



## PRINCIPLES

**We uphold the principles of Environmental Justice.** Pollution and climate change affect everyone, but not equally. Communities of color, especially Black communities, working class and low-income folks, and women bear disproportionate impact from fossil fuel infrastructure and climate change. Concentrating toxins in communities of color is environmental racism. We develop leadership of those most impacted because we know this will lead to real solutions that serve everyone. We work to dismantle systems of racism, sexism, and inequality - the roots of environmental injustice.

**We build people power.** History shows when movements gain enough active members and public support, government officials have no choice but to follow. We take action to bring more people into our movement and develop our leadership. We don't have external representatives or advocates; we speak for ourselves. We build people power to foster communities of mutuality, respect, and democracy.

**We work together in circles.** No one person can do it by themselves: we need other people to support each other, take action, and build leadership. That's why we work in small groups called Action Circles - so everyone has a home, a team that has their back, and a role to play in this movement.

**We take care of ourselves and each other.** We believe that all people deserve love, joy, and rest. Each person's spiritual and personal well-being is integral to the vitality of our movement.

**We show up for others.** We uphold a spirit of collaboration and cooperation within our campaign and across other movements for justice. We stand with other movements, such as those working for racial, economic, and gender justice. We are building a world for the liberation of all people.

**See a need, fill a need.** We are all the leaders of this movement: when a need emerges, we all have the power and tools to meet it. If three or more of us are convinced that an action will serve the goals of the movement and uphold these principles, we proceed without invitation or approval.

**We keep the pressure on by using nonviolent direct action.** We take bold, risky and truthful action to spread our message and put our opponents in a dilemma. We pledge not to cause harm to other people, knowing this is the only way to win the hearts and minds of our fellow Philadelphians.

**We focus on what unites us, and respect our differences.** We welcome everyone from different classes, races, genders, sexual orientations, religions, and organizational affiliations. Diversity makes us stronger. When we struggle together, heal, and learn from each other, we become more powerful.

**We are a movement of volunteers.** We do not accept money from sources seeking to influence Philly Thrive, and stipends are used exclusively to increase volunteers' capacity to meet the needs of the movement at a given time. We recognize and applaud the many different forms of labor and risk our movement demands.

**We do not accept false solutions.** We will not stop struggling until we win the Right to Breathe. We will not accept half solutions, including transitions to natural gas or ones that leave out workers. We envision a just transition away from all fossil fuels that provides livelihoods for working families. We stand in solidarity with fossil fuel workers and demand a just transition with paths to sustainable, living wage jobs. We uplift community solutions, honoring the ways Philadelphians are already rebuilding just systems of food, transportation, energy, health and care.



# RIGHT TO BREATHE PLATFORM

Philadelphians are taking action for clean air, climate justice, and the right to breathe.

We're defending our communities and our future against the oil & gas industry, including the largest fossil fuel refinery on the East Coast.

We oppose Philadelphia becoming a toxic fossil fuel "energy hub." We envision an economy that serves people and planet - with green jobs, clean energy, and healthy communities.

**Our campaign's goal is to unite Philadelphians around our Right to Breathe and win political support against toxic energy hub projects.**

We'll know we're reaching our goal when:

- Our campaign is made up of thousands of Philadelphians taking action for our Right to Breathe.
- Elected officials and decisionmakers stand up for our Right to Breathe in word and deed.
- The media story around the energy hub centers our Right to Breathe over corporate interests.

**We demand the Right to Breathe.**

The Right to Breathe Means:

## **Health & Safety Over Profit**

Fossil fuels threaten the lives of Philadelphians everyday. It causes asthma, cancer, and other health effects among residents, and brings safety hazards such as explosive oil trains and gas pipelines, disproportionately impacting low-income families and communities of color. We shouldn't bear this burden while oil and gas companies like the Philadelphia Energy Solutions refinery profit from pollution.

## **No Fossil Fuel Expansion**

Oil & gas companies want to turn Philadelphia into a fossil fuel energy hub, bringing refinery expansion, fracked gas pipelines, and toxic manufacturing to our city. It's always been wrong to pollute communities and the climate, and we won't take any more. We know natural gas is going to run out, depends on disastrous fracking practices, and does more damage to our climate than coal.

## **Green Economy for All**

We have an opportunity to tackle the twin problems of climate change and inequality. Instead of a fossil fuel energy hub for the 1% we need a just transition to clean energy and living wage green jobs that provide for everyday Philadelphians. A green economy should heal the climate while reducing poverty, unemployment, and inequality in our city.



# OUR STRATEGY

**We believe people working together are more powerful than corporations and politicians. We know that diverse communities in Philadelphia have varied stakes in stopping fossil fuel expansion and we gain power as a movement by coming together across differences that are used to divide us - class, race, religion, and others.**

Our role as Philly Thrive is to mobilize Philadelphians for our Right to Breathe to remove “pillars of support” of fossil fuel expansion. Oil and gas corporations aggressively selling their plans to politicians and investors are betting on communities to keep quiet. Their plans depend on key pillars of support:

1. Toxic manufacturing and petrochemical companies set up shop in Philadelphia
2. Elected officials support through tax breaks, subsidies, and loosening health and safety regulation
3. Large pipeline projects are approved to bring natural gas into Philadelphia
4. Expansion of Philadelphia Energy Solutions refinery

But we know a broad-based campaign of Philadelphians taking action can remove these pillars. We believe active support for the Right to Breathe will deter investors and win political support against the energy hub. Phases of our strategy that include short-term goals will be developed by the campaign strategy action circle.



# JOIN THE CAMPAIGN

Philly Thrive mobilizes across groups and constituencies, inviting individuals to join efforts toward our Right to Breathe. And we need you. Everyone has a role to play and leadership to bring. There are two ways to get involved: join an Action Circle or become a Supporter.

## Action Circles

Action Circles are the building blocks of our campaign. They are small teams of three to seven people who take collective action for the Right to Breathe. We believe people have the wisdom and tools they need to organize their communities. We also value deep relationships and leadership development, which is difficult when people get “lost in the crowd.” Members of Action Circles build relationships, learn to make decisions together, share skills, and take care of one another.

Action Circles take action to build the Right to Breathe Campaign:

- **RECRUITMENT** -- Reaching more people to support the campaign and join Action Circles.
- **STORYTELLING & MEDIA** -- Projecting our stories to inform, inspire, and envision the Right to Breathe.
- **NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION** -- Taking creative action to dramatize the issues and defend communities.
- **SUPPORTING THE MOVEMENT** -- Share skills, lessons, and successes with other Action Circles, fundraising, care.

To join or form an Action Circle, you must attend a Leadership Training to learn the campaign strategy and toolbox. Action circles pledge to play by the campaign strategy and principles. This commitment empowers circles to decide their own course of action without approval from anyone else. Our campaign grows stronger as everyone brings their creativity, passion, and spirit to the actions they take.

Some Action Circles are called Coordinating Circles. Coordinating Circles take on specialized tasks to help maintain the campaign, including training and leadership development, finances, communications, and campaign strategy. Coordinating Circles work together to support Action Circles and hold the campaign to its own principles and goals.

## Supporters

Supporters are people who support our campaign goals and principles but are not yet ready to be a consistent leader in an Action Circle. Supporters receive our newsletter, donate to our campaign, attend events, volunteer occasionally, and share the campaign with others.