



Perceptions & Perspectives of ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

(A View Through Different Lenses)

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KAMP KUMBAYA



Nope.

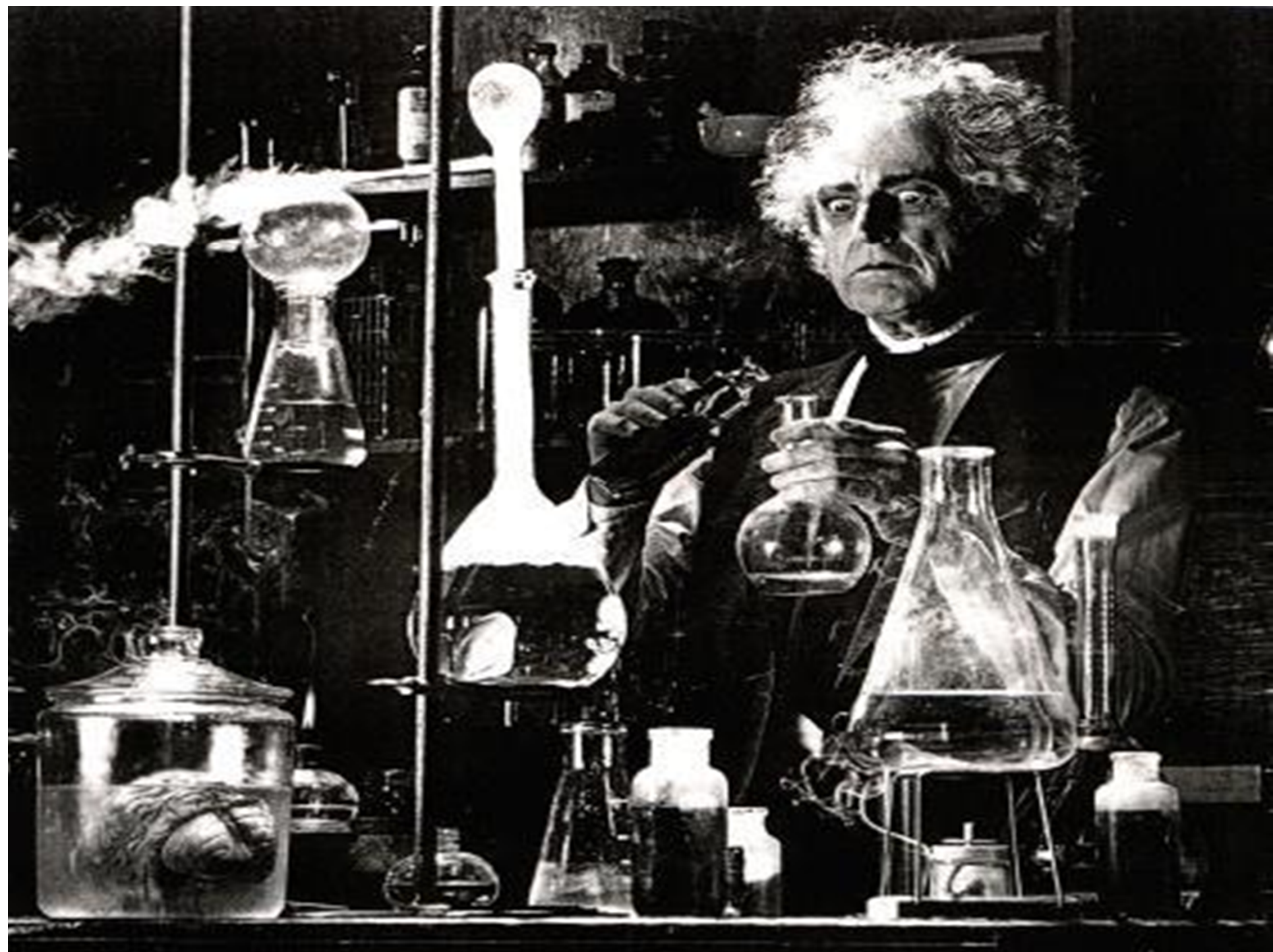
**That is not
where we're
going today.**

**What looks
like resistance
is often a lack
of clarity.**

**What Image Comes To
Mind When You Think
Of
“Environmental
Justice
Communities”?
(Be Honest...)**



**Now... What Image
Comes To Mind When
You Think Of
“Environmental
Regulatory Agencies”?
(Again, Be Honest...)**



**It's All A Matter
Of Perception!**

di-ver-si-ty

[dih-vur-si-tee]

Noun, plural -ties

- 1. The state or fact of being diverse; difference; unlikeness.**
- 2. Variety; multiformity.**
- 3. A point of difference.**

WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE?

- Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.
- This will be achieved when everyone enjoys the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards and equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work.



Region 4 Priorities

- **Successfully Resolve/Advance Regional Issues**
- **Focus on Underserved or Under-represented Populations**
 - Environmental Justice
 - Children's Health
- **Expand the Conversation on Environmentalism and Build New Partnerships**



Why Prioritize Environmental Justice?

- **Morally Right Thing To Do!**
- **Constitutional Right to Equal Protection Under the Laws**
 - Clean Water, Air, and Land are not parochial
- **Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and CERCLA have inherent inclusion message:**
 - No one should bear undue burden

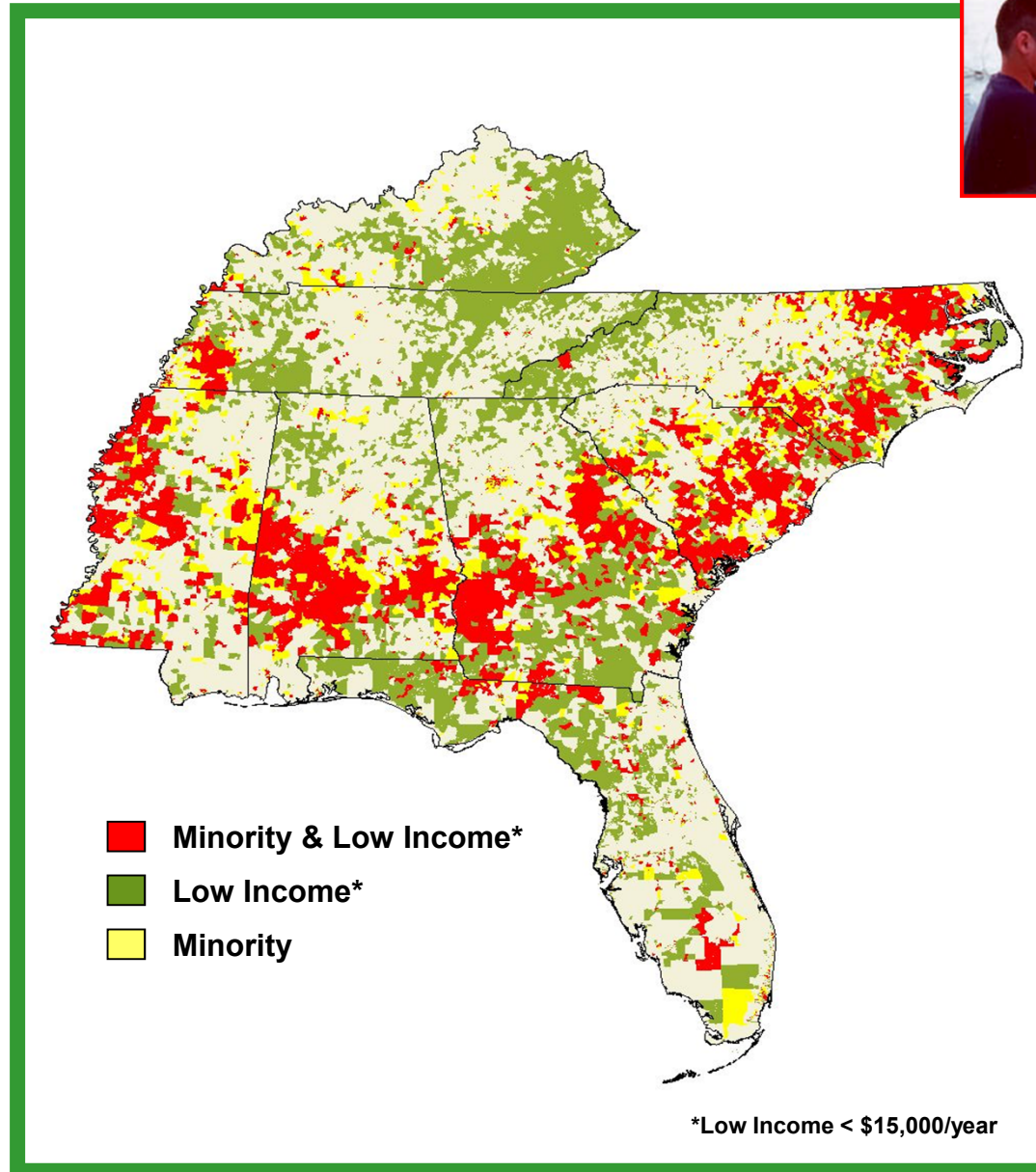


Economic Implications of EJ

- Only as Strong as our Weakest Link
- Pockets of Poverty Negatively Impact Ability to Compete Globally
- Strong and Healthy Communities Attract Business
 - Economically Advantageous



Environmental Justice



Plan EJ 2014

- Strategy to help EPA integrate environmental justice into its programs
- Promotes the development of a common mapping platform
- Promotes better coordination of grant programs
- Emphasizes five cross-agency areas



Cross-Agency Focus Areas

- Incorporating Environmental Justice Into Rulemaking
- Considering Environmental Justice Concerns in EPA's Permitting Process
- Accelerating Compliance and Enforcement Initiatives
- Supporting Community-Based Action Programs
- Fostering Administration-wide Action on Environmental Justice



You can't get there
from here. You have
to go somewhere
else first.



NEVER UNDER-VALUE PROPER COMMUNICATIONS





How the Community Leaders explained it.



How the Project Manager understood it.



How the Contractor designed it.



How the EJ Activist described it.



How the Project was documented.



How the Project funding went.



