

PROTECT THE PLANET'S LIFE-SUPPORT SYSTEM

ACTIONS:

- Enshrine protections for nature in legal systems and strengthen regulations.
- Reduce consumption of natural resources.
- Transition energy systems to renewable sources.
- Set goals that preserve ecosystems and foster conservation of species.
- Prioritize adaptation to climate change.
- Increase environmental education.

TRADEOFFS:

- Legal and policy change produces uneven and uncertain outcomes for people and the planet.
- Development that prioritizes the planet may conflict with immediate human needs.
- Responsibility and cost-sharing for climate change is unequal.
- Phasing out environmentally harmful industries has economic consequences.
- Change is uncomfortable and will be resisted.

PRIORITIZE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND STABILITY

ACTIONS:

- Strengthen the economy by prioritizing jobs, businesses, and growth.
- Invest in technology and innovation such as research, AI, new industries, and modern systems.
- Keep everyday life, including good and services, affordable and stable.
- Make regulations support growth, not block it.

TRADEOFFS:

- The environment could get worse before it gets better.
- Economic growth does not help everyone equally so big companies may benefit more than local communities.
- Short-term economic growth could create long-term problems for the communities and the environment.
- Slower economic growth does not mean failure; there are other ways to measure success.
- Technology is not a guaranteed solution.

CENTER LOCAL COMMUNITY DECISION-MAKING

ACTIONS:

- Protect communities' livelihoods and cultural industries.
- Expand local authority over land use and environmental policies, such as what development to pursue.
- Require community consent before major energy, environmental, or infrastructure projects.
- Guarantee direct community benefits from resource development.

TRADEOFFS:

- Local choices may preserve harmful or declining industries.
- Communities have unequal power and capacity to manage complex environmental challenges.
- Community-level decision-making can create inconsistent environmental protections.
- Power imbalances within communities can undermine fair representation.
- Community decision-making may still not address the needs of the most vulnerable.

SLOW TRANSITIONS AND PRIORITIZE THE MOST VULNERABLE

ACTIONS:

- Set phased, legally binding transition milestones.
- Create a "Just Transition Fund."
- Initiate environmental cleanup and health protections up front.
- Implement targeted economic diversification.
- Enable monitoring, transparency, and measurable metrics.
- De-prioritize elite interests.

TRADEOFFS:

- Slower climate progress vs. social protection.
- Political conflict arises when resource constraints expose who bears the costs of a just transition.
- There will be uneven outcomes across time and space.
- Potential to reinforce existing power structures and inequality rather than dismantling them.

SUSTAINING A THRIVING WORLD

Introduction

This placemat is a reference for the accompanying Issue Guide, where these policies are discussed in greater depth.

We have presented **four approaches** that reflect different perspectives on what it means to build a world that thrives. Each approach highlights distinct priorities, values, and tradeoffs. In practice, communities, governments, and institutions draw on more than one approach, to respond to changing social needs, environmental conditions, and economic pressures.

Deliberation *brings people together* to discuss complex problems. Participants contribute unique values, goals, and experiences that inform their analysis of different approaches.

The goal is not to find a single "solution," but to explore potential strategies, weigh tradeoffs, and build understanding with others.

Ground Rules for Deliberation

Consider all approaches carefully.

Seek to build a respectful atmosphere.

Listen to understand.

It's okay to disagree, but do so with curiosity, not hostility.

Be brief and allow others to participate. No one should dominate.

Consider national and local actions that we can take.

Key Questions to Consider

- What does it mean to truly thrive?
- Who gets to thrive? How should we weigh the well-being of people alongside plants, animals, and other species now and in the future?
- Should we prioritize immediate human needs and economic opportunity or long-term sustainability?
- What role should economic growth, jobs, and stability play in creating a thriving world?
- Who should have the power to make decisions about land, resources, and development?
- What does a "just transition" look like? Should transitions toward sustainability happen quickly or gradually, and who bears the costs and risks of those choices?