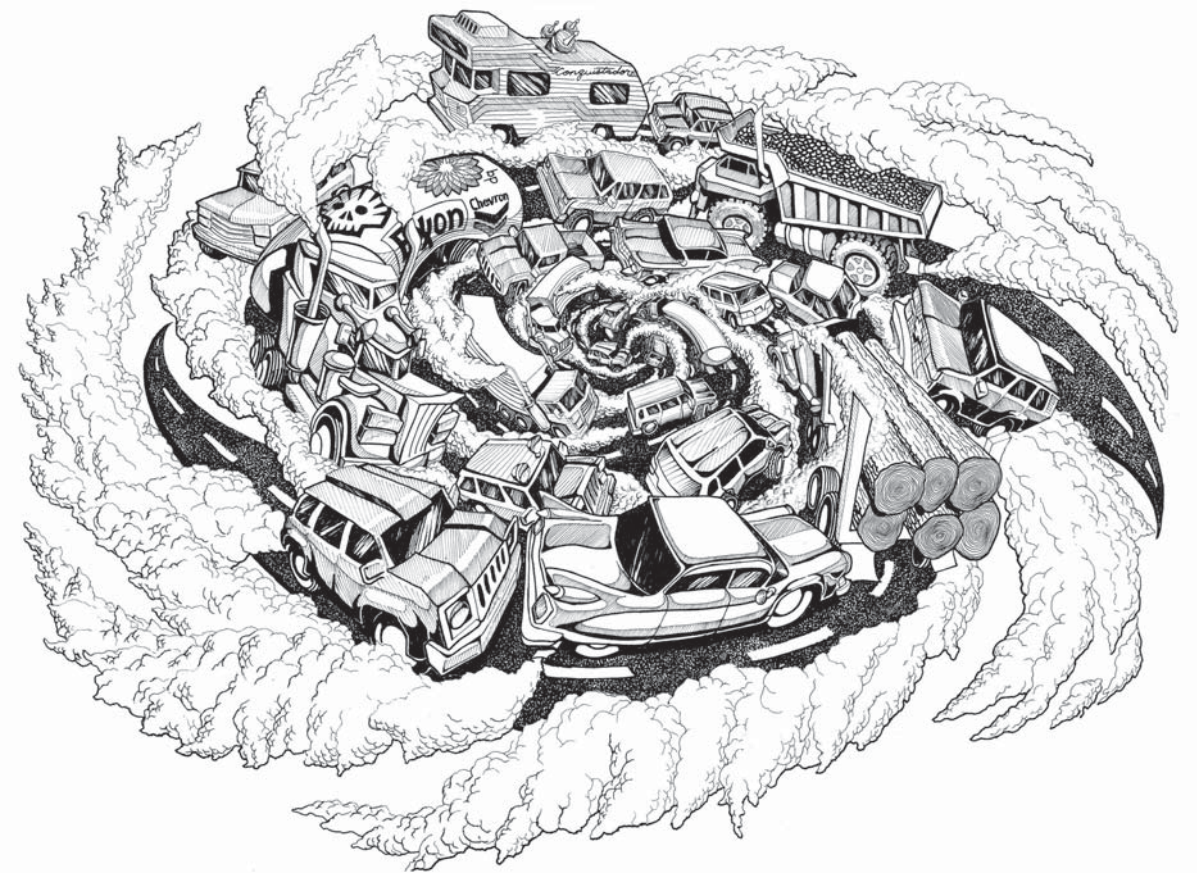
RISING TIDE NORTH AMERICA

CONFRONTING THE ROOT CAUSES OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Action Tour 2007

Resource Pack and Tour Documentation for Trainers and Facilitators



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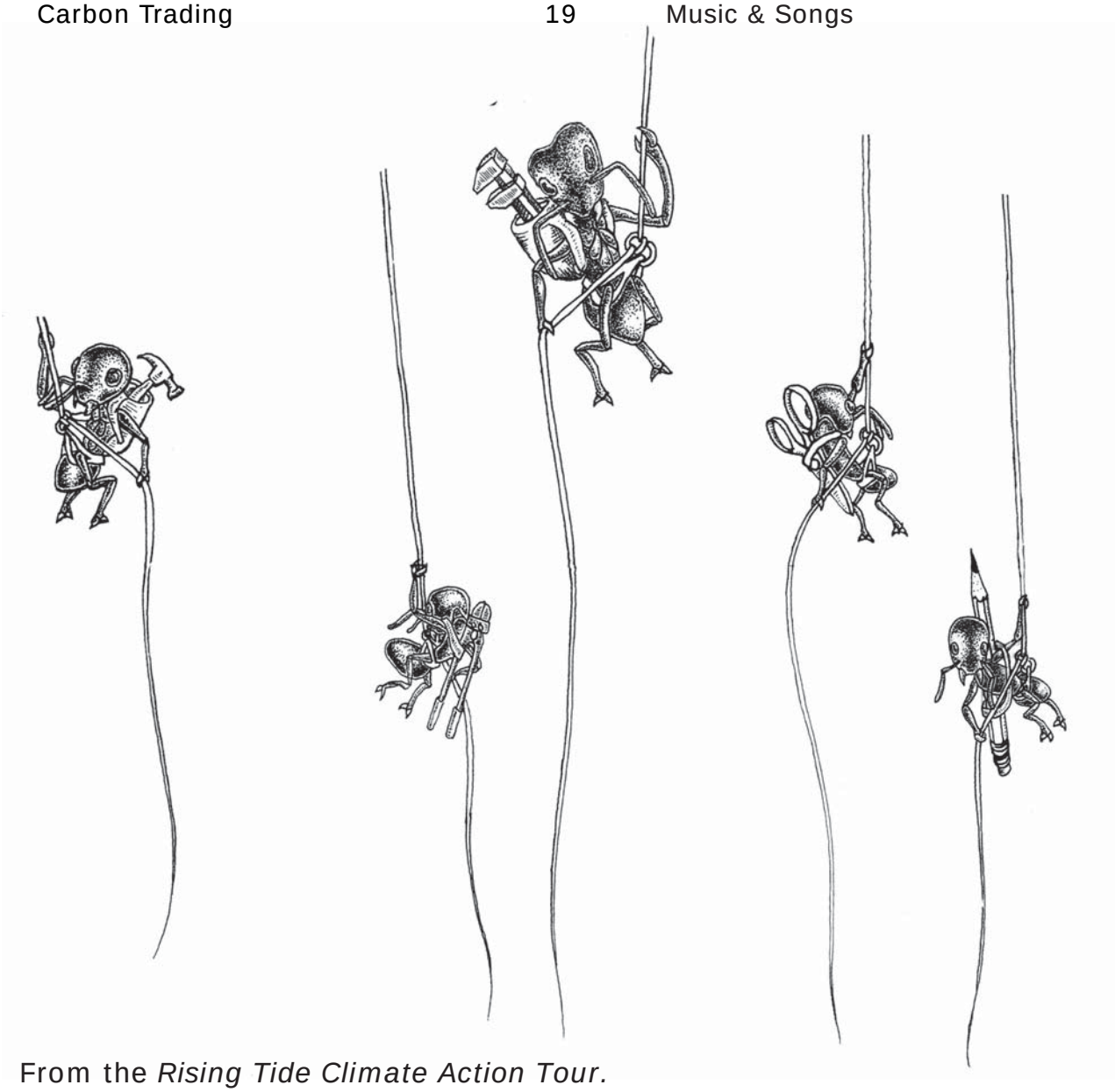
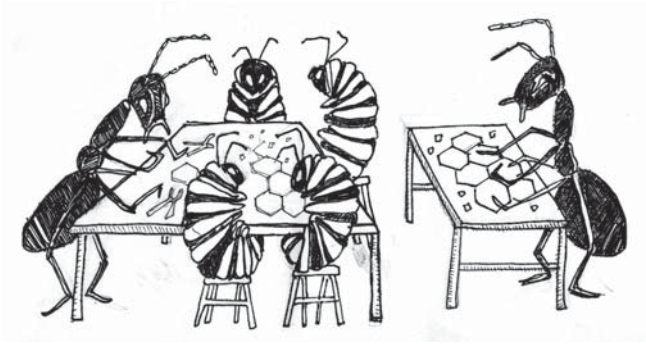


From the *Rising Tide Climate Action Tour.*
For more information or feedback please email **cookie[at]risingtide.org.uk**



In Blackburg VA, the local organizer had been very successful in drawing a large group of people who worked in many different progressive groups that are often fractured and have trouble communicating and sharing information / resources. Coming together under the broad topic of "community responses to climate change," people had much more to share with each other than anything we could have brought them.

It was especially inspiring to facilitate the discussion to be as broad as possible to connect all the work people were doing - we spent quite some time discussing prison abolition and the struggle for self-determination in Palestine, connecting prison growth to massive local mountain top coal mining and the israeli occupation to control of water resources - not your average discussion on climate change! - Julian

Climate change is happening already and affecting life all over the planet. We need to do as much as we can to stop it getting any worse, but we also need to be prepared as communities to deal with the effects of what's coming as the changes get more severe; we wont be able to rely on governments when resources become scarce.

Communities are preparing to respond to climate events and to be able provide for their own needs.. This translates to the many projects already in action and the many more in creation. Emergency disaster relief teams, health collectives, community gardens, permaculture projects, bike collectives, wind & solar projects, social events, cross community solidarity projects, skill shares and practical training.

Popular education is an integral part of this work as these projects rarely emerge from people being told that things need to happen. They emerge instead from people acting on the needs in their area and from cross-pollination of ideas from other places and cultures.

One of the most rewarding things as a popular educator is to bring together groups of people and find common interests and spark conversations and projects.

At our New York tour stop we were doing a mind mapping exercise on disaster relief. The different needs were mapped out by the group and then it was found that different folks that had never met before had skills in many of the identified areas. An email list sheet was passed around and taken away by one of the participants to organise their next meeting. A new project started!

- Soph

There is a film of a Rising Tide tour stop online, including examples of many of the exercises detailed here in action.

guelphsocialjustice.org/wiki/index.php/Rising_Tide

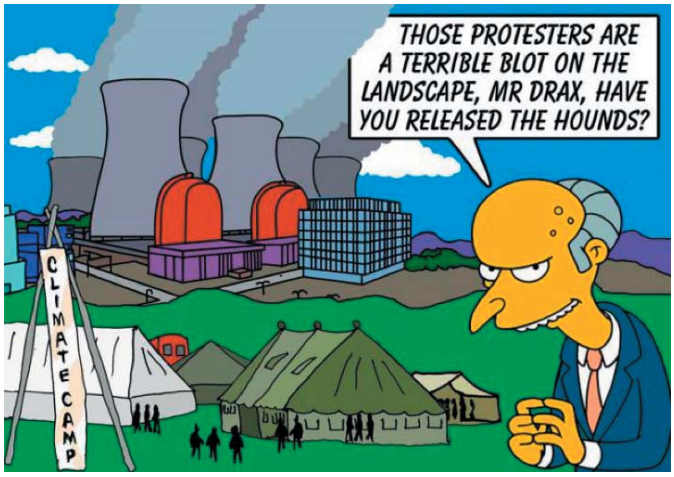
Circle fixations

"OK, I'm obsessed, I admit it. If I enter a space and there are chairs in lines the first thing I do is dive in and rearrange them, often before I even take my bag off my back..

It influences so much.. The power dynamic, inclusiveness, the attention and how involved people feel they are. Also, for me I want people who have not met, and might work together in the future to spend the whole session looking at each others faces, not just ours.

Who knows if they might bump into each other on the street sometime soon and spark of a whole new exciting project."

- soph

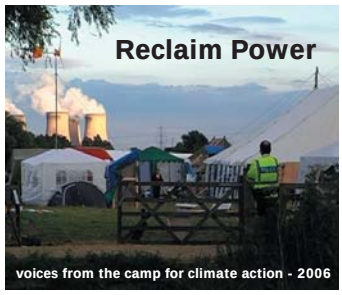


Go round

To set up these scene for the group and the fact that this is going to be a participatory event its really good to start with a 'go round' of those present, where we go around the circle getting people to introduce themselves. Depanding on group size, you can ask people what they hoped to share and gain from attending the session.

On the tour we would end the go round with longer introductions of ourselves as the facilitators, why we are part of RT and the tour and explaining the particular 'lens' we borough to the issues involved based on our experiences.

Climate Camp



A good introduction to many of the themes of the tour is the intro to the UK Climate Camp movie. A 15 min. trailer for the movie can be seen here:

http://www.climatecamp.org.uk/reclaimpowervideo.php

The UK Climate camp 06' was largely supported by the Rising Tide network in the UK, and many of the US tour facilitators attended.

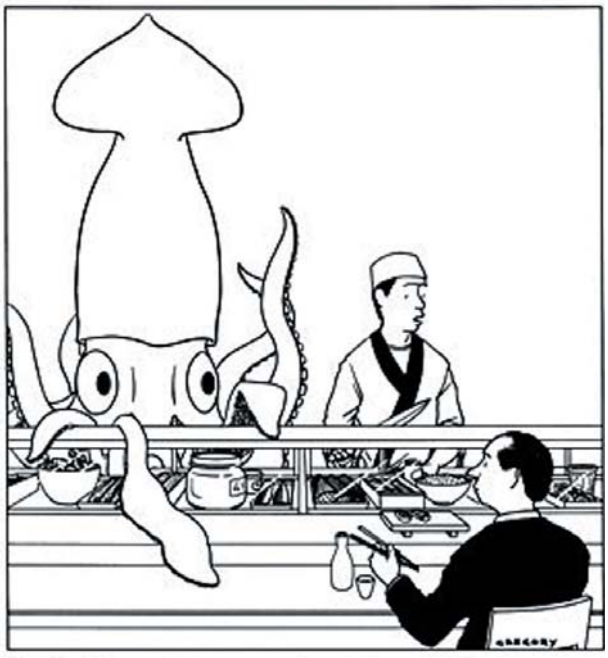
5 Game - Common Ground

5-10 Mins

This game sometimes made it in and sometimes didn't, depending on; time, the mood of the facilitators and the group we were working with.

