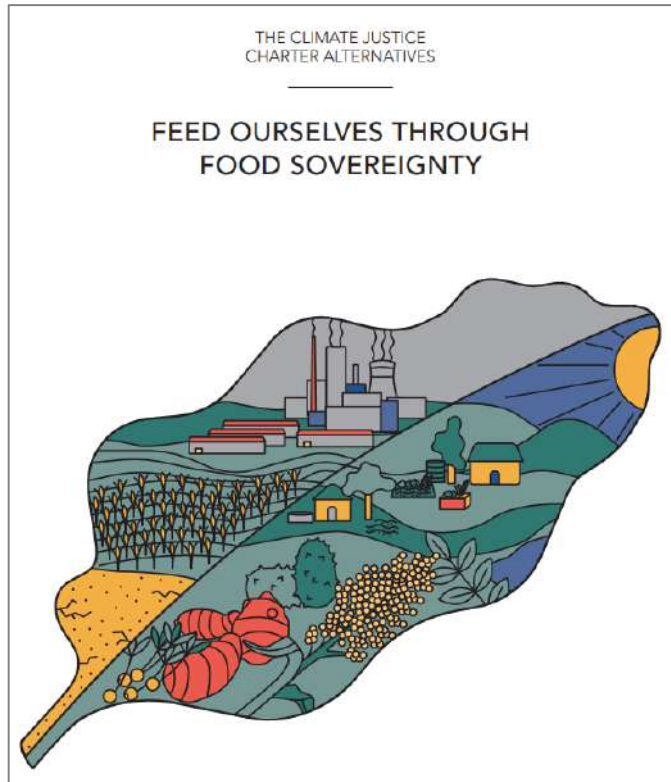
The Deep Just Transition (DJT) represents a transition away from a carbon-based society towards a low or zero-carbon society; it seeks to end eco-cidal carbon capitalism; it is crucial for the climate justice fight. It seeks to make transformative systems changes in energy, food, water, transport, and all other major social systems and infrastructure, in order to help sustain all life forms on Earth. The DJT is different from the shallow transitions that governments, banks, international institutions and rich people propose. Their transition is a change *within* the system but, the DJT is a change *of* the entire system. Their transition is also about delaying systems change as much as possible so more oil, coal and gas can be extracted and burnt; while more false solutions like the use of carbon markets, carbon capture and storage technologies and even geoengineering the Earth's climate system are

¹⁵ Accessible at: <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/what-is-the-paris-agreement>

held up as the way forward. Nothing short of a rapid phase out and a break with oil, coal and gas is needed to prevent increasing climate chaos.

Here are more examples of shallow transition thinking:

In food, for example, a shallow transition will advocate for lowering carbon emissions in agriculture (through natural sequestration or no-tillage agriculture or getting capitalist agriculture to steal agroecology practices such as soil enrichment) while agro-industry still controls the food system. On the other hand, the DJT goes further than that to advocate for food sovereignty or a food commons which entails seed saving and giving small scale farmers and communities control over seeds, supporting agroecological farming methods, pushing for just land reform and ensuring healthy and culturally appropriate food is grown and supplied through solidarity economy markets in communities, buying cooperatives, consumer cooperatives and informal trader networks. Our food system is transformed to meet South Africa's needs first and ensure zero hunger in communities, villages, towns, cities and schools.



requires six times the mineral input of a conventional car¹⁶. Instead, the DJT advocates a complete transformation of the transport system. This means moving beyond a car-dependent transport system towards *eco-mobility and clean energy public transport systems*. More people should be given the choice of buses, trains,



trams, bicycle lanes and pedestrianisation. The shallow transition pushes for more investments in coal, oil and gas. On the other hand, the DJT seeks to stop all new investment in coal, oil and gas and seeks to achieve a rapid phase-out of coal, oil and gas with greater emphasis on community and socially owned renewable energy systems.

A DJT requires a reimagination of the production paradigm. This means a move away from the obsession with economic growth, towards realising the needs of people and eco-systems. Our measures of economic advancement must be based on improving the quality of human and non-human life, not the stock market. The DJT must be done in a manner that limits the negative climate impacts on those most vulnerable in society (including workers, the poor, the landless, people with disabilities, grassroots women, and children). We cannot let these groups become shock absorbers of this crisis, like before and during Covid-19. The benefits of socio-ecological transformation must be shared equally. One way to do this is to

¹⁶ <https://www.mining-technology.com/analysis/concerns-for-mineral-supply-chain-amid-booming-ev-sales/>

democratise how the state plans and to increase participation in the planning processes.

People have experience, knowledge and an understanding of their needs. Planners and policy makers in government have administrative power, resources and policy making abilities but most of the time this is not anchored amongst the people. A top-down technocratic approach, with those in government believing they have all the answers and knowledge, will not work. It weakens our democracy and undermines the democratic rights of the people. A DJT state is people led. Villages, townships, towns and all other communities must participate and lead the shaping of a climate justice future with the state. The state must be people driven and democratised by people's power.

Public participation in a DJT is not a mere tick-box approach where people are consulted about a bureaucratically drafted policy, instead, in a DJT the people draft, develop, discuss and shape how policies are implemented. Their power is determining in the entire process.

Here are some more transformation examples for the Deep Just Transition:

- Shift towards socially and community owned renewable energy systems
- Build new food systems based on food sovereignty
- Democratise the water commons and upgrade water and sanitation infrastructure
- Create decent and carbon free climate jobs across the economy
- Enhance eco-mobility infrastructure and pedestrianised spaces
- Provide a universal basic income/grant/guarantee to all in South Africa

The following conditions should be met when pursuing a DJT:

- Adopt the Climate Justice Charter as a basis for visioning community, workplace, sectoral and local government deep just transition processes
- Informed by the Charter and through democratic dialogue climate justice plans must be developed based on decarbonisation, systemic transformation and

building capabilities to deal with climate shocks (disaster management and transformative regeneration)

- Informed by the CJC and climate justice plans, climate policies must be developed through democratic dialogue to take forward the deep just transition in communities, workplaces, sectors and in local government
- Build the CJCM while also building trade unions and other mass based organisations!
- International solidarity is central for uniting all those who are struggling for emancipation and for a post-carbon world
- the rich and wealthy must pay their ecological debt, they have consumed resources excessively and must carry the financial burden of the transition.

Principles for Deep Just Transitions

While the types of alternatives we promote help us distinguish between a deep and shallow just transition, the principles that guide the transition are also key to ensure that the transition is deep and just. The principles for deep just transitions put forward in the Charter (see Box below) are key for assessing the validity of interventions. They are transformative and about systems change. They are necessary for creating a different kind of society – one that is decolonial and ecological. They are ideals that we are striving for, but they also inform and guide our actions and politics now.

Shallow principles versus deep principles

Principles that drive the current capitalist system include consumerism (you need to buy lots of the latest things, including fashion, technology, etc to be happy and successful), individualism (you only need to think about yourself) and profit making (making a profit at the cost of other people's wellbeing, life and the wellbeing of the environment). These principles are opposite to the CJC's principles and they do more harm than good. These principles are also being used deceptively to drive a shallow transition (or no transition at all). For example, through greenwashing. Greenwashing is when companies convey false information about how their

products are 'green', 'eco' or environmentally sustainable. Companies have jumped on the 'green' bandwagon to make more money off real issues such as climate change. They promote their products or interventions as environmentally sound (for example, that they make use of recycled materials, have energy saving benefits, are healthier, free of chemicals, or less wasteful) and deceive consumers into buying products. Some of the world's biggest carbon emitters have even tried to rebrand themselves as champions of the environment, flaunting their clean energy or pollution reduction efforts. All is well and good if this is actually the case, but the fact is that their efforts are all done to continue to make a profit. They don't care about the environment or workers and they deceive us into believing that when we buy a 'green' product, we are doing something for the environment. In fact, it is better to not buy these products at all (reduce consumption). In most cases we don't need them, but if we do, then we should rather find second hand products, re-use, upcycle, or produce or grow our own (in the case of food). This is referred to as 'eco-centric living', principle 3 of the CJC: 'To live simply, slowly and consciously, in an eco-centric way, which recognises the sanctity of all life forms, our inter-connections and enables an ethics of respect and care.'

Another example of a shallow transition is the renewable energy transition that is currently underway. The transition is being driven by large corporations/companies who are only doing it because it is a good investment opportunity and they see value in it (in the form of profit). They do not actually care about climate change or the lives of individuals, or about everyone having access to electricity. As such, households and communities will continue to suffer as a result of high electricity costs. Principle 5 of the CJC, 'Socialised Ownership' presents an alternative principle. This principle ensures that communities will own renewable energy enterprises, they will establish the cost of electricity, and they will be able to ensure that everyone has access, especially those who are most vulnerable.

There are many more examples of unjust principles currently at play, promoting a shallow transition. It is our responsibility to thoroughly interrogate the principles driving all the solutions that are being proposed by government and corporations

to see whether they are in fact promoting a just transition. In most cases they aren't. At the same time, it is also our task to continually promote the CJC's principles in our organisations, communities and in just transition processes so that we can ensure that all our interventions are about supporting the vulnerable in our societies and promoting the wellbeing of all living and non-living nature now and in the future, rather than destroying it.

Principles for Deep Just Transitions

Every community, village, town, city and workplace has to advance the deep just transition to ensure socio-ecological transformation. The following principles shall guide the alternatives, plans and processes towards a deep just transition in our society:

1. **Climate justice:** Those least responsible must not be harmed or carry the cost of climate impacts. Hence the needs of workers, the poor, the landless, people with disabilities, grassroots women, children and vulnerable communities have to be at the centre of the deep just transition. The benefits of socio-ecological transformation must be shared equally.
2. **Social justice:** Climate justice is social justice. Confronting all forms of discrimination and oppression as it relates to race, class, gender, sex and age, to secure climate and social justice.
3. **Eco-centric living:** To live simply, slowly and consciously, in an eco-centric way, which recognises the sanctity of all life forms, our inter-connections and enables an ethics of respect and care.
4. **Participatory democracy:** All climate and deep just transition policies must be informed by the voices, consent and needs of all people, especially those facing harm.
5. **Socialised ownership:** In workplaces and communities, people's power must express itself through democratic control and ownership, including through democratic public utilities, cooperatives, commoning, communal ownership and participatory planning, including participatory budgeting, in towns and cities, to ensure collective management of the life enabling commons and systems.

