



GROUNDSWELL
FUND



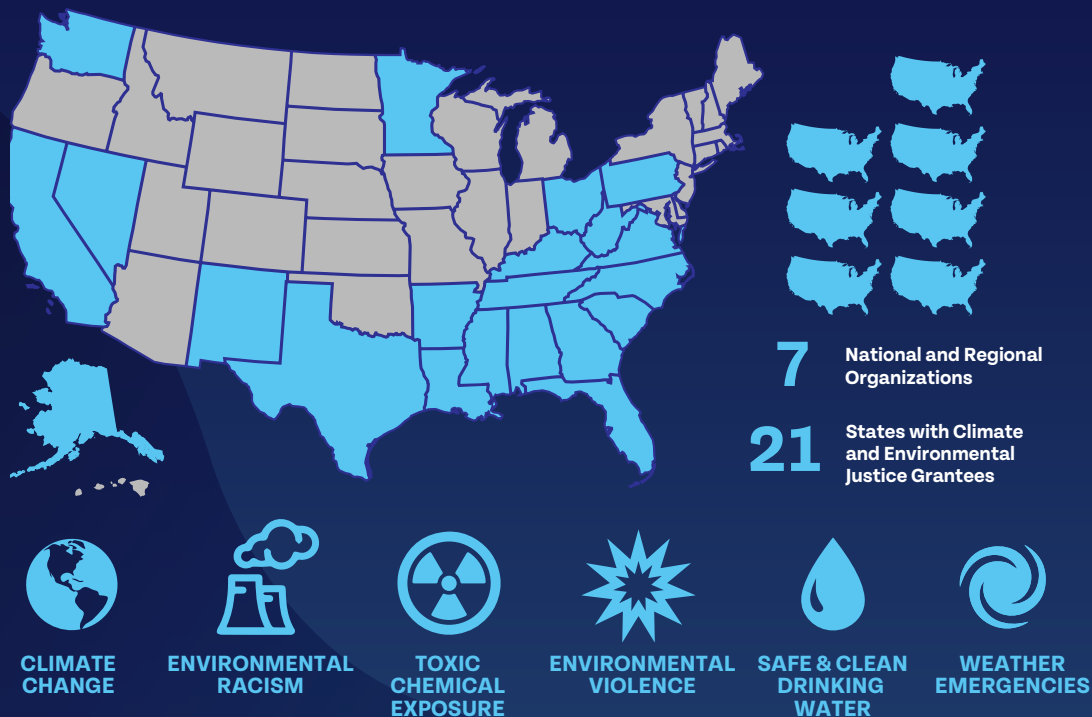
IMPACT ON EARTH

**2021-2022
Groundswell Fund
Climate & Environmental
Justice Grantees**

INTRODUCTION

Since our founding, Groundswell Fund (GF) has supported women of color-led organizing at the intersections of environmental and reproductive justice.

Our grantees who are Black, Indigenous, women, and people of color are at the forefront of organizing efforts for climate and environmental justice. Groundswell Fund is committed to expanding the resources to support this work, as we understand that by investing in climate and environmental efforts led by those most directly impacted, we may be able to minimize the damage and creatively think through new collective solutions.



This impact report represents the work of more than 40 grantees in 21 states and seven national organizations on **climate change, environmental racism, decreasing exposure to toxic chemicals, reducing the impact of environmental violence, advocating for safe and clean drinking water, and responding to the continuous weather emergencies**, among other issues.

“ Every breathing person deserves clean water and electricity without the burden of having to sacrifice their needs. – CENTRO POR LA JUSTICIA

Groundswell Climate and Environmental Justice organizations are urgently organizing for a safe future for all of us.

Groundswell grantees made impressive progress toward protecting Environmental Justice.

For example, **El Centro** won \$20 million in debt relief for San Antonio residents while chipping away at the proposed 11% increase of utility debt down to 3%, which reduced the economic burden on working families.

