

Banks and Tanks, modified from Movement Generation curriculum

Trainer Names	Phone	Email
Lauren Ressler		lauren@endowmentethics.org
Ian Trupin		

Materials:

- White board markers
- Flip chart markers (Lauren)
- 8 sheets of butcher paper (light colors) (Alex)

Intros:

Lauren: I have been supporting fossil fuel divestment campaigns for 4 years and one of the most exciting conversations I see emerging is the conversation around investment. Reinvestment is about building a new economy that works for the people living in it, not corporate interests. Worker cooperatives have long been a way for people who have been excluded from the dominant economy-- to resist that exclusion and grow wealth within their communities.

Reinvestment: is about racial justice, is about economic justice, is about gender justice. The same communities breathing in toxic chemicals and working dangerous extraction jobs are the same people facing over policing, school closures, and food deserts.

Ian: I worked with the Responsible Endowments Coalition as an organizer on prison and fossil fuel divestment campaigns for almost two years. Both during this time and prior to it as a student organizer, I primarily worked on the question of how to shift university resources away from industries that represent the worst aspects of our capitalist system, but I quickly found that it was impossible to end the conversation there. It isn't enough for us to be talking about the kind of economy we don't want. If we want to go beyond responding to violations of our values on a case by case basis we will never develop the vision for the future that can truly challenge the status quo. Reinvestment, for us, is a key part of this vision.

Goals:

- Recruitment focused= story based and participatory (active allies) (3)
- **Education based= more time to dive into the nitty gritty details about how these things work (passive allies) (1)**
 - Addressing assumptions-- Understanding the Extractive Economy "Banks and Tanks"
 - Identifying real solutions
 - Analyzing the commitments the school has already made

- Inspiring people to get excited about non-extractive finance.
- Coalition focused= more time on how investment bridges relationships between different organizing fights (2)

Outcomes: (2 mins)

- Build a map together
- Translate the concepts of non-extractive and regenerative finance into recognizable principles grounded in participants lived experience
- Create a list of actionable steps for participants to build community wealth in their own organizations and otherwise engage in alternative economics

OUTLINE: total time 1:30

I. Anchor (15 mins):

- Ask the room:** What brought you into the room today? What is a question you have about reinvestment? **[5 mins]**
- Activity: [Ian]** Describe our economy in 6 words! Everyone will have 1.5 minutes to write down 6 words that describe the economy we live in. We will then go around and share around the circle (no explanation, just let it sink in!) **[5 mins]**
- Explain: [Lauren]** Frame around MG's work and REC's connection through reinvestment. ***Movement Generation Justice & Ecology Project** inspires and engages in transformative action towards the liberation and restoration of land, labor, and culture. We are rooted in vibrant social movements led by low-income communities and communities of color committed to a Just Transition away from profit and pollution and towards healthy, resilient and life-affirming local economies.* **[3 mins]**

II. Add (25 mins):

- MAP: Banks and Tanks description/ Living Loving Linked Economy (cooperative economy) --> We want a just transition (The process of moving from our current economy to one that centers people and the needs of people, rather than corporations)
- Draw on Flip Chart:
 - Banks and Tanks**- Current economy- run by banks defended by tanks/ the extractive economy where labor, wealth, and other resources are taken through contracts or by force. (Draw in top left of paper)
 - Guiding Questions:
 - What are characteristics and values of B&T economy?
 - What does this look like in our energy system/ classroom/ housing/ transportation & infrastructure?
 - What does this look like in our lives?
 - Living loving linked**- a non-extractive economy in which people, culture, and non-human world are valued and connected. (Draw on bottom right)
 - Guiding Questions:

- a) What are characteristics & values of your ideal LLL econ?
 - b) What would education look like?
 - c) What are ways in which the shift towards this economy is already happening?
5. Report back: Each group gets 1 minute to explain