6. **International solidarity:** Everyone's struggle is a shared struggle to sustain life. In the context of worsening climate shocks, international solidarity is central to the deep just transition as it serves to unite all who are struggling for emancipation and for a post carbon world.
7. **Decoloniality:** Colonial, neo-colonial and imperial domination are driving us towards extinction. This is based on the worship of extractivism, technology, finance, violence and markets. We will actively delink from this system as we affirm an emancipatory relationship between humans and with non-human nature rooted in our history, culture, knowledge and the wider struggle of the oppressed on planet earth.
8. **Intergenerational justice:** Care for our planetary commons and ecosystems is crucial for intergenerational justice; to secure a future for our children, youth and those not yet born.

We need to think about the world, and our space in it. A Deep Just Transition is a vision of a zero or low carbon world, not focused on capitalist objectives and principles. It must be done in a way that will affect the way we view work, the way we measure success, the practical skills we have and use, how we flourish as part of nature and how human and non-human life survives. It is a complete transformation of what we know and must develop the complex interconnected systems that will require thorough democratic planning.

South Africa's Carbon Lock-ins

South Africa has a strong dependency on coal, this is a historical dependency. This dependence underpins the country's mineral energy complex which has been at the heart of the carbo-intensive economy.

We are among the world's largest emitters, because of our excessive fossil fuel consumption for energy. About 77% of South Africa's primary energy needs are provided by coal, 22% from oil, 4% from natural gas. Only 10% of this energy is

consumed by the residential sector while 45% is consumed by industry. Continued investments into new coal mines and offshore gas/oil creates a carbon lock-in and undermines South Africa's transition towards renewable energies. The rich, through their energy-intensive lifestyles, their investments in carbon corrupt industries and corporations as well as the banks who continue to fund carbon criminals with loans and investments, drive this carbon-intensive mineral energy complex. In addition to the extensive use of coal in the domestic economy, about 28% of South Africa's production is exported, making South Africa the fourth-largest coal exporting country in the world. We need to transition away from a fossil-fuel-based society.

The remainder of South Africa's coal production feeds the various local industries:

- 62% is used for electricity generation
- 23% for petrochemical industries (Sasol)
- 8% for general industry
- 4% for the metallurgical industry (Mittal)
- 4% is purchased by merchants and sold locally or exported

The employment impacts from transitioning away from coal (with about 82 000 jobs) require adaptation and mitigation policies, supported through trade union engagement and participation. Moving away from coal or 'decarbonising' through the reduction or elimination of carbon emissions (either by reducing carbon emissions from fossil fuel energy sources or removing carbon from the process chain and using alternatives) is an inevitable path – both in terms of depletion of resources and responding to climate change. The unequal distribution of carbon emissions amongst households reflects the inequalities within South Africa. Rich South Africans must drastically reduce their carbon footprint. This is because rich households-around 20% of the population-are responsible for over 60% of all consumption based carbon emissions in the country.

Work, in society, needs to change and adapt as we move forward with the Deep Just Transition. Our jobs need to be adapted, and **decent climate jobs will need to**

be created in order to mitigate job loss and the consequences that follow. This is not a dream; it is a reality that is demanded by the climate pandemic.

The South African Government's Shallow Transition

Working towards the Deep Just Transition, the government can adopt transition policies, principles and commitments that serve to shift the country and economy pathways onto a path of decarbonisation, systemic adaptation, setting targets and deliverables for zero carbon, through public participation and planning.

Unfortunately, this is not the approach that the South African government has taken. Public participation and planning has been a smoke screen, tick-box approach or mere tokenism. State policies toward a clean economy have been a technocratic and top down approach. The Climate Change Bill, soon to be an Act, is a case in point. While it does allude to public participation, most decisions and power is vested in ministers and in ministerial committees. The bill does not empower communities to disagree with allocated carbon budgets for particular industries and legal persons. That power is vested with the minister and ministerial committees. The bill does not empower communities to pursue legal action against municipalities that fail to develop climate change adaptation strategies. Also, the bill could have been stronger in responding to social inequalities and gender inequalities that plague the nation. It fails to stipulate that the rich must pay their fair share. In short, the climate planning system envisaged is not in tune with the lived experiences of most South Africans.

The Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) update in 2021 which is meant to outline South Africa's contribution towards reducing GHG emissions as well as its adaptation, mitigation and financing strategies also follows this same pattern. The NDCs was an outcome of the 2015 Paris Agreement and it allows each country to decide on its own levels of commitment to reduce GHG emissions. The voluntary approach of the NDCs lacks ambition for the amount of reduction that is required.

With our region increasing temperatures at twice the global average, the NDC still puts South Africa's peak emission towards the end of 2025. That means we are still

going to increase our carbon emission as a result of our peak, plateau and decline strategy. Also, the NDC fails to explain what the state will do with the multibillion Rand power plants it continues to build and the role of off-shore oil and gas as well as fracking.

Critique of the Presidential Climate Commission's Just Transition Framework

- The framework does not acknowledge that we are a climate hotspot and it does not appreciate the urgency of the climate crisis.
- It is silent on South Africa's carbon emissions
- Women are the shock absorbers of a collapsing society, with deep inequality, precarity and structural unemployment. the framework does not appreciate this fact but ignorantly creates a blanket category of 'the poor'
- The framework falsely assumes that South Africa has a capable and competent state to implement a just transition based on the current policies that have already failed.
- The lived experiences of those who have been severely impacted by climate shocks have been ignored by this framework.
- The framework endorses false solutions of net zero (through carbon capture) and unscientific timelines of 2050. This is a shallow transition.
- The principles of the framework affirm a dangerous Anthropocentric point of view where nature and the environment must merely serve the needs of human society.
- In this framework, the economy comes first, not human and non-human life.
- The framework endorses the privatisation of energy while keeping mum about the decarbonisation of big polluters like Eskom and Sasol.
- There is no democratic planning approach in the document nor does it envision a radically non-racial and women-led state as the CJC does.
- The framework endorses failed deep globalisation and green capitalism.

The NDC assumes that through false solutions of carbon capture, our GHG emission will decline post 2035. In reality, the state continues to invest in coal and natural gas as well as ignorantly exploring bio-fuels in a country with 30% of the population being food stressed. The NDC does not envision a change in transport as well as the car dependence system, instead, in a dreary manner it pursues menial carbon taxes with myriad exemptions. South Africa's carbon tax has been described as modest to low. The policy taxes companies for their direct emissions at a rate of R127 per ton of CO₂ equivalent that will increase at 10% per annum. It is reported that almost R2.5-billion was raised in the 2020/21 tax year. The challenge though is that companies can offset their emissions which then reduces their tax liability.¹⁷ This is a disaster in state planning and governance. It shows a state that lacks vision, coordination and ignorance of the many voices that call for change.

This disaster in state planning is reflected in the Low Emissions Development Strategy (LEDS)¹⁸ 2050, prepared by the DFFE in line with the Paris Agreement of the UNFCCC. The LEDS is supposed to outline all policies and laws toward development that is not carbon-intensive. From the outset, the LEDs is based on an understanding of development as measured by market indicators not the improvement of people's lives. This is why the LEDS has no direct focus on water despite the water crises facing the country and the fact many people are living in day zero and many have become water refugees. The government talks the talk but actions speak louder than words. The state has failed to plan consciously with the reality of the crisis already impacting the country. A climate justice state with democratic planning from below has never been more urgent because this current state continues to pursue its carbon lock-ins.

We must break free from this vicious cycle by demanding policies that are grounded in CJC principles and ensure there is a divestment in fossil fuels; and policies that promote and enforce renewable energy and low-carbon alternatives, across the economy and society. Some industries will have more difficulty than others in

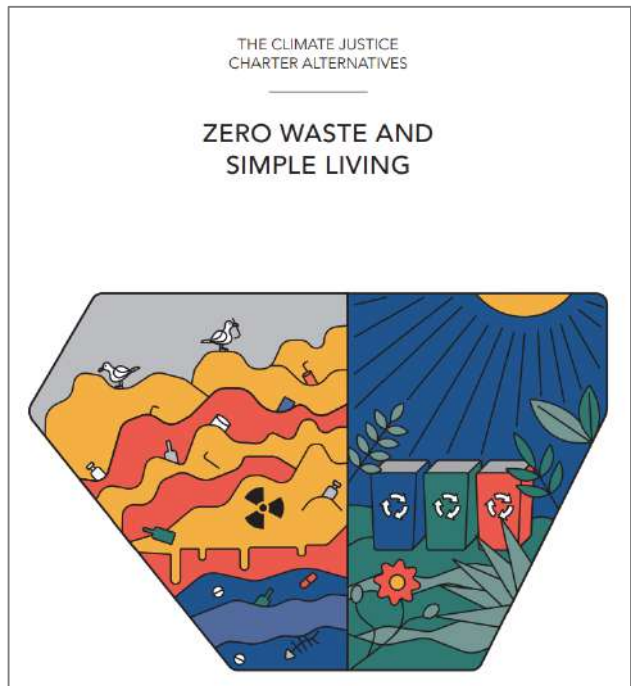
¹⁷ [South African companies scramble to comply with the new... \(dailymaverick.co.za\)](https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/news/south-africa/2020/09/24/south-african-companies-scramble-to-comply-with-the-new-carbon-tax-act/)

¹⁸ [South Africa's Low Emission Development Strategy.pdf \(dffe.gov.za\)](https://www.dffe.gov.za/publications/2020/09/24/south-africa-low-emission-development-strategy-2050/)

escaping carbon lock-ins. These would be the carbon intensive industries: electricity generation, mining, glass, paper, ceramics, iron and steel, cement, fertiliser, aluminium, petrochemicals, and road transportation.

The first step to decarbonisation would then be to identify the source of carbon use and how the carbon emissions can be mitigated, or whether to use alternative methods or resources. There are many technocratic solutions which are presented as technical ways to approach the crisis, such as carbon capture and storage, but they continue to perpetuate the system's failings. These false solutions must be rejected and at the same time, we must demand that government develops policies that work towards a zero-waste economy. A zero-waste economy is another crucial step to decarbonisation which also means thinking differently about energy, energy systems, production, consumption and resources. The less materials we extract, use for manufacture, transport and dump in landfills means less energy. Thus zero waste is a system that tries to reduce production and consumption, closes the loop through redesign, recycling and reuse – so that there is less (or zero) extraction of raw materials and ultimately less energy used.

A zero-waste economy can therefore be seen as a holistic view for the sustainable avoidance and management of waste and resources, including energy. When waste cannot be prevented through redesign and recycling then reclaiming it is the next best option. Recycling is the repurposing of an object or resource into new materials. Composting can be considered the 'recycling' of organic waste.



Any waste that can decompose and is biodegradable should be composted. Composting reduces the waste in our landfills and then also reduces the need for chemical fertilisers. We need to promote strategies aimed at decarbonising our spaces; to move towards a zero-waste economy, we need to close the production loop by reusing and recycling, transforming our behaviour and actions.

WASTE STATISTICS – SOUTH AFRICA

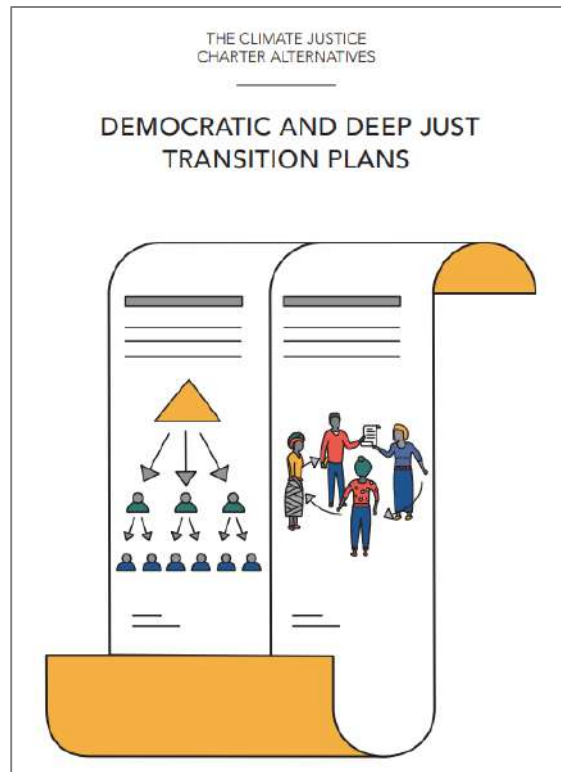
- **108 million** tonnes of waste is generated annually
- **R25 billion** of waste is dumped
- **90%** of waste dumped goes to landfill sites
- **10%** of waste is recycled
- **1/3** of all food in the country is wasted +/- 10 million tonnes of food annually

Building Capacities for People Led Transformation

The first step towards a deep just transition is to strengthen our democracy. Hence the CJC calls for:

Democratic and Deep Just Transition Plans

Top-down approaches to the deep just transition assume people cannot think for themselves and do not have answers. Together, every community and workplace needs to develop a deep just transition plan. This should be done in a democratic manner to enable an energy transition to decarbonise, whilst meeting essential needs, and advancing systemic alternatives, goals and principles as set out in this Charter.



We need to bring back democratic planning central to our thinking and approach to a Deep Just Transition from below (see next chapter). We have to do this in workplaces, communities, sectors and local government (including the state more generally), guided too by the CJC principle 4: *Participatory democracy*: ‘All climate and deep just transition policies must be informed by the voices, consent and needs of all people, especially those facing harm.’

In our Workplaces

The just transition is a term that emerged out of the unions, it is a concept that takes the views and needs of workers seriously. In the transition, workers are particularly vulnerable and the just transition must ensure that they do not bear the brunt of the transition. If we are to move to a low-carbon economy using renewable energy instead of coal, it will be workers who will have to build wind, wave, tidal and solar power. It is workers who will have to renovate and insulate our homes and buildings, and build new forms of public transportation. Climate action is a trade union issue, and we need active involvement, policy frameworks, and campaigning, from our trade unions, together with the Climate Justice Charter Movement, when pursuing the Deep Just Transition. The Paris Agreement invites parties to “take into account the imperatives of a just transition of the workforce” meaning worker’s participation is crucial in policy planning. ILO guidelines also recommend the consultation and the association of trade unions but these must be grounded in the South African context.

A DJT requires a rethinking of work. Cutting down on in-person meetings could reduce oil demand globally by 3 million barrels a day¹⁹. The working day has to be cut to at least four days a week and wherever possible, work should be remote. Decent climate jobs must be created as part of the transition. Rethinking work requires climate conscious workers who are aware of their carbon footprint. Heaters, air conditioners, energy intensive machinery all need to be systematically changed if we are to reduce emissions to avoid heating by more than 1.5 degrees.

¹⁹ See <https://grist.org/climate/>

The construction of office spaces uses a lot of carbon intensive cement; yearly, cement is responsible for about 8% of CO2 emissions globally. Work diets also must be rethought as they promote a junk food waste culture with a heavy reliance on animal produce. However, relying on income is simply not enough, hence the Charter calls for a universal basic income/ grant/guarantee which can serve as a cushion for workers in the deep just transition.

In Communities

A DJT requires a reimagining of our communities involving households, local organisations and movements. We have to plan in climate risk and decarbonisation. This entails reimagining how we feed ourselves, manage our water resources, generate power, utilise public financial resources, maintain local biodiversity and robust eco-systems, create climate jobs, have clean energy mass public transport, engage in cultural practices, utilise community media and build to avoid the carbon intensity of cement and the fact that many homes cannot withstand climate shocks (for instance, heatwaves and heavy rain). With increasing climate shocks homes must be retrofitted to deal with them or built as eco-housing part of deep just transition communities. This means eco-communities using more natural and sustainable materials, waste materials (including what has been displaced by the cement industry) and other natural materials. Water stressed communities that are living in day zero must become an urgent priority. Women who bear the brunt of being societal and climate shock absorbers at home and in communities must be at the centre stage of a DJT. Eco-communities understand that ecological justice is social justice. Therefore, fighting patriarchal violence against women, the LGBTQIA2S+ community and children is a top priority.

In Sectors

The decarbonation of all sectors of society and the economy is crucial. As the planet is already experiencing climate feedback loops which are worsening the crisis we need to decarbonise the economy urgently. Almost 80% of South Africa's total gross emissions come from the energy sector. This a carbon intensive sector which is heavily reliant on fossil fuels (see **South Africa's Carbon Lock-ins** above). To build

capacities for a people led transition we should implement the visions of the CJC by building communally owned renewable energy systems. Within energy, transport makes up 10% of carbon emissions. That means we need to build eco-mobility modes of transport and clean energy public transport. Our globalised neoliberal agriculture has failed and the attempt to solve the agrarian question through neoliberalism has been a disaster. A people led transition in this sector must build a food sovereignty project that delinks our agriculture from globalised corporate control of the food systems.

Other sectors, include those in professional, cultural and religious spaces. Here, the deep just transition has to be placed on the agenda. For instance our cultural practitioners and artists must use every medium to raise awareness about the climate problem and socio-ecological solutions; workers in manufacturing for instance should be pushing hard to convert manufacturing capacity in DENEL and other manufacturing spaces to produce vehicles, equipment and technologies we will need for the just transition (helicopters, emergency vehicles and so on) including mass clean energy public transport systems, workers should be leading to secure the manufacture of renewable energy technologies, schools and universities should become living examples of decarbonised spaces, leading on zero carbon, zero waste and zero hunger and deep socio-ecological transformation.

In our Local Government

Under ANC rule most local governments are in crisis. Service delivery has stopped, looting is widespread and citizens are angry. Local government is meant to work transparently, democratically and in an accountable manner. There are laws, procedures and policies to make this happen for Integrated Development Plans and now climate plans, for instance. These rights must be claimed by communities and all living in ward committee spaces. The DJT requires local government to be people driven through community imbizos, street meetings, kraal meetings in rural areas thus deepening democracy through the principles of Batho Pele (people first).

The DJT demands a climate conscious local government that has systems in place to deal with climate shocks and is capacitated with resources and infrastructure to deal with such shocks. The Climate Change Bill (2022) rightly requires each

Municipality to develop a climate change mitigation strategy but it fails to outline community engagements in developing that plan and it also fails to outline punishment for the municipality that fails to do so. A DJT demands a professionalised local government where cadre deployment and nepotism are criminalised and prohibited. A DJT as outlined in the charter requires systems thinking to ensure adaptation, mitigation and transformative regeneration. For further discussion on transformative changes to workplaces, communities, local government and sectors, see module 6.

This Charter is a call to all who care about human and non-human life to act together in advancing a pluri-vision – of people’s dreams, alternatives and desires for a deep just transition.

Exercise 3: Shallow versus Deep Just Transition

Scenario exercise: Group activity

Divide the participants into two groups, Community 1 and Community 2

Scenario: You are staying in an informal settlement close to a river. A flash flood hits.

Community 1: Your community is not well organised, and not supported by local government. Creatively portray what happens during and following a flash flood (you can explain, act out, or draw your community’s response) Note that this community is demonstrating a shallow just transition.

Community 2: Your community is very well organised, it leads the ward committee and has democratic planning. Creatively portray what happens during and following the flash flood (you can explain, act out, or draw your community’s response) Note that this community is demonstrating a deep just transition.

Module 5: Advancing the Deep Just Transition through Democratic Planning

In order to change the system from below, we need to first understand how decisions are being made. Then we need to find out how to influence those decisions so that we can affect change from below. Top-down approaches to the deep just transition assume people cannot think for themselves and do not have answers. It is important to understand the way planning is driven in South Africa, for example the processes to develop the National Development Plan and Integrated Development Plans – under the guise of participatory democratic processes – fails to be fully inclusive. The question that arises is how can we use these processes to drive and lead planning from below?

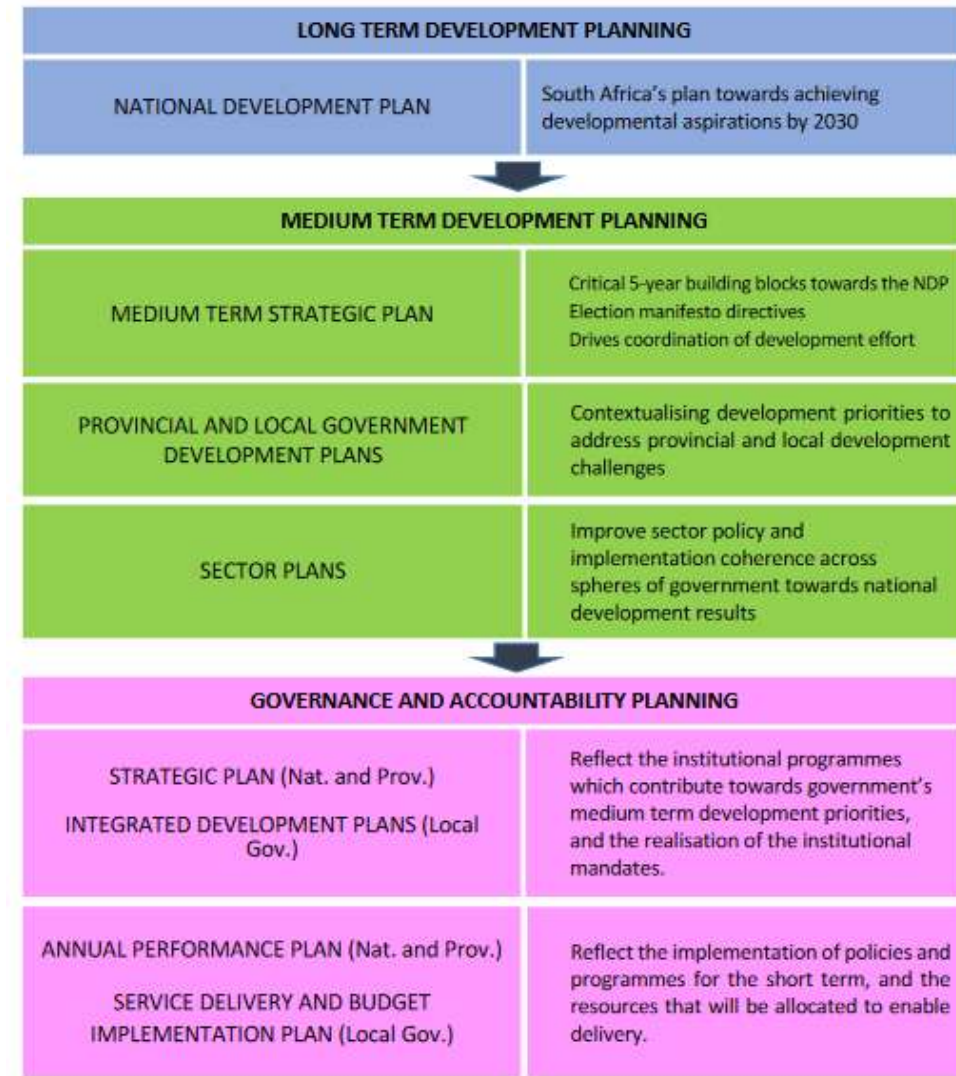
Together, every community, workplace and sector needs to develop a deep just transition plan that understands the climate challenge, appreciates the pluri-vision of the CJC, harnesses laws and develops policies related to socio-ecological systems change. This should be done in a democratic manner to enable an energy transition to decarbonise, whilst meeting essential needs, and advancing systemic alternatives, goals and principles as set out in the Charter. All climate and deep just transition policies must be informed by the voices, consent and needs of all people, especially those facing harm. Examples from India, Venezuela and Ethiopia can provide lessons for democratic planning in South Africa. Such examples are provided in this module.

Democratic planning is important to advance the Climate Justice Charter and to strengthen our democracy, constitution and transformative constitutionalism, by claiming our rights and building united people's power, as we confront the climate emergency and worsening socio-ecological crises.

How Does Planning Work in South Africa?

Planning is defined as: 'a continuous process which involves decisions or choices made by South African government departments and officials about alternate ways of using available resources with the aim of achieving particular development goals

in future' (*The National Department of Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation*). Key to planning is the understanding and allocating limited resources. Policy implementation must therefore be streamlined to ensure that the long and medium-term planning priorities are implemented, and also includes mechanisms for appropriate oversight and accountability within these systems of policy making. Types of government planning:



The mandate of the national planning function derives from the Constitution, which includes developing and implementing national policy and coordinating the functions of state departments. In 2009, Ministers for National Planning and for Monitoring and Evaluation were introduced into the Presidency. With these additional planning & monitoring instruments, including socio-economic impact assessments, a National Evaluation System was introduced to improve planning.

Key to government's planning objectives is the inclusion of people's voices and inputs, an example of planning that demands participation by ordinary people is the Integrated Development Plans developed at a local government or municipal level. The challenge for civil society/activists is that the level of participation must be meaningful and not a means to rubber stamp policies that serve the needs of society.

South Africa's Integrated Development Plan (IDP)

After the first democratic elections in 1994, there was a need to transform apartheid institutions to be more inclusive and build a 'true' democracy. The IDP was therefore a pathway that was suggested (by the post-1994 government) to ensure that development was integrated and democratic which will then accelerate much needed service delivery.

The IDP is based on an approach to planning that involves the entire municipality and its citizens in finding the best solutions to achieve good long-term development. In reality, the IDP process is not about inclusive engagement and more about ticking bureaucratic boxes and does not support meaningful participation by people. Because of the lack of meaningful participation, there are little to no options for communities to monitor the implementation of Integrated Development Planning in South Africa.

During the different stages of planning – participation is supposedly encouraged in the following ways:

Planning phase	Methods for Participation
Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Meetings organised by the ward councillor • Stakeholder Meetings • Surveys and opinion polls (getting views on how people feel about a particular issue)
Strategies	IDP Representative Forum
	Public Debates on what can work best in solving a problem
Projects	Meetings with affected communities and stakeholders
	Representation of stakeholders on project subcommittees
Integration	IDP Representative Forum
Approval	Public Discussion and consultation with communities and stakeholders
Monitoring and Implementation	IDP Representative Forum

The elected council makes all the final decisions on the IDP.

The challenge with the IDP process is the ongoing power dynamics, corruption and lack of funds to shape outcomes. Government needs to enable participatory planning that builds citizen power and voices.

Obstacles to a Participatory Planning System

We need to use participatory planning in order to transition to a new planning system; this promotes and enables democratic systemic reforms. Democratic systemic reforms are the means to achieve the vision of the CJC and its systemic alternatives. Such reforms are about the new socio-ecological systems (energy, transport, food, transport, water etc.) we need to build. Democratic systemic reforms can be weak, strong or transformative depending on power from below. Being people and worker led, they ensure democratic forms of power are built from

below, and drive the deep just transition plans in communities, work places, sectors and local government.

Types of people and worker power	
Structural/systemic power	Building alternative pathways from the grassroots, including production, consumption, markets, financing and ways of living. For example, building a new food system based on food sovereignty
Movement power	Creating a space for convergence amongst a broad base of actors working towards achieving a specific vision, for example, building the CJCM member base and local forums in ward committees or workplaces
Direct power	Includes the methods used to ensure that Climate Justice gains traction among the public. This can be done through mass campaigns, marches or demonstrations in the streets, education and awareness raising.
Symbolic power	This is about symbolic actions or practices that provide glimpses of climate justice values and provide hope, but are also living examples to show that a transformation is possible, for example community owned solar, local solidarity markets and cooperatives, etc.
Constitutional power	Claiming and expanding rights in the constitution, for example, getting the CJC adopted as per section 234 of the constitution, or the People's Food Sovereignty Act and other relevant laws that advance climate justice.

The Deep Just Transition requires this approach, as it enables collective thinking in design and planning, promoting bottom-up solutions for policy. Our current system is driven by capital and its needs.

Capitalism as an Obstacle to Planning

The capitalist world-system that permeates global society, threatens not only the well-being of a majority of the world's people but also the very survival of our

planet. It is a system of death, violence, racism, patriarchal power and exploitation of everything. We must actively delink from this system in order to care for our planetary commons and ecosystems, securing a future for our children, youth and those not yet born. We must subordinate the capitalist system to the needs of society and nature. The current system does not align with the principles and goals of the DJT as it enables greed, selfishness and inequality. The capitalist system continues to perpetuate the contributing factors to the ecological crisis. We need to challenge this system and build bottom up momentum to accelerate and deepen the just transition through democratic systemic reforms.

HOW THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM IS FAILING US:

- using imperial, corporate and government power to continue more oil, coal and gas use
- exploiting humans, nature and ecosystems
- not recognising that the Earth's resources are finite
- blocking and delaying transformative action to address the climate crisis
- disregarding harms and continuing raw materials extractivism
- promoting consumerist behaviour centred on over-consumption
- focusing on profit and capital over the needs of the people
- creating products that are not durable or are single-use items

Why We Want Democratic Planning?

Participatory planning from below can be a powerful tool to democratise national development planning, strategising and drafting policy. In addition, it can be used to empower people on the ground. In the context of the worsening climate crisis and the DJT democratic planning is crucial for the following reasons:

- ensuring society co-owns the climate problem and contributes to systemic solutions from below;
- build momentum from below for democratic systemic reforms to accelerate and deepen the just transition from below;
- we share different forms of knowledge that can solve the problem including peoples everyday experience;

- we make critical decisions as a country about how our resources are used so we can survive the worsening climate crisis;
- generate democratic just transition plans for our communities, workplaces, sectors and state that we can all champion to ensure mitigation, adaptation and transformative regeneration.

Some lessons/steps that South Africa can draw from:

1. Organise a participatory diagnosis to help provide a better understanding of the needs of the people of a given community.
2. The process of participatory planning must begin in small spaces – communities and workplaces.
3. Communities, workplaces and sectors can facilitate the direct participation of citizens and their organisation.
4. Participation and dialogue via councils and assemblies, free of political manipulation.
5. Local plans must be co-owned from below with government, including in the design, finalisation and implementation phases.
6. The different tiers of local government should be autonomous: functionally, financially and administratively.
7. There should be conceptual and operational clarity regarding the role of each tier in the planning process and a clear division of functions among the tiers, which should not overlap, but be complementary to each other.
8. Local self-government should facilitate the maximum direct participation of the people in the planning process.
9. There should be continuous social auditing of the performance of the elected representatives.
10. People should have the right to information regarding every detail of the administration.

Learning from International Examples to Democratise Planning in South Africa

Venezuela's Communal Councils

Venezuela used geographically based communities as the ideal unit for participation. Imagine how difficult it would be to organise a meeting of 2000 or more people, as the country is so densely populated (example: those with high-rise apartments and slums where tens of thousands of families live). The Venezuelan government proposed using smaller spaces, to create better conditions that can facilitate the active participation of residents in meetings dealing with community issues. These smaller spaces are perceived to be better suited to dealing with more localised problems such as rubbish collection, footpaths, at-risk pregnancies, crime or the lack of sporting, cultural or humanitarian initiatives, and involving residents in their resolution.

President Chavez's idea was to create an organisation that would bring together all these diverse groupings and organisations that exist (urban land committees, social protection committees, health committees and community health organisations, cultural groups, neighbourhood associations, education missions, environmental groups, food committees, and cooperatives) into a single organisation that could act as a community government, the "communal council". Bringing together all existing community initiatives into a single work plan saves effort and leads to much better results. Chávez also said that the first task of the communal council should be to actively involve residents in the community in coming up with this plan.

What this example highlighted was that actively involving residents in coming up with a work plan should not be the first task of the communal council; rather, this should occur prior to the formation of the council in order to establish and detect those people who are best suited to running this small community government. A citizen's assembly is aimed at widening democracy and allows its spokespersons to be elected.

