



Clean Air's work began almost 20 years ago with conversations between neighbors in Tonawanda. Something was making people very sick, and our government regulators were failing to act. Since those initial coffee table conversations, our campaigns in Tonawanda have gone through transformative changes and pivoted time and again to meet crisis moments and take historic actions.

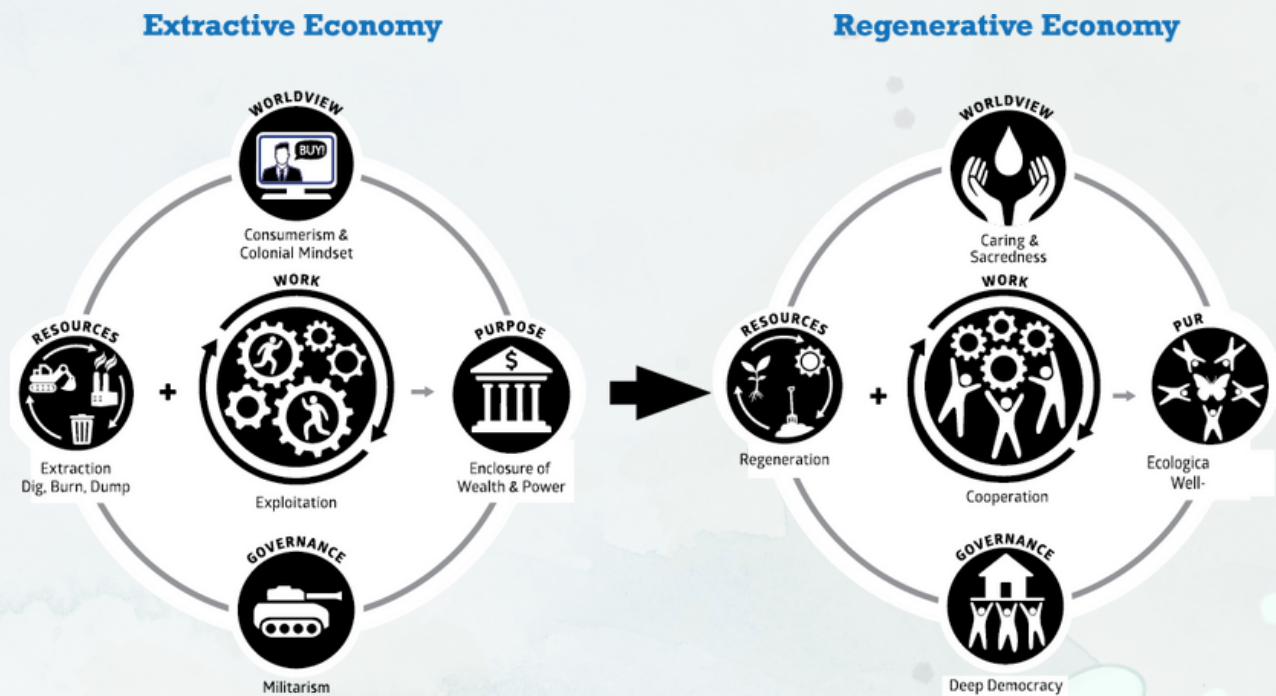
In her book *Emergent Strategy: Shaping Change, Changing Worlds*, author adrienne maree brown shares this about the nature of change:

“..how do we practice increasing our ease with what is? Change happens. Change is definitely going to happen, no matter what we plan or expect or hope for or set in place. We will adapt to that change, or we will become irrelevant.

But this element is not about pure adaptation, which has led to every functional and dysfunctional condition we know. I am talking about the combination of adaptation with intention, wherein the orientation and movement towards life, towards longing, is made graceful in the act of adaptation. This is the process of changing while staying in touch with our deeper purpose and longing.”

(pgs 69-70)

While our campaigns may shift from day to day, our work in the Tonawandas ultimately always keeps our vision of a Just Transition in sight.



In 2022, we celebrated significant progress on the ongoing remediation work at the former Tonawanda Coke facility - as of late September, 39.6 MILLION pounds of hazardous waste has been removed from the site! We even toured the site with other members of the Tonawanda Coke Working Group to see the progress first hand.

“Knowing how Tonawanda Coke looked and functioned before they filed bankruptcy and seeing how much environmental harm had been done, I am hopeful for how far we have come towards cleaning up the site for a healthier future. Clean Air's advocacy work to establish the first Community Advisory Group to be involved with the cleanup is a NY State milestone to be proud of. The healthier the land is, the healthier our future will be.” - *Jim Jones, Clean Air board member and member of our leadership team for Tonawanda campaigns*

We also worked to keep tabs on other developments along the River Road corridor, including the ongoing eminent domain process that the Town of Tonawanda is pursuing for the former Huntley Facility as well as the planned rezoning process.

Throughout, we reminded our partners that we do not simply seek a clean up of these sites, but a holistic approach that will not perpetuate the environmental injustices of the past and transition this corridor into a regenerative future.

In 2023, we look forward to continuing our fight, and expect our first challenge to be the town wide rezoning process. We'll be holding our first General Meeting on Thursday January 19, 2023 where we will be learning more about zoning and what we can do to support environmental justice. We will reconvene Tonawanda Waterfront Alliance meetings starting in spring 2023 and for this to be a major pillar of our advocacy next year.

Please donate today to support our work in the Tonawandas and throughout WNY in 2023 - we have made significant progress towards our End of Year Appeal goal, but need your help to take us across the finish line.

Additionally, in 2023 we will develop our strategic plan which will direct our work for the next five years - if you are a resident in our membership areas, your donation today will ensure you can help steer our planning process.

Bread and Roses,

Bridge Rauch and your comrades at Clean Air