

## **Climate Resource Hub by the Climate Solutions Collective**

We are facing a climate crisis and the threat it poses to life on Earth, frontline, fenceline and marginalized communities (including Women, Indigenous, People of Color and Global South communities) are among the foremost challenges of our time. Globally seas are rising, coastlines are eroding, weather patterns are changing, droughts and forest fires are increasing and species extinction is rising exponentially. Solutions to the climate crisis vary among stakeholders from across disciplines. Mainstream solutions continue to replicate the same systems of oppression fueling the climate crisis and the marginalization of communities. Without questioning the dominant western capitalist, profit-oriented, and growth narrative, we are presented with solutions that fail to tackle the root causes of the crisis (white supremacy/anti-blackness, settler colonialism, heteropatriarchy, extractive capitalism).

Spearheaded by the grassroots, movements for liberation have always fought for transformative futures that lead to alternative pathways that challenge current hegemonic structures. Thus, solutions to the climate crisis must follow the historical legacy of grassroots leadership which is rooted in radical systemic transformation.

The Climate Solutions Collective (CSC) is a student-led collaborative project composed of a diverse group of ten graduate students and alumni from The New School, overseen by Dr. Leonardo Figueroa-Helland from the Environmental Policy and Sustainability Management program.

The collective was formed by Christian Tandazo '20, Genesis Abreu '21, Andrea Torres '20, Laura Langner '21, Kaija Xiao '21, Nicole Karsch '21, Moja Robinson '21, Anastasia Standrik '20, and Dawa Sherpa '20, and Saloni Shah '20. This collective came together because of a shared understanding and common analysis that approaches and solutions to the climate crisis must be led and guided by the knowledge and experiences of frontline, fenceline and marginalized communities who have been at the forefront of climate justice. Through this initiative, we honor the legacy and labor of these communities that have fought for place-based community self-determination, autonomy, and resilience in the face of the climate crisis.

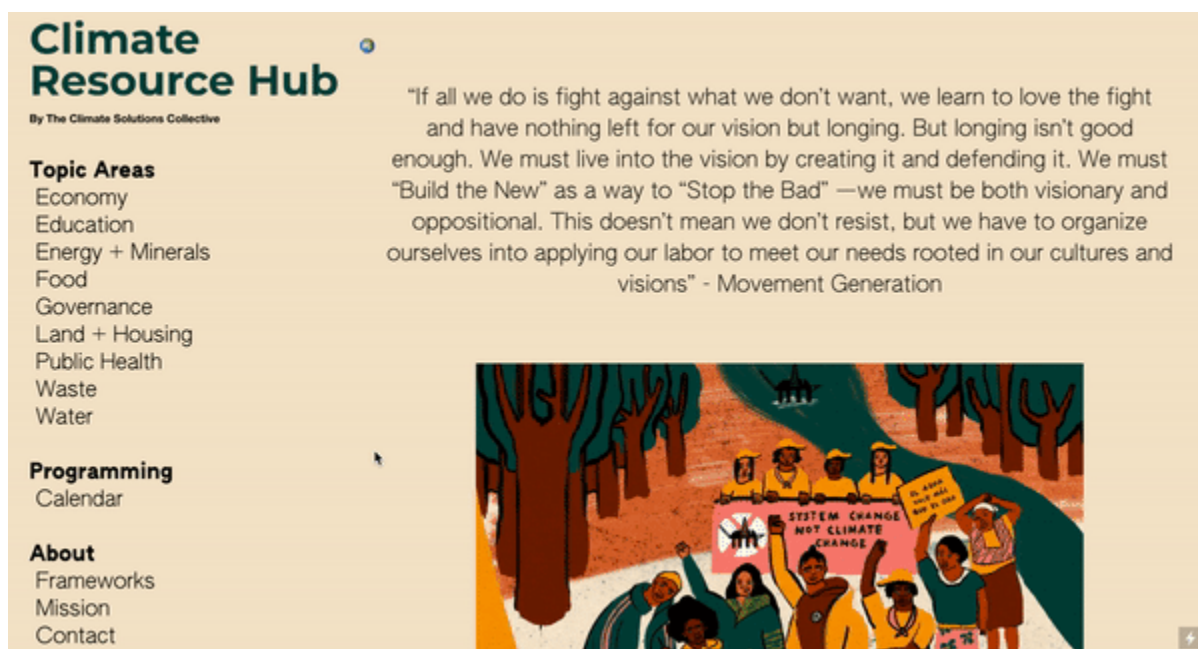
Since March 2020, at CSC, we have co-developed, co-designed, and co-produced the Climate Resource Hub (CRH) and programming. CRH centers critical analysis and solutions from frontline communities and counter-hegemonic movements that are based in decolonial, racially just, Black feminist thought and other feminisms of color and of the Global South, cooperative, place-based and ecologically-centered perspectives.

