

# Water Warriors Unite!

Organized by the Sierra Club MI EJ Action Group

Presented by:

*Monica Lewis-Patrick, We the People of Detroit*

*Mona Munroe-Younis, Environmental Transformation Movement of Flint*

*Dr. Lawrence Reynolds, Pediatrician*

*Quentin Turner, Sierra Club Michigan*

## Welcome!/Introductions

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## Purposes of this Workshop

- Build relationships between people who care about water as a human right and public health necessity
- Learn about the power in the room
- Learn about the importance of policy, and power mapping as a tool for analyzing power for/against an issue
- Practice power mapping
- Identify next steps for creating change



# Building Power & Making Change Through Policy

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## What is Power?

“Power is the ability to influence or make a decision to win our policy goals, despite resistance from others.”

Source: The “Mobilizing for Policy Change to Advance Water Justice” Training (May 2018) based on policy advocacy trainings developed by the Detroit Community-Academic Urban Research Center

## Purpose of Power Mapping

“To win a campaign, you need to correctly identify who has the power to fix the problem you want fixed. Then you need to pressure them to make the right decision. **Power mapping is a tool to not only identify** who holds that power, but, crucially, who holds influence over that person, and, therefore, **who to target with your direct actions and campaign activities**. A power map, properly done, can reveal these relationships and power dynamics and help you design a winning strategy for your campaign.”

Source: “Power Mapping” by Andrew Boyd <https://beautifulrising.org/tool/power-mapping>

## Power Mapping Supports Policy Change

*“Action without vision is only passing time, vision without action is merely day dreaming, but vision with action can change the world.”*

*~ Nelson Mandela*



## What is a “policy”?

A policy is a plan or course of action that helps to guide decisions.

- Policies serve as guidelines that governments, organizations, institutions and groups use to respond to issues and situations
- Policies can take different forms (e.g. rules, procedures, regulations, codes of conduct) and may be official/written or unofficial/unwritten

Source: The “Mobilizing for Policy Change to Advance Water Justice” Training (May 2018) based on policy advocacy trainings developed by the Detroit Community-Academic Urban Research Center

## Solutions: Policies vs. Programs/Activities



Policy	Program/Activities
➤ Addresses bigger problem and usually root causes of problem	➤ Addresses small piece of problem and usually symptoms of the problem
➤ Big picture issues	➤ Day-to-day issues
➤ Creates movement toward broader goals	➤ Meets an immediate need
➤ Creates change at institution and/or community levels	➤ Creates change more so at individual level
➤ Lasting change	➤ Short-term change

Source: The “Mobilizing for Policy Change to Advance Water Justice” Training (May 2018) based on policy advocacy trainings developed by the Detroit Community-Academic Urban Research Center

## You know it’s a policy when it’s called...

➤ Laws	➤ Budget/budget appropriation
➤ Regulations	➤ Resolutions
➤ Tax	➤ Ballot initiative
➤ Executive order	➤ Court decisions & court orders
➤ Administrative rule	➤ Eligibility standard
➤ Code	➤ Zoning
➤ Enforcement	➤ Recall

Source: The “Mobilizing for Policy Change to Advance Water Justice” Training (May 2018) based on policy advocacy trainings developed by the Detroit Community-Academic Urban Research Center

## Why create or change policies?

Policies can...

- Be far reaching
- Be long-lasting
- Make individuals & organizations accountable
- Guide future decisions
- Signal a commitment

Source: The “Mobilizing for Policy Change to Advance Water Justice” Training (May 2018) based on policy advocacy trainings developed by the Detroit Community-Academic Urban Research Center

## Now back to power... 3 Questions for You

- Where does power come from?
- What kinds of power are there?
- How do we mobilize power to bring about change?



Source: The “Mobilizing for Policy Change to Advance Water Justice” Training (May 2018) based on policy advocacy trainings developed by the Detroit Community-Academic Urban Research Center

## To Mobilize Our Power, We Need to Know...

- Who has the power to make our policy change?
- Who are the key players with a stake in our issue?
- Where do they stand?
- How much power do they have?



Source: The “Mobilizing for Policy Change to Advance Water Justice” Training (May 2018) based on policy advocacy trainings developed by the Detroit Community-Academic Urban Research Center

