



**THEY SAY IT CAN'T  
BE DONE**

Community Circle Guide

connect + learn + act

## **Prepping for the Circle**

### **Think through and do this before hosting this Community Circle**

- Purchase or rent the documentary "They Say It Can't Be Done" from one of [these platforms](#).
- Set the film up so it's ready to play.
- Consider inviting friends who are like minded, but also those who might have different ideas about this topic, or don't know much about the topic.
- Feel free to invite from your friend circle, or create a FB event and invite people in your community.
- We have a long list of discussion questions, feel free to choose the ones most relevant to your Circle based on what you want to focus on most. You shouldn't cover every single one of them unless Circle members wish to.
- If pressed for time, feel free to focus on one or two of the four stories featured in the documentary, instead of watching the entire film.

For additional information and questions contact AF Director of Grassroots and Community, Rhachel Toombs, at [rhachel@americasfuture.org](mailto:rhachel@americasfuture.org). You can also contact the film's producer, Patrick Reasonover, at [patrick@justaddfirewater.com](mailto:patrick@justaddfirewater.com).

# Community Circle Guide

## **Introductions: Why We're Here (~ 10 minutes)**

**Each participant has 1 minute to introduce themselves.**

- Share your name, where you live, what drew you here, and if this is your first Community Circle.

## **Circle Agreements: How We'll Engage (~5 minutes)**

**These will set the tone of our Circle; participants may volunteer to take turns reading them aloud.**

- **Be curious and listen to understand.** Conversation is as much about listening as it is about talking. You might enjoy exploring how others' experiences have shaped their values and perspectives.
- **Show respect and suspend judgment.** People tend to judge one another. Setting judgment aside opens you up to learning from others and makes them feel respected and appreciated. Try to truly listen without interruption or crosstalk.
- **Note any common ground as well as differences.** Look for areas of shared agreement or shared values that may arise and take an interest in the differing beliefs and opinions of others.
- **Be authentic and welcome that from others.** Share what's important to you. Speak from your experience. Be considerate of others who are doing the same.
- **Be purposeful and to the point.** Do your best to keep your comments concise and relevant to the question you are answering. Be conscious of sharing airtime with other participants.
- **Own and guide the conversation.** Take responsibility for the quality of your participation and the conversation as a whole. Be proactive in getting yourself and others back on track if needed. Use an agreed upon signal like the "time out" sign if you feel the agreements are not being honored.

## **Question Rounds: What We'll Talk About**

**Optional: a participant can keep track of time and gently let people know when their time has elapsed.**

### **Round One: Getting to Know Each Other (~10 minutes)**

**Each participant can take 1-2 minutes to answer one of these questions:**

- What are your hopes and concerns for your family, friends, and/or the country?
- What would your best friend say about who you are?
- What sense of purpose / mission / duty guides you in your life?

### **Round Two: Exploring the Topic -- They Say It Can't Be Done (~90 minutes)**

**One participant can volunteer to read this paragraph before watching the film.**

Innovation never comes without risk and often brings consequences that can impact our health, safety, and environment. That is why our regulatory system is designed to protect and serve the public interest. In the fast-paced world of technological development, however, even well-intentioned regulations can inadvertently hamper beneficial progress. In this film, we explore the various responses and innovations that are solving climate change - because we know private solutions are more beneficial than public ones. Each company in the film has the potential to solve some of our greatest environmental challenges, but all face a common roadblock: a regulatory system that could impede solutions to some of our most pressing environmental issues.

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# They Say It Can't Be Done

**After watching the film, take 2 minutes each to answer a question below without interruption or crosstalk. The group may choose to have everyone answer: A) whichever question speaks to them individually or B) the same question with an option to pass. Once everyone has answered, the group may take a few minutes for any clarifying or follow up questions/responses. Continue exploring with other topic or related questions as time allows.**

- What is the purpose of regulation?
- Why are innovation and regulation often at odds?
- Do you think the rate of innovation is accelerating?
- Can regulation keep up with innovation?
- How can regulation help or hurt the environment?
- Is it better to overregulate or to underregulate?
- Do you agree or disagree with the movie's message? Why?
- Should the free market play a bigger role in environmental problem solving?
- Would you eat lab-grown meat?
- Is it more important to protect public health or promote environmentally-friendly food?
- To what extent should federal or state governments regulate lab-grown meat?
- Do you think carbon capture sounds like a viable approach to solving climate change?
- What should happen when there isn't a regulatory framework in place for an emerging industry?
- What is the most effective way to address widespread environmental problems like climate change?
- Should the government invest more in emerging technologies?
- Do you think open-ocean commercial aquaculture is a good idea?
- Why is the use of the ocean so heavily restricted?
- Who is best suited to regulate ventures like aquaculture: private organization, state governments, local governments, or the federal government?
- Should multiple levels of government regulate the same things?

## III Round Three: Reflecting on the Conversation (~15 minutes)

### Take 2 minutes to answer one of the following questions:

- What was most meaningful/valuable to you in this Community Circle?
- What learning, new understanding, or common ground was found on the topic?
- How has this conversation changed your perception of anyone in this group, including yourself?
- Is there a next step you would like to take based upon the conversation you just had?

### Closing (~5 minutes)

**It's great to learn something new, but it's no good if it isn't used! It's important to reflect on what was learned, as well as create action steps for how to apply what was learned. While most Community Circle guides will have a recommended action step, you can choose to create your own. You can also choose to create one with the Circle members.**

**With action steps, make sure the instructions are clear and there is a deadline. Whenever possible, do the action steps together.**

Action Step: Participate in a community clean up day with a local organization, with your friends, or with your fellow Circle members.