

Diversify, Decentralize, Democratize: Towards a More Just & Resilient Energy System



Kartik Amarnath
Vote Solar
kamarnath@votesolar.org

“71 percent of African Americans live in counties in violation of federal air pollution standards”

In ONE YEAR, African Americans

- Spent \$41 billion on energy
- Had 1.1% of energy sector jobs
- Accessed less than 1% of energy sector revenues

(Association of Blacks in Energy)

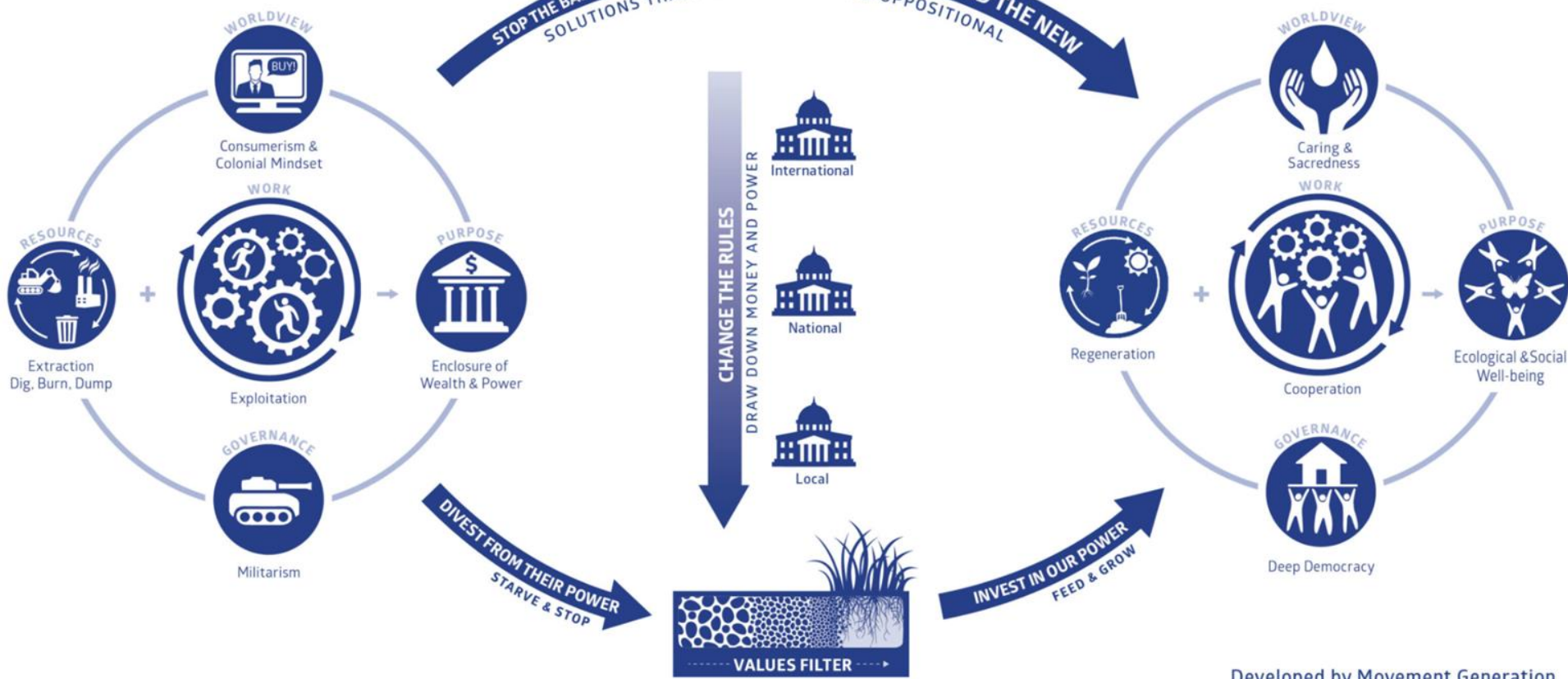
“Our findings indicate that power sector carbon mitigation policies focusing on aggregate emissions reductions have largely benefitted non-environmental justice communities and have not redressed the fundamental problem of disparities in pollutant burdens between EJ and non-EJ communities. These must be directly addressed in climate change and carbon emissions mitigation policy.”

