

False Solutions

SOURCE: [Climate Justice Alliance](#)

We understand that as frontline communities, we are often faced with navigating many contradictions. We have seen that the fight against climate change has now become a big business opportunity. In this context, it is important to recognize approaches that will only worsen our ecological and economic crises. We call these “false solutions.” The following definitions of false solutions offer a political compass for our movements, knowing that we will engage more deeply in the nuances of various solutions in front of us in our regional and organizational contexts.

#1 - False Solutions extract and further concentrate wealth and political power

Carbon trading and other market-based incentives are presented as “economically and politically viable” strategies to address the climate crisis. Unfortunately, this makes the false and dangerous assumption that the laws of nature are subordinate to the laws of capitalism. These undemocratic mechanisms prioritize maximizing profit for those at the top at the expense of the earth and people. These do not move us toward a just transition.

#2 - False Solutions continue to poison, displace, and imprison communities

Nuclear, fracking, “clean coal”, incineration and even prisons are offered as economic transition solutions to the climate crisis, but only continue to harm the health of people and the planet. The path of extracting, transporting, processing, and consuming these technologies is paved with communities riddled with cancer, reproductive and respiratory disease, among other devastating health impacts. These false solutions turn low-income communities, communities of color and indigenous communities into sacrifice zones. These do not move us toward a just transition.

#3 - False Solutions reduce the climate crisis to a crisis of carbon

The climate “crisis” is a symptom of a deeper crisis: resource intensive industrial production of the dominant dig, burn, dump economy. Addressing only carbon emissions without challenging the growth-at-all-costs economy doesn’t resolve the real crisis. This is not to say that carbon doesn’t matter, but it is not the only thing that matters. Techno-fixes like titanium oxide cloud seeding or injecting carbon into the sea bottom are solutions for making money off of the climate crisis more than they are solutions to the climate crisis. It is unclear that these technologies will even work. It is highly likely that they’ll have unintended consequences. These efforts avoid the real solutions of reducing pollution at the source. These do not move us toward a just transition.