There are some problems with the exercise, especially as it requires mobility and people being comfortable with touching other people. However it is a good ice-breaker, a way to establish some 'common ground' within the group and get an idea of the folks in the workshop.

'Common Ground' in Bloomington Indiania



"He thinks he can do more good working within the system"

Get everyone in the circle on their feet and expalin you are about to read out some statements.. if they agree with them, or it resonates with them they should take a step forward. If not they should stay where they are. Some of the statements we used are below.

Eventually most people should be in the centre of the circle.

Then get everyone to grab two hands of different people in the mass you now have squished at the centre of the room and then tell them to untangle themselves without letting go. Everyone now works together to untangle the knot. You could make some pun here about how collectively we can unravel out problems..

If a climate disaster were to hit my town I am confident that I would have the ability and resources to escape.

I can afford to eat organic foods.

I, or people I know have faced state repression for our activism.

I drive a car.

I sometimes feel alone or unsupported in my work.

I grow food at my house.

I rode my bike here.

I have a strong community I feel supported in.

Sometimes I am afraid our activism will have no impact

I think we need to work within the system.

I am excited to challenge myself by working with groups and individuals that have different perspectives and experiences from me.

We don't focus much on climate science, there are plenty of places out there who do, and are very accessible.
We'd rather leave the time and space to much of what others (like Al Gore) leave out.. the false solutions & the resistance.

However there are a few main points that are often left out of many of the things you read about climate change that we all need to know!

Tipping points, lag effects, and feedback loops, since these portray how dire and pressing the situation is and are good for motivating action.

-tipping points happen suddenly and we are rapidly approaching the point of no return

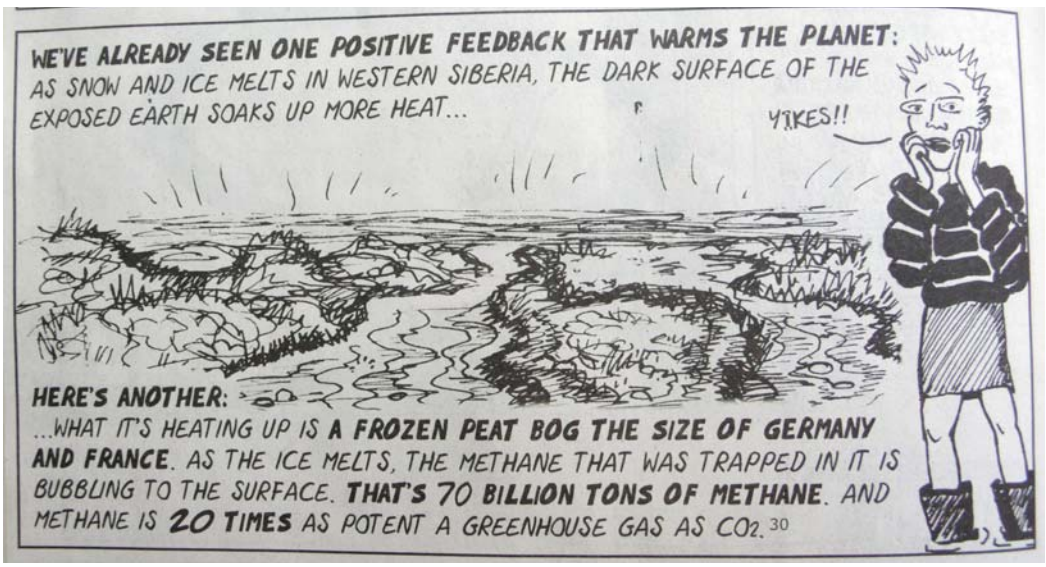
-there is a lag effect in the effect of emissions, what we are experiencing today is from emissions approx. 40 years ago (a good metaphor is that the sun is highest at noon, the day is hottest at 3, or june's summer solstice is most sunlight but august is hottest month)

-once we provide the initial prompt, feedback loops cycle on themselves and can cause runaway climate change -

hence the need to cut almost all emissions massively, TODAY!

Climate Science Links
Union of concerned scientists www.ucsusa.org
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) www.ipcc.ch

One of our favourite resources for clearly explaining much of the climate science and geopolitics if Climate Change is Kate Evan's 'Funny Weather' comic: www.funnyweather.org



5-15 Mins

I found it good to warn folk that this could be the most depressing game show ever!

I gave each card to someone in the workshop, had them read it out then put it up on the chart where it should go..

It can be more of a guessing game if you 'stack' the order so the middle ones come out first. Maybe try 2, 4, 3, 5, 1, 6

www.risingtide.org.uk
risingtidenorthamerica.org
Trapese: trapese.clearerchannel.org

From the: 'Trapese Resource pack - Educational Workshops for Climate Action'

Create a chart with 1-6 degree temperature rise shown. Have cards each with one of the predicted consequences of climate change below. Ask people at what temperature each consequence is likely to happen.

These facts were personally communicated by Mark Lynas, journalist and climate change campaigner. He is writing an extensively researched book about the what will happen at each degree temperature rise.

Some of the effects can be placed in any temperature rise (e.g. refugees – already happening!). Use this to stimulate debate!

1°C Tropical coral reefs wiped out. Deserts spread through the American mid-West.

2°C: Greenland ice sheet begins irreversible collapse, raising sea levels. Polar bears extinct. Glaciers disappear from the Andes, causing drinking water crisis in Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia.

3°C Collapse of the Amazon ecosystem, destroying half the world's biodiversity and giving a massive boost to global warming. Stronger hurricanes strike tropical coastlines around the world.

4°C Likely collapse of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet, which holds 5 metres of sea level equivalent. Net food shortage leads to global starvation.

5°C Collapse of human civilisation due to pressures from famine and water shortage. Conflicts emerge as refugees flood into habitable areas.

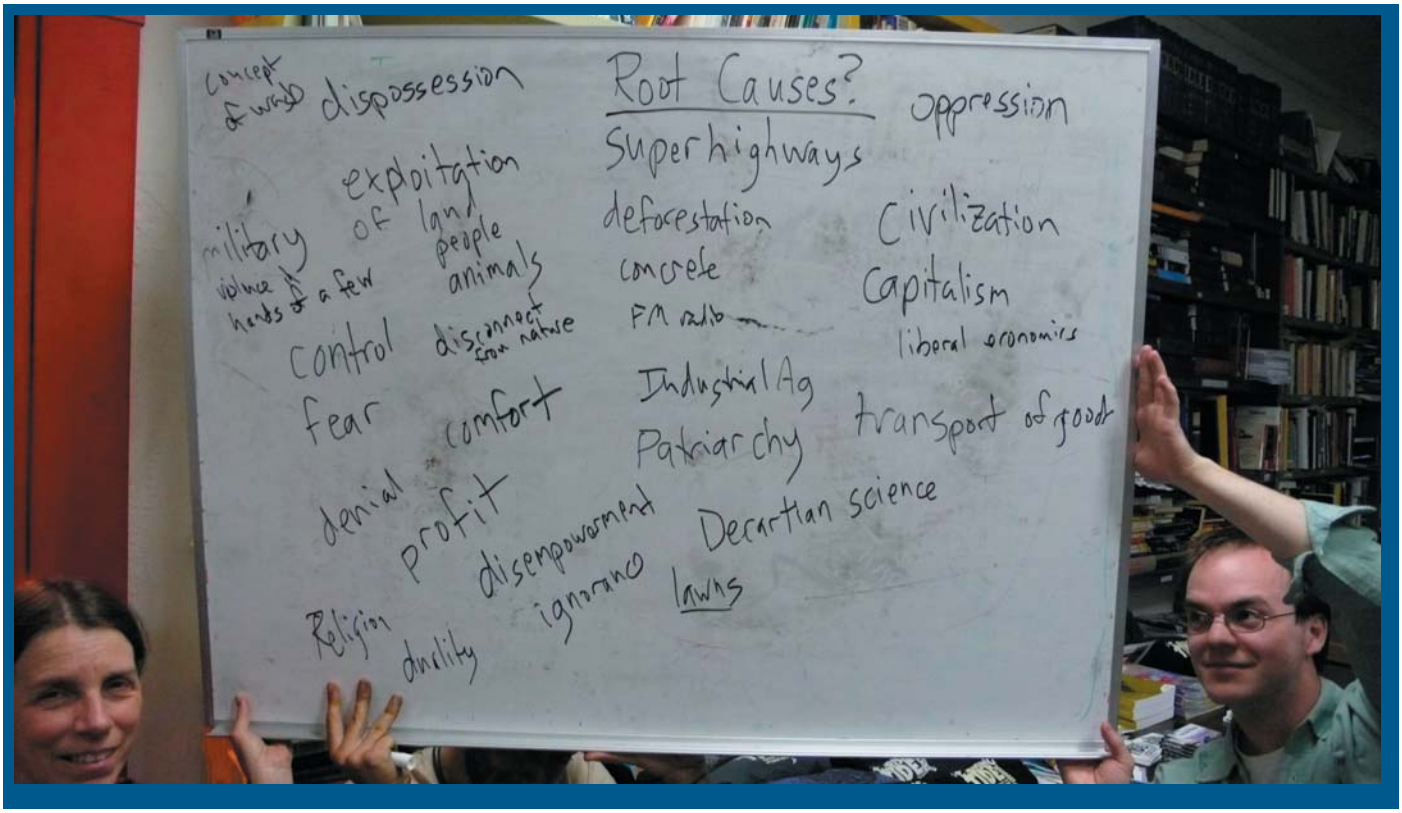
6°C Mass extinction involving nearly all life on Earth. Only a few human survivors hold on close to the poles.

Exercise - Making the links
adventures with mind mapping

15 - 30 mins

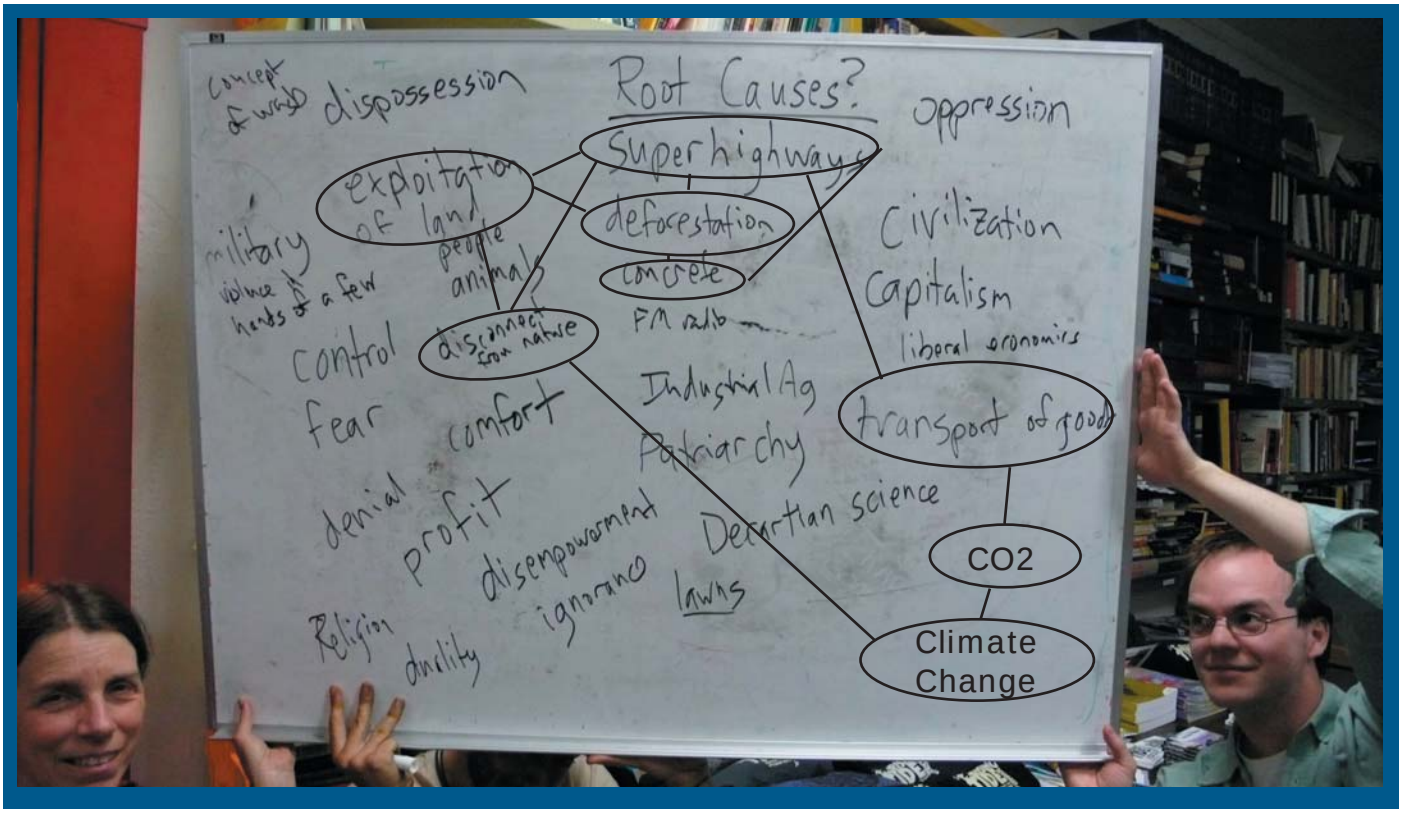
We love this exercise. It was developed along the road on the Rising Tide North America Spring Roadshow 2007. It can be stretched to be a whole workshop in itself or a major component. It is based around the idea of mind mapping. We've tried many different versions, gradually tweaking it each time. The inspiration came from many places, including the Beehive Collective (its simmilar to how they plan out their massive posters) and Trapese in Europe (links below).