A citizen's assembly, as developed in Venezuela, tries to resolve the disconnect that the leaders of the existing community organizations have with their constituents. The citizens' assembly is the highest decision-making body in the local community. This is where sovereignty and the power of the people reside. Its decisions are binding on the communal council. Venezuela demonstrates the importance of beginning the process of participatory planning in communities. These communities can facilitate the direct participation of citizens and their organization via councils and assemblies, free of political manipulation. The idea of organizing territorial communities into communal councils is the most specific contribution from the Venezuelan experience. It is shown that people's participation was greater in smaller spaces, similar to the 'neighbourhood areas' of Venezuela.

Kerala's Grama Panchayats

Kerala is one of India's most populous states. India's experience of decentralised participatory planning is entrenched in the Constitution that establishes the need to organise "Grama Panchayats" (village or rural town governments) with as much power as is necessary to allow them to function as units of self-government. There are three levels of local rural self-government: the lowest level is the Grama Panchayats (the village government), this is followed by the Block Panchayats, groups of villages organized into "blocks" or units to carry out certain nationally funded development projects and lastly, the District Panchayats.

The legislation governing the three levels of participation has been applied in very few states. One of them is Kerala. The underlying principle was that everything that could be carried out at a lower level should be decentralised to that level. In the Kerala experiment a third of all financial resources dedicated to development, were transferred from that state level to the Grama Panchayats. In 1996 the Communist Party of India led a coalition of progressive forces that won a majority and that year launched the "People's Campaign" for decentralised planning, which brought a fundamental change in the roles that the different levels of local and regional government would play from then on. The starting point for the People's Campaign was an afternoon assembly of citizens charged with expressing the felt needs of

their communities. To inspire meaningful participation of ordinary people in these local assemblies, the State Planning Board decided to devolve 35 to 40% of development funds to the local levels.

Once the lowest level of self-government had been decided upon, those responsible for the planning process realised that convening an assembly of all residents in a densely-populated town, implied having to hold assemblies of more than 1000 people, so eventually they set up neighbourhood groups (40-50 families) that began to carry out many of the functions of the ward assembly, such as discussing the local plan, revising the plan's implementation and selecting who should receive resources. One of the strongest points of the PP process in Kerala was precisely the emphasis the organisers placed on training various participants: residents, technicians, representatives and volunteers. Different levels of training programs were created, each with its own respective manual, training camps, meetings and seminars where participants could exchange experiences. The experience of Kerala is a valuable guide for understanding how decentralised structures for PP function and the importance of the principle of subsidiarity for organizing resources, along with the importance of making special effort to raise awareness and train up the population to ensure full participation in the process.

The People's Science Movements (PSMs) in India

A social movement is one form of collective mobilisation in which a large number of people are organized to support/ bring about/ or resist change, either through institutional or non-institutional means. The social movement is an effort that moves people toward their desired goals, PSM seeks to bring social changes with the help of science.

For PSMs, human society is divided into two sections such as the majority (have-nots) who are continuously impoverished and a minority (haves) which is continuously getting enriched at the expense of the majority. Science and Technology (S&T) have been and still are a powerful weapon in the hands of this minority in their exploitation of the majority as well as the plunder of natural resources. PSMs are partisans towards the majority whenever their genuine

interests clash with the interests of the minority. The PSM activities in India can be classified into four broad categories:

1. Science Communication and Science Education
2. Policy Critiques especially in Science & Technology
3. Grassroots Level Development Interventions
4. Alternative Technology and Development

The People's Science Movements have managed to achieve their own goals and have thrived in a limited sense. The various people science movements in India have proved to be capable of renewing themselves and adapting to changing economic and political dynamics of Indian society.

Land Use Management in Ethiopia

Ethiopia's land use management in the Meket Woreda, Northern Wollo is another example of democratic planning. Since 1974 Ethiopia has undergone several major changes, including three land reforms and the total restructuring of the administrative bodies. In 2014, the national government started the Participatory Land Use and Planning project in the pastoral areas of Meket Woreda district. The aim of the project is to decentralise land management and empower villages to design land management strategies that suit their unique ecologies and tribal relations. This context specific land management program has enabled villages to develop unique strategies to maximise pastoral land output, distribute land, mitigate droughts and avoid land related tribal conflicts.

Participatory planning is central to emancipation of the people, by including the community in the planning and implementation of policies. This provides those communities and local institutions the opportunity to play a fundamental role in contributing to the design and implementation of the national plan. This also provides said communities the autonomy to plan within their own territory and carry out an important part of the national plan.

Exercise 4: Planning and Participation

Individual Exercise: Understanding Planning in Our Spaces

Taking 5 minutes to reflect, participants should think about their own experiences and the case studies presented to answer the following questions about the planning of their spaces, in the context of climate justice:

1. Is planning important in a world impacted by worsening climate and ecological crisis? Why?
2. What is the link between the Climate Justice Charter, democratic planning and the deep just transition?
3. What can we learn from international examples about democratic planning, led by people from below?
4. How does planning work within your community, or workplace or local government?
5. Unpack the power dimensions of democratic systemic reforms and how can they be advanced to build peoples power in a community, for example?
6. What changes should happen to empower people's participation, leadership and power to accelerate and deepen the just transition?

Each participant can write their key points down. It is important to understand the current planning methodologies/approaches of our spaces before we can assess what to change.

Module 6: Climate Justice Visioning, Peoples' Planning and Deep Just Transition Activism in communities, workplaces, sectors and local government

There are numerous tools that can be used to advance a deep just transition:

- Tool 1: Visioning with the Climate Justice Charter – what would a workplace, community, sector and local government look like if we took forward the CJC as the basis for democratic planning.
- Tool 2: Decarbonising our society through developing a Carbon Profile of a workplace, community, sectors and local government to assess 'lock ins' of fossil fuels and destruction of nature.
- Tool 3: Systemic adaptation through a Participatory Climate Risk Assessment of essential systems (water, food, production, waste) that need to be transformed if further heating and climate shocks happen.
- Tool 4: Building capabilities for handling climate shocks. This includes redesigning the Disaster Management System and ensuring transformative regeneration of systems that might be compromised.

In this guide we develop *Tool 1*, as a basis to shape peoples planning and deep just transition activism. *Tools 2-4* will be developed in other activist guides. Our focus will be using the Climate Justice Charter as a visioning tool to transform workplaces, communities, sectors and local government.

Starting with local government, lets first discuss the active role it should be playing to ensure a deep just transition:

Local Government's Active Role

Local government needs to play an active role in transforming our country in the pursuit of the Deep Just Transition. It is imperative that our nation's representatives are committed to implementing policies that realise the alternatives as presented in the Climate Justice Charter. We need local government to use bottom-up approaches, and participatory dialogue and planning with the public.

South African towns and cities have an important role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Local governments make decisions affecting land use, building codes, transportation systems and waste management (amongst others), and each of these decisions impacts on energy use. City authorities are therefore key players in shaping the Deep Just Transition. Participatory planning should take place at each level, including government's development plans, investment plans and budgeting processes.

Many South African cities have developed climate change strategies but the implementation is lacking or goes against national policies. For example, Ekurhuleni's climate strategy report does not provide any guidelines on developing actions for the goals through policy. No policy framework is presented, which means the likelihood of these goals being achieved are low, and a plan without policy is simply not sufficient for effecting change and transforming spaces and cities.

Local Government should therefore:

- Draw up a climate policy action plan to describe how the climate goals are to be achieved.
- Set climate policy goals and budget policy goals which work together.
- Enable and use participatory planning that includes all stakeholders and communities when developing policies.

GOVERNMENT'S ROLE FOR SOUTH AFRICA'S ROUTE TO DECARBONISATION:

- reduce coal usage and coal exports
- lower global oil demand
- develop clean energy public transport systems
- formalise taxi industry, protect drivers and commuters
- pedestrianise spaces, walking and cycling paths
- invest in renewables
- develop decarbonisation routes for steel, cement, and chemicals production

With the above in mind, we will now develop an analysis of our own local governments to establish the issues, challenges and opportunities our just transition process needs to address or consider.

The following exercise can assist us as we do so:

Exercise 5: Visioning for a Climate Justice Local Government

Group Exercise: Understanding our local government

In groups of 2-6, preferably with participants from the same area, answer the following questions:

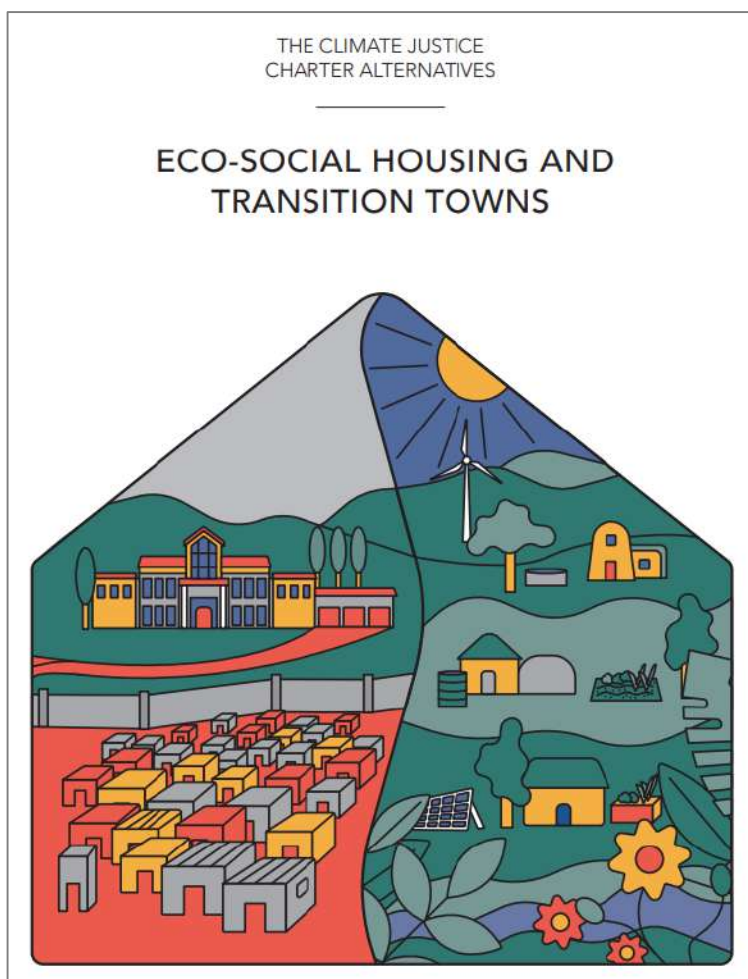
1. What are the current realities and challenges facing your local government?
2. Next, lets reimagine a new vision for your local government based on the CJC
 - How does my ideal local government undertake planning? What steps does it take, how does it involve the public?
 - What principles guide my ideal local government as it makes plans or sets priorities or policies?
 - What three CJC systemic alternatives does my ideal local government prioritise

Pick one of the three alternatives you listed above and brainstorm policies/changes to policies that can be implemented to ensure the alternative is achieved.

