



## **Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition Statement on UN's IPCC Mitigation Report**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Juan Jhong Chung, [juan@michiganej.org](mailto:juan@michiganej.org)

Katrina Hamann, [katrina@michiganej.org](mailto:katrina@michiganej.org)

### **Michigan, the United States, and the Entire World Must Transition Away From Fossil Fuels and Reject False Solutions.**

April 11, 2022 – Last week, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) released the [third part](#) of its 6th Assessment Report focused on climate mitigation. Together with [part one](#) and [part two](#), it will be presented at the next Climate Change Conference (COP 27) in Egypt. The science is clear: we must immediately phase out fossil fuels to avoid the catastrophic consequences of the climate crisis. Disappointingly, however, this third installment leaves the door open for dangerous and unproven technologies that threaten the health and wellbeing of Environmental Justice communities.

In its summary for policymakers, the IPCC relies on risky technologies, favored by the oil industry, like carbon capture and storage (CCS) and direct air capture (DAC). The consequences will be dire for Environmental Justice communities and other groups at the frontline of climate change. These technologies allow for the deployment of new fossil fuel plants with the assumption that their emissions can be “captured” at 90-95% rate. The reality is that CCS and other schemes to capture and reuse carbon [actually increase emissions](#) and pollution in the air, and have barely been able to [capture 10-11% of emissions](#). Furthermore, the energy required to capture carbon dioxide from the air at a scale to be effective to mitigate climate change will [require more than five times the total amount of energy the world currently consumes](#).

Michigan must make an urgent transition away from fossil fuels to limit the risk of a 1.5 degree global temperature increase. MEJC will continue to advance people-centered policies that enable a Just Transition in Michigan such as accelerating fossil fuel plant closures in EJ communities to slash toxic emissions, prohibiting the construction of new gas-fired power plants, and supporting rapid development of community-owned renewable energy generation resources.

“Black, Indigenous, and People of Color bear the brunt of fossil fuel extraction and production. These techno-fixes will create sacrifice zones in our communities by allowing corporations to

pollute under the guise of climate action. True climate solutions must be rooted in a Just Transition. We are in a critical decade to take swift and bold action to phase out fossil fuels and move towards a regenerative economy.” stated Jamesa Johnson Greer, Executive Director at the Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition

“We urgently call our elected officials to transition our economy from its reliance on fossil fuel extraction to one that is centered on community care and powered by renewable, pollution-free energy. No matter our race or zip code, all Michiganders deserve to thrive in clean and healthy neighborhoods. Investing in climate action now will transform Michigan to a place where all of us have the freedom to thrive, no exceptions.” stated Juan Jhong Chung, Climate Justice Director at the Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition