

Affinity Group Formation -Climate Camp 2006 2hrs

Start Time	Timing	Session	Notes
	10 min	<p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitators introduce themselves • Agenda Check – brief run through agenda and introduce aim of the workshop (to introduce the idea of working in affinity groups and to help people find an affinity group for the climate camp actions) • Propose group agreement 	<p>Agenda</p> <p>Group agreement</p>
	15 min	<p>What is an affinity group? What are the benefits of working in affinity groups?</p> <p>In small groups 4-5s ask participants to introduce themselves then discuss and note down what they think an affinity group is, and what the benefits of working in an affinity group might be.</p> <p>Feedback: Ask groups for their definition and then for their ideas of the benefits, write up on flips</p> <p>Cover some/all of these benefits of working in affinity groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • emotional support - space to explore fears and doubts before action and support during and after • empowerment- challenges the idea that experts and professional campaigners make changes on our behalf • Solidarity counteracts the feeling that we are all alone in our struggle to change the world • Self-sufficient- provide own logistical and support needs before, during and after an action • Safety - group stays together during the action • Sustainability for the long haul • Strategic thinking -creates space to evaluate and follow up and move forward • Countering oppression - as no leaders avoids key people being picked off • harder to infiltrate/provocateurs • active participation - creates space where each voice can be heard • flexibility and creativity in reacting to changing conditions on actions • improves organisation and communication on big actions - clusters / spokescouncils 	<p>Blank flip and pens</p>

15min	<p>Roles on actions (optional)</p> <p>Explain there are many roles necessary to help make an action go smoothly and whilst they may not all be 'glamorous' action roles they are just as vital to the success of an action.</p> <p>Ask participants to get into small groups 4-5s (same groups as before?) and ideasstorm - What roles might you need on an affinity group action?</p> <p>Feedback: ask groups to shout out roles and explain what they are to the other groups</p> <p>Cover some/all of the following: Facilitator, transport, spokesperson, police liaison, media liaison, video/photographer, legal observer, legal support, first aider, action participants, action support</p>	Blank flip pens
15min	<p>What actions are happening during the climate camp?</p> <p>Brief presentation of the big action(s) already planned that affinity groups can join in with</p> <p>Brief Q&A</p>	
15 min	<p>Step Forward and Back – assessing risk/style of action</p> <p>Explain that we're going to use a relatively crude method to help people find like-minded people to form an affinity group with.</p> <p>Ask participants to line up. Tell them going to ask a series of questions. They step back or forward accordingly. They don't return to the same spot between questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Step forward if you'd take part in the trashing of property 2. Step forward again if you'd take part in the trashing of police property eg police car 3. Step backward if you'd take part in an action that involved music, dance, costumes etc 4. other questions?? or is this enough? other possibles could be on accountability or use of violence <p>Then ask everyone to look left and right along their row and get together in a huddle with those people and find somewhere to sit down together. (This creates three potentially large groups, consider splitting each group if necessary to give groups of 8-12??)</p>	

<p>45 -60 mins</p>	<p>Getting to know each other/Action planning</p> <p>Ask each affinity group to answer the following questions as a way of getting to know each other, possibly as a series of go rounds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce selves, where from, previous action experience • why they have come to the climate camp • what kind of action they would like to do (of those mentioned already or other actions they know about or ideas they have) • what role they would like to play on the action • what concerns, worries do they have about the action <p>Let the groups know that its OK to switch between groups at any time if it looks like its not the right group for them. Facilitators move between groups and make sure all are making progress.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • then if time, start action planning - questions to decide include -What are we going to do? If its a mass action, how can the group support the overall structure of the action? What materials do we need and how do we get them? What roles will each of us take? Where do we meet before the action? How do we stay together and communicate with each other during the action? Where do we meet afterwards if we get separated? <p>About 10mins before end give time warning and suggest they start to wrap up and set a date, time and venue to meet to continue their planning.</p>	
<p>5 min</p>	<p>Evaluation +/- shout out</p>	