

# Examples: Climate Justice Principles Statements

## Example #1. Climate Justice and Resilience Toolkit Stakeholder Committee & Aboriginal Steering Group

The principles below have been taken out from the terms of reference of the Climate Justice and Resilience Toolkit stakeholder committee group.

Extract from  
the  
Stakeholder  
Committee  
Terms of  
Reference

### **The principles of the Stakeholder Committee include:**

A commitment to equitably uphold the rights, needs and priorities of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, people with Lived Experience of social injustice(s), and community sector workers, volunteers and community members on the frontline of the climate crisis. We will look to redistribute power and resources wherever possible, particularly to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led organisations and under-resourced communities and organisations.

A shared understanding of the need for urgent action within the community sector to mitigate, adapt to and respond to climate change from a climate justice lens.

Accountability and transparency.

A commitment to collective decision-making where those most impacted are prioritised in decisions that impact them (nothing about us without us)

Social justice and equity.

### **Aboriginal Governance and Lived Experience Advisory:**

Embedded Project Principles

Resources of this project should be redistributed/diversified, especially ensuring that remote communities and communities in the bush benefit from this project (financially, skills, knowledges etc.).

The project should provide benefits to communities and grassroots organisations, particularly outside of the Perth metro region.

Aboriginal peoples and people with Lived Experience are to be centred in the co-design of the tools, ensuring their voices and perspectives are heard throughout this project process and within project outcomes.

Equity of Aboriginal peoples, people with Lived Experience and communities in the regions should be integrated into both the project process and project outcomes.

## Example #2. Lived Experience Advisory Group

The principles below have been taken out from the terms of reference of the Climate Justice Toolkit Lived Experience Advisory Group.

Extract from  
the Lived  
Experiences  
Advisory  
Group (LEAG)

*The way we  
engage is  
effective and  
practical*

### **LEAG members work by the following principles:**

- Openness to see other perspectives
- Tolerance and
- Collaboration

### **We enable:**

- Self-determination;
- Redistribution of power and resource
- Transparency (all perspectives are permissible)
- Trust (Collective care)
- Flexibility
- Relationships that are formative, respectful, not transactional

### **Based on these principles, how work is to be done:**

1. Project/policy/information is brought to the group, in ways that are equitable and accessible to each individual.
2. The group has a yarn about the information.
3. CJU representative collates the LEAG input.
4. Where needed this is checked by the group. If changes are made to the work, they need to be checked by the group.
5. Where needed this information is shared to the external consulting group, by our group's representative/s.

Agendas are simple, straightforward and short. Agenda is shared with members how they want it.

Meetings are recorded. Recording to be used internally only. If a recording is agreed by the group to be used externally, each member involved needs to approve. If a member wants their part to be changed or their section omitted this can be done at any time, on request. Individuals have power over their words, always.

### Example #3. Climate Justice Union

The Climate Justice Union of WA has developed a visual document in which values, principles and actions are outlined.



(Image 2: [Climate Justice Union](#))

#### **Example #4. Statement arising from the First Nations Climate Justice panel discussion**

The "[First Nations Climate Justice panel discussion](#)" focused on how Indigenous communities are uniquely affected by climate change and how their rights and perspectives are essential for addressing environmental issues. This discussion stresses how important it is to understand the unfair treatment these communities have faced in the past and to respect their right to decide what happens to their lands and futures. It underscores that real climate justice involves recognising these impacts and enabling First Nations peoples\* to lead the way in finding solutions.

The panel members highlight the following principles:

1. **Acknowledgement of Disproportionate Impact:** Climate justice recognises that the people who are most affected by climate change are often those who have contributed least to causing it. This means understanding that marginalised, communities, particularly those with lower carbon footprints, bear the brunt of climate-related issues. There is an intrinsic link between climate justice and social and emotional well-being for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
2. **Recognition of Historical and Ongoing Oppression:** Climate justice involves acknowledging the historical and colonial injustices that have shaped current systems of oppression. For example, in Australia, it means recognising how the same systems responsible for past atrocities continue to marginalise Indigenous communities today.
3. **Right to Self-Determination:** Communities have the right to have a final say in decisions that affect their lands and lives. True climate justice requires that these communities be enabled to make their own decisions and define their own paths, as this is essential for genuine healing and recovery.

## Example #5. Reset 1: First Nations Resistance & Climate Justice

["Reset 1: First Nations Resistance & Climate Justice"](#) provides important content on how First Nations communities are tackling climate change and advocating for justice. It highlights the challenges faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples\* and explores the principles of a just transition, which aim to address climate change while respecting Indigenous rights and wisdom.

Climate Justice Principles highlighted in ["Reset 1: First Nations Resistance & Climate Justice"](#) are:

### 1. Self-determination and decision-making

This principle stresses that Indigenous\* communities should have the power to make their own decisions about their lands and futures. They should be able to choose how they manage their resources and how they respond to climate challenges.

