

We the undersigned organizations support the Young Leaders in the Green Movement's Green Pathways campaign. The Young Leaders "Green Pathways" campaign believes that the following components are needed to create comprehensive work experience opportunities:

- That work experience opportunities are both good for the environment and our communities.
- That work experience programs have a racial equity lens in their outreach and ways to retain participants. This includes paying a living wage.
- That the work experience program creates career pathways.

In 2013 the Young Leaders in the Green Movement, a program of Got Green, conducted a face-to-face survey with 150 young adults of color – the majority living in poverty – about their barriers in attaining employment and their priorities for the environment. When survey participants were asked “How important for you is it to work in a job that is ‘green’ or good for the environment?” two out of three young adults chose 4 or 5 on a scale of 1–5. Many survey participants also noted that a lack of paid work experience was a major barrier to employment.

We support this campaign because young adults of color have higher rates of unemployment when compared to young white adults. This employment gap locks young adults of color out of future employment opportunities. The disparity in outcomes for young adults of color and young white adults is a problem of systemic inequalities that is solvable. We are hopeful that the potential of the youth today will not be wasted, but rather recognized and supported in leading the way for climate preparedness and a new green economy.

We support this campaign to ensure that the youth and young adults in our lives, communities, and programs have job opportunities. Opportunities where they do not compromise their morals or the health of the environment for a paycheck. We believe this is a basic need and should be considered as such.

Therefore we are coming together in coalition to support the Young Leaders in the Green Movement's Green Pathways Campaign.

