

RETHINKING ECONOMICS INTERNATIONAL

STRATEGY

2026 - 2031

FOREWORD	2
WHO WE ARE	3
THE PROBLEM	3
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	5
Our Vision	5
Our Purpose	5
Our Goals	5
Our Movement Role	5
Our Values - Care, Curiosity and Courage	5
AGITATE: OUR SYSTEM-CHANGE GOALS	6
Goal 1 Critical and Pluralist Economics Education at Universities & Beyond	6
Goal 2 New Voices Leading on Changing Economy Narratives	7
Goal 3 Youth-Led Policy Making that Leads to a Just Transition	8
THE PILLARS OF OUR THEORY OF CHANGE	10
Organise to build communities of rethinkers	10
Educate ourselves and others	10
Agitate to transform economics in education, narrative and policy	11
ASSUMPTIONS	11
THEORY OF CHANGE	14
ORGANISATIONAL OBJECTIVES: ORGANISE	15
Why are we becoming a Youth Membership Organisation?	15
ORGANISATIONAL OBJECTIVES: EDUCATE & COMMUNICATE	19

FOREWORD

This strategy has been years in the making and is the combined effort of member working groups, affiliated group consultations and a staff team dedicated to putting our global membership at the forefront of the movement for a just, equitable and democratic economy.

The problem statement is adapted from our Brazilian group Desajuste and their rallying call to their network. It inspired those of us working on this draft to think more deeply about our role outside of academia. The Organise, Educate, Agitate Framework was agreed in consultation with members in 2023 and was suggested by some of our members based in India.

Our Vision, Values and Principles have remained largely the same from when our Members Council approved them in 2024. However, we have re-centred the purpose around youth so we can expand our work outside of universities. With this shift, we are exploring a huge number of new areas around narrative change and youth led policy.

Our commitment to a critical and pluralist economics education is unwavering but we now see this as the start of the journey for many of our members, rather than the end goal itself. We are just at the beginning of expanding our work to all young people interested in rethinking economics but we know many of our groups have been doing this work for a long time. This strategy sets a direction for this work so we can collectively act to change economics in the classroom, workplaces, in the media and in wider societies.

We have elaborated this strategy during a period of governance reform of our movement. By the time we review this strategy, midway and at close in 2030, we hope every aspect of our joint strategy will be debated, tested and agreed upon between the staff of Rethinking Economics International and the movement's democratically elected representatives.

Our movement has always needed to expand to meet the ambition of its mission. That's why we're building power across our network, thinking globally, acting locally and educating the next generation of Rethinkers.

– Laurence Blackwell-Jones, Executive Director, and Sonal Raghuvanshi, Senior Economist, July 2026

WHO WE ARE

We are a global, youth membership organisation for anyone interested in understanding or studying the economy in all its complexities and working towards an economics that belongs to everyone. We proudly do not call ourselves economists while the discipline trivialises climate change and ignores global, racial and social inequality. We are Rethinkers, those working to change economics so that it is in service to people and the planet. In the process, we're seeking to redefine for ourselves what it means to be an economist for the 21st century. Rethinking Economics International (REI) is registered in the UK as a charity but working internationally to mobilise young people to rethink economics. We have over 100 university based groups in over 30 countries, emerging city based groups, alongside 15 national organisations that form part of our international council.

THE PROBLEM

As young economists, students, and professionals in the field, we recognise a scarcity of progressive and critical forums for discussion on economics. Mainstream economics has problems - the problem of credibility and the problem of relevance. In classrooms across the world, students are still being taught a version of economics that offers answers devoid of ecological, social, and political realities. As a result policy makers are limited by imagination, toolkits and ambition to practice an economics that serves people over profit. This has resulted in a discipline that only deepens the polycrises we face, desperately calling for further privatisation and profiteering rather than transforming itself in service for people and the planet.

The feeling of carrying a dissenting position from the conventional or mainstream one has imposed the need to act collectively and increase the number of voices in the public debate. This is what gave rise to Rethinking Economics and since then Rethinkers have forged different paths in life, and acted in different ways to tackle this discontent. The movement was formed recognising our differences, but understanding our common aims: the wish to build an economics discipline fit for the 21st century, building and encouraging unflinching critique of the present with an insistence on a strong historical perspective.

Many of us, driven by the consequences of the economic collapse, chose to study economics. The first Rethinkers saw the 2008 crisis as a significant milestone of their youth. Now, the climate generation has lived through the Covid crises and is living through the cost of living crisis, high student debt burdens, stagnant wages, an ongoing genocide, and a life-time of authoritarians across the world "simulating"

democracy. This alongside various moments of dissatisfaction and alienation with the current organisation of the global economy, we increasingly recognise that we are living through generational struggles and the discipline of economics, instead of responding to the urgency of the times, hides behind a technical language that feels alienating.

