



# **A VISION FOR BLACK LIVES:** **POLICY DEMANDS FOR BLACK POWER, FREEDOM, & JUSTICE**

## **A Divestment From Industrial Multinational Use of Fossil Fuels and Investments in Community-Based Sustainable Energy Solutions**

### **What is the problem?**

- Black people are amongst the most affected by climate change. If we're not serious about reducing emissions, the planet will keep getting hotter and Black people will continue to bear the biggest brunt of climate change. Divest from industrial use of fossil fuels and reinvest in community-based sustainable energy solutions to make sure communities most impacted (Black communities) are helping to lead that shift.
- The U.S. military is the largest contributor to emissions (war economy drives fossil fuel economy).
- One-third of greenhouse gases are also caused by the industrial agricultural system.

### **What are the solutions?**

- Divest from any industry that makes money on the production of fossil fuels.
- Shift toward Black community control of more local sustainable energy and food systems.
- People directly impacted by climate change, particularly Black communities, know what the issues are most and should be at the forefront. Additionally, some of our people work in industries of extractive energy (power plants), etc. We can instead apply those skills to sustainable, clean energy production (like solar, etc.).
- Reduce military expenditures overall, particularly in the use of fossil fuel.

### **Federal Action:**

- Invest instead in a cooperative loan fund — money from fossil fuel economy is reinvested into cooperative loan fund that can invest in cooperatively owned businesses. Money can go back to redistribute to cooperatives, particularly in Black communities.
- Shift resources toward community-controlled food hub (a process and facility that works to aggregate or pool food produced from local farmers and coordinates marketing and distributing) and cooperative organizations to shift resources towards a more democratic, localized and sustainable economy (examples of food hubs and cooperatives include Mississippi Association of Cooperatives Indian Springs or many others with the Federation of Southern Cooperatives).

### **Local Action:**

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- Promote and expand networks of small scale farmers connecting with each other: Local Living economies (La Via Campesina), small farmers, small scale (style of farming) — healthier for the planet. Build local food system infrastructure for horizontal scale.
- Invest in solidarity economies.
- Just transition (transitioning out of fossil fuels to clean energy).
- Promote cities to become Zero Waste cities (i.e. Jackson, Mississippi plans to become Zero Waste by 2025).
- Resources to fund Black contractors to specialize in sustainable energy.

## **How does this solution address the specific needs of some of the most marginalized Black people?**

- Black, poor, and trans people of color are disproportionately affected by climate change, and the lack of access to breathable air and to land control over our food system.

## **Resources:**

- [Cooperation Jackson Just Transition Plan](#)
- Southern Reparations Loan Fund
- Cooperation Richmond
- [Fossil Fuel Divestment Student Network](#)
- [Dr. Robert Bullard website](#)

## **Organizations Currently Working on This Issue:**

- Cooperation Jackson (Jackson, Mississippi)
- Climate Justice Alliance, Our Power Campaign
- Southern Reparations Loan Fund
- Southern Grassroots Economies Project
- East Michigan Environmental Action Coalition
- Hijra House (Biloxi, MS)
- Gulf South Rising

## **Authors & Contributors of this Policy Overview**

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*“There’s no Hispanic air, no African American air, or white air, there’s just air. And if you breathe air, and most people I know do breathe air, then that makes you part of the environment and if you are concerned about the quality of that air, I would consider you an environmentalist. And if you drink water, and most people I know drink water, and you are concerned about what’s in the water, then I would consider you an environmentalist. And you eat food, and again most people I know eat food, and you are concerned about what’s in the food, then I would consider you an*



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*environmentalist. If you answer two of the three, then I would say you are an environmentalist, you just might not know it."*

- Dr. Robert Bullard (via Cooperation Jackson website)