After a multi-year, statewide campaign, the Washington State legislature buckled under **Got Green's** grassroots pressure and passed the HEAL Act. Pushing little-known threats to women's reproductive health, like mercury, to the forefront of its work, as the **International Indian Treaty Council** did in order to reduce and eliminate its exposure.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Rapid Response Fund Grantees

National Organizations6

⦿ Movement 4 Black Lives	6
⦿ Coming Clean.....	7
⦿ Women’s Voices for the Earth	7
⦿ International Indian Treaty Council	8
⦿ Native Youth Sexual Health Network.....	9

State and Local Organizations 10

ALASKA

⦿ Native Movement.....	10
⦿ Alaska Community Action on Toxics	11

CALIFORNIA

⦿ Black Women for Wellness	12
⦿ California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative	13

FLORIDA

⦿ Florida Rising Together	13
---------------------------------	----

LOUISIANA

⦿ Birthmark Doula Collective	14
------------------------------------	----

NEVADA

⦿ Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada	14
---	----

NEW MEXICO

⦿ Tewa Women United	15
---------------------------	----

OHIO AND PENNSYLVANIA

⦿ New Voices for Reproductive Justice.....	16
--	----

TEXAS

⦿ Centro Por La Justicia	17
--------------------------------	----

WASHINGTON

⦿ Got Green	17
-------------------	----

Rapid Response Fund

Groundswell's Fund Rapid Response Fund expands our investment in timely and urgent climate and environmental justice campaigns, issues, and responses. In particular, Groundswell Fund has a history of offering support to current and new grantees to respond in the midst of ongoing weather emergencies.

One of the first grants made in 2021 was to the **Green New Deal Network** for \$20,000 to mobilize progressive climate justice policy at the federal and local levels. Additionally, Groundswell made grants to our Texas and Southern-based grantees impacted in the aftermath of Southern snowstorms and power outages to support their bases.

A full list of climate and environmental **Rapid Response Fund** grantees from 2021 and 2022 include:

- ⊙ **Abide Women's Health Services** (TEXAS)
- ⊙ **Another Gulf is Possible** (LOUISIANA)
- ⊙ **Birthmark Doula Collective** (LOUISIANA)
- ⊙ **Black Doulas Black Mamas** (TEXAS)
- ⊙ **Youth BreakOUT!** (LOUISIANA)
- ⊙ **Bueno Para Todos – El Valle Women's Cooperative** (NEW MEXICO)
- ⊙ **BYP100** (LOUISIANA)
- ⊙ **Communities of Color United** (TEXAS)
- ⊙ **Honor the Earth** (MINNESOTA)
- ⊙ **House of Tulip** (LOUISIANA)
- ⊙ **Mama Sana Vibrant Woman** (TEXAS)

- ⊙ **Organización Latina Trans en Texas** (TEXAS)
- ⊙ **Positive Women's Network** (CALIFORNIA)
- ⊙ **Power Shift Network** (NATIONAL)
- ⊙ **Southern Power Fund** (SOUTH)
- ⊙ **Southwest Workers Union-Centro Por La Justicia** (TEXAS)
- ⊙ **TENT – Transgender Education Network of Texas** (TEXAS)
- ⊙ **Women with a Vision** (LOUISIANA)
- ⊙ **Workers Defense Project** (TEXAS)
- ⊙ **Yanawana Herbolarios** (TEXAS)

In 2022, Groundswell's **Integrated Voter Engagement Capacity-Building Program** awarded timely rapid response grants to organizations led by women of color and trans people of color, including the following focused on environmental and climate justice issues:

- ⊙ **Loud for Tomorrow** (CALIFORNIA)
- ⊙ **Poder Latinx** (ARIZONA, FLORIDA, GEORGIA)

GROUNDSWELL CORE PORTFOLIO GRANTEES

National Grantees



Movement 4 Black Lives LIBERATION FUND

Movement 4 Black Lives (M4BL) believes climate change multiplies the social, economic, and environmental threats to our very livelihood and that of our future ancestors, here in the U.S. and around the globe.

M4BL sees climate disasters as the leading threat of our time. This crisis affects every aspect of our lives: the water on which our lives depend, the land we live on, and the energy we use. M4BL knows that Black, Indigenous, people of color and working-class poor communities are hit the hardest, though contribute the least to what accelerates climate disasters.

In times of crisis, M4BL seeks to ensure our communities are aware and strong enough to be our own first responders. To this end, M4BL launched **The Red, Black & Green New Deal** Initiative which puts Black liberation at the center of the global climate struggle, and addresses the impact of climate change and environmental racism on Black communities.