Start by posing the question 'what are the root causes of climate change', pop-corn style (calling them out when ideas pop into their heads), and writing what folks says up on a whiteboard. With the 'bigger' topics we encourage people to break them down a little.



Exercise - Making the links
adventures with mind mapping

Then, as an example, take one item from the white board and make a little mind map around the subject, linking to other topics around it, adding new things if needed.



Then split everyone at the workshop up into four groups, each taking a piece of butcher paper (large paper) with a topic in the centre and a quarter circle in one corner with ‘climate change’.

Topics we use:
- Industrial agriculture
- Fossil fuel extraction
- Colonisation
- Patriarchy

Give groups about five minuets and ask them to come up with mind maps around their subject including linking it with climate change.

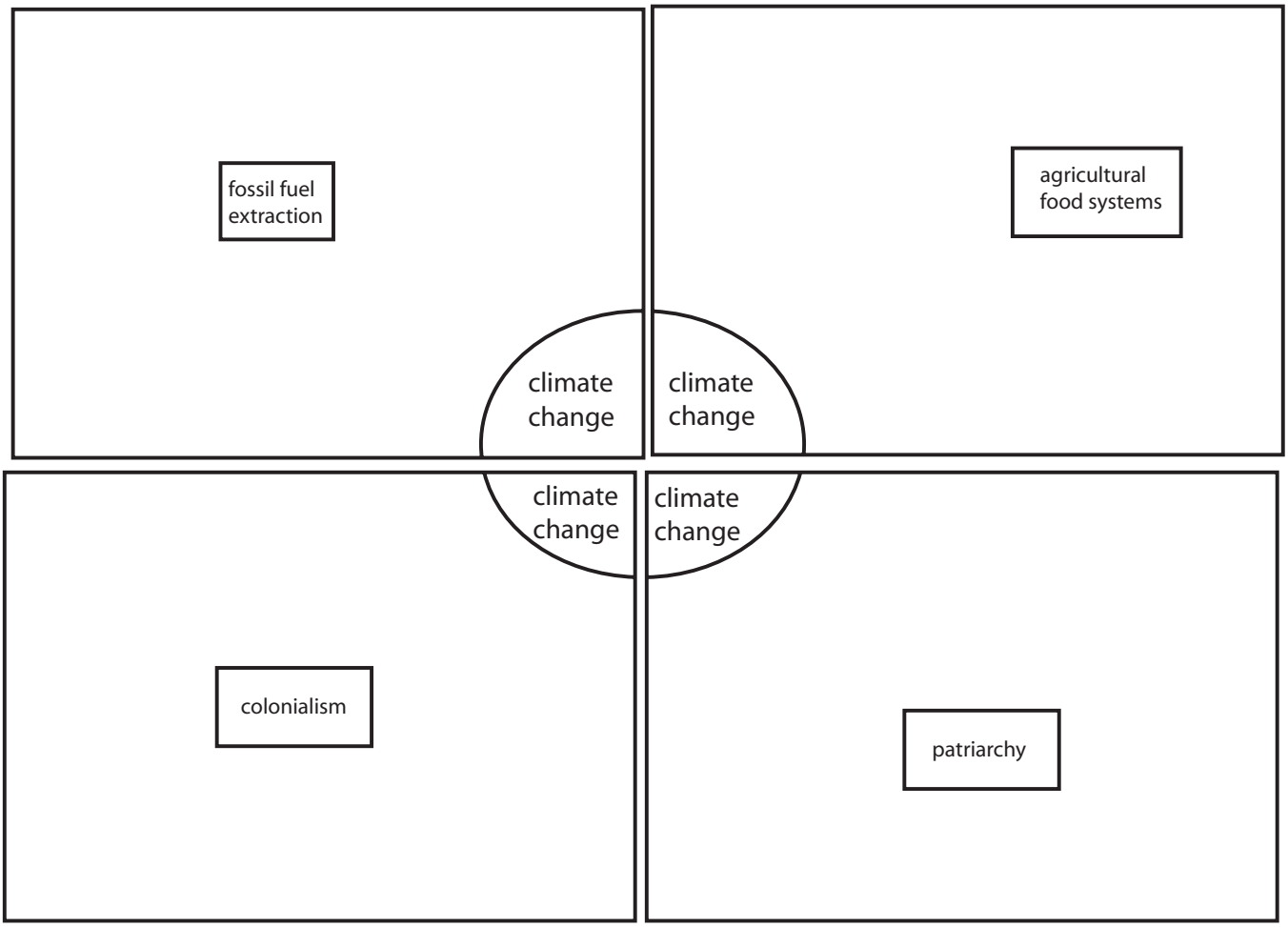
Exercise - Making the links
adventures with mind mapping

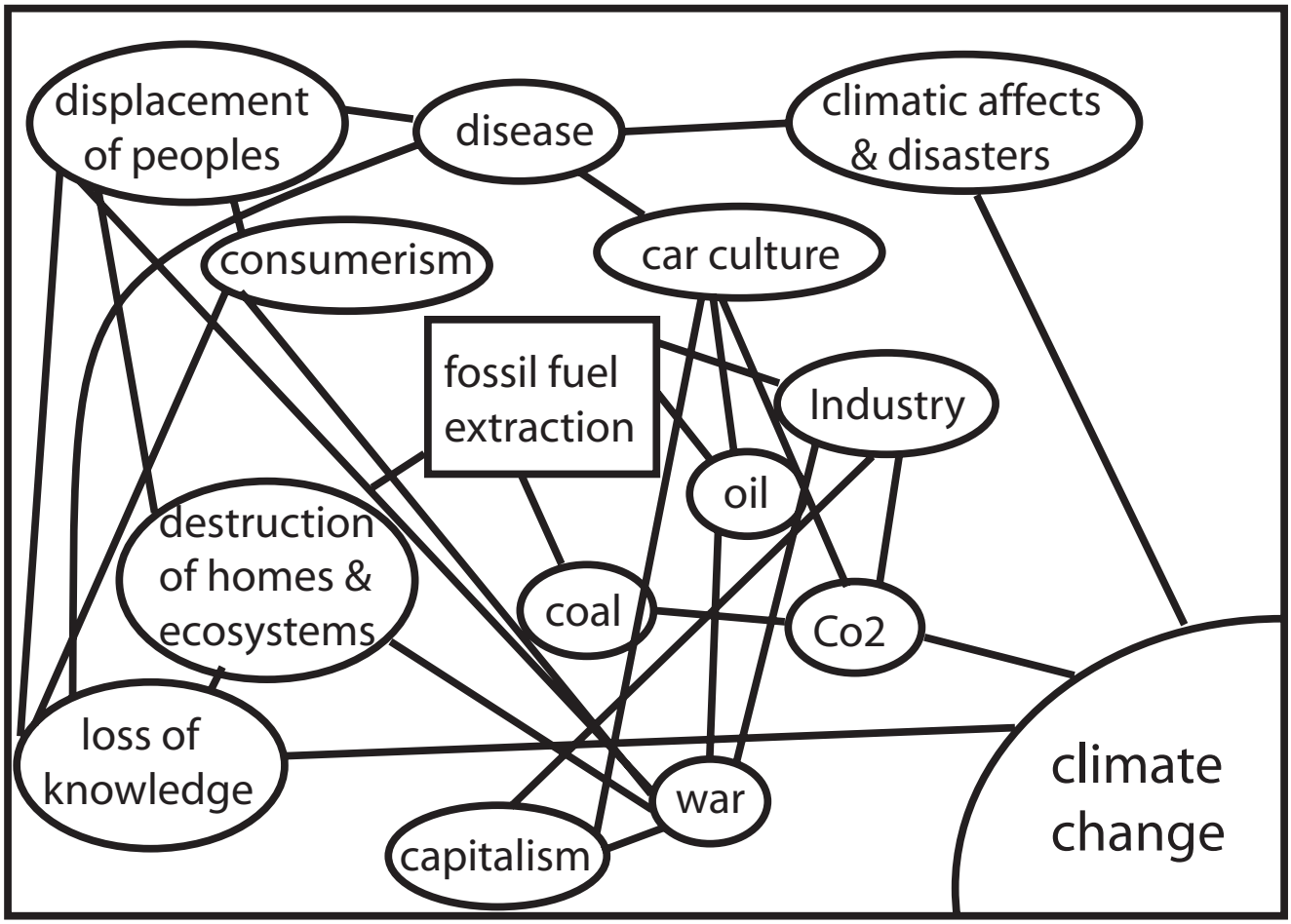
We found it useful to have a facilitator in each group to scribe, as legibility for this exercise is important.

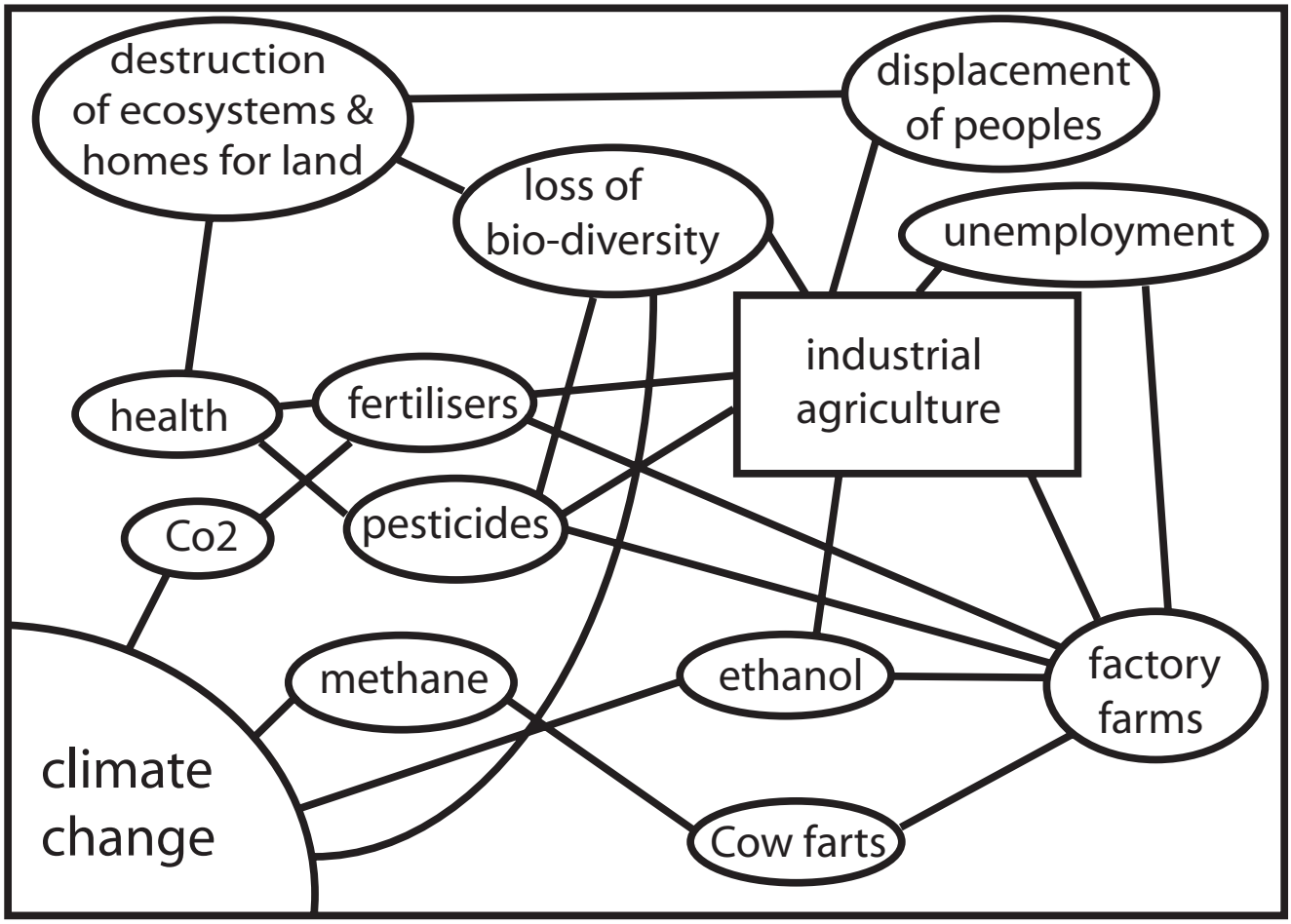
If there is only one or two facilitators, you can suggest folks start with a discussion around their topic then you can jump from group to group to get them going.

