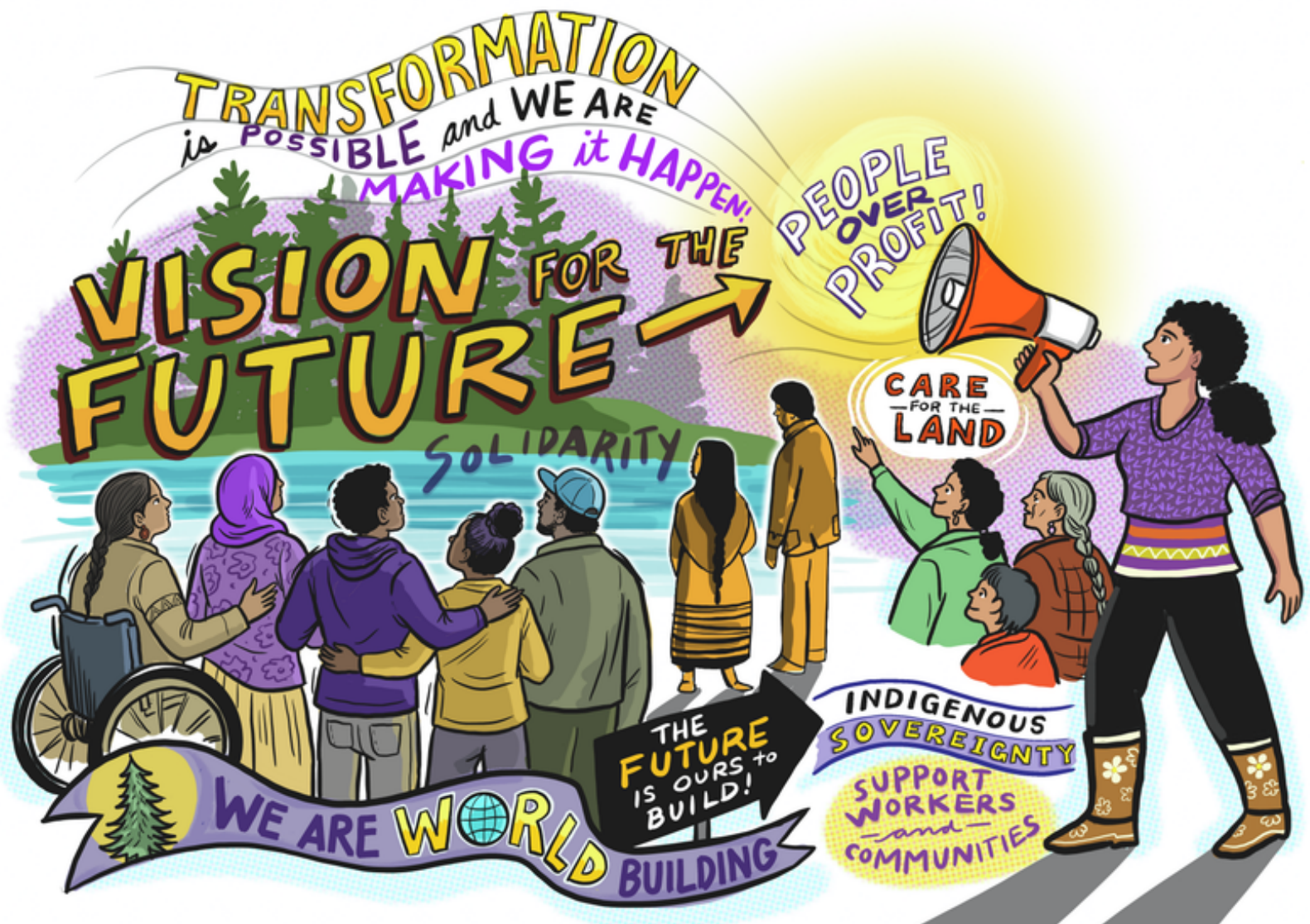




Seeding an Economy of Life

A Guide for Dialogue on Just Transitions

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ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This guide is intended for people who are interested in facilitating a dialogue with communities who are concerned, curious and committed to imagining a future free of fossil fuel dependence. Elements of this guide were developed for community dialogues as part of Kairos Canada's *Strengthening Voices for a Just Transition* project (2024-2025). Kairos is grateful to the Catherine Donnelly Foundation for supporting that work. This guide weaves together stories and insights from those community dialogues. It draws on shared learning to enrich your experience of the workshop and support meaningful engagement.

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ABOUT KAIROS CANADA



Through Kairos, ordinary Canadians work together for extraordinary change. We are Indigenous, settlers and newcomers in Canada working with people of faith or conscience all over the world for ecological justice and human rights. Kairos' work is organized around three interconnected priorities that together advance reconciliation, systemic change, and collective power.

INTRODUCTION

A just transition away from fossil fuels is essential for sustaining life on Earth and nurturing the flourishing of all Creation. As the climate crisis deepens, we are called not only to move beyond fossil fuel dependence, but to do so in ways that uphold justice, dignity, and the well-being of communities and ecosystems.

Grounded in the vision of an economy of life, we affirm an economy that serves the fullness of life for all—prioritizing people and planet over profit, advancing ecological justice, and restoring right relationships among people and the whole of Creation.