In 2021, M4BL held six virtual convenings focused on each pillar of its Black Climate agenda: water, energy, land, labor, economy, and democracy. M4BL aims to seed a national climate agenda rooted in the vision for Black lives.

This 24-month campaign will engage Black communities, align climate justice allies and advance organizing that shifts national Black involvement in the global struggle for climate solutions. The six main elements of the campaign are research/data, organizing/education, federal policy, strategic communications, litigation/legal, and international solidarity.



Coming Clean

CATALYST FUND GRANTMAKING PARTNER

Founded in 2001, Coming Clean is a cutting-edge environmental health and justice collaborative that brings 178 diverse groups together around common causes to better protect public health.

People of childbearing age, pregnant women, and children are acutely vulnerable to the hazardous impacts of industrial chemicals. Coming Clean houses, the [**Environmental Justice Health Alliance for Chemical Policy Reform**](#) (EJHA), a nationwide network of grassroots environmental and economic justice groups in communities in 13 states that are disproportionately impacted by toxic chemicals from legacy contamination, ongoing exposure to polluting facilities, and health-harming chemicals in household products.

As a Catalyst Fund for Reproductive Justice grantmaking partner, Coming Clean moves resources and provides

technical assistance to several women of color-led grassroots environmental justice organizations across the country; these partners also collaborate with Coming Clean on research and campaign work. Organizations include:

- ⦿ [**Agri-Cultura Collaborative Network**](#) (NEW MEXICO)
- ⦿ [**Harambee House**](#) (GEORGIA)
- ⦿ [**Organización en California de Líderes Campesinas**](#) (CALIFORNIA)
- ⦿ [**Los Jardines Institute**](#) (NEW MEXICO)
- ⦿ [**People Organizing in Defense of Earth and Resources \(PODER\)**](#) (TEXAS)
- ⦿ [**REACT \(Rubbertown Environmental Action\)**](#) (KENTUCKY)
- ⦿ [**Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services \(T.e.j.a.s\)**](#) (TEXAS)

INSET PHOTO: Areceli Ruiz, with Lideres Campesinas, distributes canvas bags with pamphlets and sets up information tables in the fields, where workers can feel safe asking questions.

Women's Voices for the Earth

CATALYST FUND AND GRASSROOTS ORGANIZING INSTITUTE CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM

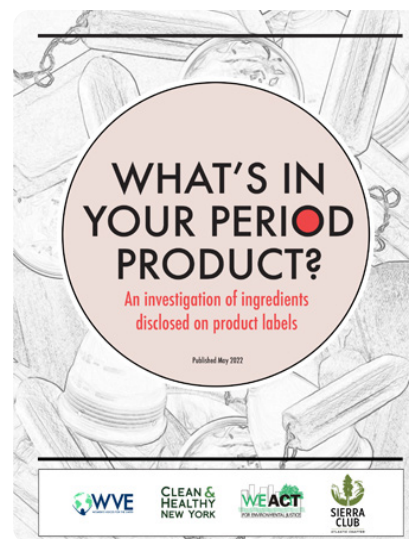
Women's Voices for the Earth (WVE) seeks to amplify women's voices to eliminate the toxic chemicals that harm their health and communities. WVE uses corporate campaigns, policy advocacy, litigation, communications, and digital organizing to decrease exposure to toxins and eliminate their use.

When the pandemic caused skyrocketing sales of home cleaning products, WVE put out **[Safer Cleaning and Disinfecting Guides](#)** to inform consumers, particularly low-income communities of color, janitorial staff, and domestic workers who are most at risk of toxic exposure from widely-used products. Cleaning and disinfectant use has increased by 60% during the pandemic and the organization continues to organize and educate consumers about the reproductive toxicants used in everyday household cleaners and products.

In 2019, WVE won state legislation in New York to require companies to list all ingredients in menstrual products. This was the first law of its kind in the nation, setting a national precedent for ingredient transparency in period products and putting pressure on corporations to eliminate toxic chemicals from these necessary products for millions of women, girls, transgender, and gender-expansive people. The law went into effect in October 2021 and WVE has been closely monitoring implementation. WVE launched a labeling field study, training people across the country on how to gather ingredient information from local stores.