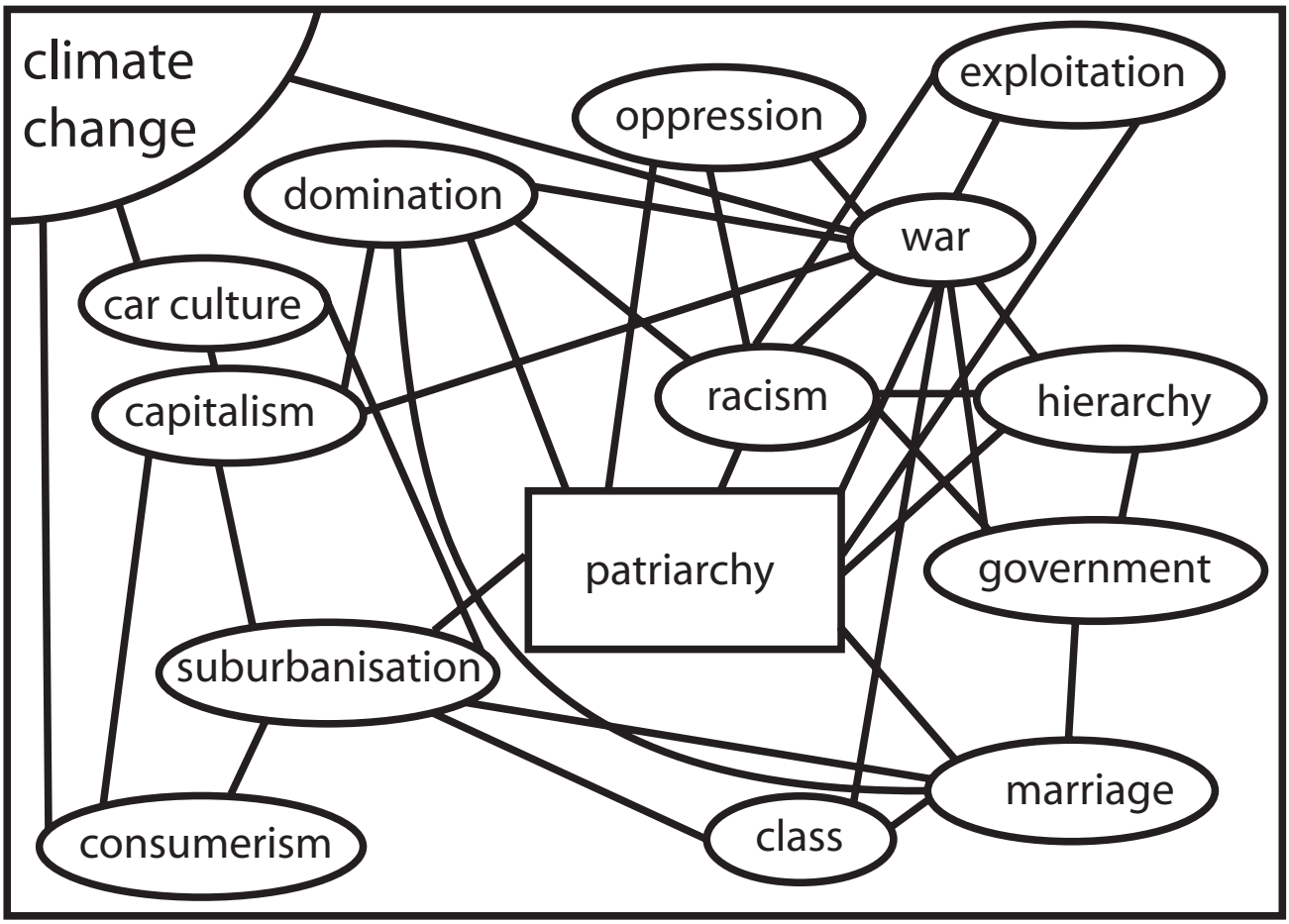
When your group has a map finished its helps to explain the next stage and find two volunteers to feed back to the main group.

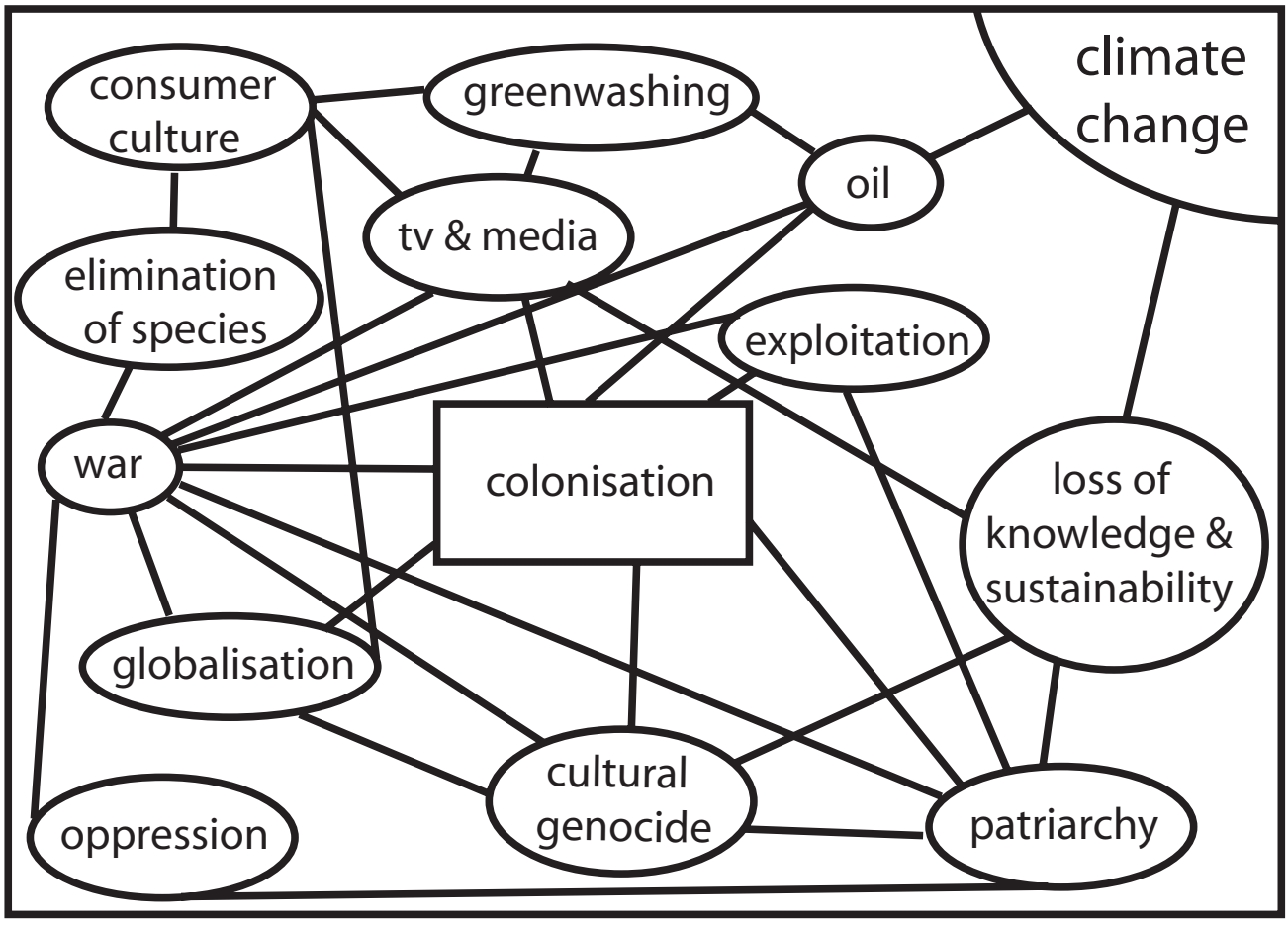
On the following pages are examples of how it could look.. but it depends on the input from each group.




displacement of peoples
disease
climatic affects & disasters
consumerism
car culture
fossil fuel extraction
Industry
oil
destruction of homes & ecosystems
coal
Co2
loss of knowledge
war
capitalism
climate change


destruction of ecosystems & homes for land
displacement of peoples
loss of bio-diversity
unemployment
industrial agriculture
health
fertilisers
Co2
pesticides
methane
ethanol
factory farms
climate change
Cow farts


climate change
exploitation
oppression
domination
war
car culture
capitalism
racism
hierarchy
patriarchy
government
suburbanisation
marriage
consumerism
class


climate change
consumer culture
greenwashing
oil
tv & media
elimination of species
exploitation
war
colonisation
loss of knowledge & sustainability
globalisation
cultural genocide
oppression
patriarchy

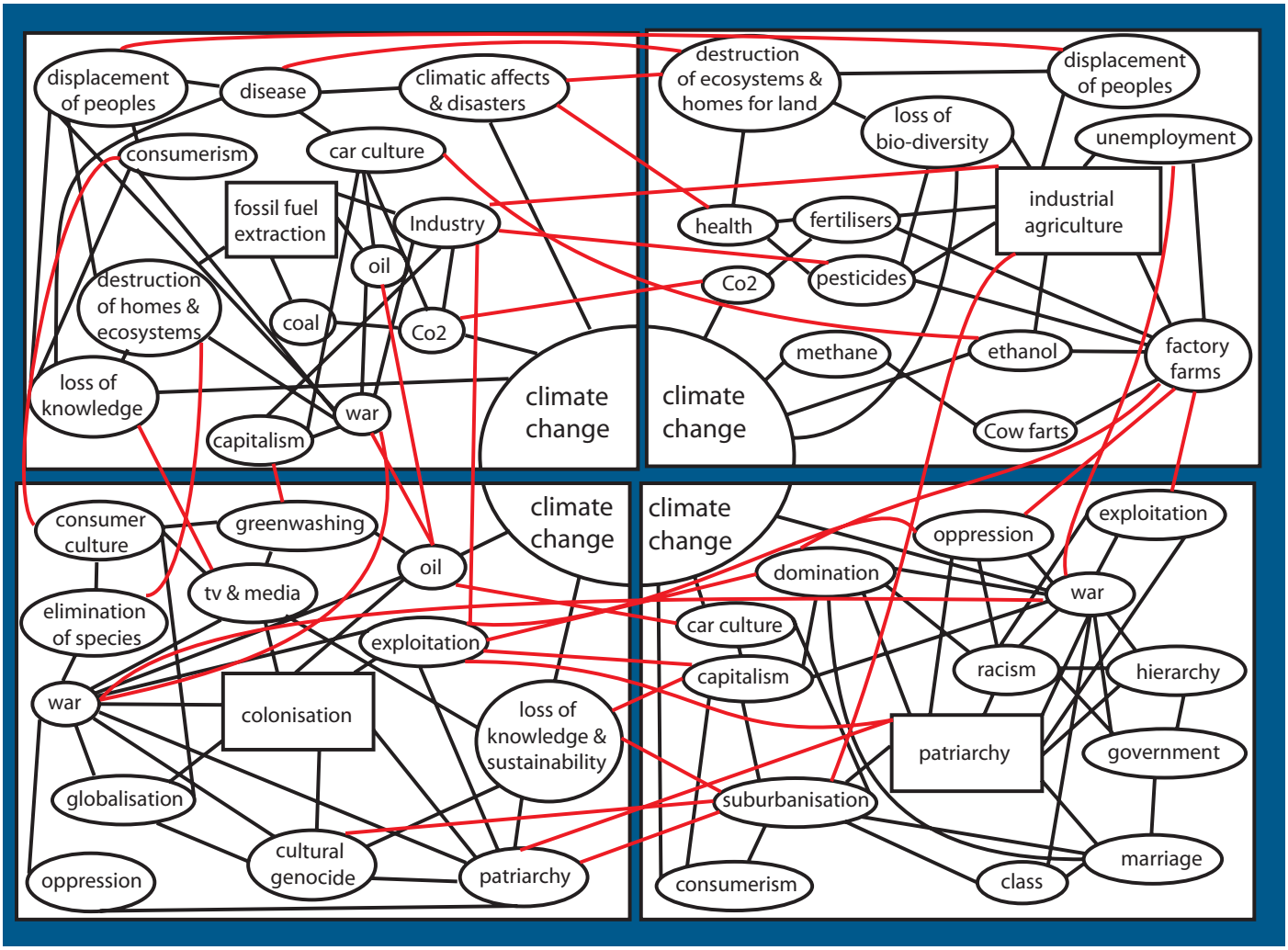
When the results started getting too similar from tour stop to tour stop we realised we were inputting to much ourselves and made a big effort to step back and let the groups lead the content.

Then, the exciting part... Put all the maps together. Ask a person from each group to draw the links between the things on their sheet and things they connect with all the other sheets. Give them a different coloured pen than before, red, orange or any lighter colour. They can start by looking for words that are the same.. for example in this instance 'war' and 'patriarchy'. Then look for linked subjects.

eg:

Displacement of peoples
links to
Destruction of ecosystems & homes

Agricultural food systems
links to
Suburbanisation



The black links are the ones done when in the smaller groups and the red links are from the second stage of connecting the four maps together. There is a larger version of this map at the end of this guide.

Exercise - Making the links
adventures with mind mapping

It doesn't matter if there are links they miss.. it almost gets the point across further if folks are left thinking 'ooh! there is another link there, and there...'

Also, its OK when folks go crazy and start linking everything to everything and it really gets the 'everything's connected' idea across.

At the same time as people are linking get someone else from the group to briefly explain how their groups mind map works.

Go around all four of the groups till it look a little like the map above.

