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Winning Community Trust - deploy projects tried and tested across the world

During the Nov 17 Lithium Valley Community Forum there was very active community participation. There were many references to the environmental advantages of the geothermal brine under the Salton Sea as a source of lithium over the "open pit mining" in Nevada or Australia and "evaporation ponds" in South America. However it was not easy for many to internalize this advantage; they seemed to struggle with technicalities. The fact sheet and video will be helpful to address that but something more concrete is needed to win trust.

What was very clear to the community members, as articulated very well by many, was the clear health challenges including respiratory problems due to degradation of soil, air quality and water quality which seem to be related to each other. Housing challenges were also mentioned by a few. These are the challenges that they clearly relate to and present an opportunity to build trust with the communities relatively quickly with tried and tested concrete actions.

There are many highly successful demonstrations of soil restoration across the globe that solves air and water quality issues. Some compelling examples are in Australia, India and Africa (Mozambique and Zimbabwe), most under the guidance of Australian Soil Scientist Walter Jenhe. These methods use Sunlight for photosynthesis and introduce biodiversity in the soil to restore soil health. But more importantly this contributes to Climate Action and Economic Opportunity as Carbon is sucked out from the atmosphere and atmospheric humidity is used to meet urban food needs even in the dry climate such as in the Salton Sea area.

Representative Chellie Pingree of Maine is trying to introduce legislation in the US Congress to formulate policy to proliferate such restoration work in the US too. A link to a recent webinar on these successes and Rep Pingree's policy initiative is here <https://youtu.be/TqhEi4fCfIU?t=1085>

I suggest that we should organize hackathons with the community and selected experts and innovators for harvesting and funding innovative solutions like these to address the highest risk concerns from the Community with viable projects for soil, air, water restoration and high efficiency housing as part of a Lithium Valley Master Plan. This will also help to have the community as part of the solutions. <https://youtu.be/F07RNxIAm9Q?t=427>

Projects like these support Social and Environmental Justice envisioned in the National Blueprint for Lithium Batteries released in June 2021 after 100 day reviews ordered by the President in Feb 2021. We are not doing Lithium for the sake of Lithium but for a

bigger Mission. Justice40 funds are also meant to fuel such projects and scale them with the help of small business entrepreneurs so as to uplift communities with spillover economic opportunities while driving Climate Action within the Clean Energy Storage Industry around this precious Lithium Resource within the Lithium Valley - all within a Mission Oriented Innovation Framework.