As part of the labeling field study, WVE hosted a Label Reading Webinar 101 to explain what to look for in these products and what changes are expected to see because of the NY law. So far, 22 volunteers from 7 different states have submitted photos representing over 80 different period products. In May,

WVE released the report: **[What's in Your Period Product?](#)** An investigation of ingredients disclosed on product labels. The report reveals new information on ingredients found in period care products, many of which are being disclosed for the first time!



International Indian Treaty Council

CATALYST FUND

International Indian Treaty Council (IITC), an organization of Indigenous people working for self-determination and the recognition and protection of human rights, treaties, traditional cultures, environmental justice, and sacred lands, is an international leader in the fight for the rights of Indigenous women to live free from environmental reproductive toxins.

IITC has pushed mercury, a little-known threat to women's reproductive health, to the forefront of its work. Mercury is linked to serious health problems, including heart disease and neurological problems. The most serious impacts are on the brain, kidneys, and nervous systems of fetuses, nursing babies, and young children. Indigenous children from fishing communities are among the most affected.

IITC's Mercury Initiative, created in 2021 with a roundtable of impacted women, is creating a network to collectively work towards the reduction and eventual elimination of exposure to mercury and harmful environmental toxins for Indigenous Peoples, communities, and families. This will be achieved through education and information-sharing, network- and alliance-building, transitioning to safe alternatives based on traditional knowledge and practices, and capacity building.

IITC recognizes the ongoing urgent need to inform community members, especially pregnant and nursing mothers, of the dangers of mercury to fetuses, infants, and young children. This Initiative focused on instigating change from the ground up. In 2022, IITC has begun to solidify the network and will be implementing the work plan.

Native Youth Sexual Health Network

BIRTH JUSTICE FUND

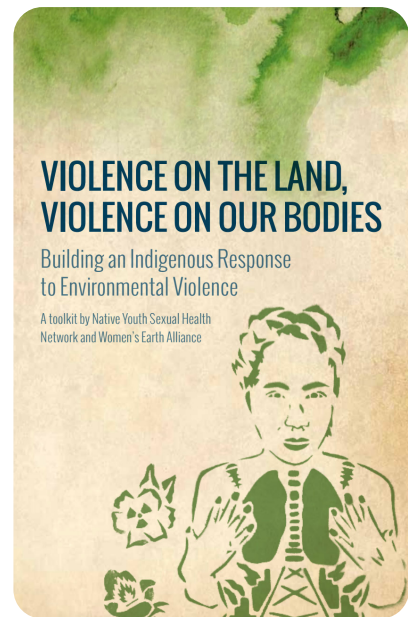
The Native Youth Sexual Health Network (NYSHN) addresses issues of sexual and reproductive health, rights, and justice for Indigenous youth throughout Turtle Island.

NYSHN plays a leadership role in Indigenous birth worker communities by supporting Indigenous birth workers to reclaim their traditional birth practices and by connecting issues of birth and reproductive health to the health of the land, including co-authoring the

“Violence on the Land, Violence on our Bodies: Building an Indigenous Response to Environmental Violence” report.

Using a holistic approach to reproductive justice in Indigenous communities, NYSHN's trainings include an environmental justice analysis that addresses violence against Indigenous women and young people.

At NYSHN a core area of work is addressing the impacts of environmental violence in its communities in the Dakotas, Montana, Canada, and Upstate New York including extractive industries (i.e. mining, gas, oil, logging) and how it connects to sexual and reproductive health, rights, and justice. In addition to its front-line work, NYSHN runs a #MediaArtsJustice response and testimony against pipeline expansion.





GROUND SWELL CORE PORTFOLIO GRANTEES State Grantees

ALASKA

Native Movement LIBERATION FUND

Native Movement builds grassroots power through the frameworks of Indigenous place-based knowledge, decolonization, and Just Transition. These frameworks build an understanding of the historical and current impacts of colonization and offer a regenerative vision of the future.

Native Movement uplifts Indigenous leadership in the fight to protect Native land, the environment, and the safety of Indigenous womxn, girls, Two-Spirit, and

trans people through building grassroots organizing capacity across the state. Native Movement, via Defend the Sacred AK, organized a “Global Day of Action against Arctic Oil Extraction” across the U.S., Canada, and [London](#), including a [coordinated banner drop](#) to raise awareness of the threats to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the inter-tribal solidarity (Inupiat and Gwich’in, supported by many other Indigenous peoples) to stop Arctic oil extraction.