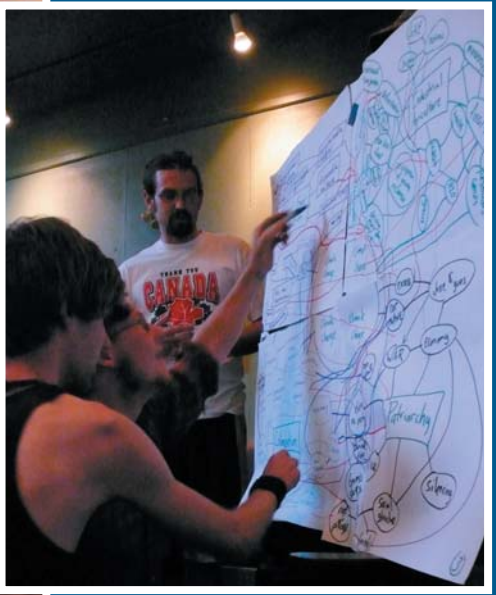
Alternate ending:
The Beehive collective suggested we if could get a really big board we could next put another ring of paper around the mindmap and map out solutions from all the problems/causes. If anyone manages this please send feedback!

Collectives mentioned:

risingtidenorthamerica.org

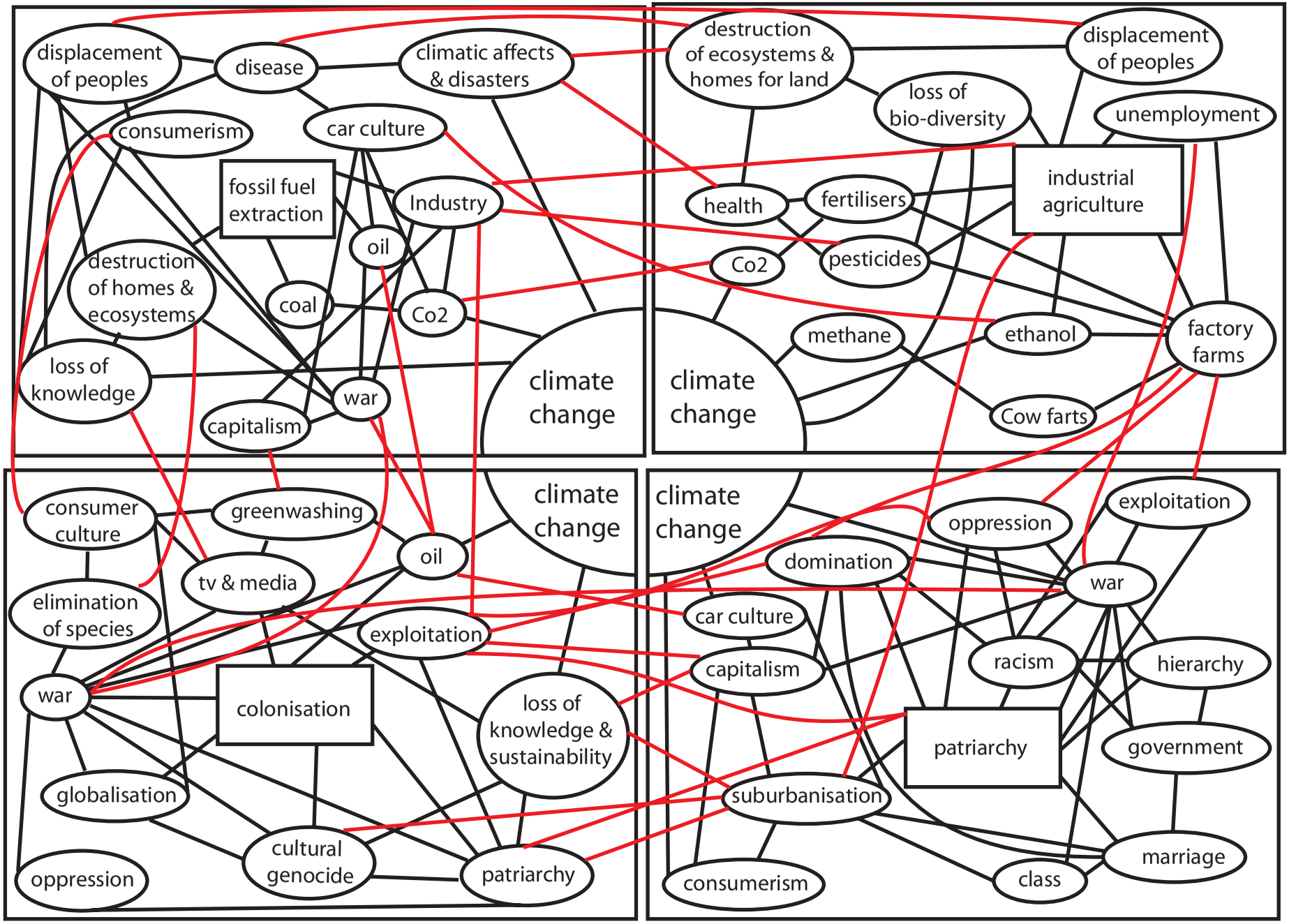
www.beehivecollective.org

trapese.clearerchannel.org



Making the links in Guelph, Ontario, Canada

And at a high school in Ithaca, NY, USA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unemployment
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health
fertilisers
pesticides
Co2
methane
ethanol
factory farms
Cow farts
climate change
consumer culture
greenwashing
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war
colonisation
loss of knowledge & sustainability
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cultural genocide
oppression
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climate change
exploitation
oppression
domination
war
car culture
capitalism
racism
hierarchy
patriarchy
government
suburbanisation
marriage
consumerism
class

There are three powerpoint slide shows about communities resisting Oil, LNG, Coal & Nuclear power and how they are linking their struggles globally. They can be downloaded from the Rising Tide UK Website.

Shell.ppt
Resistance to Shell in Rossport, Mayo, The Niga Delta & London.. how these communities are linking together and combatting the greenwashing of the big oil companies.

http://risingtide.org.uk/pdfs/Shell.ppt

9.2 MB

Coal.ppt
Resistance to coal mining in Appalachia, Black Mesa, New Zealand & Australia.. and how these campaigns are acting in solidarity with each other.

http://risingtide.org.uk/pdfs/Coal.ppt

21 MB

Nukes.ppt
Is nuclear power an answer to climate change? A Journey into the Australian red centre exposing the environmental racism of the nuclear fuel cycle.

http://risingtide.org.uk/pdfs/Nukes.ppt

25.2 MB

Links to all the campaigns mentioned can be found on the links page at the end of this document.

The CO2 Game

5 mins

You need 10 people, 10 pieces of card - big enough to stand on with 'CO2' on them and 10 wads of fake cash. Each person stands on a piece of carbon and has a wad of cash.

"You 10 represent the world population of? (ask group...) **about 6 billion. The Co2 you are standing on represents the amount of carbon we produce globally.**

Anyone want to throw out a few sources? (Cars. Planes, industry, cow farts, industrial agriculture.. etc)

And the money represents the global GDP. Whats GDP? (ask group...)

"So, of the 6 billion people in the world and the worlds wealthiest nations - which are? [ask them to guess] **"USA, UK, Japan, etc basically G8 countries? Well only 12% of the worlds population is part of these countries.. so who wants to be rich nations?"**

[Ask that person & their Co2 to move a little aside]

"Now, 48% of the worlds GDP is made by the worlds wealthiest countries"

[take 4 peoples cash and hand it over to rich nations(RN)]

"they also produce 62% of the worlds CO2 emissions"

[take 4 Co2s and give to RN the rest squash onto 5 - RN can spread out over all theirs]

"There's a reason that just a few countries make almost half the worlds money, because those same few countries also are home to 98% of the worlds multinational corporations"

[hand over all but 1 wads of cash to RN]

"So..The IPCC - who are? anyone know?" [get replies from group, name.. then a one sentence description]

"they have reached a consensus that we need to reduce global carbon emissions by 60-80 % etc..

Ask people **"So looking here.. who has both the financial resources and would make the most affect on cutting down CO2 emissions?"**

[hopefully everyone points at RN]

Tear off a corner of one of the bits of rich nations Co2.. Wave it around and..

"So... rich nations have this to offer.. Anyone know what this is?" [pause] **"It's the Kyoto protocol.. - Can anyone explain what this is?..in 20 words or less!"**

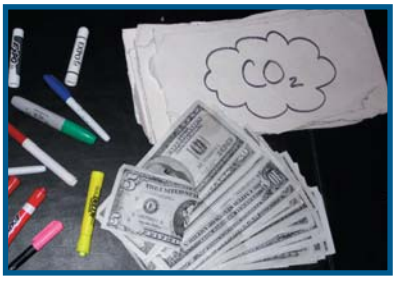
Go to hand 'kyoto' it to majority world.. and snatch it away last second..

"However, The USA & Australia aren't going to sign up and it turns out that all the countries that have signed up their emissions have actually risen.. How did that happen?.. There are a lot loopholes and trade offs.. (say what you want about carbon trading here)**.."**

[chucks little scrap of carbon away]

"So, rest of the world. How are you feeling about developed nations?"

[Riot ensues – yay!... or folks ask for RN to give some back..or not much happens! thank everyone and they wil probably sit back down..]



for more info or feeback please email
cookie[at]risingtide.org.uk
www.risingtide.org.uk
risingtidenorthamerica.org

Carbon Trading is essentially a way for the biggest polluters to look like they are doing something about climate change and make a fortune in the process. Governments arbitrarily give out carbon credits, usually to the biggest polluters, carbon credits are traded as a commodity just like gold or corn.

The CO2 game leads well into a discussion on carbon trading, since this is the loophole mentioned that allows the nations that signed up to kyoto's petty reductions to actually increase their emissions. We found it good to mention a few key basic problems with carbon trading, such as:
- the fallacy that carbon stored permanently underground can be equated to CO2 that's been burned and released into the carbon cycle, and
-the issue that trading carbon is a veiled way to privatize the atmosphere and allow certain powerful corporations to purchase the "right to pollute".

In talking about this false solution, you can reference back to the connections mind-map exercise, pointing out how false solutions play into many other root causes of climate change.

Trading in the US

In the US the Chicago Climate exchange has just opened up for business and corporations like DuPont and the agribiz giant, Cargill, have signed on for a piece of the profit. Studies have shown that market incentives are less efficient than strict government regulation of emissions.

And since we know how slow our governments are to act on climate change, it is critical to challenge false solutions that allow business as usual and the increasingly popular desire to quench middle and upper-class guilt through the misleading concept of "offsetting" one's carbon footprint while our planet edges closer to climate catastrophe.

Eucalyptus plantations in Brazil

A stark example of how flawed carbon trading is that offset credits being given to monocropped eucalyptus plantations in Brazil to show the hypocrisy and clear colonialism in offset projects, and how so often the poorest people of the world feel the worst effects of offsetting carbon through "clean development mechanisms".

A powerful telling of this story can be found in Where the Trees are a Desert: *www.carbontradewatch.org/pubs/trees.pdf*
A short paraphrasing of this story would include
The connections with colonialism
Indigenous Nations and Afro-Brazilians violently forced off their land in order to create plantations.
The connections with industrial agriculture
Massive monocrops, huge water needs and water pollution, and use of agro-toxic pesticide chemicals that have killed and injured workers.
The basic flaws in the logic of tree plantations as offsetting carbon
The trees are later chopped down and processed into either paper products or burned to make pig iron which is used to make automobile steel... and so clearly the carbon carousel goes around and around.

Links: Carbon Trade Watch (http://www.carbontradewatch.org). Two particularly good publications are "Hoodwinked in the Hothouse" (found at http://www.carbontradewatch.org/pubs/hothousecolour.pdf) and "Trouble in the Air: Global Warming and the Privatized Atmosphere" (found at http://www.carbontradewatch.org/pubs/CCS_ENERGYSERIES_1005_COMPLETE.pdf)

The Line Game

5-15 Mins

Taken from the Trapese Yes/No Game

This activity is to give people a chance to see their opinions in relation to other points of view and to try and defend or persuade others. It is a great way to stimulate debate.

All stand up and explain that you are all standing on a continuum between YES at one wall and NO on the other and not sure in the middle. Read a statement and ask people to move depending on their point of view.

Tell folks that they can also 'role-play' arguments other than their own.

Explain that this will be a facilitaited dicussion and there will be someone (ideally stood on a chair!) taking hands.

When people have moved, ask someone each side, and in the middle to explain their view.

Ask anyone if they want to move after what they have heard.

You can chose to make it a quick debate on many topics, or more often on the RT tour we chose to have a longer debate on one topic:

Are bio-fules a solution to climate change?

Other questions / statements (make up more!):

· Is Nuclear power a viable, clean alternative to fossil fuels?

· Could renewable energies could meet all of our current energy needs?

· Can international agreements like Kyoto be trusted to cut greenhouse gas emissions?

· Are carbon sinks and emissions trading effective ways of reducing carbon emissions?

· Is it desirable that levels of consumerism in the developing world equal that of those in the 'developed' world?