Across Canada and around the world, seeds of this vision are already being planted and nurtured. These emerging alternatives invite both deeper cultivation and wider growth. This dialogue guide is an invitation to join that work by sparking conversations in your community. It offers support for imagining—and helping to build—the courageous, life-giving alternatives needed to create a more just, equitable, and sustainable future.



For the authors of this guide, both our analysis of the current ecological crisis and our vision of a transformed future are rooted in our Christian faith. Throughout the Judeo-Christian tradition, scripture and theology have affirmed an interconnected, interdependent relationship with Creation.¹

As Christians and concerned citizens, we are called towards the fullness of life and life for all. We find hope and inspiration in the God of Faithfulness, whose covenant with the Earth, symbolized by the rainbow, endures. Kairos Canada invites both reflection and action, pastoral and prophetic, as we seek to imagine and work toward a future in which all of God's Creation can flourish.

In envisioning an ecologically just future, Kairos seeks to learn from the wisdom embedded in faith traditions, Indigenous teachings, and women's experiences and movements around the world. Rooted in the ecumenical movement that gave rise to Kairos, we affirm that Creation has inherent worth; that all life shares in God's covenant; that our treatment of people who are poor and vulnerable, as well as the Earth itself, reflects our faithfulness to God; that God calls us to live with mercy, compassion, and mutual respect; and that, through Christ, God invites us to participate in healing, restoration, and transformation.

We also believe that churches and people of conscience in Canada have a vital role to play in envisioning and enacting a different energy future. As communities of theological reflection and public witness, we can help foster new understandings of humanity's place within an interdependent Creation and contribute our convictions, creativity, and collective action to advancing a just and sustainable energy transition.

¹ For a fuller discussion of Christian traditions see *Re-Energizing the Future: Faith and Justice in a Post-Petroleum World*, Kairos Canada, 2007: <https://kairoscanada.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/SUS-07-ReEnergizingTheFuture.pdf>

ORIGIN OF THE DIALOGUES

As conversations about a just transition were becoming increasingly polarized in Canada, Kairos recognized a unique opportunity to help move beyond division by creating space for constructive dialogue. In 2024, Kairos convened intergenerational community dialogues on energy transition, bringing people together to listen, reflect, and imagine bold, practical, and equitable futures. Participants emphasized the value of collective visioning, the need to include more diverse voices in these conversations, and the importance of ongoing dialogue. Across the gatherings, a shared commitment emerged to pursuing holistic approaches that support workers, uphold Indigenous rights and sovereignty, and strengthen communities through the transition.

Kairos hopes that further dialogue can help to counter the fear, uncertainty and individualism that delay progress towards collective well-being.

The dialogues and this guide were inspired by organizations and movements that foster deeper public dialogue and relationship-building, including the deep canvassing work of [Neighbours United](#), [ClimateFast's Kitchen Table Conversations](#), and [For the Love of Creation's Faithful Climate Conversations](#) initiative.

With generous support from community partners, Kairos convened three in-person dialogues in Saskatoon, Edmonton, and Sydney as part of its *Strengthening Voices for a Just Transition* project. Each reflected the realities, histories, and hopes of its community. While transition is deeply place-based and communities are at different stages of readiness, participants across all three dialogues expressed a desire to move beyond polarization and engage more honestly and imaginatively with the future.

PARTNERSHIP AND OUTREACH

If you are ready to host or support a dialogue in your community, the first step is to identify partners who can help bring it to life. Dialogues are most effective when led by a team. At a minimum, consider having both a host and a facilitator: the host can coordinate logistics and create a welcoming environment, while the facilitator guides the conversation and ensures every voice is heard. A larger leadership team can bring additional skills, perspectives, and community connections.

You may choose to hold a dialogue within your own congregation or group, or partner with neighbouring churches, labour organizations, environmental groups, Indigenous communities, educational institutions, or other community organizations. Building partnerships can broaden participation and strengthen the conversation by connecting people with different experiences and expertise.

A just transition seeks both a more sustainable future and fair, equitable ways of getting there.

In addition to people of different ages, backgrounds, and educational experiences, consider inviting workers, union representatives, employers, community leaders, youth, and others directly affected by economic and environmental change.

In the *Strengthening Voices for a Just Transition* project, Kairos and its partners intentionally sought to bring together a diversity of voices, including Indigenous peoples and participants from a range of professions, generations, and urban and rural communities. While we did not always achieve the breadth of representation we hoped for, the people who chose to participate brought valuable lived experiences, insights, and commitments to the conversation. Their willingness to engage deeply with one another created rich and meaningful dialogue. The strength of these conversations came not only from who was in the room, but from the openness, curiosity, and care participants brought to exploring transition together.

SETTING UP FOR DIALOGUE

Location and accessibility

Choose a location that can accommodate tables and chairs appropriate to the size of your group. The dialogue works best when participants can sit in small groups around a table to complete handouts. Consider if the space is welcoming and accessible, so participants feel comfortable expressing their thoughts, feelings, and experiences without fear of judgement. Ensure the space meets accessibility needs (mobility, washrooms, lighting, noise levels, etc.)

Group size

Aim for a group size that allows for meaningful participation while still fostering diverse perspectives. Ideally, participants should be divided into small groups of 4-6 people per table to encourage conversation and engagement.

Timing

The dialogue requires a total of at least 5-6 hours but can be tailored to shorter timeframe. You can choose to do a full-day dialogue or spread out the components over four sessions. If you cannot commit to a full-day or multi-day session, priority should be given to the Values for a Just Transition exercise and the Imagined Futures exercise.

