



Partnership for
Action Learning
in Sustainability



Bridging the Gap Between Social and Environmental Justice

Spring 2025 | PLCY 790, Aidan Kujan

Agenda

1. Literature Review Overview
2. Case Study Overview
3. Findings
4. Recommendations
5. Discussion

Literature Review



Literature Review

Intersection Between Social and Environmental Justice

- Similar Goals of Social and Environment
- Differences Between ENGOs and Justice Groups
- Framing of Social Justice Within Environments



Literature Review

Social Activism in the Latin@ Community

- Politicizing Family Values
- Recognizing Roles of Latinas and Religion
- Cultural Citizenship



Literature Review

Intersecting Social and Environmental Justice in Latin@ Communities

- Understanding Environments and Society in Context
- Vida Verde Women's Co-op
- Degenerative Policy Effects in Latino Communities



Case Studies



Case Studies



NFWA and the Delano Farm Strikes

- **Began as a movement for Mexican-American Farmworkers**
- **Connected to Civil Rights Movement and Community Issues**
- **By 1970, had unionized 150 farms**

Case Studies



ALAGLA and the Leaf Blower Protests

- Unorganized Latino immigrant gardeners and student activists collaborated
- Reframed their movement as both pro-environment and pro-worker
- Prevented LA from imposing harsh penalties on gardeners

Findings



Findings

Intersecting Social and Environmental Justice

- Inextricably linked through framing
- Branch out a single issue into multiple paradigms

Interorganizational Movements

- Connect knowledge of problem with know-how
- Recognize how separate movements work towards same goals
- Hobbled Advocacy Otherwise

Findings

Identifying Issues That Matter

- Latching onto current events as catalysts
- Specificity in advocacy mobilizes groups
- Identify community needs

Mobilizing Latin@s

- Consider the specific values of the community
- Use cultural citizenship
- Consider de-mobilizing factors

Recommendations



Recommendations

Recommendation 1

Find a Specific Area of Interest

- Easier to combat
- Create a personal connection
- Know the specific needs

Recommendation 2

Connect Your Current Environmental Priorities to Your Social Priorities

- Consider reframing
- Recognize the differences while highlighting similarities

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Recommendations

Recommendation 3

Understand Community Values

- Discover personal values
- What values does your org permeate?
- How will values affect messaging

Recommendation 4

Identify Specific Ways Your Issues Affects The Community

- Connect with daily lives
- Inform public
- Turn perceived non-issues into issues

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Recommendations

Recommendation 5 Find Allies With Like-Minded Organizations

- Discover orgs with similar goals
- Consider community presence

Recommendation 6 Make Your Initial Goals Small

- Smaller = easier to measure
- Show community physical changes
- Time to build up capacity

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Questions?

Thanks!



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