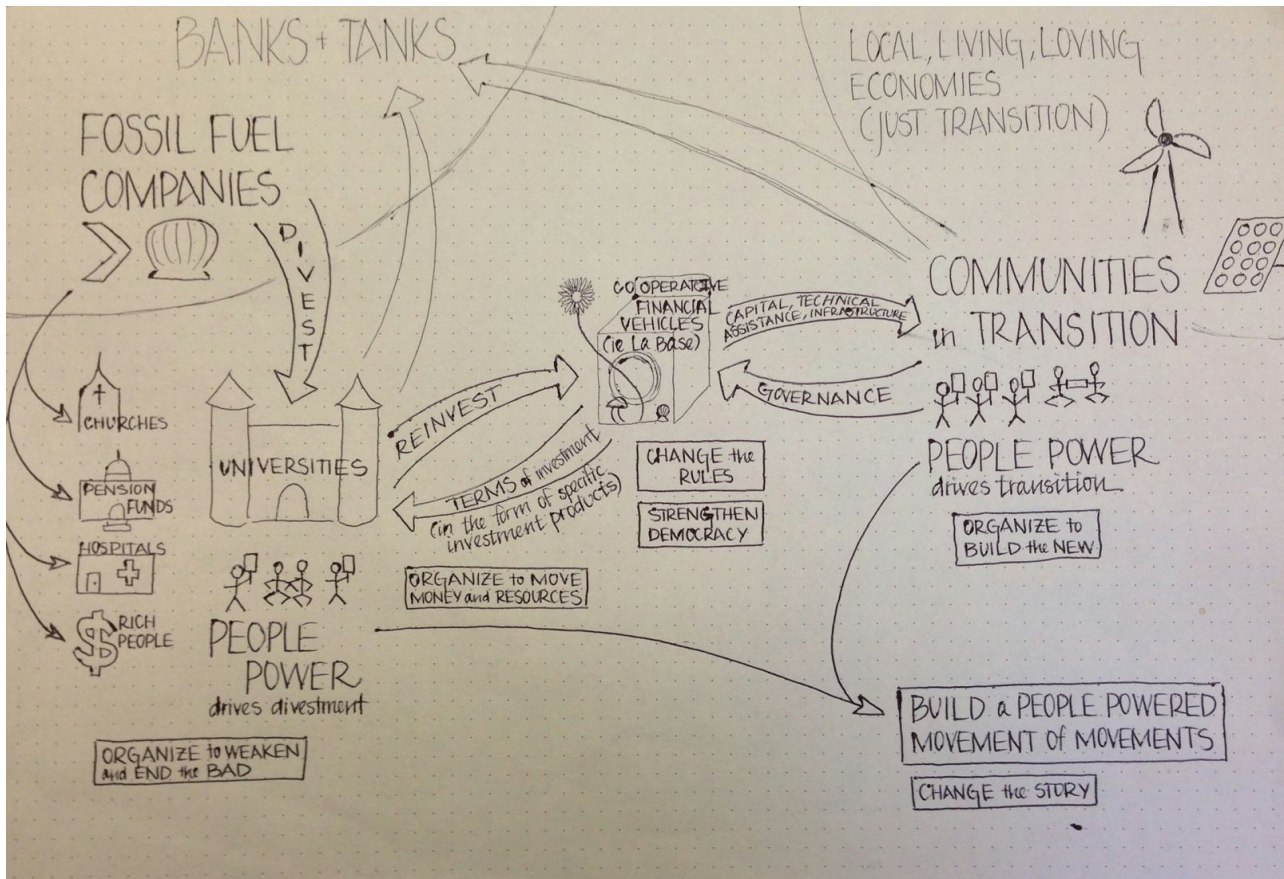
C. Non extractive finance and working world: [15 mins]

1. Key Components of Non-extractive Finance

- a) Invest in a way that...
- b) Redistributes wealth to communities that have been affected first and worst by the fossil fuel industry, colonization, racism, etc. They are the frontlines of creation. They have been developing solutions for years and hold deep knowledge and expertise around resilience
- c) CENTERS and CIRCULATES health and wealth in those communities

2. Key Characteristics:

- a) The recipients of loans determine TERMS and CONDITIONS of the investments, and govern the fund
- b) The fund is democratically governed, as are most of the the enterprises on the ground



D. Explore Regen Finance Principles: **[30 mins]**

<http://www.regenerativefinance.com/regen-core-values/>

1. Small group breakouts (each group takes two values to discuss, present, and ask questions about to the larger group) **[10 mins]**
2. **Work sheet:** Generalize and apply them to their own cooperative and their relationship to the rest of the university. **[20 mins]**
 - a) Local contracts for food, repairs, laundry, labor etc
 - b) Credit unions
 - c) University real estate → land trusts for housing cooperatives
 - d) Conversation around surplus and endowments? (maybe)
 - e) What is the relationship between investing and spending? (maybe)

Away: **[10 mins]**

- We are building a people powered movement, one of the ways to bring in more of the 6 strategies into your organizing is to add a reinvestment demand to your campaign. Schools like Davidson in North Carolina are bringing reinvestment into their campaign demands.
- We are working in collaboration with members of the Climate Justice Alliance, the working world, and 350 to develop a cooperative loan fund that provides non-extractive capital (money) to community cooperative business to get them started. What is non-extractive about these funds? Most importantly, they are not paid back until the project is profitable. The working world has had a 98% success rate with the projects they fund.
- On the ground, this looks like the development of solar farms in Arizona, in places like Black Mesa where Peabody Coal owns and operates coal mines. These mines are part of a legacy started in the early 1920s to ensure the Navajo Nation's economic dependence on fossil fuel development. Despite promises that uranium, oil, gas, and coal leases would bring in millions of dollars in royalties and create thousands of jobs, a visit to the reservation reveals a completely different reality. The Navajo Nation's unemployment rate hovers around 54% and the population's average income is \$7,500/year. 18,000 Navajo households live without electricity, accounting for 75% of all un-electrified homes in the U.S. Furthermore, the fossil fuel economy has left a legacy of polluted air and land, contaminated and depleted water, and various health ailments.

Website: ourpowercampaign.org/reinvest