Option 1 (Full-Day)*

- Introductions and Land Acknowledgement
- Indigenous Opening
- Ethical/Theological Opening/Prayer
- Community Speakers/Climate Story Exercise
- Values for a Just Transition
- Lunch
- Imagined Futures Exercise
- Closing

Option 2 (4-part series: 90-min to 2 hours)*

Each time you meet, start with a land acknowledgement, briefly check in on community agreements, and create an intentional closing.

- **Part 1:** Introductions and Overview/Community Speaker or Climate Story Exercise
- **Part 2:** Values for a Just Transition
- **Part 3:** Imagined Futures: context map and story board
- **Part 4:** Community Speaker/Where do we go from here

*A timed [sample agenda for each option](#) is available in the Appendices.

Territorial acknowledgment

Begin the dialogue with a simple word of welcome and offer a land acknowledgement appropriate for your area, researching local treaties, people groups, watersheds and landmarks as necessary. This is an opportunity to acknowledge displaced Black, People of Colour and immigrant communities as well as Indigenous peoples. If you are new to the practice of land acknowledgements, start here for a description: www.kairoscanada.org/territorial-acknowledgment.

Community Agreements

Take a few moments to establish community agreements that participants will uphold as a group throughout the dialogue. These agreements are a shared framework for how participants will work together to create a respectful, supportive, and safer space for dialogue.

Leave the community agreements in a visible place throughout the day so they can be referenced as needed. For a full-day or multi-session event, take a moment to check in on the agreements after lunch or at the start of each session.

Start by proposing a few common agreements and then invite participants to add others that are relevant and meaningful.

As participants share, repeat back what you heard and confirm that the facilitator's notes capture the participants' intent.

A few ideas for community agreements:

- Take care of yourself and one another. Attend to your own needs and be mindful of the shared space.
- Aim for active listening and engage with curiosity and respect.
- Make space for respectful disagreement. Challenge ideas, not people.
- Be mindful of the space you take up. If you tend to speak often, make room for others; if you tend to be quieter, consider sharing your voice.
- What is said here stays here; what is learned here leaves.

VALUES FOR A JUST TRANSITION



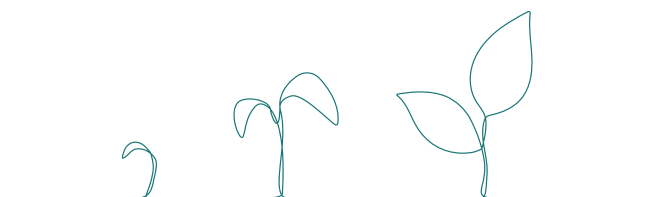
Elder Albert Marshall (right) and Dr. Terry Gibbs, Cape Breton University at the Community Dialogue on Sustainable Futures in Unama'ki-Cape Breton in November 2024

The experience of the *Strengthening Voices for a Just Transition* dialogues underscores that when participants begin by naming and grounding themselves in their values, the quality of the conversation changes. Discussions become less about competing interests and more about discerning what a good and just future requires of all of us. Participants consistently emphasized the importance of relationships, trust-building, and creating courageous spaces where diverse perspectives—including Indigenous knowledge and lived experience—are respected and centered.

In Unama'ki/Cape Breton, the principle of “two-eyed seeing” shared by Elder Albert Marshall invited participants to hold together Indigenous and Western ways of knowing in envisioning sustainable futures.

In Edmonton and Saskatoon, gathering in Treaty 6 Territory reinforced the importance of grounding dialogue in place, experience and relationship.

Building on these insights, the following exercise invites participants to intentionally pause and connect with what matters most to them before moving into deeper discussion. By beginning with reflection on values, emotions, and lived experiences, the activity helps create the kind of grounded, relational space that made the dialogues so meaningful.



VALUES FOR A JUST TRANSITION EXERCISE

Time: 45 minutes

Materials: Flipchart paper, markers, dot stickers, individual paper and pens; a way to display question sets

Purpose

This exercise creates space for participants to move beyond political rhetoric, polarization and headlines to reflect on their personal feelings, concerns and hopes related to climate change and the future of their community.

By centering emotions, lived experience and shared values, participants can begin identifying common ground and building a collective understanding of what matters most in shaping a just and caring response to the challenges ahead.

Instructions

This exercise works best with little introduction. Participants need only a willingness to reflect honestly on their experiences, concerns and hopes. You may choose to say something like:

In this next session, we are going to reflect, listen to each other and share in small groups. I want each of you to begin to articulate a few things about what matters to you – what are you feeling, what are concerned about and to share those reflections at your table.

Part 1: Personal Reflection (10 minutes)

For each set of questions in this guide, write the questions on flipchart paper in advance or display them where everyone can see them:

- What are your feelings about climate change and the changes needed to address it?
- What concerns you most about the future of this community? Our world?

Invite participants to spend about five minutes quietly writing down their own reflections, observations and feelings.

After individual reflection, invite participants to share at their tables for approximately five minutes. Ask each table to choose someone to record common themes, concerns or reflections on flipchart paper.

Part 2: Values Reflection (10 minutes)

Introduce the second set of questions:

- What matters most to you in addressing these concerns?
- What values or ideals do you want centered in society's response to these challenges?

Again, invite participants to spend about five minutes reflecting and writing individually.