How the Agency supported the initiative

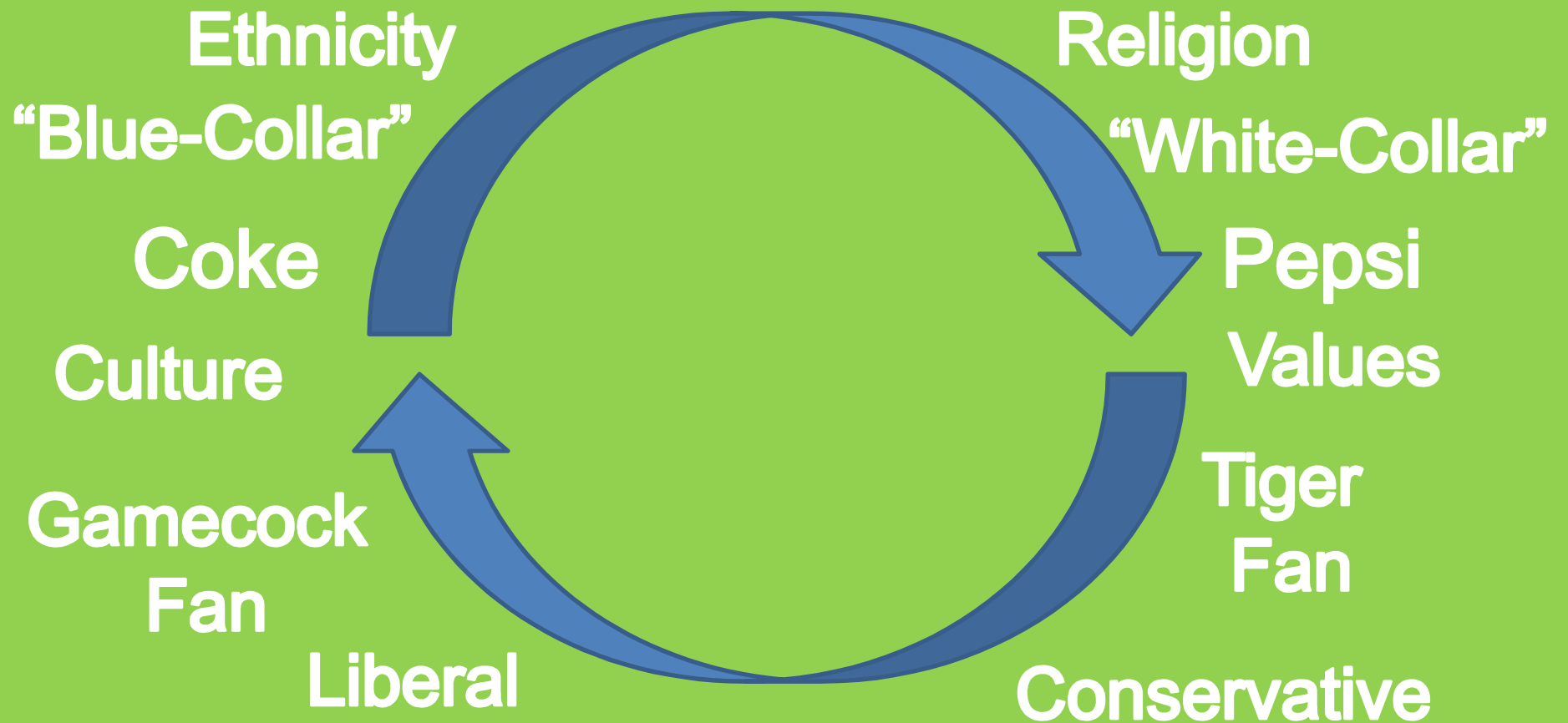


What the Community really wanted.