## Change Agent Questionnaire/ List of Orgs Addressing Water

# Practicing Power Mapping

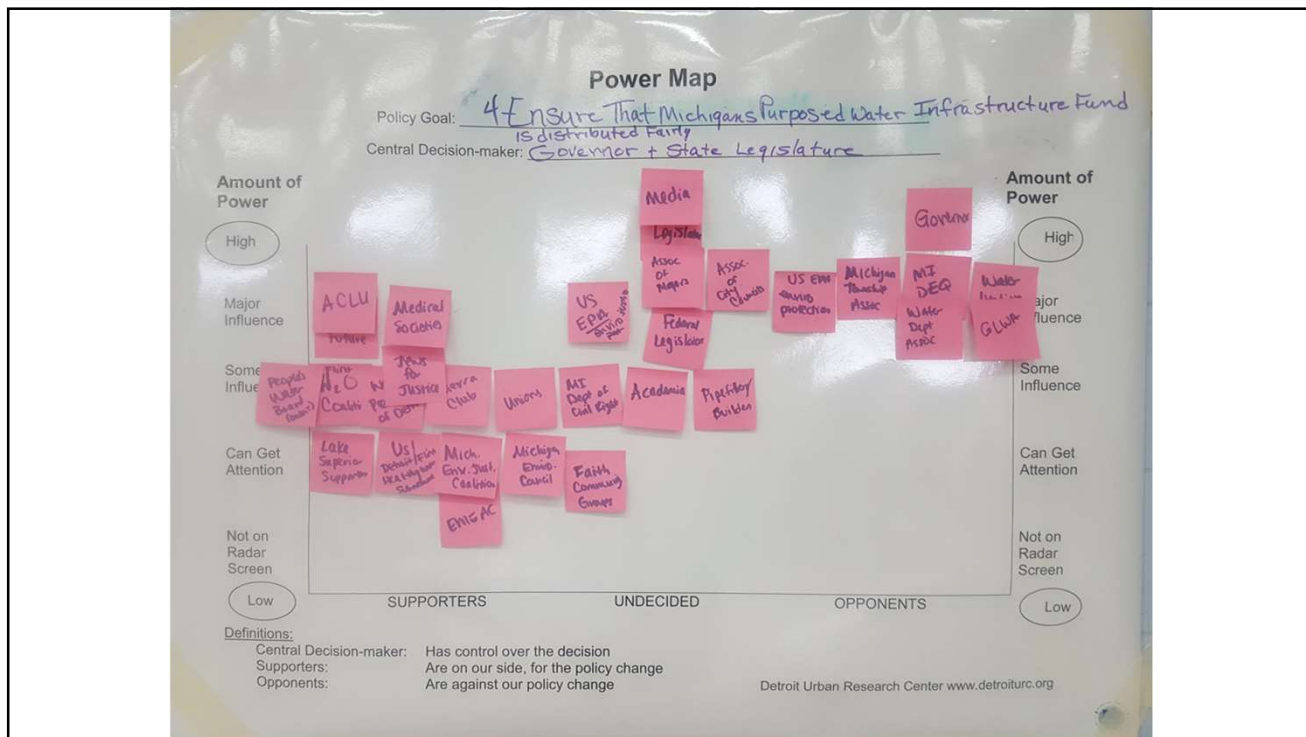
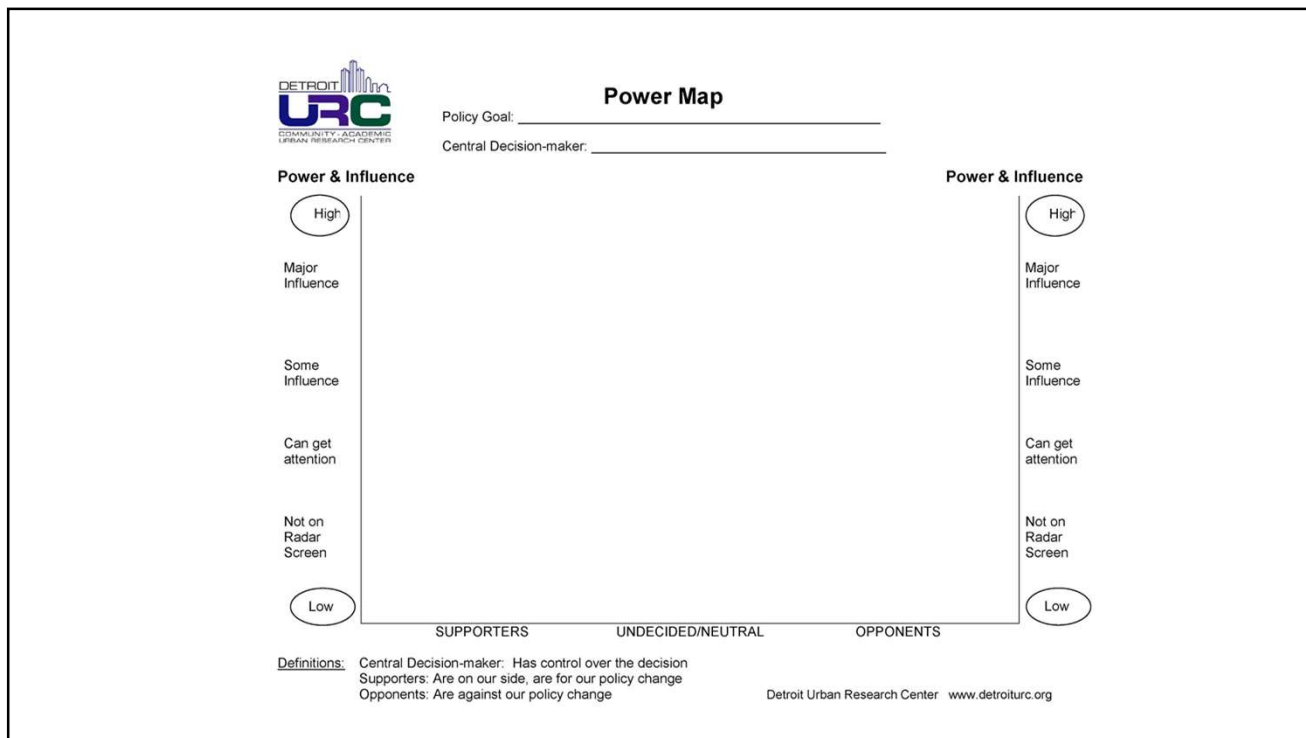
## Remember - To Mobilize Our Power, We Need to Know...

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## Power Mapping Tips

- Be as specific as possible about the decision-maker (e.g. name the division or person within an organization, specific policy-maker)
- Take note of questions that crop up (e.g. questions about level of influence, questions about specific influencer, who may be missing)

## Experiential Group Work

1. Split into groups
2. Review power mapping steps
3. Determine if group will have a scribe or if everyone will write on post-it notes

## Power Mapping Next Step: Gather Information

Power maps help us see what we don't know and need to find out.

- What else do we need to know?
- Who else do we need to involve?
- What opportunities for action are there?



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# Debrief/Next Steps