

Renewable Hydrogen Alliance Celebrates Juneteenth

"If the cruelties of slavery could not stop us, the opposition we now face will surely fail. Because the goal of America is freedom, abused and scorned tho' we may be, our destiny is tied up with America's destiny."

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Renewable Hydrogen Alliance's (RHA) founding document states as a first value "equity and respect for the community and the environment." We are proud to have adopted this value, and every day we strive to live up to it.

One hundred and fifty-seven years since the news made it to Galveston, Texas that, two years earlier, President Lincoln had issued the Emancipation Proclamation declaring enslaved African Americans free, we are sadly not free of the tragic injustices and institutional crimes against black people in this country. Racism, oppression and denial of equal opportunity continue to persist in our financial, economic, educational and social institutions, and government programs, from the federal government to the neighborhood level.

RHA is first and foremost an organization whose vision is to move energy, transportation and other sectors off of polluting fossil fuels that are destroying our planet and have caused the devastating effects of climate change. We see a direct link between RHA's work and the well-being of people of color. It is well documented that low income and communities of color have suffered the impacts of pollution and climate change at an exponentially greater rate than other populations. It is our objective to make sure that policies we advocate for to promote using clean, non-polluting renewable hydrogen to get our economy off of fossil fuels clearly benefit those communities most economically and physically harmed by pollution and climate change.

RHA acknowledges and celebrates Juneteenth, and praises the appropriate recognition and designation of the day as a national holiday. But we know there is more work to do. Even the proclamation read at Galveston on June 19, 1865 had foreshadowing language in it sending the message that the white man would continue to "keep his eye on" the black man (or woman) and constrain his freedom of movement and autonomy:

"...The freedmen are advised to remain quietly at their present homes and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts and that they will not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere."

RHA will continue to try to improve the lives of those disenfranchised and discriminated against through our work to prevent and reverse the earth's destruction from climate change. We will continue to work to ensure equal access to a clean environment, clean and affordable energy, and the benefits of improved health and greater economic security.