

Ep #: Just Transition

Anna Jamieson:

Hi everyone. Welcome to establish a podcast brought to you by shake up the establishment. Shake up the establishment is a youth led, registered national nonpartisan, non-profit organization that operates within the geographical confines of what is currently known as Canada but what is referred to by its first peoples as Turtle Island. Indigenous peoples have inhabited Turtle Island for over 10,000 years, and were the sole inhabitants less than 500 years ago. We acknowledged that our address resides on treaty three land and is the traditional territory of the Erie, Neutral, Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Mississaugas Peoples. Turtle Island is still home to many indigenous peoples and we at SUTE are thankful to be able to live, learn and work on this territory, whilst continuing to create meaningful change for the climate justice movement.

My name is Anna Jameson, and I use she / her pronouns. Mi'kma'ki the land of the Mi'kmaq peoples, more specifically on the Punamu'kwati'jk side of Kjipuktuk. This place is currently known as Dartmouth Nova Scotia. This territory is covered by the treaties of peace and friendship, which Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik (Wool- a - Staw - ke - uk) (Maliseet) People first signed with the British Crown in 1725. I am a white settler of Scottish and English descent, I am an able bodied cisgender woman, and have been afforded many, many privileges through birth. I recognize that my socio economic, educational background alongside my white skin and cisgender have afforded me these privileges and these lived experiences that have shaped my worldviews. I believe that it is imperative for me to use this privilege to work to dismantle the systems of oppression that exist in so called Canada and globally. I would like to use my position of privilege to amplify voices from the bipoc community and the Two Spirit LGBTQIA plus community, folks who are differently abled and any other minoritized groups that are most affected by the climate emergency. I will not speak on behalf of these groups, as this is not within my lived experience.

I would also like to use my voice to advocate for climate and social justice, working towards a world that is equitable, safe and resilient for all communities and individuals. I am committed to this work and using the collective community and collaboration tools to engage with policymakers and demand change. I am passionate about exploring mindfulness and the intersections between community care, personal rest, resilience, climate justice and social justice. I am committed to unlearning my existing biases and learning as an ongoing process throughout my life. I commit to this learning to engage in becoming a better ally to all those most affected by climate injustice, and I welcome any and all feedback and I receive it with an open mind and heart.

I like to start with this piece of positionality as it is crucially important to understand who is speaking and where they're coming from with their lived experiences when sharing this type of information. Additionally, I'd like to share that I am not an expert in just transition. I have

completed research on this topic for SUTE for the internal and public facing Active Learning Club modules and meetings.

I will be using this time to share a little bit about what I have learned about just transition but implore you after listening to this podcast, ensuring that you are reading, learning and researching this topic even more. This podcast and the information it provides is not exhaustive and there is no certificate or recognition for these efforts. Engaging with this topic and the resources that SUTE provides is just a starting point and we encourage a lifelong commitment to learning, unlearning, and sustaining the climate justice movement with informed advocacy. We are always open to feedback so please email rh@shakeuptheestab.org if you have anything you'd like for us to know.

In this podcast, there will be three sections discussing what a just transition is, why it's important, how to take action and learn more.

Let's get started. According to the Climate Justice Alliance, just transition is a principle of process and practice. The goal of just transition is to build economic and political power and allow for a shift from an extractive economy to a regenerative one. The Climate Justice Alliance states that the transition itself must be just and equitable; redressing past harms, and creating new relationships of power for the future through reparations. If the process of transition is not just the outcome will never be.

Transitions are inevitable. But justice is not.

Just transition describes both where we are going and how we get there. Just transition is so nuanced and everyone and every place may have a different idea, concept and implementation that will work wonderfully for them, but may not work for another place. According to the just Transition Initiative, the concept of just transitions originated in the US in the 1980s. This was through organized labor and environmental groups who began to advocate for public policies that protected the natural environment as well as workers.

