

## **Youth Engagement and Leadership**

with guest Elise Hartill, admin and comms for Maine Youth for Climate Justice (MYCJ)

### **Major Takeaways included:**

- MYCJ has a mix of workgroups and cohorts.
  - Workgroups are action oriented- focusing on climate goals and taking steps.
  - Cohorts are more focused on community building and on serving as safe spaces for folks who have been historically marginalized, such as an LGBTQ+ space and a BIPOC space.
    - Community building in action, for them, looks like open, safe conversation spaces, game nights, art groups, ect.
- Some takeaways for adult organizers in working with youth:
  - Targeted outreach can be seen as tokenizing
  - Don't be protective of our spaces/systems/ways of doing things. Youth engagement is better when youth feel they are able bring new ideas
  - Involve youth from the beginning when creating new projects, instead of creating the project, the plan, ect and then asking for youth participation
  - Having more than 1 youth person in a meeting/space event is more comfortable than having only 1 youth participant among adults
  - [MCAN](#) is a strong example of youth/adult partnership done well.

### **Below is a link to the recorded conversation:**

- <https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/dQ0RTrHCHbztDksQJsAaKwsrVPDRV4FquVGNOSIB6fsnQrfmTfjovlikmsSTn9Ro.dnoqSIUyWSkrx4FY> Passcode: 2e!7p2Yq