

# The Energy Justice Network's Fighting Dirty Energy and Waste Facilities Workshop -- Handout

**Overview:**

This workshop provides an introduction to fighting dirty facilities through grassroots community organizing. It is intermediate level, and can be used to form an ambitious and effective campaign. Community Organizing 101, Building and Structuring a Group, and Political Organizing 201 would be complementary workshops.

**Level:**

201

**Focus/Goals:**

- Provide grassroots community activists and organizations with the tools and advice they need to defeat proposed dirty energy and waste facilities in their own backyards
- Develop participant's understanding and articulation of their own motivations for the issues at hand
- Develop action items for a collaborative campaign

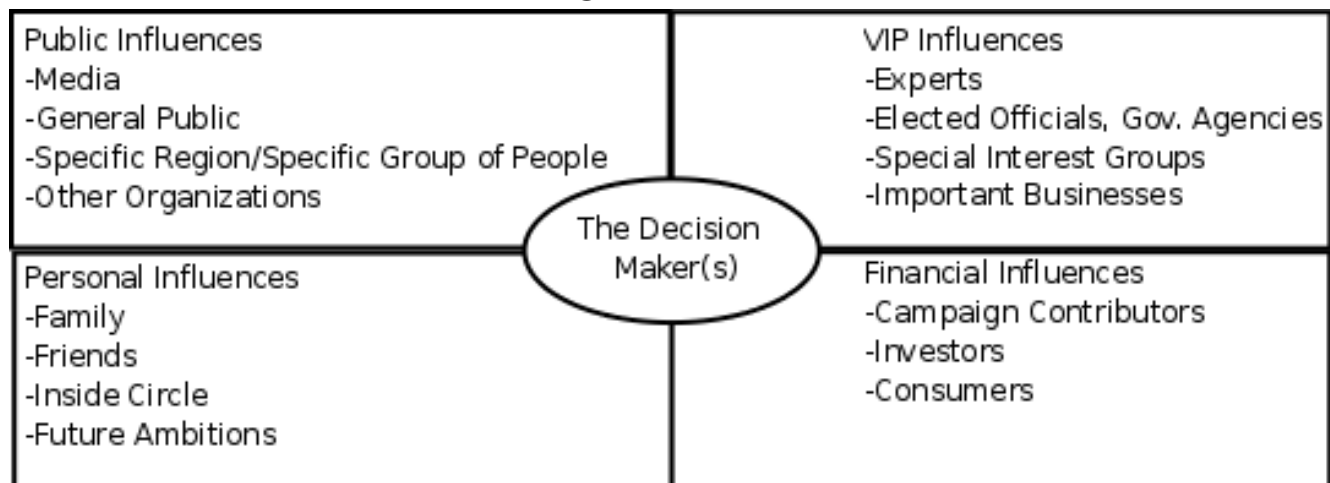
**Brief Outline:**

1) Introductions	10-15 minutes
2) Self-Interest	10
3) Targeting Communities	10
4) Winning	10-15
5) Research	10-15
6) Strengths & Weaknesses	5-10
7) Public Meetings	1-2
8) Action	10-15
9) Allies	5
10) Movement Building	1-2
11) Words of Wisdom	2-3
12) Assessment	5

**TOTAL**

**about 1 hour 15 min - 1 hour 45 min**

## POWER MAP



## Targeting “Cerrell” Communities

Demographic Characteristic	Least Likely to Resist	Most Likely to Resist	Indicator Strength
Region	Southern, Midwestern communities	Northeastern, Western, California	Strong
Community Location	Rural communities	Urban communities	Strong
Community Size	Small, usually under 25,000 population	Large, especially over 250,000 population	Strong
Economic Impact on Community (Perceived)	Open to promises of economic benefits	Don't care or benefits are minor	Strong
Distance from Facility	Geographically beyond aesthetic affect	Near the facility	Strong
Facility Employment	Employed or knew person employed by facility	No association	Strong
Age	Above middle age	Young and middle-aged	Strong
Educational Attainment	High school or less education	College-educated	Strong
Site Location	Facility placed on site of existing facility	New site	Strong
Political Ideology	Conservative / Free-Market orientation	Liberal / Welfare State orientation	Strong
Party	Republican	Democrat	Mild
Income	Low income	Middle and upper income	Mild
Religion	Catholics	Other	Mild
Personal Activism	Not involved in social issues	Activist	Mild
Age of Community	"Old-timer" residents of 20+ years	Residents of 5-20 years	Mild
Occupation	"Nature exploitive occupations" (farming, ranching, mining), Business or Technology-related	Professionals *	Mild

\* The report noted: *“One occupational classification has consistently demonstrated itself as a strong indicator of opposition to the siting of noxious facilities, especially nuclear power plants – housewives.”*

## Words of Wisdom

1. Start early.
2. Get local government on your side as early as possible. Never give up on this point.
3. Get local government to listen by restoring democracy with people power. If your local politicians are abominable, work to replace them.
4. Use local ordinances. Local law (zoning law in particular) is quite powerful and can be used to safeguard your town and county's rights.
5. Get the people power by exposing people to the truth with local media, and your own media.
6. Get the truth through good research and networking.
7. Don't be afraid to go door to door!
8. Be visible and innovative. Make yard signs and place them throughout town. Keep the issue very visible so that people can't shop, walk or drive around town without noticing your issue.
9. The corporations' strength is money. Our strength is people. Fight money with people, and use lawyers as a last resort.
10. Keep the fight local. This keeps the forum where the people are, and not in courtrooms or capital buildings. Put twice as much energy into local organizing as experts and legal forums.
11. Learn about economic development alternatives.
12. Network like crazy. If you don't know where to start, feel free to call us at 215-743-4884. If we don't know where to find something, we usually know someone who does.

*Full workshop available at <http://www.energyjustice.net/resources/fighting-facilities.pdf>  
Handouts available at <http://www.energyjustice.net/resources/fighting-facilities-handout.pdf>*