In 2020, the Master Willow Project was fast-tracked due to the Trump Administration’s approvals of Alaska oil development projects. In opposition to the permitting process, Native Movement organized Alaskans through

pre-hearing virtual meetings to share background, talking points, and prepare people to speak up at a hearing. At the first public hearing of the Bureau of Land Management, 100% of the testifiers used Native Movement talking points presenting a unified and strong voice grounded in Indigenous values to demand a halt to the process.

Rounding out the 2021 work, Native Movement organized “Kohtr’elneyh: Remembering Forward – Alaska’s Just Transition Summit” in partnership with Native Peoples Action, Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition, the Alaska Center, and Catalyst Fund grantee Alaska Community Action on Toxics.

Alaska Community Action on Toxics

CATALYST FUND

Alaska Community Action on Toxics (ACAT) is a statewide environmental and reproductive health and justice organization whose goal is to reduce toxins, protect ecosystems, and hold government, corporations, and the military accountable to the community.

Working primarily with Alaska Native communities, ACAT builds power through an integrated voter engagement strategy that includes base-building and grassroots organizing, leadership development, policy advocacy, strategic communications, and alliance-building, focusing on the local, state, national and international levels to advance its goals.

Alaska is home to 2,000 military and industrial hazardous waste sites, many close to Indigenous communities. High pollution levels are compounded by geography, cold climate, and a fat-based food web, which result in the accumulation of toxins in fish and wildlife that affects the health and fertility of Alaska Natives who rely on wild foods for subsistence.

ACAT advocates for policies that will reduce exposure to the chemicals linked to the major reproductive justice concerns of Native villages: premature and stillbirths, birth defects, poor infant health, infertility, spontaneous abortions, endometriosis, and reproductive cancers.

In 2021, ACAT organized three large-scale canvasses focused on Safe Drinking Water (“PFAS”) Campaign for state legislation. As a result of ACAT’s organizing and technical assistance to policymakers, Senator Jesse Kiehl introduced Senate Bill (SB) 121 and Representative Sara Hannan introduced a companion bill in the House. The policies include provisions that: 1) set enforceable health-protective limits on the amount of PFAS in drinking water; 2) provide Alaskans with clean drinking water if their water is contaminated; allow for voluntary blood testing of affected community members and first responders; and 3) prevent future pollution by replacing the use of PFAS-based firefighting foams in favor of safer alternatives.



CALIFORNIA

Black Women for Wellness

CATALYST FUND

Black Women for Wellness (BWW) supports Black women and girls to organize for reproductive justice in Los Angeles and at the state level. For over 20 years, BWW has employed a range of strategies, including policy advocacy, political education, community organizing, and integrated voter engagement to uplift Black women and girls, and, as a result, has emerged as a powerful force in policy advocacy and voter engagement for Black communities across CA, including environmental justice issues.

In 2020, BWW helped to win the Cosmetic Fragrance and Flavor Right to Know Act to safeguard the health of women of color. It is the first law in the nation to require ingredient disclosure of toxic fragrance and flavor chemicals found in cosmetics,

personal care, and professional salon products. This law will force corporations to reveal allergens, neurotoxins, and other chemicals linked to cancer, birth defects, and reproductive health problems.

BWW leads policy advocacy, corporate accountability campaigns, and consumer education efforts around environmental and reproductive health impacts for Black women of cosmetics and personal care products. It has an active campaign calling for the halt of global sales of Johnson and Johnson's baby powder products that are aggressively marketed to Black communities globally. BWW also organizes and educates Black hairstylists and other beauty professionals about the toxic exposure they face.

California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative

CATALYST FUND

The California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative (The Collaborative) educates and organizes nail salon workers and owners to build their knowledge and skills on health, safety, and workplace rights, in addition to local and statewide advocacy.

The Collaborative promotes reproductive justice within the immigrant and refugee Vietnamese community through messaging that includes the right to:

1. raise a family in a healthy and safe community;
2. work in a safe workplace free from reproductive toxins regardless of income level or type of work;
3. have a roof over your head to raise your families;
4. live, work, and play in a safe neighborhood/community regardless of race and gender; and
5. access reproductive health care regardless of language spoken or income.