Then, invite participants to share their reflections at their tables for another five minutes, recording recurring themes and values on flipchart paper.

Part 3: Full Group Harvest (15–20 minutes)

Bring the group back together and invite each table to share highlights, recurring themes or important insights from their conversations.

As participants share, record key words, values, observations and common concerns on blank flipchart paper or a board visible to the whole group.

Encourage participants to notice:

- Shared hopes and concerns across differences
- Common values emerging from the discussion
- Ideas that point toward collective action or deeper dialogue

This discussion can help establish a foundation of trust, empathy and shared purpose for the rest of the dialogue process.

At the Edmonton/Treaty 6 dialogue, a young adult participant remarked that simply seeing so many people in the room who shared concerns about the future reminded them they were not alone. Others expressed appreciation for learning about the different ways people were contributing to a just transition, from community organizing to faith-based advocacy and policy work. The conversation created new connections and a sense of encouragement that participants could carry back into their own work.

IMAGINATIVE FUTURES OF JUST TRANSFORMATION

If approached with care and courage, climate change and the transition away from fossil fuel dependence can open up profound opportunities for societal transformation.

Sociologist and cultural theorist Stuart Hall once said that “people have to have a language to speak about where they are and what other possible futures are available to them.” Part of the work of just transition is strengthening that language together — creating space to imagine futures rooted in justice, sustainability and collective wellbeing.

As part of the *Strengthening Voices for a Just Transition* project, community dialogues explored what possibilities might emerge from the experiences, wisdom and energy present within each community. To do this, Kairos explored the application of “Imagined Futures” work. Imagined Futures refers to practices and processes that help people collectively envision the kind of future they want to create and then use those shared visions to guide action in the present.

The exercises were adapted from the Imagined Futures toolkit developed by Anna Verhoeven. The toolkit draws on methods used in design education to help students strengthen their capacity for imagination and systems thinking.²



² Kairos drew inspiration from Julia Sterling’s application of Imagined Futures work in her research for Carleton University titled *The Climate Virus: Garnering Lessons from COVID-19 Towards Urgent Climate Action in Canada*: <https://carleton.scholaris.ca/items/306f8a35-6aeb-4566-9c3a-5ad571431555>

IMAGINED FUTURES EXERCISE

Time: 90 minutes

Materials: a Context Map and a Storyboard handout (See Appendices) for each participant, pens and pencils, facilitator notes, markers or coloured pencils (optional)

Instructions:

Share the following with participants:

Today, we are going to strengthen our imaginations by working through two exercises drawn from Imagined Futures practice. These exercises are designed to help us explore multiple possible futures in a way that we hope feels creative rather than overwhelming.

Before we begin, has anyone here participated in Imagined Futures work before?

These activities are meant to support you in thinking about the future with openness and curiosity, without getting overwhelmed by the scale of the challenges ahead.

Our goal is to imagine an ideal future. What might society look like if the values and hopes we hold were fully realized? What would change? What would feel different? This is no easy task. Many of us are concerned about the challenges in the present and work to build solutions and alternatives to the status quo. We're going to step outside of current challenges for a moment. It is a privilege for us to do so.

As you imagine alternative futures today, try not to limit your thinking with concerns about finances, government policy, or other barriers. Let your imagination be expansive. At the same time, we are not dismissing the very real challenges we face today. Rather, we are creating space to envision where we want to go—because we can't move toward a future we can't first imagine.

There is also a responsibility in this work: to carry forward what we dream and imagine here, and to begin taking steps—however small—toward those possibilities.

PART 1: Context Map

Distribute a copy of the Context Map Handout to each participant.

This first exercise is to get you thinking about what exactly you want to focus on. The future can feel vast and full of possibilities—this exercise will help you determine the who, what, and where you want to explore.

Instructions:

Choose a time and place. In the center circle, write a specific time and location (for example: Edmonton, 2075).

Imagine the people: Think about who lives there: What do they value (e.g, family, work, community, the land)? What kinds of homes do they live in? What do their daily lives look like? Record your ideas in the “People” section.

Consider technology and infrastructure. Think about what systems and tools are part of everyday life: What is present in homes and workplaces? How do people travel or commute? What do stores and public places look like? Write your ideas in “Technology/Infrastructure”

Explore social relationships and society. Think about how people connect and interact: How do people communicate with each other? Where and when do conversation and decision-making happen? What do social networks or communities look like? Capture these ideas in the “Society” section.

Give participants 10 minutes to reflect and write down their ideas. Then proceed with the final instruction:

Identify what matters most: Review what you’ve written and choose 2-3 ideas from each category. Consider how these ideas might connect or influence one another—we’ll build on these connections in the next exercise.

Have 2-3 participants share some of their ideas and what emerged for them while doing the exercise. Take another 5-10 to hear back from participants.

Participants in the Strengthening Voices for a Just Transition dialogue imagined many different futures, but common themes emerged across all the visions. These futures were grounded in strong community connections, intergenerational care, and deep relationships with place and land.

Participants envisioned accessible housing, clean transportation, renewable energy, thriving local food systems, and technologies designed to support people and communities. Yet what stood out most was that these futures were shaped less by energy systems and technology than by relationships—between neighbours, generations, communities, and the natural world. Across the visions, equity, inclusion, shared prosperity, democratic participation, and ecological stewardship were seen as essential foundations for collective wellbeing and a just transition.