Communities

South Africa's adaptation responses to climate change need to be considered within the overall context of the development of the state. Good policy and implementation can result in partial adaptation; but there also needs to be autonomous adaptation: the **people and communities affected by climate change altering their own behaviour and environments**. Households and communities are most capable of building capacity in adaptation. Community organisations have direct access to necessary information that might not be easily available to government. This includes the precise vulnerabilities of the community, variations within it, and hands-on monitoring of climate effects and adaptations. Communities can champion the deep just transition in a number of ways, including by establishing eco-villages, or elements of an eco-village.

While it may seem easier to continue to live as we have been living with the infrastructure that is already locked in, the systems we live by, social patterns and norms in place, we need to challenge these norms, and stop being shackled by the poor decisions being made for us. Eco-villages, eco-



communities or transition towns provide alternative options for living as communities. While there is no decided upon definition, an eco-village can be understood as an intentional community that is deliberately designing its pathway through locally owned, participatory processes. The *Global Ecovillage Network* (GEN) outlines four areas of regeneration (of social and natural environments) in a whole systems design which communities should aim to pursue on their path of sustainability: social, culture, ecology, and economy. Because each ecovillage is designed by the people who live there, according to their vision, context, culture and interests, no two are alike. However, GEN categorises them into two general categories, which can be found in either rural or urban settings:

- **traditional** – existing rural villages and communities that decide to design their own pathway into the future, using participatory processes to combine life-sustaining traditional wisdom and positive new innovation.
- **intentional** – created by people who come together afresh with a shared purpose or vision.

Below are two case studies of eco-villages:

Ecotruly Park, Peru



Eco Truly Park is an ecological, artistic community in Lima, Peru. The architecture and values of the community is in part inspired by Indian traditional teachings and lifestyles. Community members live together according to principles of non-violence, simple living and elevated thinking, and invite visitors who can learn and experience how it is possible to live happily in harmony with nature, others, and themselves. Founded in 1994, they have since developed a unique organic awareness cultivation and ecological program which is run by an increasing number of members and volunteers. The community is 2.5 m above sea level and previously consisted of sandy, unfertile land. However, the community has made it flourish and grows produce agroecologically. They provide an example to others in Lima of an alternative way of life and have also raised the ecological consciousness of others in the province. The eco village is also a model for sustainable alternative solutions for the extreme poverty of more than half of the Peruvian citizens (over 14 million people) living in rural and urban marginalised villages.²⁰

The Sustainability Institute, Lynedoch Eco-Village, South Africa



²⁰ <http://www.ecotrulypark.org/en/home>

Lynedoch Eco-Village is pioneering approaches to creating socially diverse ecological communities. The eco-village is a mixed community of 30 families from diverse racial and social-economic groups built around a child-centered learning precinct, which is a financially and economically viable community requiring no external funding to sustain itself. It is also a working example of a liveable ecologically designed urban system that challenges the notion that sustainable development and ecological building is too expensive.

Various ecological design approaches have been integrated into the building of the Eco-Village: All the homes are built from alternative materials, including adobe brick, 2nd hand brick, hay bales, and sandbags. The community has its own recycling depot and waste management systems, with a sewerage system and a water treatment system that recycles all of its grey water. All homes have solar water geysers, and some have photovoltaic solar and biodigesters.

Importantly, the sustainability approach of the village is based on an understanding that sustainable living is only possible when social justice issues are adequately addressed. In other words, even if you have the best energy usage and waste management systems in your community, if society remains unequal and unjust, this is not sustainable. To this end, the village grapples with social justice and inclusivity at every level, while implementing small scale feasible ecological interventions. The community claims: 'We are not a case study for photovoltaic success, rather we are a case study for an approach to sustainability that begins with people' ²¹

Let's look at our own communities, with the following questions in mind:

²¹ <https://lynedochecovillage.wordpress.com/>

Exercise 6: Reimagining our communities

Group Exercise: Just Communities

In groups of 2-6, preferably with participants from the same community, answer the following questions:

1. What are the current realities and challenges facing your community?
2. What practices, shared values, beliefs, etc in your community are taking us in a direction opposite to climate justice?
3. What opportunities exist? Are there examples where people have come together to support one another in our communities? Can we build on these acts of solidarity?
4. Next, lets reimagine a new vision for your community based on the CJC
 - What elements of an eco-village/transition town would I like to see in my community?
 - What does the food system, transport system, waste and water system look like in my community?
 - Who makes decisions in my ideal community? How do community members participate in decision-making? For example, is there a just transition forum? Who makes up the forum? Is there equal representation etc.
 - Who, in my ideal community, implements deep just transition decisions/aims?
 - How can I campaign for climate justice in my community? Who can I involve? What issues do we prioritise in our campaign? How do we link this to climate change and climate justice alternatives?

Workplaces

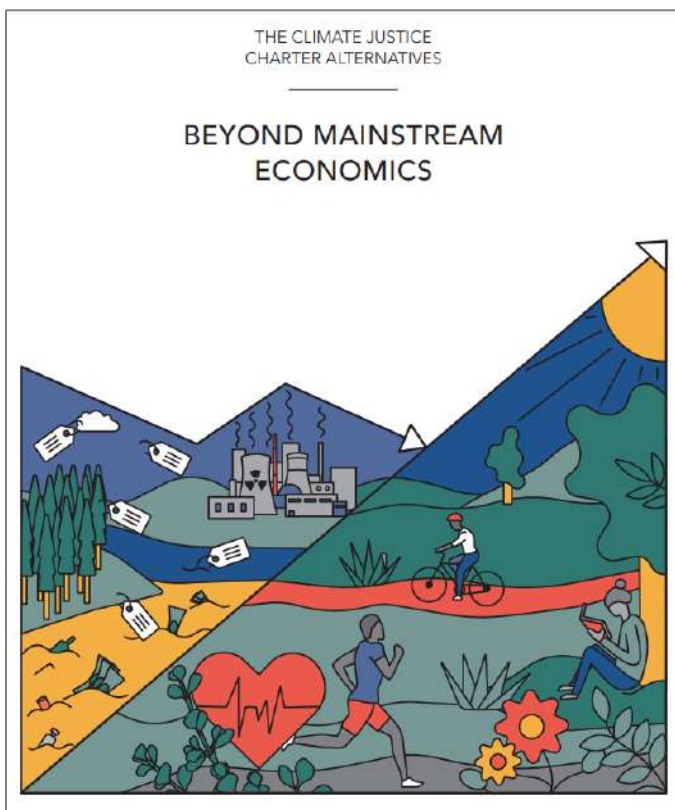
The impacts of climate change on work can affect people working in office spaces as well as work that is done outdoors (such as municipal workers, farmers and fisherfolk). Some of us may find ourselves in a position where we do not have jobs, or we work for companies that don't align with all of our values. If this is the case, it is important to try and realise that YOU can help and make a difference.

We need urgent policy reform, in order to decarbonise our spaces and work towards a Deep Just Transition:

- 1. Decarbonising our workplaces** is essential. Full decarbonisation of energy from non-renewable resources to renewable resources in the mining industry should be a precondition of any meaningful progress towards decarbonisation. Renewable energy savings (or selling back to the grid) should contribute to income gains for workers, including reduction in working hour schemes. Working remotely where possible, reducing transport, and investing in renewable energy sources are some steps to decarbonisation. Use reactive policies to minimize the negative effects/cost of the transition by introducing income support initiatives or program developments. Proactive policies should be used to maximise the long-term benefits of the transition (forecasting skills that will be in demand in the future or incentivising the adoption of renewable energies).
- 2. Eco-centric infrastructure** needs to be invested in. New spaces or buildings that are built, need to be built with sustainability in mind (solar panels on carport bays and roofing, water capturing and containment systems, and space to do agroecological farming for the provision of fresh produce). We need to learn from those workplaces who have tried and achieved their goals and decarbonisation objectives.
- 3. Measures of progress need to change**, as well as the way we see 'work'. The impact on 'work' when moving to sustainable low carbon or carbon-free futures must be considered. GDP should no longer be used as a metric for measuring a

country's success, as this metric does not account for economic welfare and non-market contributors to well-being (such as unpaid care or domestic labour). Environmental degradation and resource exhaustion are also not considered and therefore the cycle continues.

4. **Research and innovation** need to be pushed. There are knowledge gaps in South Africa's literature



analysing our environmental data, specifically relating to local municipal action, and case studies from community projects mitigating climate change. Furthermore, the climate job transition means our education systems need to adapt, and we will need new guidelines/requirements of the world of work and that will take time to relearn for workers. The transition is multifaceted and covers the social, political, economic, and institutional. Eco- innovation through learning from nature, crowd sourcing public knowledge and innovating on ethical technology serving the public interest, will all have to be encouraged.

5. **Planting appropriate trees, groundcover and shrubs** are important in mitigating some climate change effects. It also helps address the serious issue of food insecurity, as fruit and vegetable-bearing plants can be planted. Nurseries should also serve as reserves for biodiversity through the propagation

of plants and seeds. Workplaces and communities should compost, adding nutrients to the soil, nourishing the plants.

6. **Zero Waste Design and recycling programmes** should be developed or created in every workplace or community. Government should not only have a Carbon Tax, but also have bigger incentives to support workers leading the just transition in workplaces so that benefits and savings from transition processes are not captured by owners.

Let's look at our existing workplaces or workplaces in our communities. What needs to change, what could be better? Let's assess by undertaking the following activity:

Exercise 7: Workplaces

Group Exercise: Eco-centric workplaces

In groups of 2-6, preferably with participants from the same area or workplace, answer the following questions:

1. What are the current realities and challenges facing your workplace, or workplaces in your community? Where do they fall short when it comes to recycling, water use, decarbonising, building materials, work hours etc.
2. Next, let's reimagine a new vision for our workplaces based on the CJC
 - What are the key elements that my workplace needs to change in order to be an eco-centric workplace?
 - What gains, advantages or benefits will be realised for your workplace with these changes?
 - How do we go about implementing these changes? List 5 steps you can take to start engaging your workplaces with the Charter, alternatives and the key elements you listed above.

