Fwd: MEJC April 2022 Newsletter

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Katrina Hamann
1 message
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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 bringling organizations and individuals together for common Environmental Justice goals.

Over the past year, they predominantly focused on hearing and narrative work, as well as municipal and federal work. They are currently shifting their focus towards capacity building efforts by creating opportunities for MEJC to become an educational hub for folks to engage with EU's 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 achieves 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 to do incredible work together. The relationship building [at MEJC] is very intentional, and should be used as a best practice.”

Soulardarity and MEJC (along with several other awesome partners) worked together on the Work for Me, DTE Campaign. Check out Pat and Kobi’s piece 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.

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 over 200,000 pandemic shutoffs. Finally, MEJC is looking forward to joining Rep. Rashida Tlaib at Avalon Village in Highland Park!

We’re Hiring!

We’re hiring an Administrative Assistant and Bookkeeper! 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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