At the federal level, The Collaborative is leading efforts to push for the **Cosmetic Safety for Communities of Color and Professional Salon Workers Act**, as part of the Safer Beauty Bill Package. Authored by Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), this bill would create cosmetic safety protections for women of color and professional hair, nail, and beauty salon workers – two vulnerable populations who are most at risk of unsafe

exposures because of the toxic chemicals in the products marketed to them or commonly found in their workplaces.

FLORIDA

Florida Rising Together

CATALYST FUND

As of January 2021, New Florida Majority Education Fund and Organize Florida Education Fund merged to establish a new statewide powerhouse, Florida Rising Together. One of the focuses of Florida Rising is Climate Justice seeking a regenerative future and a just transition that puts frontline communities at the center of energy policy, disaster response, food policy, and all climate change initiatives.

Florida Rising works to develop neighborhood- based climate justice activists. Florida Rising organizes to combat the climate crisis by assuring that families are safe from being evicted during an emergency.

Florida Rising has joined Organizing Resilience, a cohort of state-based power builders across the U.S. running disaster resilience pilot projects. They developed county-specific Hurricane Preparedness Checklist in Spanish, English, Haitian Creole, Mandarin, and one centering on the local Indigenous Community made in collaboration with the Seminole nation.

Moving forward, Florida Rising will expand its Climate Justice Steering Committee program, currently based in Miami, Broward, and Orange counties into a statewide vehicle for climate equity.



DID YOU KNOW?

We have trained close to 500 emergency preparedness and response stakeholders and perinatal health professionals on safe infant and young child feeding in emergencies.

BIRTHMARK DOULA COLLECTIVE

LOUISIANA

Birthmark Doula Collective

BIRTH JUSTICE FUND

Birthmark Doula Collective is a birth justice organization dedicated to supporting, informing, and advocating for pregnant and parenting people and their families in New Orleans.

Birthmark has served hundreds of birthing people and their babies in New Orleans with prenatal care, birth support, postpartum and lactation support. Care is delivered through a healing justice framework with a focus on Black, Indigenous, and Latinx families and facilitated in Spanish and English, and under a Language Justice framework.

Birthmark continues to be a leader in improving policy and practice related to perinatal care and infant feeding

during disasters. Six hurricanes or tropical storms hit the gulf coast in 2021, requiring Birthmark to shift quickly, working with the Louisiana Department of Health and other partners to meet the needs of pregnant, birthing, and postpartum families in evidenced-based and dignified ways. Birthmark coordinated distribution of survival supplies to displaced families with local disaster response team CORE and operated its Infant Feeding & Care Warm Line for pregnant and postpartum families providing information on accessing care, infant nutrition, and referrals to other resources.

NEVADA

Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada

CATALYST FUND

Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada (PLAN) brings together multi-



issue organizations from across Nevada into one coordinated force for social and environmental justice.

Since its founding, PLAN has grown from member groups to nearly 30 groups building political power through strategic organizing, voter engagement, and policy advocacy to build a strong and fair Nevada that puts people and the planet first. Its core issues include civic engagement, economic and environmental justice, immigration, Indigenous rights, and mass liberation. Its 15,000+ base is primarily people of color (Black, and Latinx) and women and encompasses both rural and urban communities.

After a five-year campaign, PLAN developed and organized the successful passage of a law prohibiting mining corporations that fail to meet clean-up requirements from receiving further permits to mine. Additionally, PLAN helped to pass several policies, including protection of sacred sites, banning racially discriminatory mascots, renaming

of racially discriminatory place names, and the waiver of college and university tuition for Indigenous students.

NEW MEXICO

Tewa Women United **BIRTH JUSTICE FUND**

Tewa Women United (TWU) is a collective of intertribal voices in the Tewa homelands of northern New Mexico that supports Indigenous women to become forces for transformation within their families and communities.

TWU environmental and health justice program integrates body, mind, and spiritual awareness into environmental justice advocacy, policy change, and community education while uplifting Indigenous and land-based families and oppressed peoples to build grassroots leaders and community capacity. TWU engages in local, national, and international dialogue and activism on



nuclear abolition, human rights, and the rights of our Earth Mother and Sky Father.

