



APRIL NEWSLETTER

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Get to Know MEJC: Ryan "Rei" Fielder



Rei (they/them) is the Climate Justice Campaign Manager at MEJC. They manage the Michigan Green New Deal table, [Michigan Alliance for Justice in Climate \(MAJIC\)](#), and facilitate bringing organizations and individuals together for common Environmental Justice goals.

Over the past year, they predominantly focused on healing and narrative work, as well as municipal and federal work. They're currently shifting their focus towards capacity building efforts by creating opportunities for MEJC to become an educational hub for folks to engage with EJ issues statewide. This year, Rei started the MEJC Movement School in order to make that vision a reality!

The Movement School builds the capacity and power of Environmental Justice movements in Michigan through education, narrative shifting, policy advocacy, electoral engagement, community organizing and direct action. There are still spots open for cohorts 2 & 3! [Click here to apply.](#)

Member Spotlight: Shimekia Nichols

Shimekia Nichols (she/her) is the Executive Director at [Soulardarity](#), a nonprofit organization that strives to build a just and equitable energy system for all through education, organizing, and people-powered clean energy.

Shimekia personally came into this work as a single mom who had purchased her first home and was looking for ways to be more environmentally responsible and economically conservative. Through her work with Soulardarity she was introduced to MEJC.

"One of the things I appreciate most about MEJC is the knowledge sharing. There's never a reluctance to share information, and to be honest about viewpoints and still be able to do incredible work together. The relationship building [at MEJC] is very intentional, and should be used as a best practice for a lot of organizations, especially start-ups."

Soulardarity and MEJC (along with several other awesome partners) worked together on the [Work for Me, DTE Campaign](#). Check out [this story in Riverwise Magazine](#) about Work for Me, DTE!

If you're interested in getting involved with Soulardarity, they have two volunteer orientations coming up on [April 28th](#) and [May 4th](#).



Become a Member!

Click to Apply



Mark Your Calendars!

MEJC and [We the People, MI](#) will be hosting a virtual training focused on holding DTE accountable. We've got a big opportunity this month to uplift an energy justice narrative, and demand that legislators choose between community & corporations. **Join us May 4th at 4pm.** [RSVP here](#)

Policy Updates

In April, MEJC and the Union of Concerned Scientists published a [report](#) showing that Michigan can generate 100% of its energy from renewable sources by 2035, while accelerating coal plant closures and prohibiting new gas construction. Such a move would prevent thousands of premature deaths due to air pollution by 2040, and add more than 100,000 jobs.

In other energy news: DTE's abuses made headlines this month after reporter Sarah Alvarez and Propublica published this [extensive study](#) of DTE's 200,000 pandemic shutoffs. The Defend Black Voters Coalition [called on](#) DTE and Consumers Energy to "stop spending our money on attacking our democracy, and start giving us the services we pay for." You can join MEJC, our partners, and Rep Abraham Aiyash tomorrow Wednesday April 27, to [Demand DTE Accountability](#) at Avalon Village in Highland Park!

Finally, MEJC is looking forward to joining Rep. Rashida Tlaib's office in hosting House Natural Resource Committee Chairman Raul Grijalva as he visits [frontline communities around the country](#) to seek input for the [Environmental Justice for All Act \(H.R 2021\)](#). Rep Grijalva and staff will be in Detroit from May 5 - 7.



We're Hiring!

The **Administrative Assistant and Bookkeeper** is responsible for providing clerical and daily bookkeeping support to ensure that MEJC adheres to best practices for non-profit business operations and reporting. [Click here to apply by April 30th.](#)

Donate to MEJC

Our Mission

The Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition works to achieve a clean, healthy, and safe environment for Michigan residents most affected by inadequate policies. We build power and unity within our community, so we all can thrive.

Check Out Our New Website!



Work for Me, DTE!
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