

Resolution # 12

Submitted by: Recycle for Change

Recycle for Change: Textile Recycling and Environmental Justice

Whereas, the NAACP supports a more sustainable planet and acknowledges the broad scientific consensus that climate change exists; and

Whereas climate change is primarily caused by excess greenhouse gases resulting from human activities; and

Whereas, the NAACP recognizes the intersection between environmental issues, social justice and civil rights and seeks to support food justice, economic justice and environmental justice; and

Whereas, the effects of climate change disproportionately affect people of color and the economically disadvantaged and will intensify the existing problems of inequality; and

Whereas, this disproportionate effect of climate change can be observed in several aspects a few of which include, increased asthma rates and health complications due to poor air quality, rising transportation costs, polluted neighborhoods, lack of clean drinking water, rising food prices, depleted fishing stock, increased exposure to natural disasters such as hurricane Katrina where the poor and people of color reside in flood zones more susceptible to the increasingly erratic weather patterns and events; and

Whereas, people of color and the economically disadvantaged are more vulnerable to the effects of climate-change and have **fewer resources to adapt and respond to the changes caused by climate change**; and

Whereas, Recycle for Change has been working to help those most affected by global climate change and poverty in the United States, Africa and other under-served countries where volunteers work to provide not only education but tools for people in affected communities to lift themselves up by establishing ongoing programs in economically sustainable models including small scale agriculture, health education, teacher training, HIV/AIDS education, food and water security, and sanitation; and

Whereas, Recycle for Change's mission is to fight worldwide poverty, to empower economically challenged populations to do the same, to reduce carbon emissions and create a sustainable future for all; and

Whereas, Recycle for Change's textile recycling program saves resources and reduces greenhouse gases that cause climate change through the reuse and recycling of textiles; and

Whereas, EPA studies show that only 15% of textiles are recycled and 85% go to landfill creating harmful greenhouse gases; and

Whereas, the benefit of Recycle for Change goes beyond fighting climate change as the proceeds generated by the sale of used clothing benefit organizations engaged in sustainable development work in the United States, Africa, and other under-served countries, placing aid directly in communities that are disproportionately affected by climate change and extreme poverty.

Therefore, be it resolved that the NAACP devote their best efforts, attention and advocacy to building a partnership with Recycle for Change to help manage environmental resources in an effort to mitigate and reverse climate change for the benefit and enjoyment of current and future generations; and

Therefore, be it resolved that the NAACP formally supports Recycle for Change and their efforts to fight for environmental justice; and

Therefore, be it further resolved that the NAACP support the promotion of textile recycling to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and curb climate change; and

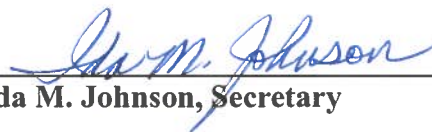
Therefore, be it further resolved that the NAACP calls upon member branches to inform themselves concerning the issue of textile recycling, and to support the local efforts of Recycle for Change throughout California; and

Therefore, be it resolved that the NAACP will transmit this Resolution to the state legislature and all local municipalities that are considering policies that may restrict or ban access or otherwise curtail textile recycling which would diminish the efforts to mitigate climate change and promote environmental justice.

Signed by



Alice A. Huffman, President
Approved October 25, 2015



Ida M. Johnson, Secretary