

# Foundations

## Opening Question:

What have you learned about your issue since our workshop last week?

## Case Study: Mr. Page and Resolution 124

City of St. Louis: 400,000 people and an economic hub

Home to Peabody Coal and Arch Coal

### Key players

- **James Page:** OFA St. Louis chapter leader
- **Ann Wagner:** Republican congresswoman representing Missouri's 2nd district
- **Lewis Reed:** First black man to be elected to Board of Aldermen for St. Louis; primary sponsor for Resolution 124
- **Heather Navarro:** Alderwoman for St. Louis' 28th ward; executive director for Missouri Coalition for the Environment
- **Missouri Clean Energy Coalition:** 17 different political, environmental, scientific, farming, and interfaith organizations

## Key point 1:

**Know the story of your city and assess the efficacy of your current actions**

## Reflection question:

What are you doing currently that feels good but is not leading to change?

## But what kind of coalition?

- Broader is better
- Application of pressure
- Well organized
- Logical
- Benefits the community
- Building of relationships with elected officials over time

## **Key point 2: Begin building relationships with community members, elected officials, and organizations**

### **Reflection question:**

What groups are you currently working with? What demographics do they represent?

## **Key point 3: Gain knowledge on your issue and set your strategy**

### **Best practices:**

- Look for people with the resources you need
- Ask for advice
- Show up—relationships are everything
- Brainstorm contacts
- Work together to build relationships
- Partnerships and coalitions are everything

## **Q & A Wisdom**

### **Indicators of good issues:**

- Result in the improvement of people's lives
- Make people aware of their own power
- Be winnable
- Be widely felt
- Be deeply felt
- Be easy to understand
- Have a clear decision maker
- Have a clear time frame
- Be consistent with your values and vision

### **Reflection question:**

What are your next steps in building a coalition? Why are those your steps? What else is missing?