

Why is fighting racism important for the climate movement?

In order to build an ecological movement that can win real change, we need to highlight anti-racist politics, for a number of reasons:

- **Communities of color are the most affected by ecological destruction.** In the United States and internationally, working-class and poor people pay for the destruction caused by the rich. The struggle against environmental racism has to be part of the ecological struggle.
- **Oppressed communities are on the frontlines of ecological struggle.** Urban and rural communities of indigenous people and oppressed nationalities have been struggling for decades against industrial pollution, the destruction of sustainable practices, and the effects of global warming. We must ally with the struggles that are already going on.
- **These are fights for environmental justice,** going beyond small reforms



to envision a society free of oppression and ecological destruction. For more information about environmental justice, see the Principles of Environmental Justice: www.ejnet.org/ej/principles.html

- **Liberation struggles strike at the heart of the system.** From Manifest Destiny to toxic waste dumping to wars for oil, racial and national oppression has gone hand in hand with the exploitation of the earth. The struggles of oppressed communities, including Black people, Native Americans, and Latinos, are central to overcoming the rapacious capitalist system.

Building real allegiances with oppressed communities means concretely supporting their struggles. Sometimes it's argued that it's divisive or a distraction for the ecological movement to focus on the needs of a specific class or racial group. Actually, what's divisive is excluding anti-racist politics from the movement. To build a truly united struggle which has the power to win, we must foreground the demands of oppressed people.



**SYSTEM CHANGE
NOT CLIMATE CHANGE
THE ECOSOCIALIST COALITION**

System Change Not Climate Change: The Ecosocialist Coalition is a network of individuals and groups dedicated to fighting against ecological destruction and the capitalist system that causes it, and for a new, sustainable world. Find out more and get involved at www.SystemChangeNotClimateChange.org