Here are a few quotes from those visions:

2074: “Earth-centric technologies” with “people who value relationships with place and community”

2075: “There are people living in community full of joy and connection”

2124: “Technology has reached unfathomable levels, but society has turned to nurture primitive technologies understanding their role in prosperity, leaving behind the idea of a virtual identity and honouring their role in the natural world”

PART 2: Write a Story

Distribute a copy of the Storyboard Handout (See Appendices) to each participant.

It's time to shift into story-writing mode. The next exercise invites us to design a narrative. It helps us turn some emerging ideas from our context map into a narrative that you can easily share and discuss with others.

It might be helpful for you to think about it as creating a story for future generations – a story for our grandchildren about what got us here, where we're going, and most importantly how we're going to get there.

Instructions:

1. **Choose an outcome:** In the top-right circle, enter the year and place from your context map. Review your context map and identify an outcome that captures your interest. It could be a new way of working, a policy change, a community initiative, a program that supports people differently, or another distinct piece.
2. **Create a character:** Imagine a person who experiences this outcome in their daily life. In the left-hand box, describe this person. Include:
 - a. Age and other relevant demographic details
 - b. Occupation or role in the community
 - c. Interests, values, likes and dislikes
 - d. Any other details that help bring them to life
3. **Imagine a day in their life:** Using the year and location from your context map, tell the story of a typical day for this person. Create a series of scenes that show how they experience this future. As you write, consider:
 - a. What do they see, hear, smell and feel?
 - b. Who do they interact with?
 - c. What opportunities or challenges do they encounter?
 - d. How is their life different from today?
4. **Storyboard your narrative:** Write a brief description of each scene before drawing it in the corresponding box. If you need additional scenes, use the back of the page.

Give participants 15-20 minutes to work on their storyboard and then proceed to the next step.

Reflect on your story: Review the scenes you created and discuss them with a partner:

- Which scene feels most important to the story?
- Which aspects of this future feel positive or desirable?
- Which aspects raise concerns or questions?
- What does this story reveal about the path to this future?

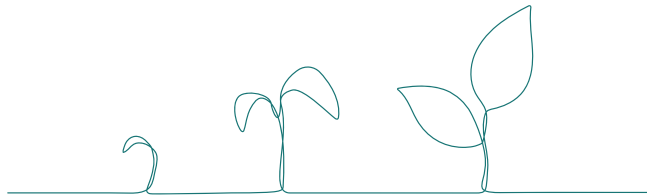
Imagined Futures Reflection

Bring the full group together and share these discussion questions. Have participants share popcorn style, inviting them to answer any of the following questions:

- How did this exercise stretch or expand your imagination?
- What knowledge, skills, or resources would be needed to help realize this future?
- What surprised you during this exercise?
- What new insights or possibilities emerged for you?

In the *Strengthening Voices for a Just Transition* dialogues, one participant shared that imagining a preferred future made them realize that it may be closer than they had thought—“the imaginary depiction of my ideal future is not that far off of the actual reality.” Others found that creating a storyboard helped surface what they already value and want to protect in their lives and communities today. Participants also reflected that the storyboarding activity helped “connect the dots from a seed of an idea to how we actually get somewhere different in the future,” making the pathway between vision and action more visible and tangible.

The process also highlighted the power of storytelling: imagining a child’s vibrant future, for example, evoked feelings of hope and possibility, while also reminding us that storytelling is a skill we can continue to practice and strengthen together.



STRENGTHENING OUR VOICES

The second part of the *Strengthening Voices for a Just Transition* program invited a few youth from each community into a learning cohort. The cohort met online over eight weeks learning and preparing for just transition advocacy in their own community. A central focus of this work was on communication — recognizing that meaningful change depends not only on good ideas, but on our ability to speak about them in ways that connect, invite, and inspire.

Each participant prepared a Climate Story as homework and then read them aloud for the group. Hearing those stories was one of the most meaningful aspects of the program and pieces of them ring in our memories to this day.

CLIMATE STORY EXERCISE

Time: 20–30 minutes for writing and reflection, with additional time for optional sharing.

This exercise can be extended for deeper reflection or to develop a more complete narrative. It can also be done as a journaling exercise at home between sessions.

Materials: a [Climate Story Handout](#) (see Appendices) for each participant or a way to share the questions, paper and pens

Purpose

Everyone has a climate story. You do not need to be an expert to speak about climate change. You simply need to care about the place you call home and reflect on the changes you have seen or heard about.

Personal stories can build understanding in ways that facts alone cannot. They connect climate change to lived experience, deepen empathy, build connection, and invite others into meaningful action. They can help us speak with others—friends, neighbours, community leaders, and elected officials—who are often moved by stories grounded in real lives and communities.

Personal stories are powerful. Reflecting on and sharing them helps us make sense of change. This exercise creates space to reflect on how climate change is shaping your community, your values, and your hopes for the future.

Instructions

Invite participants to reflect on their own climate story. This can be written in any format that feels meaningful — story, letter, poem or journal entry.

Offer a suggested length of 500–800 words or about 5 minutes if read aloud. These are flexible guidelines.

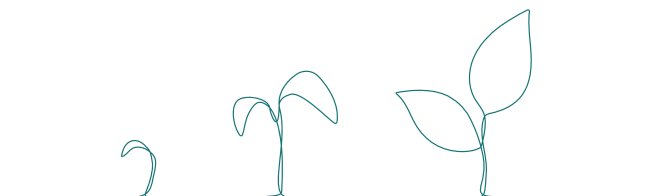
Sharing is optional. Participants may keep their story private or share all or part of it with a partner or the group.