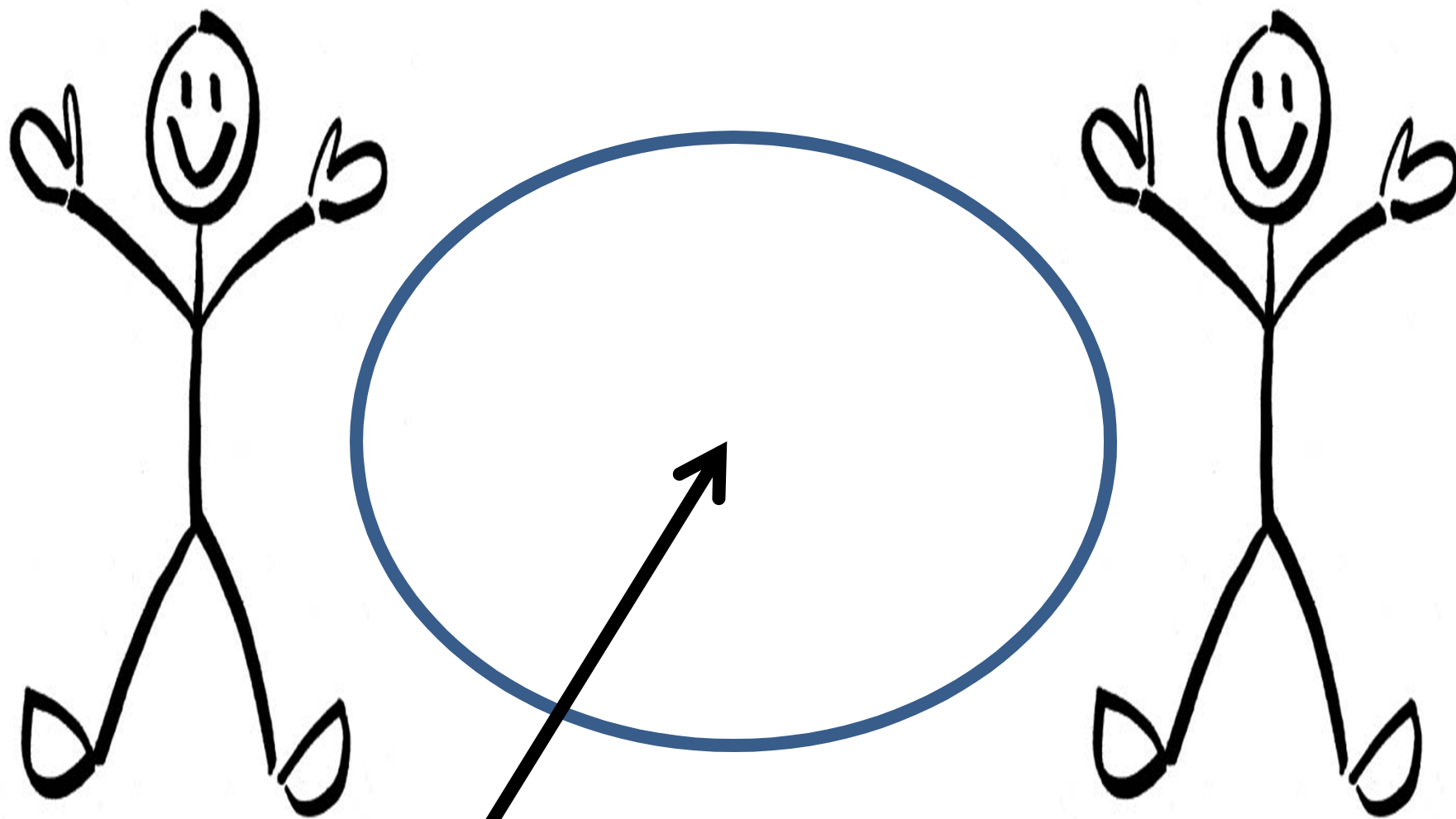
TALK

LISTEN

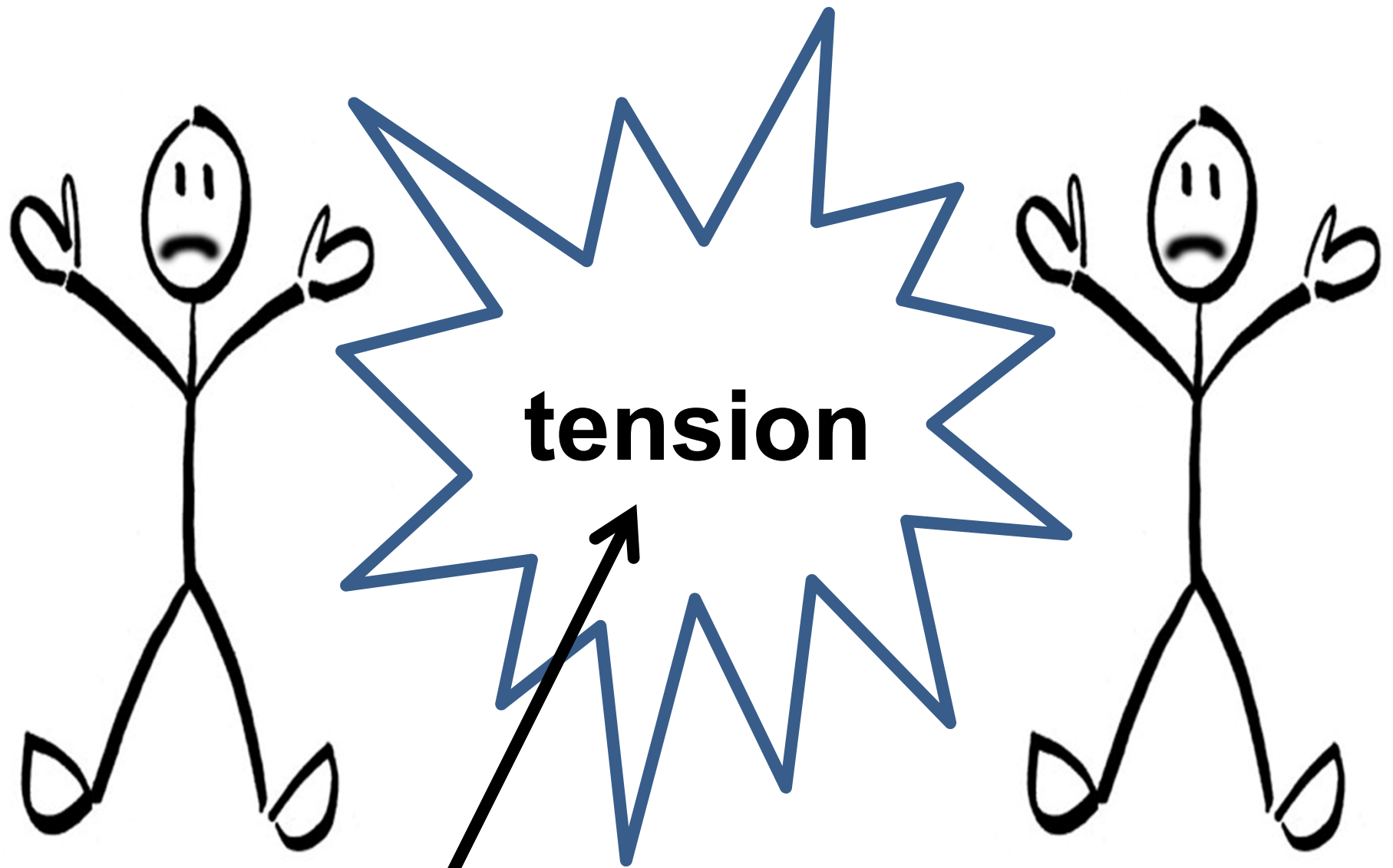




Difference is Relational



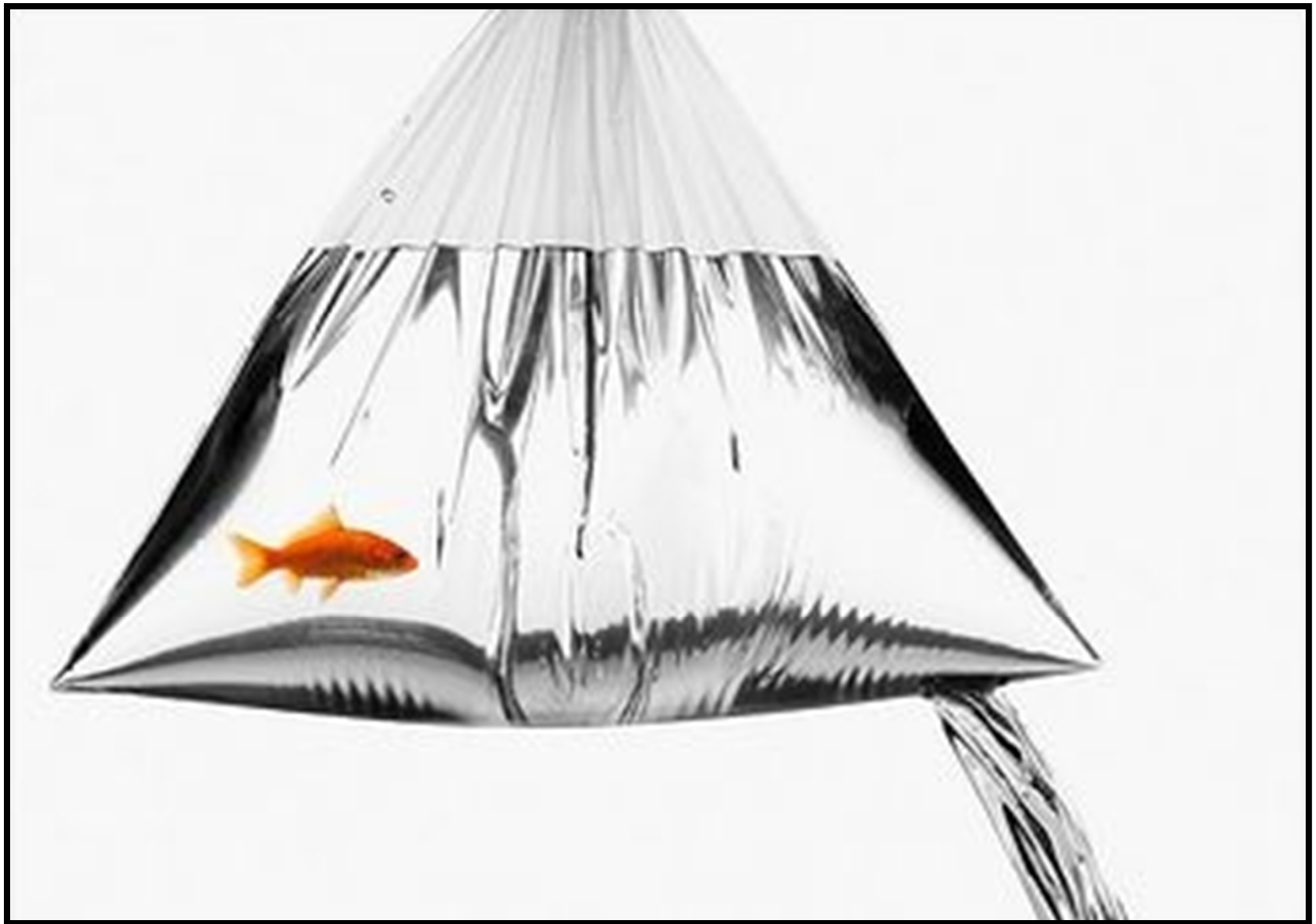
Difference lives here



Difference brings this

What Kind of Containers Are You Building With Your Relationships, Conversations, & Groups?

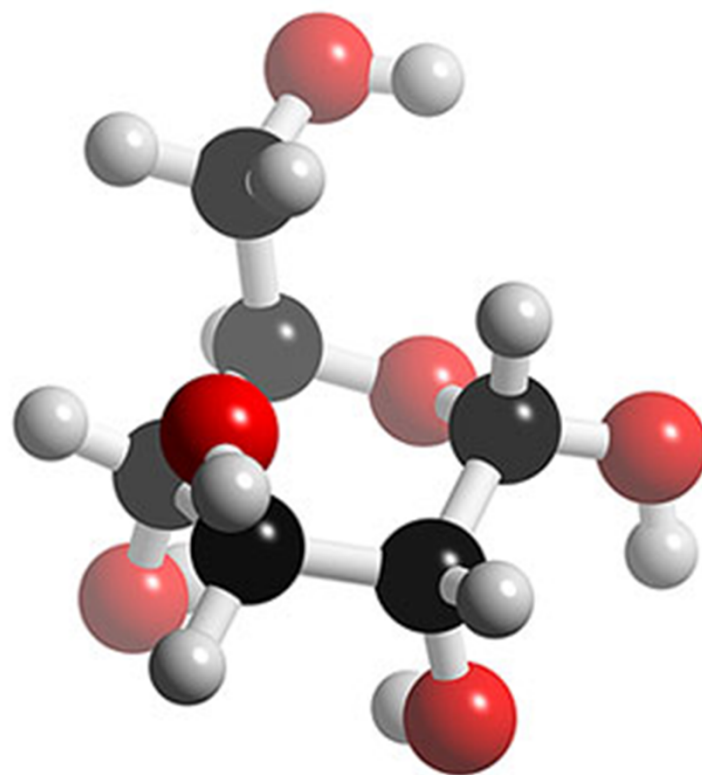




Carbon
6

C

12.011



Hydrogen
1

H

1.00794

Oxygen
8

O

15.9994





Next Steps for EJ

- **Finalize Regional EJ Guidelines**
- **Increase outreach efforts**
 - Enhance communication with EJ communities
 - Build new partnerships with local governments and universities
 - Workshops
 - Listening Sessions
 - Prioritization/Strategic Planning
- **Enhance communication and enforcement efforts**
 - Publish enforcement outcomes/Success Stories
 - Explore partnership with DOJ



Next Steps for EJ

- Consider EJ in permitting process
- Evaluate and Address air toxics in communities
- Increase public involvement in landfill placement decisions
- Inform Local Emergency Planning Commissions (LEPCs) about EJ
- Regional EJ Focus from “Federal Family”
 - DOE
 - HUD
 - HHS (CDC & ATSDR)
 - DOT



What Can You Do?

- Continue to Provide Strong Leadership
- Maintain an Open Door Policy
- Join us in EJ discussions/listening sessions
- Think Outside the Box
- Share Examples of EJ Successes