### 2. Respect for traditional knowledges and practices

This principle highlights the importance of valuing and incorporating the traditional knowledge and practices of Indigenous peoples. Their deep understanding of the land and environment can offer valuable insights into managing and protecting our natural world.

### 3. Addressing environmental harm

This principle calls for stopping activities that damage the environment, such as mining and fossil fuel extraction. It is about ensuring that practices harmful to the land and waters are halted to protect the ecosystems that Indigenous peoples have cared for over generations.

### 4. Economic transition and alternatives

This principle focuses on creating new, sustainable economic opportunities. It supports moving away from harmful industries and towards clean energy and sustainable practices, ensuring that Indigenous communities have viable alternatives that do not harm their lands.

### 5. Global solidarity and accountability

This principle emphasises the need for global cooperation in tackling climate change. It calls for holding leaders and corporations accountable for their actions and working together across nations to support effective climate action.

## Example #6. Seed mob

[Seed mob](#) is a leading force in the movement for climate justice, focusing on the communities that face the greatest impacts of climate change. They recognise that while climate change affects everyone, those who have contributed the least to the problem often bear the most severe consequences. In Australia, this includes low-income communities, people of colour, women, youth, and particularly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples\*. These groups are on the frontlines, dealing with both the effects of climate change and the damage caused by industries that exploit and pollute their lands.

### **Seed mob highlights the following principles:**

- **Equitable impact distribution**

This principle recognises that climate change impacts are not evenly distributed. It focuses on ensuring that those who suffer the most from climate change—often the least responsible for it—receive the support and resources they need.

- **Respect for traditional knowledges**

This principle values the wisdom and practices of Indigenous peoples\*, who have historically managed their lands sustainably. It highlights the importance of using traditional knowledges to guide modern climate solutions and environmental protection.

- **Supporting Indigenous Youth Leadership**

This principle focuses on enabling young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people\* to take the lead in climate justice. It emphasises the need for mentorship and leadership opportunities to help these young people drive change for their communities and futures.

- **Addressing systemic inequality**

This principle calls for tackling the root causes of inequality that exacerbate the impacts of climate change. It aims to address social, economic, and environmental injustices to ensure fair and just climate solutions for all communities.

- **Protecting sacred lands and cultures**

This principle stresses the importance of safeguarding Indigenous lands and cultural practices from the harmful effects of climate change and industrial exploitation. It supports the rights of Indigenous peoples to make decisions about their lands and preserve their cultural heritage.

## Example #7. Fair, fast and inclusive climate change action - Blueprint Framework

### [Fair, fast and inclusive climate change action - Blueprint Framework](#)

The Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) has collaborated with various stakeholders to create a Blueprint Framework for Fair, Fast and Inclusive Climate Change Action, aiming to guide federal policy in reducing emissions while enhancing support and resilience for those most impacted by climate change.



(Image 3: [Fair, fast and inclusive climate change action - Blueprint Framework](#) )

## 7 Principles

The Blueprint framework is underpinned by seven principles. These should be reflected in amendments to the *Climate Change Act 2022*, and should guide reforms to other legislation, policy and frameworks to address climate change.

### Reduce emissions fast

To do our fair share towards limiting global warming to 1.5°Celsius, we must strengthen our current target of 43% emissions below 2005 levels by 2030 (and net zero by 2050), to be 75% below 2005 levels by 2030 (and net zero by 2035).

### Promote good health and wellbeing

As climate change directly threatens human health, our responses must promote health and wellbeing by maximising health co-benefits of emissions reduction, removing barriers to health and health services, and prioritising people experiencing disadvantage.

### Promote human rights, fairness and equity<sup>1</sup>

Not everyone contributes equally to or is equally affected by climate change or the transition to a clean economy. Burdens of climate change impacts, responsibility for mitigation and benefits of transition should be shared fairly across society, prioritising people and communities with the least resources, and observing a duty of care to future generations.

### Promote inclusion and representation

People experiencing disadvantage and young people, who are already at increased risk from climate change impacts, should be supported to actively engage in planning and implementation to make sure solutions are fair and effective, and that they also benefit.

### Uphold First Nations rights to sovereignty and self-determination

First Nations people and communities should have their rights to sovereignty, self-determination and to give free, prior and informed consent upheld and resourced in climate change mitigation and adaptation, and environmental management.

### Ensure a fair employment transition

We need a fair employment transition that facilitates access to quality paid jobs for those who want them, prioritising people experiencing disadvantage, and aiming to end exploitive employment practices, promote access to education and training, and establish worker protections and other workforce development strategies.

### Promote ecological sustainability and nature repair

Government should legislate the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, prioritising and engaging communities at greater risk and supporting First Nations people and volunteers to lead strategies.

(Image 3: [Fair, fast and inclusive climate change action - Blueprint Framework](#).)



## Example #8. Climate Justice Alliance

The [Climate Justice Alliance](#) developed the following Just Transitions Principles:

- Self-determination
- Culture and tradition
- Equitable redistribution of resources and power
- Solidarity
- Regenerative ecological economics
- Building what we need now
- Meaningful work