TWU’s community education supports environmental health and climate change adaptability through the creation of community gardens (such as the Española Healing Foods Oasis), heirloom seed libraries, non-GMO seed exchanges, and traditional agriculture. Work also includes advocating for government and corporate accountability to populations who live downwind and downriver of the nuclear war weapons industrial complex that occupies the sacred Jemez Mountains.

OHIO & PENNSYLVANIA

New Voices for Reproductive Justice

CATALYST FUND

New Voices for Reproductive Justice engages Black people marginalized by gender in local, national, and global movement-building for Racial Justice,

Gender Justice, and Environmental Justice in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and nationally.

New Voices launched its Environmental Justice initiative, **Black Women Green Future™**, in February 2020 which aims to identify, amplify, and organize Black women who are Environmental Justice Movement leaders across the nation to take action locally towards a shared environmental justice vision. New Voices leads public education efforts in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Cleveland to inform Black women, femmes, girls, and gender-expansive folks about environmentally unsafe and toxic personal care and beauty products.

In 2021, New Voices honored 25 leaders with the inaugural Women Green Future™ Awards, a national program for Black women Environmental Justice leaders. New Voices aims to expand its Black Women, Green Future Steering Committee, which is made up of Black women and gender-expansive Environmental Justice Movement leaders from across the country. The aim will

be to convene New Voices' first Black Women, Green Future Policy Summit, with 50 Black women and gender-expansive Environmental Justice Movement leaders. The Committee will help shape the Black Women, Green Future Policy Agenda, regularly communicate with its members, and constituents, while providing guidance for various programs based on their areas of expertise.

TEXAS

Centro Por La Justicia

INTEGRATED VOTER ENGAGEMENT CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM

Through its Healthy Communities Program, Centro Por La Justicia mobilizes low-income and people of color communities toward the realization of clean environments, healthy communities, and revitalized neighborhoods in San Antonio, TX and south Texas. The program addresses issues such as hazardous waste sites, climate change, and healthy family environments with over 650 families.

Centro's organizing work addresses issues of contamination, high rates of birth defects, and other issues of health by merging reproductive justice and environmental justice. From Centro's perspective, one cannot have climate justice without organizing for utility justice with the motto: "Every breathing person deserves clean water and electricity without the burden of having to sacrifice their needs."

Centro's platform of reproductive justice and environmental justice positioned them to quickly provide food and water to south Texas residents during the Uri 2021 winter storm while informing the community of the state's failure to safeguard and prepare for disaster. Centro seized the organizing opportunity to simultaneously activate and mobilize its membership and a new district to act. As a result, the state budgeted \$20 million in debt relief for San Antonio residents while chipping away at the proposed 11% increase of utility debt down to 3%, thus lessening the economic burden on working families.

In 2022, El Centro will continue its work at the intersections of reproductive justice, fixing the Texas energy grid, and utility justice. Specifically, it will organize popular education sessions on utility injustice and obtain pledge cards to support its base to take action. Additionally, El Centro plans to continue offering webinars, phone banking voters, and attending events about safeguarding and weatherizing Texas's vulnerable grid.

WASHINGTON

Got Green

LIBERATION FUND

People of color-led Got Green (GG) have worked at the intersection of environmental, racial, and economic justice since 2008, organizing working-class families and building grassroots power for the creation of climate-resilient

communities in south Seattle. Got Green is at the forefront of many environmental justice campaigns in Washington.

After a multi-year, statewide campaign, the Washington State legislature buckled to grassroots pressure and passed the HEAL Act in 2021. The passage of the HEAL Act serves to put a definition and framework of environmental justice into state law, forces the state to fund and equitably respond to the research findings from a comprehensive mapping of health and environmental disparities, and ultimately informs the policies and practices of all Washington State governmental departments – enforced by a permanent Environmental Justice Council.

On Earth Day 2021, King County Council unanimously passed the Strategic Climate Action Plan. Through the Climate Equity Community Task Force, Got Green shaped the pieces outlined in the section on Sustainable and Resilient Frontline Communities. Got Green has been a core leader for Seattle's Green New Deal with a focus on providing funding for it via progressive taxation. The City Council passed Seattle's first progressive tax on big business – which will fund COVID relief, permanently affordable housing, equitable development, as well as (\$20 million for) Seattle's Green New Deal.



THE RED, BLACK, AND
GREEN NEW DEAL



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COVER PHOTO:
MOVEMENT 4 BLACK LIVES



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