Sectors

South African society can be divided into many sectors such as youth and children (including education sectors), workers, the unemployed, faith-based groups, arts and culture, sports, social justice and environmental justice organisations, NGOs and civil society organisations, the media and more. We all fall into a few of these sectors and can influence them. At the same time these sectors can have a huge influence over our lives; and as such, they have the potential to usher in a deep just transition in various ways. Think about faith-based organisations, for example. Many faiths believe that they are the custodians of nature. Some display/practice this belief more than others. This is an opportunity for us to build convergences between faith-based organisations and climate justice movements and push for adoption of the Charter and putting into practice some of its alternatives such as the rights of nature

Youth and children are another sector. This is a vibrant sector because many young people are already well aware of the climate crisis and its implications for their futures. However, many youth and children still believe that a path of financial gain and consumerism are what they should aspire towards in order to be successful. Working with children's and student organisations, we can influence young minds about what is at stake if we continue on the current destructive path. We can also use the vibrancy and creativity of the youth and children to initiate climate justice campaigns, educating about climate science, and implementing some of the alternatives, such as community food gardens, for example.

Labour/trade unions are another key sector. They have influence over many workers in society and can educate them about the deep just transition, but also build capacities for a deep just transition:

TRADE UNIONS ARE KEY TO A JUST TRANSITION. THEY MUST:

- build the labour movement and its capacity
- be actively part of the Climate Justice Charter Movement
- be proactive and build climate justice transition strategies for the future.

- be actively involved at all levels.
- manage labour market transitions.
- develop innovative approaches for the future

With the above in mind, let's think about the sectors we find ourselves in. How can we work within the organisations and institutions in these sectors to ensure alternatives are promoted so that we can move closer to a deep just transition? Pick one sector (even if it isn't listed above) and answer the following questions:

Exercise 8: Sectors

Group Exercise: Sectors for climate justice

In groups of 2-6, preferably with participants from the same sector, answer the following questions:

1. What are the current realities and challenges facing your sector, particularly in terms of climate change and climate justice awareness, as well as when it comes to implementing systemic deep just transition alternatives?
2. Next, let's reimagine a new vision for our sectors based on the CJC
 - What are the key CJC alternatives that my sector is well positioned to champion? Pick 3 alternatives.
 - Brainstorm how these three alternatives can be implemented by my sector or put into policy. How can I campaign for climate justice /CJC alternatives in my sector? Who can I involve? What issues should the campaign priorities? How can this be linked to climate change and climate justice alternatives?

Beyond visioning

The above activities have shown us that there are some positive elements in our communities, workplaces, sectors and even in local government. Yet there are also many obstacles to achieving a deep just transition. However, history, examples in our communities, existing people's alternatives, and the fact that there are people who want to make a difference shows us that a deep just transition is possible. With careful planning, implementation, movement building and the right tactics we can make changes in society. We can bring others on board, we can transform the state, and we can create a community where all living things, including all nature is respected and prioritised. Let's use these activities and plans as a starting point, and work together to achieve necessary changes.

The following activity will get us to think about how to start developing a plan to put into practice our climate justice visions for our workplace, communities, sectors and local government. This activity is merely a start to get you to develop an action plan. Thereafter a lot more thought, consultation and planning will have to happen, with a lot more participation from others in your various spaces.

Exercise 9: Developing an action plan

Small Group Exercise

Split up into groups of three to four. Using the information and practical tools you have been presented with above, discuss the following:

1. What does my action-plan for contributing to the just transition look like? Write down 5 -10 steps that will guide you, i.e, starting with identifying people/organisations to work with.
2. How do I take these tools and advocate for deep just transition action and policy?

Module 7: Conclusion: Accelerating the Deep Just Transition in communities, workplaces, sectors and local government

“A climate justice future can only be achieved through the power of a united people. We have learned this through the struggle against colonialism, apartheid and neoliberalism. Power lies in different parts of society, in the systems we build, the organisations and movements that we are part of, and in the street politics we do. People’s power has to be at the forefront of defending the living commons which sustains us and future generations. Human beings are an adaptable and flexible species. We understand the causes of the climate crisis and we have democratic, transformative and just solutions to prevent our extinction. The Climate Justice Charter is a signpost; a trumpet call, to move all of us in the direction of system change now and for a Climate Justice Deal that ends the suffering of the most vulnerable and oppressed. Such a people led initiative will ensure that we address the multiple crises confronting the country while affirming the hope of the many expressed in the Charter. “

- Climate Justice Charter

This guide has attempted to cover a lot of ground in a short amount of space. It has introduced us to the climate and socio-ecological crisis, shown us how we are at **war with nature**. It has shown us what will happen if we reach 1.5°C increase and what this will mean for South Africa, our communities, especially the poor and vulnerable. However, the purpose of this guide is not to leave us feeling hopeless. Just as the Charter is a document of hope, a vision, and a trumpet call, this guide is meant to guide us to hopeful solutions and encourage us to continue with the struggle for climate justice and building of climate justice alternatives.

There are many people’s alternatives presented in the Charter, and further elaborated in this guide that can lead us towards a more climate just future. There are many alternatives that we may already be practicing. However, these alternatives need to be made more visible and upscaled, to show that an alternative way of living is possible; one that is in harmony with nature, animals and all people. Yet, alternatives in isolated areas are also not sufficient. This guide has shown us that we need a climate justice project, one that is strategic and involves all

communities, workplaces, sectors and government; one that can guide us towards a **deep just transition**.

It is important to note that a transition is only just and deep if it involves the people who will be mostly affected by climate change and the transition. This includes workers, the poor and vulnerable. Their voices need to be heard as we pursue meaningful change in society. This is also known as **democratic or participatory planning**. This topic has been elaborated in this guide as it is an element that so many people miss when developing and implementing plans, especially government. Through research studies looking at different places (such as Venezuela or Kerala, India) across the world, we have seen trials, successes, and shortfalls in democratic participatory planning. We must through our own practice and power, from below, push government to use participatory planning when thinking about a plan, designing that plan, and implementing policy to develop these strategies, as it is central to the emancipation of the people. By including the community in the planning and implementation of policies, you empower the people within those communities by providing those communities with the tools (and where possible funding support) to action out certain projects within their communities. We need to encourage campaigning from below, building capacity to make the Deep Just Transition a reality.

Local government, communities, workplaces and households also have key roles to play in the deep just transition, building solidarities, and ensuring that change is effected through participatory planning. As such, this guide has provided information and tools to guide our activism and planning in the different sectors and spaces we find ourselves in. This process starts with **climate justice visioning**. Module 6 has provided the first of a suite of tools to help us vision and plan for a deep just transition. These activities are only a starting point, but can be very powerful and provide key insights into where a campaign or action should begin. Small campaigns and small wins build confidence and encourage greater awareness and even membership in the cause or CJCM forum. These all contribute towards building the climate justice project and the movement.

The guide has shown us risks that the climate crisis poses for all life on earth, importantly for the poor and vulnerable human and non-human life, and therefore the urgency that is required to implement change and strengthen the Climate Justice Charter Movement, before it is too late.

It is therefore up to each of us to initiate change in the spaces we find ourselves in. But we can't do it alone. If we look hard enough, we will find that there are others in our spaces who feel the same way too. Let's use the Charter to start discussions, to identify people we can work with and set up small CJCM committees. Let's then host workshops with this guide and possibly even then set up CJCM forums to develop visions, strategies, campaigns and plans to shift our institutions or organisations. Imagine if every community, workplace, local government or sector had a dedicated few people working towards this end, who gradually implement changes, and initiate different elements highlighted in the CJCM alternatives. This is how meaningful change happens, this is how we campaign from below; this is people's power.

There is power in numbers and there is also power in movements. Let's join the CJCM, let's share our lessons and stories. Time is running out. We must accelerate and deepen the just transition now. Find out how to get involved below.

"Imagine a country with less asthma because of clean air, less drought, closed taps and power cuts because our communities own renewable energy power.

Imagine a country where no one goes to bed hungry, because the greedy polluters are forced to pay the taxes they owe, so everyone can have a basic income grant and the option of a climate job."

This is what climate justice looks like!

Exercise 10: Reflections

Individual activity

The sections above have mapped out the key tools we need to ensure a Deep Just Transition. To appreciate these tools let's think about the worst case scenario

We are running out of time to prevent catastrophic climate change. The ANC government and its Presidential Climate Commission are not serious about the climate emergency and are not championing a deep just transition. Answer the following questions:

- (I) What will happen to South Africa if we let an unjust transition prevail?
- (II) Who will be harmed the most in an unjust transition?
- (III) What are the main tools you have learned from this guide to advance a deep just transition in your community, workplace, sector and local government?

Building a Mass Driven Climate Justice Charter Movement

Without organised people and worker power climate justice will not be realised. In the struggle against slavery, for basic democratic rights, against colonialism and apartheid, for democratic socialism and women's power, movements made all the difference. 500 years of history have given us these lessons. Preserving human and non-human life means we have to affirm our collective interests, common purpose and power. We have to return to mass movement building to confront the challenge of the worsening climate crisis.

There are several reasons to build the Climate Justice Charter Movement as a mass driven movement:

- The ANC led Alliance and its capitalist allies are the biggest obstacle to a deep just transition;

- It is only a people and worker driven movement that can accelerate and deepen the just transition;
- Our survival depends on us getting organised from below;
- To end carbon capitalism and its eco-cidal destruction of human and non-human life;
- We need to build our collective capacities to drive democratic systemic reforms;
- Building radical non-racial solidarity across transformative forces;
- Ensuring women's leadership of society.

Over the next few years we will elaborate the strategic perspectives of the CJCM and institutionalise it. We invite you to be part of this historic process and to build a people and worker driven CJCM now.

Support the CJCM Campaign to accelerate and deepen the just transition

These are the steps to take to join and support the CJCM in your community, workplace, sector or local government:

- (i) Sign up as a member and invite friends, comrades and family to do the same at www.cjcm.org.za/join
- (ii) Join a CJCM working group, structure and community forum
- (iii) If there isn't a CJCM forum in your community (you can view forums close to you based on your location entered into the website), form one, either online and/or physically in your community, workplace, sector or local government. See Annexure 2 for guidelines on how to do this online or in-person.
- (iv) Run an education workshop on the climate crisis science and the Climate Justice Charter (<https://cjcm.org.za/the-charter/en>). Invite people and use these resources;
- (v) Use tools provided to start organising the deep just transition. Run more education and awareness raising workshops

- (vi) Develop a CJCM program of action for organising recruitment, climate science education and awareness raising, policy development and campaigning to accelerate and deepen the just transition.
- (vii) Tell us about your forum, achievements, challenges, lessons etc, so that others can learn from your experience. Do this by writing articles for the CJCM newsletter.

