

Building Equity and Alignment for Impact

Building power, leveraging resources, transforming the movement



Building Equity and Alignment for Impact (BEA) brings together dynamic grassroots organizing groups, effective national green organizations, and innovators in philanthropy to advance the progress of the environmental movement towards a just transition and directly confront powerful polluters.

BEA works to build equitable relationships and expand the pool of resources for base-building organizations in people of color, Indigenous, and low-income communities that are achieving results on the frontlines of the climate and ecological crisis.

Led by the grassroots and guided by the Jemez Principles for Democratic Organizing, BEA nurtures authentic relationships in order to strengthen collaboration and host deep dialogues on strategy, policy and movement alignment.

Through trainings, forums, projects and research, BEA breaks down historic barriers between sectors to achieve greater impact. Our innovative approach is changing hearts, minds and cultures to set an agenda for cross-sector solidarity, community-based organizing, and a powerful movement that effectively builds and leverages influence as a united group.

Our goals:

- ▶ To break down historic barriers among big green, grassroots and funding sectors, building authentic relationships toward greater alignment and solidarity.
- ▶ To expand the pool of resources available to the environment and overlapping progressive issues and shift that growing pool of resources to more equitably service the grassroots organizing sector.
- ▶ To support philanthropic efforts toward a base-building, bottom-up, collaborative approach, and away from a funder-driven, top-down approach.



For more information about the BEA or to learn how to become a BEA participant, contact Cynthia at renfrocyntia@gmail.com.



DIALOGUE

- ▶ **Elevating the discussion of equity** across the movement by engaging in dialogue with more than 25 foundations over the past year to determine how best to increase resources to the grassroots sector, as well as facilitating meetings with multiple green group partners to discuss and encourage principled alignment and collaboration with the grassroots movement.
- ▶ **Convening the Clean Power Plan Forum**, building political alignment and positive dialogue between grassroots, green groups and funders to develop a common, equity-based analysis of the proposed CPP rules, and shared strategy for maintaining equitable multi-sector partnerships in future climate policy. Preparatory sector meetings, conference calls and webinars have been held across the country since October 2015, culminating in a multi-sector Forum this October in Houston.
- ▶ **Conducting equity and environmental justice trainings** for foundation and national green group leadership.



RESEARCH



- ▶ **Developing a comprehensive grassroots landscape analysis** – location of groups, types of work and campaigns, impact, and needs.
- ▶ **Establishing metrics** to support and accurately characterize grassroots groups, **researching case studies** elevating grassroots power, and **examining funding disparities**, with the goal of partnering with philanthropy to strengthen the movement and direct more resources to the grassroots.

DIRECT SUPPORT

▶ **Developing a grassroots-administered Fund** to support effective organizing, campaigns, and emerging issues, as well as to strengthen the capacity of the broader grassroots environmental justice movement. The Fund will offer foundations an opportunity to make larger grants to provide crucial resources to frontline organizations, coalitions, emerging campaigns, and capacity-building partners. Foundations can also allocate resources to the grassroots through existing programs or the development of new ones. We are ready to work with foundations to help design programs that ensure access for effective grassroots organizations and coalitions.



- ▶ Supported the participation of a strong and diverse US grassroots, Indigenous and People of Color representation at the **COP21 Climate Conference** in 2015, and the development of a 40,000-strong grassroots, Indigenous and People of Color contingent at the **People's Climate March** in 2014.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Building Equity and Alignment is the first serious multi-sector effort grounded in the Jemez Principles to address the funding disparity that exists between national green groups and the grassroots organizing sector. These resources will help us all achieve more victories, elevate our work, and build the relationships to make our movement a true force on the national and global level. BEA will continue to bring our principles into practice by collaborating on projects, growing our participant base, and convening our network to continually deepen our shared commitments, alignment, strategies and vision. Our success depends on a collective, movement effort with the enthusiasm and support from you all.