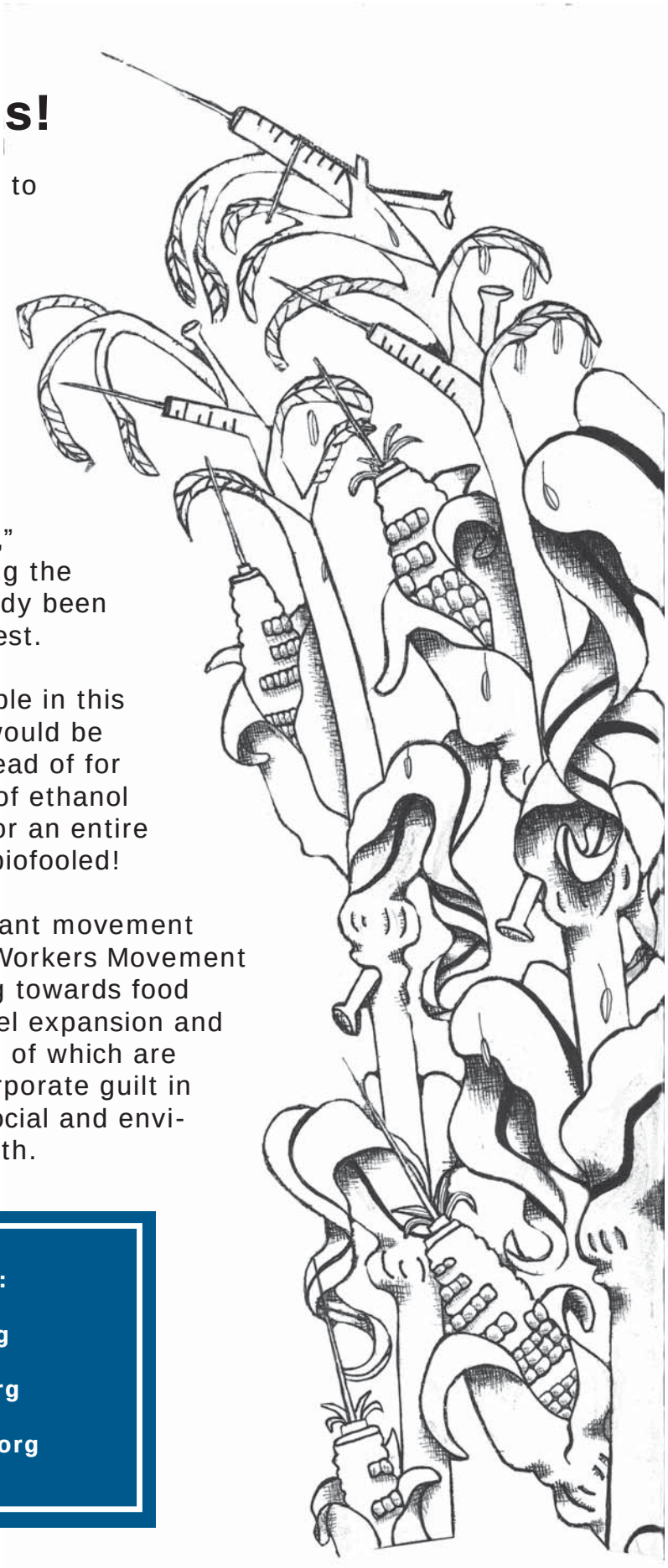
Don’t be bio-fools!

The push for ethanol as a solution to climate change is a huge problem for a number of reasons: First, it doesn’t address car culture. We should be spending our time learning to live without the automobile, not feeding cars our food supply!

As farmers are rushing to plant corn (95% of US ethanol is made form corn) “fencerow to fencerow,” corn prices have shot up increasing the price of food and there have already been tortilla riots in Mexico City in protest.

With over 865 million hungry people in this world it is very puzzling why we would be growing food for hungry cars instead of for hungry people. A 25 gallon tank of ethanol is enough corn to feed a human for an entire year! Fuel verses food? Don’t be biofooled!

Groups like the international peasant movement Via Campesina and the Landless Workers Movement in Brazil (MST) have been working towards food sovereignty and confronting biofuel expansion and monoculture tree plantations both of which are used as carbon offsets to ease corporate guilt in the global north while wrecking social and environmental havoc in the global south.



For more info check out:

http://viacampesina.org

http://www.mstbrazil.org

http://www.nyeleni2007.org

Once I became hooked on mind maps I found that sometimes this session worked well to draw out as a big mind-map on the while board.. not to just list everything.. I really depends on the group and flow of the session.

Whiteboard time!

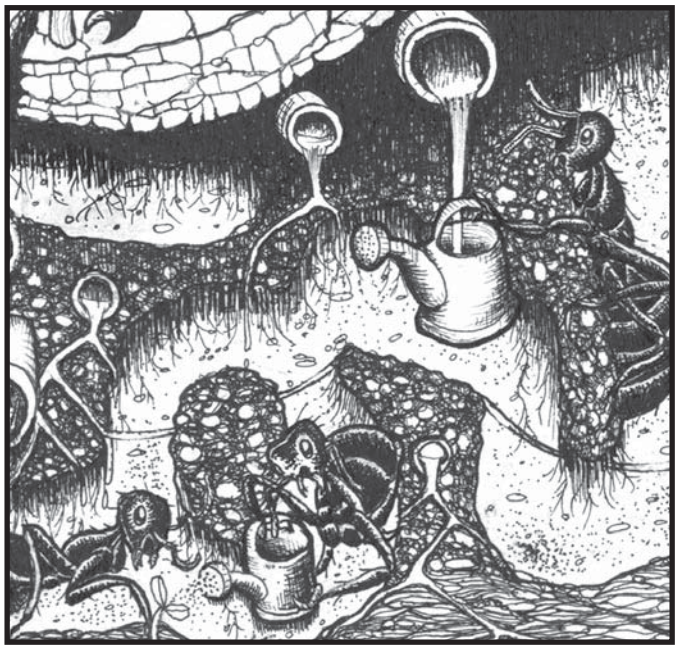
We find this a good time to open up into a big group discussion..

Its a big subject and we don't pretend we know the solutions... but also don't want to end the session without some positivity.

Sometimes we facilitate more strongly.. Hunting out local solutions already happening. Things like; community gardens, groups resisting all forms of oppression & exploitation, bike projects, disaster relief projects, self organisation within communities.

Also we ask what the problems and need are with in the community.

We list everything on a whiteboard. Putting problems in red, needs in green and black for projects in existence.



The few things we do ususally interject here are:

- A two prong approach of resistance to fossil fuel infrastructure & capitalism

- Questioning considering the seriousness of the problems we face what is the appropriate response.

Sometimes this can be the best part of the session, and sometimes the worst. When it goes well sometimes we've been able to faciitate new groups starting, or new support for exisiting projects.

Groups & Spaces

Its was wide ranging. There were too many colleges.. We visited a mix of schools, infoshops, cafes, high schools, churches & and intentional Christian community. We all agreed our favorite stops were high schools.

Shindig

What to call the tour stops was an ongoing question. Words like presentation or show are indicative of a one way flow of information.. we settled on 'shindig' for a while.. but never were all really happy.

Process

Someone, early on in the tour asked us 'When will the presentation be finished' and was told 'never!' And it was true.. 2/3 months in and we still spent a big chunk of every day (most often the drive to the next tour stop) discussing, de-breifing, tweaking and dissecting.. what works, what doesn't, what can we do to make it more effective? We got braver, we got sharper & more confident.

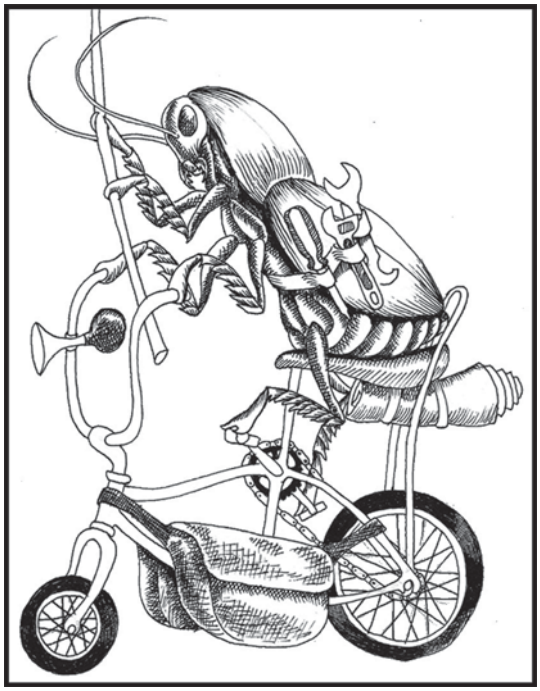
Feedback from a 9th Grader:

Dear Rising tide people,
Growing up in Ithaca
it is impossible to avoid activism and in 7th grade i was environmentally and politically involved. But as i got older i became more disillusioned and cynical with the current political and environmental situation(probably a normal teenager thing). I gradually stopped biking everywhere and pestering my parents about buying solar panels.

Your visit reminded me of what is truly important in this world and seeing people who were doing more than writing letters and occasionally writing a check to an environmental organization really inspired me. I feel your visit revitalized dormant energy in me and really made me feel strongly about doing something active about the environment and other problems in society. Today you said something about a person starting a Rising Tide group in Ithaca. I would really like to be part of this (and possibly lead a student wing of it at IHS).

I also loved Evans music (even now I am listening to a CD i got from him). It was really fun to listen to and the lyrics really were amazing. The song about ADHD and how Americans only treat the symptoms instead of just the underlying problems was wonderful and after school I heard a bunch of kids talking about it so it really wasn't just me who it effected.

Peace, Love and Carbon sinks,
- Sam



We had many, many ideas that never made it in, and a few that did but soon got squeezed out due to time. At one point we have planned out a folk-punk musical, there was much talk of puppets that never emerged, a now-mithical bike sound system.. oh and that veggie oil bus that never really worked and diddn't make it past the 1st month.. being flexible and prepared to run with whatever is working is key.

One notable game was 'Climate Jeopardy' (a US Game show parody) where we had jeopardy style questions based around the content of the tour and some things we didn't have the time to squeeze in. We projected a giant jeopardy board and got folks to buzz in... "I'll have 'maybe were not totally doomed' for 300 please Alex".

We're doomed	Enviro rasism	Connecting the dots	The government will save us	Maybe we're not totally doomed
100	100	100	100	100
200	200	200	200	200
300	300	300	300	300
400	400	400	400	400

Wanna dig deeper?

- some links to explore

Rising Tide North America
risingtidenorthamerica.org
Tour Blog
risingtidetour.blogspot.com

Tour Links
Tour myspace myspace.com/risingtidetour
Tour Images flickr.com/photos/cookielovescake/sets

Rising Tide Family
Rising Tide North America risingtidenorthamerica.org
Rising Tide UK risingtide.org.uk
Rising Tide Australia http risingtide.org.au
London Rising Tide www.londonrisingtide.org.uk

Music
Riot Folk riotfolk.org
Combat Wombat www.combatwombat.org (intro music)

Coal
Mountain Justice Summer www.mountainjusticesummer.org
Black Mesa www.blackmesais.org

Oil
Oil Watch www.oilwatch.org
Platform www.platformlondon.org

Nukes
Friend of the Earth Australia www.foe.org.au

Agriculture/Food Sovereignty
Food First www.foodfirst.org
Food not Bombs www.foodnotbombs.net
BioJustice www.rtc.revolt.org
The Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy iatp.org

Making the Links & False Solutions
Carbon Trade Watch www.carbontradewatch.org
Indigenous environmental Network www.ienearth.org
The Corner House www.thecornerhouse.org.uk
Energy Justice Network www.energyjustice.net
Corpwatch www.corpwatch.org
Activist Trauma Support www.activist-trauma.net

Indymedia
Climate Indymedia www.climateimc.org
Global Indymedia www.indymedia.org
Indymedia USA indymedia.us

Climate Science
Union of concerned scientists www.ucsusa.org
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) www.ipcc.ch

Organising & Facilitation
The Change Agency www.thechangeagency.org
Seeds for Change www.seedsforchange.org.uk

Art
The beehive Collective www.beehivecollective.org
Art Not Oil artnotoil.org.uk

Popular Education
Trapese clearerchannel.org/trapese

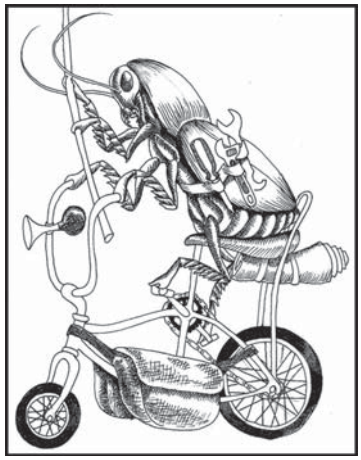
Some Blogs
www.itsgettinghotinhere.org
cookielovescake.blogspot.com
floodculture.blogspot.com
climatedenial.org
www.realclimate.org

International resistance (some the places we mention!)
La Via Campesina viacampesina.org
Brazil's Landless Workers Movement www.mstbrazil.org
Save Happy Valley www.savehappyvalley.org.nz
Save the Weld huon.green.net.au/weldvalley
Save Anvil Hill www.anvilhill.org.au
Sell to Sea www.corribsos.com
Rossport Solidarity Camp www.struggle.ws/rsc
Arid Lands Environment Centre www.alec.org.au

The Rising Tide Climate Action Tour is Coming to Your Region

Host Us in Your Town

This spring, Rising Tide will bring the global struggle for climate justice to the belly of the beast, connecting the dots between the overarching crisis of climate change and the grassroots struggles of communities resisting the fossil fuel industry's assault on their land and culture. Through partnering with local environmental and climate justice organizations in each region, we seek to amplify the voices of those most affected by climate change and the fossil fuel industry, boosting support for these revolutions on the local level and creating a culture of solidarity across lines of race, class and gender.