Use the following prompts, repeated on the Handout to guide reflection:

- Describe a memory that reflects your connection to the place you call home.
- What changes have you noticed in this place? What have you heard others speak about (i.e., family, Elders, neighbours, etc.)?
- What feelings arise when you think about these changes and the future?
- How do you hope society will respond to these changes? What role might you play?
- What brings you hope? Are there local initiatives that inspire you?

Facilitator Notes

- Emphasize that there are no right or perfect stories.
- Emphasize honesty and lived experience over expertise.
- If sharing, uphold clear community agreements around respect and confidentiality.
- For an example of a climate story, you can watch the program's wrap up online forum where a story was shared. See the recording here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=atclrWuLZy8&t=2s> (story begins around 07:50)



LOOKING FORWARD

Time: 20-30 minutes

Materials: Flipchart or whiteboard, markers, sticky notes

Purpose

This final section invites participants to gather what has emerged throughout the dialogue and consider how to carry it forward. It helps translate shared values, imagined futures, and personal stories into next steps—whether individual, collective, or ongoing.

Instructions

Bring participants together for a closing conversation. You may wish to begin with a brief moment of pause or reflection before inviting discussion.

Invite participants to reflect on the day as a whole and share in the large group:

- What is one insight, idea, or feeling you are taking away from this dialogue?
- What felt meaningful or important in the conversations?
- What gives you hope as you look ahead?

Record key words or themes where everyone can see them. Alternatively, ask participants to write their response on sticky notes and display them where everyone can come up to read them.

Shift the reflection towards action and next steps. If participants are from a shared community (e.g., a congregation, organization, or local group), invite them to consider:

- Do you want to continue this conversation? If so, how and when?
- What is one small, concrete step we could take together?
- Are there existing initiatives we could connect with or support?

If participants will be going their separate ways, invite reflection on individual engagement:

- What is one action you feel called to take in your own life or community?
- Who might you invite into a conversation about Seeding an Economy of Life?
- How might you continue learning or engaging on just transition?

Encourage participants to think of steps that are realistic and relational, rooted in the values and visions that emerged earlier. See [Additional Resources](#) in the Appendices.

Optional: Hand out an evaluation form (See [Evaluation Form](#) in the Appendices for sample)

Offer participants the option to stay in touch:

- Circulate a sign-up sheet or invite participants to share contact information.
- Highlight ways participants can host or support similar dialogues in their own communities.

Thank people for coming and, where appropriate, acknowledging the support of Elders, partners and other dialogue collaborators.

CONCLUSION

This guide is an invitation to continue the work that begins in dialogue—listening deeply, imagining boldly, and acting with care. A just transition is not a single pathway, but a shared journey shaped by our relationships, values, and commitments to one another and to the Earth. By creating space for people to share experiences, explore possibilities, and build a common understanding of the changes needed, conversations like these can help cultivate the vision, trust, and collective will required for meaningful transformation.

At the same time, dialogue alone is not enough. Turning ideas into action requires supporting and amplifying the organizations, movements, and coalitions already advancing just transition solutions across Canada and around the world. Participants are encouraged to learn from, engage with, and champion the work of groups such as Indigenous Climate Action, Climate Action Network–Canada, Blue Green Canada, and the Green Economy Network, among many others. These organizations are helping to shape the policies, advocacy efforts, and community-led initiatives needed to ensure the transition to a low-carbon economy is equitable, inclusive, and rooted in justice.

As you gather in your communities, may these conversations nurture courage, creativity, and connection, helping to seed an economy of life rooted in justice, dignity, and right relationship for all. As marine biologist, climate policy expert, and writer Dr. Ayana Elizabeth Johnson reminds us, “there are innumerable possible futures,” and we each have a role in shaping which one unfolds. Grounded in that hope, may we carry forward what we can imagine together, trusting that even small actions matter, and that building the future we long for begins now—in community, through collective action, and in solidarity with those already working to bring a just transition to life.

APPENDICES

Sample Agenda: Full Day

8:45	Arrival and Check-in
9:00	Welcome
9:30	Introductions and Community Agreements
9:45	Community Speakers or Climate Story Exercise
10:45	Break
11:00	Values for a Just Transition (45 minutes)
12:00	Lunch
1:00	Imagined Futures Exercise (90 minutes)
2:30	Looking Forward
3:30	Closing and Evaluations

Sample Agenda: 4-part series

Schedule 4 sessions of at least 90 minutes. Each time you meet, start with a land acknowledgement, briefly check in on community agreements, and create an intentional closing. Here is a suggested breakdown for each session (see [Setting up for Dialogue on page 8](#) for more information):

