



TED TALK: Eco- Edition Environmental Action

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Sustainability, Resilience, and
Environmental Justice Committee

Agenda

01

Introduction

Majora Carter

TED Talk

"Greening the Ghetto"

02

03

Breakout Rooms

~20 minutes for
in depth,
reflective and
intimate
discussion

Involvement Opportunities

Groups to
support to
become a more
engaged activist

04

Majora Carter

- Grew up in the South Bronx of New York City during period where 'white flight' took place
- South Bronx experienced a loss of investment , which led to environmental degradation
- Worked to implement sustainable programs into the South Bronx because she experienced the effects of financial neglect and environmental racism
- Founded Sustainable South Bronx, which promotes green job training to improve state of South Bronx





“No community should be saddled
with more environmental
burdens and less environmental
benefits than any other.”

— **Majora Carter**

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TED Talk

Themes

01

Intersection of environmental justice and urban redevelopment

- Poverty and rates of crime can decrease with the implementation with greener infrastructure + improved urban policies
- Impact of flawed urban policy
 - Consider the Colombian example of improved transportation infrastructure

02

Racial and socioeconomic disparities in environmental dangers

- Minority and low-income communities are disproportionately targeted by environmental hazards that lead to health and environmental risks

Breakout Room Discussion Questions

01

What does Carter mean by her definition of “environmental justice”? How does that connect with what she means when she says residents of environmental justice communities are the “canary in the coal mine”?

Carter contends that “race and class are extremely reliable indicators as to where one might find the good stuff [in a community], like parks and trees, and where one might find the bad stuff, like power plants and waste facilities.” How does Carter’s statement reflect the C-U area? Discuss where you usually see the “bad stuff” as well as the “good stuff”?

02

03

What is the significance of environmental activism? What are ways you have become involved?

Discuss the significance of the phrase “greening the ghetto”? What does it mean, and how can we apply it to the C-U community?

Consider what the phrase encourages

04

5th & Hill

The 3.5 acre lot at 5th Street and Hill Street in Champaign is a former manufactured gas plant (FMGP) site from 1887 until 1953. Gas was manufactured by heating coal, and then following a process to remove coal tar and other impurities. The coal tar and other production wastes were left on the site until the closing of the plant.

According to information provided by Illinois Power (now Ameren IP) in 1990, the lightweight chemical compounds found in coal tar, known as BTEX (benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene), move easily through soils and are associated with various health problems.



5th & Hill Neighborhood Rights Campaign

Volunteer Work

- Local organizations and residents have joined together to create a campaign dedicated to ensuring and protecting the rights of neighborhood residents, former residents, and the community in all the issues involved in addressing the toxic site and its impact on the neighborhood and community
 - Organized by Champaign County Health Care Consumers (CCHCC)
 - <https://www.healthcareconsumers.org/5th-hill-toxic-site/>
 - Claudia Lenhoff (claudia@shout.net)

Follow the Champaign County Health Care Consumers on Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube! The Champaign County Health Care Consumers (CHCC) is a grassroots organization for health care justice since 1977.

ISG ESC Committee

ESC deals with issues related to environmental sustainability, conservation, climate change, and the present and future environmental problems of our planet. It works on solutions to climate change, methods to switch to renewable/sustainable energy, and ways to preserve the environment.

ESC meets Wednesdays at 4 P.M. on Zoom!

Meeting ID: 836 0607 5600
Password: ESC2021



Sierra Club (Illinois Chapter)

Sierra Club is a grassroots environmental organization with 50+ chapters. It focuses on promoting sustainable energy, mitigating global warming, and opposing the use of coal. It recognizes that environmental issues cannot be separated from social justice.

<https://www.sierraclub.org/illinois/get-involved/volunteer>



Final Thoughts!

This is open to the audience! What are other ways you know of to get involved in environmental activism and addressing flawed urban policies?