Consumer capitalism and the climate-disrupting fossil fuel industries that power it are committing ecocide and genocide on a level unprecedented in human history, destroying not only entire cultures, mountains, and rivers, but the very life-support systems of the planet. The question before us is, what are we going to do about it? The possibilities for action are infinite and as diverse as all our combined ideas and desires. Two mutually-beneficial strategies that we will explore on the roadshow are: sparking and supporting local struggles against fossil fuel infrastructure, and building real, sustainable alternatives that foster community and decrease our dependence on the industries and institutions destroying the planet.

The Spring Roadshow will take a popular education approach to organizing and agitating for climate justice, employing music, participatory games and multi-media to foment life-affirming resistance. In addition to offering a "main event", we are available for longer tour stops of up to a few days to do more in-depth workshops on direct action, anti-oppression, gaia theory/climate science, strategic campaigning, rebel clown army, food sovereignty, radical mental health, climate change resistance and ecodefense in Oceania, and the consensus decision-making process. Other trainings may be available depending on the tour date and location – let us know if you have specific ideas or needs.

We want to hear from you! Are you engaged in a climate-related campaign or community project and would like to work with us on a tour stop or two in your area? Can you host a tour stop in your town? Get in touch at contact@risingtidenorthamerica.org.

Note: we define "climate-related" in a broad sense. Work around food sovereignty, preserving and restoring ecosystems, indigenous rights, mining, power plants, environmental justice, bikes, and energy production/consumption are all important pieces of the climate web. We also believe that climate change can only be addressed by exposing the intersections between the oppression of humans and the earth. The people hardest hit by climate-induced natural disasters have been and will continue to be those most disenfranchised by our society and least responsible for the emission of greenhouse gases: the poor, women, and people of color. RTNA is committed to challenging all forms of oppression in our organizing.

Jessie

I'm Jessie, I'm originally from the Washington DC area, I've been involved with RTNA since the UK Camp for Climate Action last September (2006) in Selby England. My activism started while I was in college, I volunteered with a group called Students for the Bernard Field Station. Using direct action and grassroots community organizing we saved an 87 acre endangered coastal sage scrub ecosystem from being bulldozed in Los Angeles County.

I also spend a lot of time confronting the negative impacts of industrial agriculture and promoting local food systems. I got involved with Rising Tide because I'm really concerned about the links between our industrialized food system and climate change. I also see decentralized small-scale sustainable agriculture as a solution to climate change. Working towards food sovereignty is critical because as our climate changes and we see more droughts and floods, we need to have more control over our food. Saving seeds that can handle extreme weather and learning how to grow food for our community is going to be an integral part of responding to climate chaos.

Julian

I grew up in Ithaca, NY. I'm thankful to the beautiful land on which I was born as the foundation for my environmental perspective and motivation to action. While I'm certainly an environmentalist in terms of my deep love for the living world, I get incredibly frustrated at the framing of "environmental" issues which usually involves making it relevant to white middle or upper class consumers. Because of this I cringe when climate change is called an "environmental" issue, which instantly separates it from all other "issues." Instead, I see climate change as the end result in a long and tortured history of oppression, environmental racism, and the colonization of the planet.

I want to recognize the fact that right now, anywhere in America, we are standing on stolen native land, and this whole empire filled with comforts has been built by stolen labor through slavery, in past and present forms. In bringing this anti-colonial perspective to climate change work, I like to ask what we mean when we toss around words like "sustainability." Making what sustainable? Sustaining this empire? Or supporting and learning from the peoples who have known how to live with the earth and continue to protect this knowledge, while still fighting for survival and recognition of their sovereignty against this empire of empires.

I think if we approach climate change in this light, it is possible to link many different struggles that are all working to confront the root problems in the culture that's caused this mess. The tour is all about making links, connecting ideas and struggles and people. I'm happy to be connecting with so many people and linking our struggles and our communities!

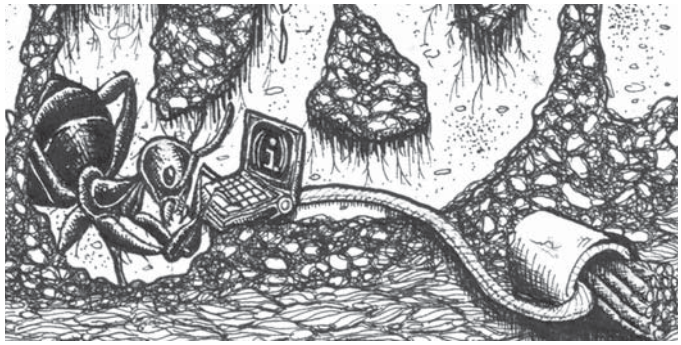
Abigail

I've been involved with Rising Tide North America since it got started in early 2006. My previous organizing experience has included campaigns around ecosystem defense, indigenous rights, globalization, nuclear weapons, and cultural preservation. For the past few years I've been living in Appalachia, working with Mountain Justice Summer to stop mountain top removal coal mining and looking for ways to link up, strengthen and support all the grassroots, no-compromise local movements fighting coal mining and the construction of new coal infrastructure.

Evan

I am constantly learning new ways to use music as a form of popular education and incitement, and to help myself and others understand the connections between different forms of exploitation and oppression. I came to the Rising Tide tour as part of the Riot-Folk! Collective, a group of songwriters who work together to use music as a tool for social change. I write songs from my own experiences, and from stories that I collect while I travel and learn. I find that these personal narratives are really powerful ways of connecting with people, and connecting together seemingly separate issues. I try to never write a song that's about just one thing - what's the point of an anti-war song that doesn't address the deeper economic system that demands and creates war?

I first got involved in climate activism while working as a medic at the Common Ground Collective in New Orleans, a grassroots disaster relief organization formed to do solidarity work in the racist aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Since then, I've been very focused on community emergency response, grassroots disaster relief, and community healthcare. Climate change isn't something of the future, it's here, and we've got to start building our communities and preparing for the ruptures in "normality" that are inevitably on their way. I'm also very interested in radical mental health, and trying to find ways that we can support each other as friends and activists so that we can move forward in building sustainable and autonomous communities of liberation.



Sophie

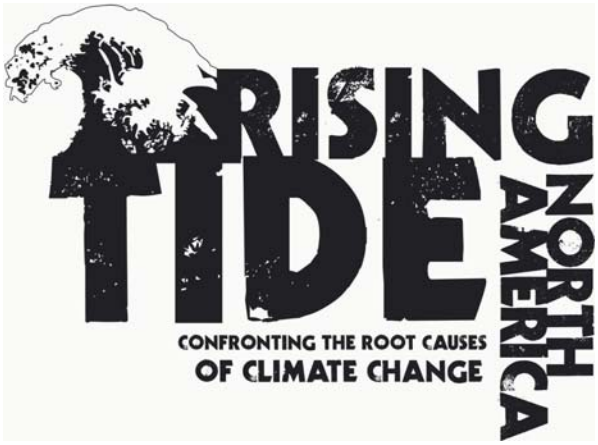
I'm from the UK and I've been involved in the Rising Tide network for 6 years. I got involved after attending a Rising Tide gathering and setting up a local group in my hometown, York, which is particularly under threat from frequent flooding. My roots are in direct action.

For the past three years I have been working with communities resisting fossil fuels extraction & ecosystem destruction in: the UK, Ireland, New Zealand, West Papua, Australia.. and this brought me to the USA & Canada to do this tour and share some of these experiences.

Spreading the stories & skills from one community to another has been a large part of my work.

Along the road I have been and looking for creative, participatory ways of teaching each other new skills and sharing information, and influences by the work of Trapese have taken popular education exercises to communities worldwide.

Taking action on climate chaos has always been my main drive. Trying to help shift feelings from it being this large overwhelming problem to seeing that all our lives & struggles are linked. I hope to show that by supporting each other and working together we can be far stronger.



Rising Tide is an international network born out of the conviction that corporate-friendly and state-sponsored 'solutions' to climate change will not save us. As a matter of survival, we must decrease our dependence on the industries and institutions that are destroying the planet and work toward community autonomy and sustainable living.

Who is Rising Tide?

Rising Tide is a grassroots network of groups and individuals who take direct action to confront the root causes of climate change and promote local, community-based solutions to the climate crisis. Rising Tide was formed in the Netherlands in 2000 to bring a more radical voice to the COP6 (UN Conference of the Parties) climate talks that attempted (unsuccessfully, largely due to the efforts of the US delegation) to salvage what of substance was left of the Kyoto Protocol. Employing popular education and direct action to address the root causes of climate change with a focus on climate justice, Rising Tide now spans three continents.

Rising Tide North America's strategy is based on a no-compromise approach of stopping the extraction of more fossil fuels and preventing the construction of new fossil fuel infrastructure. Equally important, we must phase out our current fossil fuel use and make a just transition to sustainable ways of living. What this means in terms of local organizing depends on the specific conditions unique to each town and bioregion. Rising Tide's tactics are diverse and creative, taking a bottom-up approach to connecting the dots between oil, war, capitalism, coal, and the destabilization of the global climate.

Changes will be made by people, not institutions. For this movement to succeed, local communities need to take initiative and make this global struggle relevant to their towns and bioregions. We need to start thinking strategically about how to spark a nationwide uprising against the fossil fuel industry that not only disrupts business as usual, but inspires widespread resistance.

Practical solutions exist; it's time we start using them and making them more widely accessible. We must dismantle the systems of oppression that permeate our culture and ourselves, and work toward real solidarity across lines of race, class, gender and sexual orientation. When we begin to build a culture of mutual aid and community autonomy, we demonstrate that we don't need the government, and certainly not giant corporations, to survive. We just need a livable planet.

Climate Justice

As we have witnessed in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the people most affected by climate change are the same people who have been exploited and oppressed throughout the history of civilization – those outside the dominant race and class. On a global level, the regions expected to be hit the hardest by severe droughts, storms and rising sea levels are generally places with the least fossil fuel infrastructure – in other

RIOT FOLK

Making folk a threat again!
We are an anti-profit mutual-aid collective of radical artists and musicians. We make music to provoke, educate, heal and inspire.
http://www.riotfolk.org/

The Beehive collective

The Beehive's mission: To cross-pollinate the grassroots, by creating collaborative, anti-copyright images that can be used as educational and organizing tools.

"In the process of this effort we seek to take the "who made that!?" and "how much does it cost!?" out of our creative endeavors, by anonomously functioning as word-to-image translators of the information we convey. We build, and disseminate these visual tools with the hope that they will self-replicate, and take on life of their own."
http://www.beehivecollective.org/

words, the people least responsible for creating climate chaos.

The potential for environmental racism on a scale we've not yet seen is downright scary; we got a taste of the future in New Orleans, where environmental refugees attempting to flee a drowning city by crossing the Crescent City bridge to the un-flooded and affluent suburb of Gretna were turned back by gunshots by the remnants of the suburb's police force. Such an environmental future cannot be allowed to pass; it's high time we step up our efforts to build real relationships with poor people and people of color who stand the most to lose from climate change.

RTNA aims to build strong links with those who are already being affected by climate change, and to ally ourselves with environmental justice groups fighting pollution from refineries, power plants and coal processing facilities.

http://risingtidenorthamerica.org/wordpress/what-is-rising-tide/
http://risingtide.org.uk/about

The North American network is expanding rapidly, plus the Tour already sparking off the first Canadian group. The Beehive collective & Riot Folk are also part of the Network.

The international network also has many groups all over the UK & Australia.

RIOT FOLK

"We found using a song at the beginning lays the framework of where we're coming from and sort of soften people up or invite them to participate."

- Evan

Music is a very useful tool for conveying your message and connecting with the folks at the shindig. You can often "get away with" saying much more radical things in the songs than dare say outright.

Using music and images at the same time to appeals to various senses, or to break up longer "talky" portions. But most importantly we used music to connect with people on a personal level and address some of the more emotional aspects of climate chaos like mental health and despair.

Often, the intros to the songs are as important as the songs themselves, because they help form a "glue" that connected seemingly distant ideas together. For example, we use a song about Adderol and pharmaceutical companies to address the notion of "false solutions" to climate change. In the intro to the song, we introduced the metaphor of "pills" and how capitalism always tries to find quick-fix cures to deep embedded problems.

Music can also to help raise funds for the tours by selling compilation CDs that include some of the songs performed.