Part 1: Introductions and Overview/Community Speaker or Climate Story Exercise

Part 2: Values for a Just Transition

Part 3: Imagined Futures: context map and story board

Part 4: Community Speaker/Where do we go from here

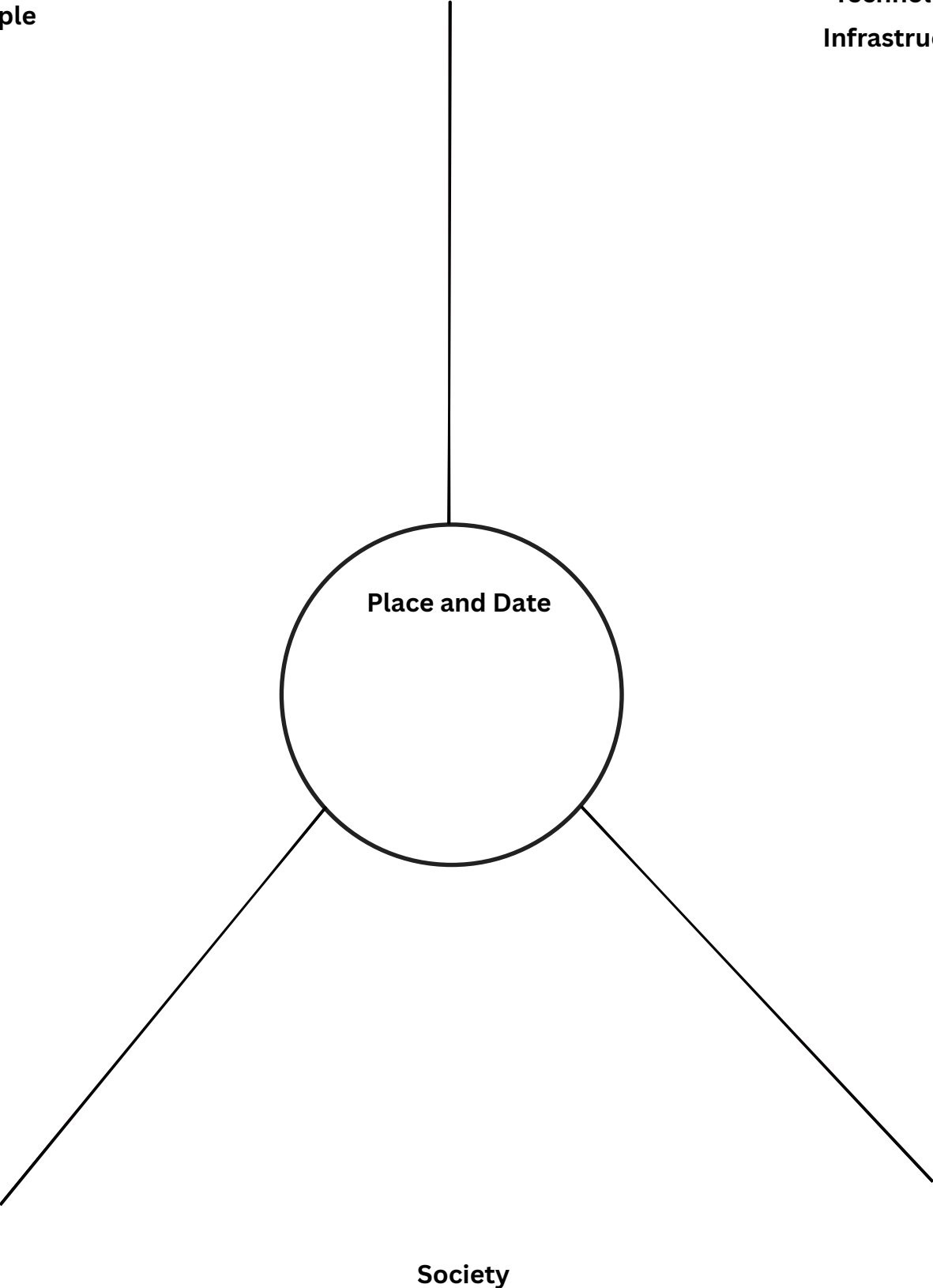
Session Timing:

6:45	Arrival and Check in
7:00	Land Acknowledgement and Opening Prayer
7:10	Content Pieces
8:20	Coming Together and Looking Forward
8:30	Finish