Annexure 1: Additional Resources

Activist Guides to promote systemic alternatives and a deep just transition

- Water Sovereignty Activist Guide: <https://www.safsc.org.za/building-peoplespower-for-water-sovereignty-activist-guide/>
- People's Food Sovereignty Act: <https://www.safsc.org.za/peoples-foodsovereignty-act/>
- Seed Saving Activist Guide: <https://www.safsc.org.za/seed-saving-activist-guide/>
- Land Justice Activist Guide: https://www.safsc.org.za/wpcontent/uploads/2019/12/Land-Justice-Guide-2019_Final-compressed.pdf
- Food sovereignty for the right to food - Activist Guide <http://safsc.org.za/wpcontent/uploads/2015/09/Food-Sovereignty-for-the-Right-to-Food-Activist-Guidecompressed.pdf>
- Building a Solidarity Economy Movement - Activist Guide <http://safsc.org.za/wpcontent/uploads/2015/09/SEM-guide.pdf>
- Worker Cooperative Activist Guide <https://copac.org.za/wpcontent/uploads/2015/09/Worker-Coop-Guide-Final-Web-Version1.pdf>

Annexure 2: Guidelines for setting up a CJCM forum

Introduction

After two years of intensive campaigning as the Climate Justice Charter Movement, we have put the Climate Justice Charter (CJC) on the national agenda and in our parliament. Our campaigning has challenged the government's commitment to a shallow transition evident in the resistance to adopting the CJC as per section 234 of the constitution by parliament. As our strategic discussion document titled '[What Next for the Climate Justice Charter Movement](#)' says, we now need to ***intensify the climate justice struggle***. To do so, we need to **organise and mobilise** people as we build the Climate Justice Charter Movement and accelerate the deep just transition. We know that "South Africa's carbon ruling class is not up to this task. Such a transition has to be led from below by grassroots women, workers, the poor, the middle class and the most vulnerable. Youth must be in the centre" (CJCM Discussion document). This is why we are building CJCM forums in all communities around the country because a climate justice project can only be achieved through a mass-oriented climate justice activism. Therefore, a CJCM forum is a space for organising, mobilising and conscientising (making aware) people in communities, sectors and workplaces for climate justice resistance and to realise the pluri-vision of the CJC. It is a space for building solidarities and convergences for effective campaigning about issues pertinent to the community and a space for membership recruitment as well as on-the-ground activism, training and education. This document is intended to guide activists on setting up a CJCM forum in their locale guided by the pluri-vision of the CJC and the strategic priorities outlined in the CJCM discussion document.

Organising CJCM Forums

Two types of forums exist on the CJCM platform. Those with a macro/national focus, and those with a micro/community/workplace focus. Macro refers to the main focus areas of the CJCM movement (Deep Just Transition, Climate Justice Deal, Climate Science and Climate Justice Education, Communication and Media and Climate Justice Campaigning). The national forums are organised in the CJCM Website. The website is a tool for organising and mobilisation. It makes it easy to connect activists across the country without the burden of travelling costs. **Every member of the CJCM must register on the CJCM website** and be part of a national forum. Micro refers to areas/institutions that activists belong to/will be organising around. An activist may set up a CJCM forum in their university

organised around getting the university to adopt the charter as well as building climate justice activism in that university, this is an example of a CJCM micro forum.

If there isn't a forum in your geographic location, we encourage you to set one up online on the CJCM Webpage. **The online forum is the organising and communication platform for physical micro forums.** We encourage physical meetings, as far as is possible, but also encourage online/social media events and engagements organised by your forums.

All activists/organisations are encouraged to join the CJCM website online and also join a macro/micro forum (there is no limit to how many forums you join). Macro forums are available for anyone in the country to join. Micro forums are available to you based on your location.

The purpose of CJCM forums

CJCM forums serve to:

- Build and strengthen the CJCM movement locally
- Build alliances locally
- Mobilise within the community
- Educate the community about climate science and alternatives
- Advance and promote the Charter in local communities, workplaces and local government
- Support the development of systemic alternatives locally (including food gardens, water commoning, etc)
- Essentially the CJCM forum will organise, mobilise and conscientise communities to build the CJCM.

Setting up a CJCM forum

Start by creating a new forum on the CJCM website.

Once you have created the forum, post on the national platform to mention to others that you have initiated a forum in your area, and encourage those in that location to join.

The following steps can assist you as you set up your forum and decide on priorities. These steps include:

Note that developing goals and strategies to build the movement locally go hand in hand with building systemic alternatives (such as food sovereignty, water sovereignty, zero waste etc). So while your first objectives/goal as a forum can be about climate education and awareness raising in order to build the movement, keep in mind that practical activities/solutions in practice also draw people into the forum, for example setting up food gardens, establishing a zero waste system etc.

Step 1: Get to know your community

To activate your community and workplace forum, become an organiser. Get to know who makes up the community and what their interests are. In the case of workplace forums, gather all unions members together and discuss the following: how is waste disposed of, what types of energy is being used and does the production process create a carbon footprint.

The more you get to know, the better equipped you are to take up issues and explain why climate justice actions are critical.

Step 2: Develop an overall picture of the area

Get to know what your area is made up of. Consider the impact of climate change on the area.

Find out what the passions of people are to develop climate change justice.

Start with a snapshot of the area.

Once you have activated your area and you know what the main glue is bring people together and once you have recruited a few committed people, clearly define your area.

To define your area, draw a map of the area. If it is a complex, you can take photos, or you can use the internet to get a map. Where there is no internet, you could draw a picture of the area. Include the following in your map: Physical layout (houses, streets), geographical features such as rivers, hills, and social spaces such as open spaces and facilities.

Step 3: Engage people: Recruit a group

Start with the core group of volunteers who share the same passion for climate justice/ social change as you do. Note that in a workplace forum or a community or in any group, the group participants change over time. Normal group dynamics also change at different stages of a group's development.

Step 4: Find out what the issues are: Get to know more

Once you have a picture of the area or block you should describe it. You can make this an activity for the committed volunteers or like-minded people you recruit.

The description should indicate how many people, women, men, adults, youth, and children are in the neighbourhood, what type of houses they live in, what work they do. Do some research into what the different issues are for the different groups of people. What services do they have/lack, what environmental issues are there, what vulnerabilities exist. Consider also, the major events or trends that happened in the area over the years.

Step 5: Further refine the analysis

Once you have this detailed picture, get your group of committed volunteers to do more analysis about the situation using the information gathered. Workplace forums will need to take up their findings and analysis within the trade unions.

You can also get more information by engaging more people in the area, by talking to them and finding out what their views are.

Step 6: Consultation and setting direction

Armed with the analysis of the area and a core group, you can now get the smaller groups together to ascertain what the CJCM forum members want to see happen – what are realistic hopes and dreams for the future?

Develop a vision statement, informed by the Climate Justice Charter – a statement that describes your ideal community. eg *Community x is food sovereign, water sovereign and energy sovereign* or *Our community understands and promotes climate justice alternatives*

Once you have a vision to work towards for the future, you can set out details of how you will get there.

Step 7: Setting objectives

Once there is clarity on the vision, your CJCM forum is ready to set out objectives and goals to reach this vision.

Once you have a vision statement for your community, decide on what goals need to be met in order to achieve the vision.

Eg. In order to achieve food sovereignty, we need food gardens in every home and in all communal areas.

or Eg. All children are educated about climate change and climate justice

An objective is a measurable action to achieve your overall goal. Write down some actions that you can take to achieve your goal/s.

Eg. Establish five pilot gardens, with a variety of crops at two of the primary schools. Establish ten household gardens. Establish a compost site.

or Eg. Host climate justice awareness raising/education events for all members of the community. Encourage schools to include climate education in their teaching.

Step 8: Agreeing on one issue to focus on (focus on small wins to build confidence)

The most difficult part comes now. From all the issues picked up in the community and unpacked with objectives and goals, the core group should agree on the one issue that you will take up immediately.

To prioritise the most urgent and pressing issue

You can:

- Look for the issue that most people raised.
- Assess which one is easiest and quickest to solve.
- Vote on three issues selected using the above criteria.

Step 9: Keeping track of all issues

Keep sight of the other issues, and once you have solved the first issue, move on to others.

Having a simple list all issues in order of priority helps. Once the issue is solved mark it as done, with comments in the review.

Step 10: Keeping the community informed

Keep the community and workplace forum informed. Messages should be short and simple.

When there is a victory, claim it. When there is a delay, be honest.

Try to keep communication open on a two-way basis. The core group must always be open to suggestions and ideas from the community.

Consider using social media platforms to communicate.

Also make use of local radio stations.

Guidelines:

- The following should guide you as you establish your forum:
- Forums should have two-thirds (60%) women representation in leadership. If this is not possible, the forum should give reasoning for why this isn't possible. In addition, they should provide a plan as to how they will work to reach this demographic representation with adequate deadlines as to when this can be achieved
- We encourage debate and deliberation on issues. We also encourage the sharing of information that could help expand and enhance the work of these forums. But personal attacks or comments made to belittle or insult other members of the forum are punishable by suspension (and the potential subsequent expulsion).
- Members would do well to remember that discrimination of fellow members due to their class, racial, gender, religious, cultural or national identity, is strictly prohibited and will result in immediate suspension (and the potential subsequent expulsion) of the guilty party.
- Leadership of forums should maintain and follow the Democratic principles of the Charter.
- Meetings within these forums should not be conducted in languages that would alienate other members of the forum. If there are members who do not understand the language in which forums are conducted, a suitable alternative should be chosen so that all may be able to give their input.

- Forums are to be held in neutral/community spaces if possible. If not a suitable alternative (such as a place of worship/a private residence) should be agreed upon if it is convenient to the majority of the membership.

Guidelines for (Online) CJCM Forums

- Participate in online forums as you would in constructive, face-to-face discussions. There should be little to no repetition in the initial posts so it is important to get a sense of what is already being discussed before leaping into the discussion.
- Postings should continue a conversation and provide avenues for additional continuous dialogue. A good post includes:
 - What do you think?
 - What would you do?
 - What problem or challenge will follow the original question?
- Do not post “I agree,” or similar, statements. Expand by bringing in related examples, concepts, and experiences.
- Stay on the topic of the thread – do not stray.
- Indicate the main thought of your post in the subject line or introductory sentence.
- Weave into your posting related to prior personal knowledge gained from experience, prior studies, research, discussions, or readings.
- Characteristics of quality online discussion postings:
 - Substantial – posts should relate to the topic and provide information, opinions, or questions
 - Concise – messages should be clear. Not too lengthy.
 - Provocative (within reason) – prompts others to reply or object
 - Explanatory – explore, explain or expand on a concept of connection
- Online communication lacks verbal cues. Respond carefully, be clear, and keep your sentences and posts brief.

Together Deepening and Accelerating the Just Transition!