Declat-Barreto J, Rosenberg AA (2022) Environmental justice and power plant emissions in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative states. *PLoS ONE* 17(7): e0271026. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0271026>

Towards a JUST TRANSITION

Extractive Economy

Living Economy



STOP THE BAD
SOLUTIONS THAT ARE VISIONARY AND OPPOSITIONAL

DIVEST FROM THEIR POWER
STARVE & STOP

CHANGE THE RULES
DRAW DOWN MONEY AND POWER



- A JUST TRANSITION MUST:**
- Drive racial justice and social equity
 - Shift economic control to communities
 - Democratize wealth and the workplace
 - Advance ecological restoration
 - Relocalize most production and consumption
 - Retain and restore cultures and traditions



Developed by Movement Generation
with Climate Justice Alliance

UPDATED MAY 2017

(Courtesy: Movement Generation)

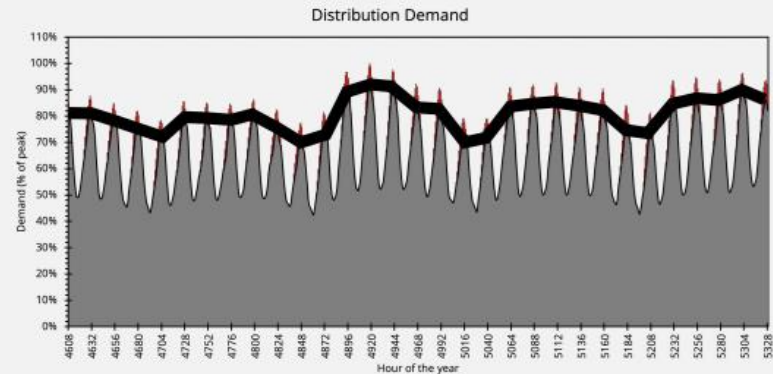
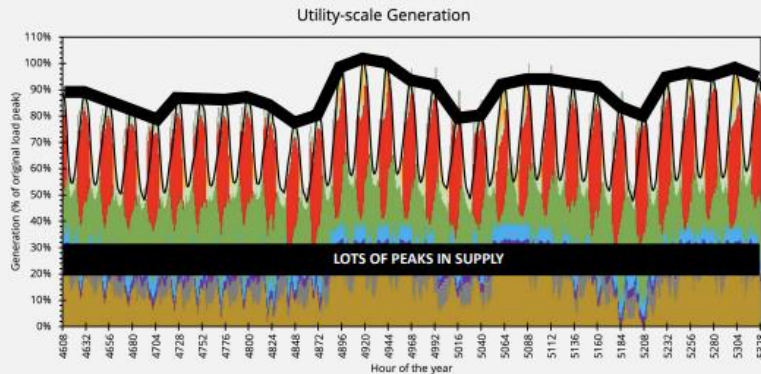
ECONOMIC AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE CAN ONLY HAPPEN LOCALLY

UTILITY-SCALE GENERATION

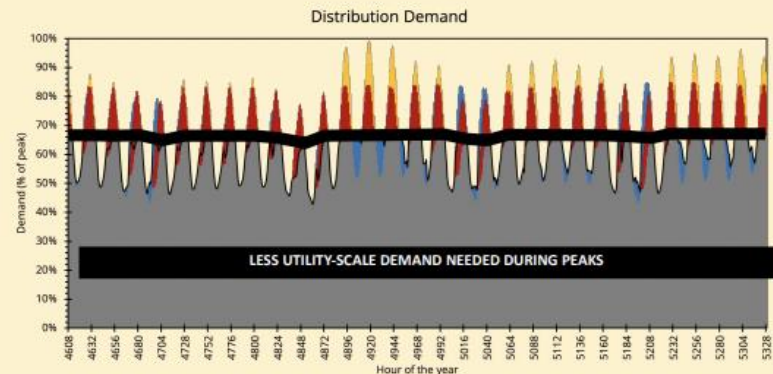
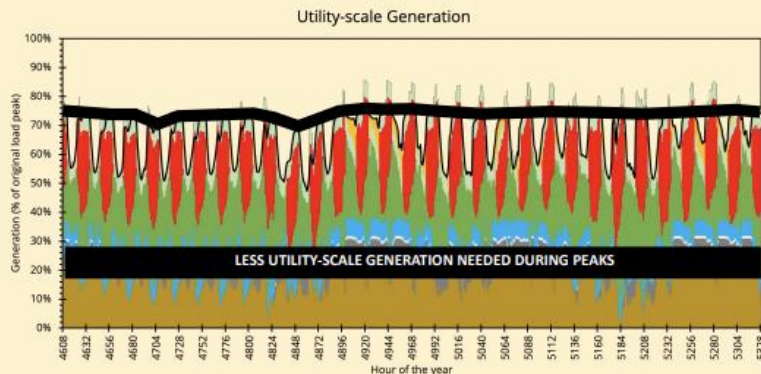


DISTRIBUTION DEMAND

BASE CASE
(summer month in sample state)



DER
(summer month in sample state)



FOLLOWING OUR OWN RULES

JUSTICE40 Initiative

NJ Energy Master Plan

A LOCAL and DISTRIBUTED energy system:

- Creates essential and local economic activity
- Provides grid resiliency
- Is the lowest cost system
- Can deliver on justice and innovation
- Meets state and national climate targets effectively, equitably, and efficiently
- Positions NJ as a national leader in equity, climate action, and clean energy