Music has been an integral part of every social movement. By incorporating political song into a popular education presentation, the goal is to break down the "rockstar" mentality that pervades even the radical music community and truly use music as a tool for connection, education, inspiration, and healing.

there are animals in cages
with no room to turn around
being sent off to the slaughter
being sold off by the pound
and there are people locked in prisons
where the outcome's much the same
they get death with their convictions
they get numbers for a name

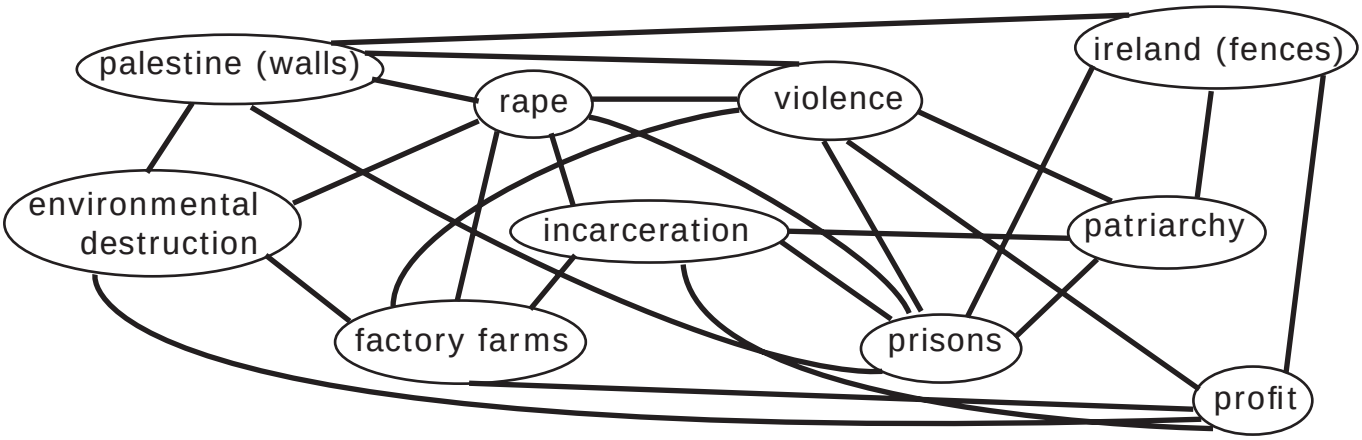
there are women kept in houses
full of mirrors and TV
forced to fear their drunken fathers
and throw up the things they eat
while the same men who grab them
while they're walking down the street
rip their profits and their pleasure
from the earth beneath our feet

(chorus)
have you ever seen the eyes
of a soul that's occupied?
have you ever had to face
a creature living in a cage?
have you tasted their flesh
or drank their fear?
have you ever seen their eyes?

there are fences high in belfast
where the working class divides
the priests play with politicians
while the poor folks fight and die
and the lower twenty-six you know
are also occupied
by sexism and heroin
and neo-liberal lies

there are children born at checkpoints
throwing stones against the tanks
they play games amongst the rubble
till the glass in their eyes breaks
and with the concrete wall between them
there's no human face at all
another bus is blown to pieces
as the martyr heeds the call

(chorus)
have you ever seen the eyes
of a soul that's occupied?
do you know what has to die
just to make the things you buy?
do you reap the products of their lives?
have you ever seen their eyes?
have you ever seen their--
can't you see it's all the same?
making profit out of pain
rape and torture are the norm
in prisons and factory farms
occupation, genocide
out of sight and out of mind
would you still live this life of lies
if you had to look them in the eye?
have you ever seen their eyes?
have you ever seen their eyes?
have you ever seen their eyes?
have you ever seen their eyes?

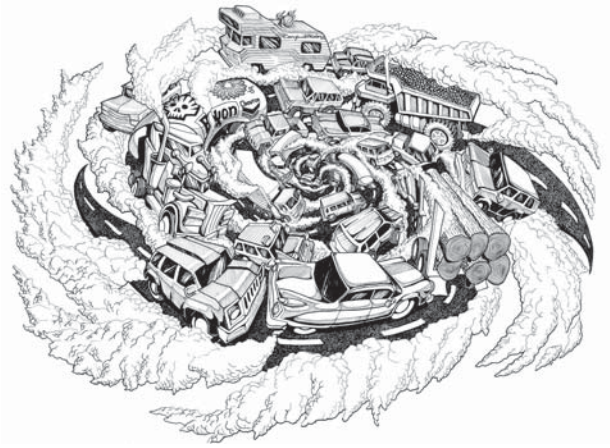


Verse: Am E F C G
Ooh's: F Am
Chorus: F G Am x 4 //
F G E // F G Am
Finale: F G Am E F

factory farms: rape + violence + incarceration = profit
prisons: rape + violence + incarceration = profit
patriarchy: rape + violence + incarceration = profit
wars: rape + violence + incarceration = profit

Ballard of huricane Katrina - Evan Greer

http://riotfolk.org/music/19/09%20The%20Ballad%20of%20Hurricane%20Katrina.mp3



how to play this song:
capo: 4 (but put it wherever it's good for your voice.)

verse:
[Am] [C] [G] (repeat)

chorus:
[F] [G] [C] [C/B] [Am]
[F] [G] [Am]
[F] [G] [C] [C/B] [Am]
[F] [G]
[F] [G] [C-C/B-Am]

the ticketseller's terrified
haunted by his dreams
of half-empty trains
rolling out from New Orleans
and the hundreds who came begging
but were harshly turned away
how many of them died
cuz they could not afford to pay?
three days warning
the suburbs turned to ghost towns
second cars left locked in driveways
while in the city people drowned
because they had no escape
from the fury of the sea
what happened here was murder
it was no simple tragedy.

good morning america
how did you get this way?
averted eyes and centuries of chains
here comes the story of the hurricane
and the thousands dead in the city by the sea
murdered by our greed in new orleans

if you're black then you're a looter
if you're white you're finding food
i ask myself what i'd have done in any of their shoes?
would i have thought about my neighbors in the other part of town
would i know any of their names? would i have dared to stick around?
you can blame the president
or you can blame the sea
but they were murdered by the culture
of this economy
murdered by our fear
and our apathy
they were murdered by you
they were murdered by me

we lay in your bed naked and we watched it on tv
as the soldiers and the cops marched past the dead bodies
they were only there protecting private property
i felt sickened by the sight and sickened by my memory
of the miles that i'd driven and the gasoline i'd had burned
of the love songs that i'd written, and the money that i'd earned
how can we go on living our lives the same way?
how can we keep pretending that we are not part of their game?

"Go Call FEMA"
by Evan Greer and Sally O'Brien

well in case you haven't heard
the climate's changing fast
new orleans aint the first
it sure as hell won't be the last
it's only worse from here
all the scientists agree
will it be death by "natural" causes
or death by bureaucracy?

(chorus)
hey FEMA, fuck you!
leave our town alone
hey FEMA, fuck you!
we'll take care of our own.

If your house is relocated
to the middle of the street
if you're waist deep in toxic water
looking for something to eat
the government will be there
to take care of you real well
to shoot your hungry neighbors
and kick you out of your hotels

as the waters keep on rising
something else will come to light
the people waiting on the rooftops
almost none of them are white
racism is systemic
it's not that hard to see
just ask the Federal Exterminating Minorities Agency

i guess it's not surprising
look who they're working for
the same damn corporations
making profit off the war
once they gentrify the ghetto
leave the poor folks in a ditch
they'll bulldoze homes and build casinos
make a playground for the rich

corporations will not save us
and neither will the state
we can't rely on them
it's already too late
so let's get to know our neighbors
that's what it's all about
we'll be better off together
once the oil all runs out

strong communities, hell yeah!
we are not alone
strong communities, hell yeah!
we'll take care of our own

http://riotfolk.org/music/84/14%2014%20adderol%20song.mp3

mrs. greer, your son acts up in class
he asks the questions that your not supposed to ask
mr. greer it's pretty plain to see
your son has got ADHD
and the doctors say he needs
30 milligrams of amphetamines (go!)

when i turned eight years old
they put me on the pills
one to focus me at school
help me follow all the rules
and one to keep my tears away
because little boys should never cry
one help me through my day
and one to help me sleep at night

and i had so few memories of what it was like before
that i took those damn pills every day since 1984.
now i recognize the system, i see what they're really for
i'm not giving you my money, i won't take them anymore.

i was in the dead-center of the country
when i popped my final pill
sold the rest of the bottle to some kids from Chicago
and turned towards something new
and for the first time in my life
i felt at peace with who i was
i couldn't wait to share the new world out there
with all the people that i loved

and i had so few memories of what it was like before
that the first week off of the pills i felt like i had been reborn
now i recognize the system, i see what they're really for
i'm not giving you my money, i won't take them anymore.

that's when i started thinking
about this society
and how there's something wrong when a kid so young's
put on amphetamines
at first i blamed my parents
then the doctors then the school
but if you wanna fight back
look higher than that
at the filthy frat cat with the big contract
at the puppy-killing lab the results come back
taking science-fiction and calling it fact
then they steal your hope and they sell it back
and if it fucks you up they don't give a crap
because they still drive home in their Cadillacs
making money off a game where the decks are stacked
and if that's not enough, well it's bigger than that
it's just a tiny piece of the system's attack on you
so whatcha gonna do?

(spoken word)
do i have so few memories of what it was like before
that i can write this song, smoke in my lungs and a bottle on the floor?
now i recognize the system(s), i see what they're really for
i'm not giving them my money, i won't buy it anymore.

http://riotfolk.org/music/15/04%20Ya%20Basta.mp3

Ya Basta! (2004)
From the album “Folk from the Frontlines”

¡Ya Basta! Enough is enough.
¡Ya Basta! Enough is enough.
You ask why are we angry? I say look at history.
the cause of all our troubles it is not a mystery
there are those who’s lives are easy
there are those who’s lives are rough.
now is the time for us to rise and cry out
enough is

enough borders enough nations
enough corporate exploitation
enough racist air pollution
enough racist institutions.
enough chains and enough cages
enough starvation wages
enough highways and gas stations
enough control by corporations

(chorus)
we won’t take it anymore
yeah, this is class war!
we will fight you in the streets
and we will dance on your defeat
!Ya Basta!

I swear to you there’ll be a day when the melting pot will boil
and you only bring us closer with each war you make for oil
each union that you break and each ballot box you stuff
brings us closer to the day when we will cry out
enough is

enough greedy politicians
enough gender-role traditions
enough hierarchies
enough of living on our knees
enough gouging of the planet
enough destruction of the earth
enough tearing of her flesh
to see what the insides might be worth

(chorus)

and all around the world the people are fighting back
each day another shard of the system starts to crack
in Argentina and Chiapas, with our rage and with our love
the people are all crying out: enough is

enough war and occupation
enough propaganda stations
enough enforced reality
enough police brutality.
enough nuclear arms
and enough factory farms
enough stolen women’s choices
enough silenced women’s voices

(chorus)

enough words have been said
enough songs have been sung
enough protests have been had
enough banners have been hung
we are many they are few
there is so much we can do
when we use what we have learned
and fight them on our own terms
because they need us
and we don’t need them
it is our sweat and labor
on which they all depend
they need us to drive their trucks
they need us to shine their crowns
they need us to be the cops
who beat our comrades down
but what good are all their laws
with no one to institute ‘em?
and what good are all their guns
if there’s no one there to shoot ‘em?
we can shove ballots down our throats
to soothe our affliction
but it won’t do a bit of good
‘till we are cured of our addiction
because bush is just a cough
and kerry’s just a sneeze
symptoms of a disease
known as free market economy.

(chorus) ¡YA BASTA!

Songs
What friends are for - Evan Greer

http://riotfolk.org/music/84/12%20what%20friends%20are%20for.mp3

you called me up
the ringing woke me from my slumber
you sounded pretty fucked up
i'm so glad you'd memorized my number
you said you'd done it again
and you thought this time it might be the end
i said "don't you dare
hang on friend, i'll be right there"

then i got in the car and put the gas to the floor
in fifteen minutes i was at your door
there was blood on the seats, we did a hundred and ten
and i took a few drags off of your cigarette

we burned exactly four gallons of the very same shit
that fucked the world up so bad that you would do this
and i tried to explain how the planet is sick
and we do to ourselves what we've done to it
but by the time we got there you couldn't hear anymore
you were slumped over forehead on the dashboard
and my tears fell down to the hospital floor
as they held me back and pushed the stretcher through the doors

this is what friends are for
when the weight of it all cuts to the bone
and you can't take it anymore
no one could get through this alone

i sat by your side
and held the styro-foam cup close to your face
you looked me in the eye
said "you've got to get me out of this place"
i said "i don't think i should,
the doctor's on his way back, you don't look so good"
i guess you sensed my fear
you said if "i'm gonna die i'm not doing it here"

so i pulled out the tubes and helped you into the chair
someone behind us yelled "stop right there!"
but you were laughing again as we flew down the hall
and our voices echoed off the sterile white walls

and as i wheeled you out into the morning light
you screamed "everything's gonna be alright
sometimes this world's too much to take
so your eyes snap shut and your heart it breaks"
but you were out of the chair and we were in the car
peeling out tires squeeling towards that bright red star
as the sun rose over our tired town
we turned the radio up and rolled the windows down

this is what friends are for
to teach us things we've always known
when you can't take it anymore
no one could get through this alone

and it's times like these when it all makes too much sense
the connections burn so clearly, that feeling in your chest
when movement feels like murder and it hurts to take a breath
when the world needs so much more and you've got nothing left

this is what friends are for
when you've lost faith everything
and when i can't take it anymore
i know you'd do the same for me

Never Surrender - Evan Greer

http://riotfolk.org/music/84/17%20never%20surrender.mp3

it's been raining for a couple of days now
and my dad's pond is overflowing
the orange fish are at the back door
the toxic flood-water is glowing
and we shake our heads
and get in the car
forget those things we said
making love under the stars stars

i go back and forth daily about us-and-them
and who's really to blame
but i think it's pretty clear who has got the most to gain
from a divided up society that's terrified of honesty
and we can't discern our enemies
so we give them our complicity

they make beer, and we buy it
they make cars, and we drive them
they build walls, we just give in
they build boxes that we live in
they make gods for us to pray to
jobs to give our days to
binaries of gender
but they can't have our surrender

we look at the world around us
and everything we see is crazy
so we drink and we smoke and we watch the tv
they say "don't take your life so seriously"
i say this is the only way i know how to be

cuz we need passion not fashion
we need food not bombs
we need action not factions
we need everyone here to be singing along]
we need stories not glory
we need friends not fans
we need guitars not rockstars
we need more than just loud drunk straight white male punk bands
let's destroy out of love
and build out of anger
get our heads out of our asses
and see our lives are in danger

because the world as we know it
is not gonna last forever
and these could be the last days
so lets spend them together
and let's never surrender