This concept described as a just transition gained prominence in the international climate policy arena. In the early 2000s, Organized labor was increasingly concerned that international climate negotiations were not addressing the social and employment impacts of climate policy, and led a coordinated effort to mainstream the just transition concept. The concept was incorporated into the negotiating text for the Copenhagen summit in 2009. And in 2015, incorporated into the preamble of the historic Paris Agreement.

Just transitions are incredibly place and community specific. Despite this, shared principles can strengthen collective work across many different places. The principles for just transition will change and be adopted depending on the community / place that is implementing the transition as well as the scale.

According to the Climate Justice Alliance, there are eight principles that they have worked to consolidate and synthesize from other organizations and initiatives. I'm going to go through them now.

#1: a just transition moves us towards *buen vivir*. *Buen vivir* means that we can live well without living better at the expense of others.

#2: A just transition creates meaningful work.

#3: a just transition uphold self determination.

#4: a just transition equitably, redistributes resources and power.

#5: a just transition requires regenerative Ecological Economics.

#6: a just transition retains culture and tradition.

#7: a just transition embodies local, regional, national and international solidarity.

And #8: a just transition builds what we need now.

The International Labour Organization also outlined seven guiding principles for just transition.

The first is strong social consensus on the goal and pathways to sustainability is fundamental. Social dialogue has to be an integral part of the institutional framework for policymaking and implementation at all levels. Policies must respect, promote and realize fundamental principles and rights at work. Policies and programs need to take into account the strong gender dimension of many environmental challenges and opportunities. Coherent policies across the economic, environmental, social education, training and labor portfolios need to provide an enabling environment for enterprises, workers, investors and consumers to embrace the drive and transition towards environmentally sustainable and inclusive economies and societies. These coherent policies also need to provide a just transition framework for all to promote the creation of more decent jobs. There is no one size fits all policies and programs need to be designed in line with the specific conditions of countries including their state of development, economic sectors and types and sizes of enterprises. And finally, in implementing sustainable development strategies, it is important to foster international cooperation among countries.

So why is all of this important? The understanding and implementation of a just transition is important because it allows for the development of sustainable economies and transition to clean energy, alongside a focus on social justice and eradicating inequality and inequity. According to the International Labor Organization, a just transition can be a generator of green jobs that can contribute significantly to poverty eradication and social inclusion.

The greening of economies can enhance our ability to manage natural resources sustainably, increase energy efficiency and reduce waste while also promoting social justice and addressing poverty, inequality and gender gaps. There's also a significant risk that without a just transition, we will not achieve a low carbon environmentally sustainable economy that is essential to the well-being of future generations.

If not carefully managed through just transition policies and processes, economic changes could result in increased social inequality. Worker delusion meant strikes or civil unrest and reduced productivity, as well as competitive businesses, sectors and markets. Just transitions toward low carbon and climate resilient development create opportunities for environmental sustainability, social equity and economic prosperity.

This is from the just Transition Initiative: "Just transitions are a really crucial piece of moving forward to combat the climate emergency and move forward with climate justice and social justice at the forefront."

So, with all of this being said, what can you do to take action even today? The first thing we would like to encourage is reviewing the ALC - Rightinghistory.org/activelearningclub. We have a compilation of resources selected to provide some additional context information and exploration of the topic of just transition. So, if you go to rightinghistory, R I G H T- ing history.org/activelearningclub, you can review those resources and further your learning on just transition.

The second thing that you can do is email your government representatives and take action, showing them that you care about just transition and why that matters and how it can benefit the community that you're currently a part of.

The third thing is talking with others about what you've learned about just transition, sharing with family, friends, co workers and encouraging them to learn more also.

And the last thing: education, education, education. Continuing to educate yourself and others and continue your learning on just transition.

Thank you to Shake Up The Establishment for allowing the creation of this podcast. I'd like to give a massive thank you to Greg Markoff who did all of the music for this episode. You can find Greg at Greg Markov music.com - GREGMARKOV music.com. Or on Instagram @GregMarkov. Thank you so much for the Beautiful Music in this episode. And finally, I'd like to thank each and every one of you for taking the time to listen to this episode. Thank you so much.