CSC was the recipient of the Award for Excellence in Climate, Environmental Justice and Sustainability from the Tishman Environment and Design Center, receiving a \$1,100 award to support the development of the website and its beta testing. We allocated \$600 of this award to compensate members of the collective for their equal labor in the co-development of this project.

Additionally, CSC received a student award from Cargo, an online web developing and hosting site, providing us with unlimited access to all the tools available to build and house the online platform. We also created a Mailchimp account to assist with upcoming communication operations.

This summer, we focused on finalizing details for the *Community Beta Test* and on outlining and populating the sections of the website, which include *Topic Areas*, *Frameworks*, and *Mission*.

*Topic Areas* are global crises that converge and impact the climate crisis. We identified the following: *Economy, Education, Energy + Minerals, Food, Governance, Land + Housing, Public Health, Waste, and Water*. Furthermore, we are planning to include *Militarization, Fashion, and Migration + Displacement*.



*Climate Resource Hub - Topic Area: Food.*

To guide this body of work we identified *Frameworks* that served as a critical analysis to address the intersectional root causes of the climate crisis and to propose solutions that

aim to reclaim an alternative vision of the future. To this end, we operate under the following frameworks: *Decolonization*, *Black Queer Feminism (BQF)*, and *Just Transition*.



*Climate Resource Hub - Frameworks*

Our *Mission* statement has been consistent since the beginning. It has guided and grounded our collective energies towards co-creating this project:

*The mission of the Climate Resource Hub is to serve as an instrument to support mobilization and educational efforts to address the climate crisis by:*

- 1. presenting a vision of what an equitable, ecocentric, decolonial, feminist future looks like;*
- 2. providing a pool of knowledge and resources on transformational systemic solutions to tackle the climate crisis;*
- 3. amplifying the voices of frontline grassroots organizing;*
- 4. prioritizing assistance for youth, organizers, and activist in the climate justice space and beyond; and*
- 5. using accessible language, resources, and programming to create an inclusive educational, yet action-oriented space.*

Additionally, we co-developed a campaign and outreach strategy for a *Community Beta Test* for the CRH. Our goal for this online webinar workshop and survey is to provide an introduction to the platform for environmental and climate justice grassroots groups and

receive feedback from them on content, accessibility, and usability. We want to ensure that grassroots voices and perspectives are included in this platform and simultaneously ensure that this tool is of value for their community and place-based organizing efforts. With their feedback, we will adjust the platform accordingly.

The community groups we have identified to participate in the community beta testing of the CRH are groups that have led historical fights for climate and environmental justice rooted in local community organizing and struggle. These groups have a wealth of knowledge, understanding, and capacity. Therefore, with a portion of the TEDC Student Award, we have committed to using \$500 of our grant monies to give community groups for their engagement and knowledge transfer in our beta testing phase. We see this action not just as a mere payment for their labor but rather as respect for their time and expertise. After this *Community Beta Testing* and final edits to the content, we will launch the CRH in Fall 2020.

Even in a time of social distancing, navigating and experiencing first hand the global health pandemic, systemic racism, food and housing insecurity, and unemployment this moment has reaffirmed the depth of our connection to one another and the further exploration and reimagination of collective, care, and mutual aid work. As a collective made up of individuals who do not live singular identities and issued lives, we are connected by compassion, cooperation, and the spirit of radical transformation.

Approaching this project as a collective through community care, mutual understanding, and radical visions of the future has inspired us to transition from a collective to a worker cooperative. We are currently strategizing and planning internally as well as attending online information sessions and trainings on worker cooperatives through various networks to get a grasp of which path we could communally head towards. We are excited and looking forward to what this endeavor may bring.