Context Map Handout

People

**Technology/
Infrastructure**

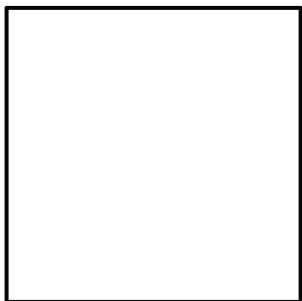
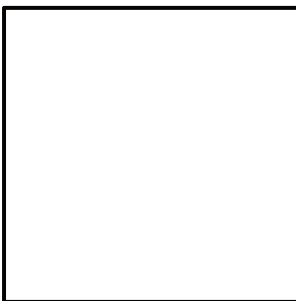
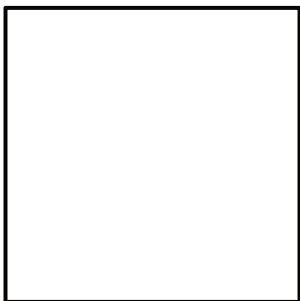
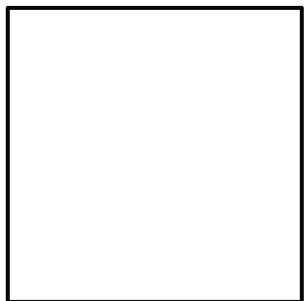
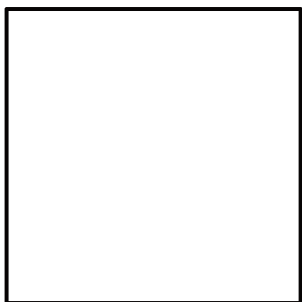
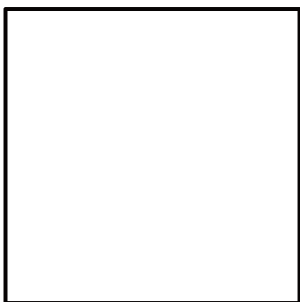
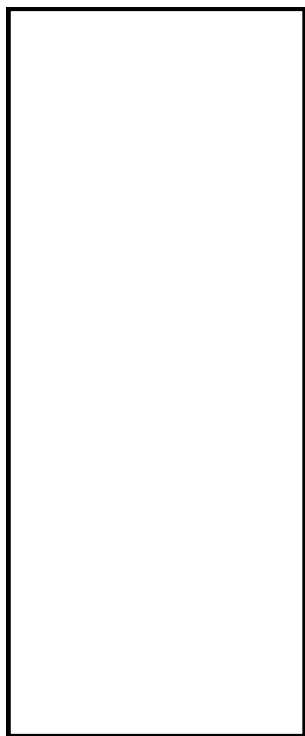
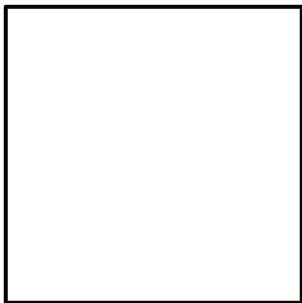
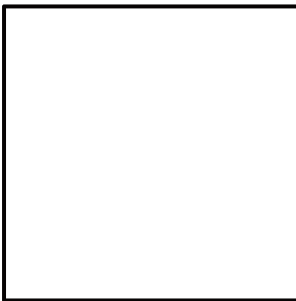
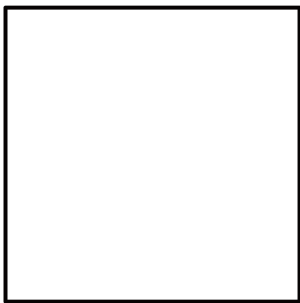
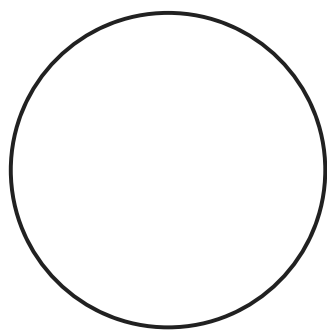


A diagram for a Context Map Handout. It features a central circle with the text "Place and Date" inside. Three lines radiate from the circle: one vertically upwards, one diagonally down and to the left, and one diagonally down and to the right. These lines connect to the labels "Technology/ Infrastructure", "People", and "Society" respectively. The label "People" is positioned to the left of the circle, "Technology/ Infrastructure" is to the right, and "Society" is below the circle.

Place and Date

Society

Storyboard Handout



Climate Story Handout

Describe a memory that reflects your connection to the place you call home.

What changes have you noticed in this place? What have you heard others speak about (i.e., family, Elders, neighbours, etc.)?

What feelings arise when you think about these changes and the future?

How do you hope society will respond to these changes? What role might you play?

What brings you hope? Are there local initiatives that inspire you?

Evaluation Form

Overall, how would you rate this event?

1	2	3	4	5
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(1 = Poor; 5 = Excellent)

Which aspects of the dialogue did you find most interesting or useful?

How could the dialogue process and exercises be improved?

Would you recommend this dialogue process to other communities? Why or why not?

Has the dialogue sparked any ideas of ways you might move things forward or other conversations you want to initiate?

Any other comments or suggestions?

Additional Resources

Hope, Imagination, and Visioning

- ***All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and Solutions for the Climate Crisis***, Ayana Elizabeth Johnson & Katharine K. Wilkinson (eds.)
- ***What If We Get It Right? Visions of Climate Futures***, Ayana Elizabeth Johnson
- ***Hope in the Dark***, Rebecca Solnit
- ***Not Too Late: Changing the Climate Story from Despair to Possibility***, Rebecca Solnit & Thelma Young Lutunatabua (eds.)
- [Change Narrative](#)
- [Imagined Futures Toolkit](#), Designed by Anna Verhoeven

Just Transition Policy and Systems Change

- [Just Transition Guide](#), Sacred Earth Solar and Indigenous Climate Action
- [Spending What it Takes: Transformational climate investments for long-term prosperity in Canada](#), Climate Action Network-Canada
- [Ten Policies for a Green Economy](#), Green Economy Network
- [Just Transition Frameworks](#), Climate Justice Alliance

Alternative Economies and Community-Led Solutions

- ***Outgrowing Modernity: Navigating Complexity, Complicity, and Collapse with Accountability and Compassion***, Vanessa Machado de Oliveira
- ***Enough Is Enough: Degrowth, Capitalism, and Liberation Theology*** — Matthew Bernico & Dean Dettloff
- ***Less Is More: How Degrowth Will Save the World*** — Jason Hickel
- [Mapping the Wellbeing Economies in Canada](#), Tara Campbell, David Suzuki Foundation, Maham Kaleem, David Suzuki Foundation, Naryan Wong (March 2024)

Dialogue, Facilitation, and Community Engagement Tools

- [Climate Stories Project](#)
- [Faithful Climate Conversations](#), For the Love of Creation
- [Strengthening Voices for a Just Transition – Online Forum](#), Kairos Canada
- [Transition Network International](#) - Community-led approaches to local resilience and transition