Our generation is the first in most countries around the globe to be worse off than our parents. The current economic model is incapable of proposing a viable future. On one hand, the wealthiest tells us that, from the age of 20, we should start building monthly savings to retire with dignity. In a world where present and future prospects are torn apart, how can young people afford to save any amount of money? On the other hand, they take away from us the very prospect of existence in the face of the climate tragedy neglected by those who hold economic power. In addition to climate change being a process that increases all types of inequities, there are even more urgent questions: Will there be a world for our generation to live in? And for our children? These may seem naive questions to older generations, but they are obvious to ours.

The RE movement asserts that we do not resign in the face of the challenge. We will be bearers of a new model of social organisation. We will not cease to be indignant, nor will we lose the necessary irreverence to make a difference and strike at the core of the problem. As the Brazilian philosopher of education Paulo Freire warned, “When education is not liberating, the dream of the oppressed is to become the oppressor.” We want to build a collective culture of popular education to challenge this cycle of oppression and free our members from a neoliberal education.

We are daring to question the education we get within the economics classrooms in a neoliberal university and mainstream economic discourse. We will present alternatives for education and practice within institutions and outside of them too. We refuse to be passive consumers of a discipline that normalises injustice and exploitation under the guise of political neutrality. When economics refuses to reckon with colonial histories, ignores planetary boundaries, and naturalises inequality, it stops to be a discipline of inquiry and becomes a discipline appropriating and providing explanations for unjust systems.

We are building on the intellectual traditions of heterodoxy from across the social sciences and want to be constantly informed by the social movements of our times and the daily lives of those marginalised by capitalism. We want to ask better questions, challenge the status quo, develop critiques and also build better imaginaries for the future. - *Inspired by words from our Brazilian group Desajuste*

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Our Vision is of an economy that serves people and planet - just, equitable and democratic.

Our Purpose is to build the international movement of young people who rethink, reteach and rebuild economics.

To do this, we will build an international movement of young people to transform how economics is taught, understood and practiced. We will turn economists into activists and activists into economists, creating a movement of Rethinkers working in and with policy makers and social movements. We will champion new thinking for our economies with a generation of Rethinkers who are unafraid to challenge power, reimagine systems, and fight for economies rooted in justice, care, and planetary wellbeing.

Our Goals

1. Critical and Pluralist Economics Education at Universities
2. New Voices Leading on Changing the Narratives on the Economy
3. Youth-Led Policy Making that Leads to a Just Transition

Our Movement Role

We are part of the coalition of movements campaigning to change the economics discipline, from the new economy movement to solidarity economics, feminist economics to heterodox economics and wellbeing economics to tax justice. Collectively, we are associated with wider movements for climate, gender, racial and economic justice. Our role within this space is to turn economists into activists and activists into economists, bridging this divide with a Popular Economics Education.

Our Values - Care, Curiosity and Courage

Rethinkers should work towards reshaping the role of an economist as a servant to society, community and social movements. To do this, every member of REI needs to be caring, curious and courageous to themselves, fellow members, allies and detractors.

OUR SYSTEM-CHANGE GOALS: AGITATE

Economics — how it is taught, discussed and practiced — is an important determinant in the formation of education, research, policy-making and public understanding. All of which are critical to transforming the economy.

Goal 1 | Critical and Pluralist Economics Education at Universities and Beyond

Economics teaching and learning at universities is deeply monolithic and in our own experience deeply resistant to change. When the dominant neoclassical framework shapes undergraduate training, it creates a false sense of neutrality and objectivity, leading students to adopt a distorted, apolitical worldview. For economics education to be fit for the 21st century, it has to be embedded into the material issues of our times. We focus on undergraduate economics studies as it is the most influential pillar across other disciplines like business studies, accountancy, management and the social sciences. Towards this end, students are the fulcrum for our theory of change who pressure universities and other educational institutions to change their curricula and the governance surrounding it. We want the university curriculum to be a live, unfinished endeavour that departments are required to revisit, yearly, and a component of the degree should be dedicated to exploring the new developments in the field and the emerging socio-political contexts, periodically.

We want to bring the “social” back into the economic phenomenon: colonialism, social relations and identity, power and their multiple determinations among others. This can be done through integrating various schools of thought that have done this well, like feminist, marxist, ecological and post-keynesian among others. Economics education should be shaped by the national and international policy debates of our times, including modern understanding of debt, international economic architecture, global value and supply chains, unequal exchange among others. This component can only be strengthened by a sharper emphasis on understanding regional economies better.

We have found huge successes focussing on climate conscious and ecological economics in recent years as it gives a clear frame for members to communicate the urgency of the problem. The drive for profit and pricing of ecological disasters is so out of touch with the climate generation that it's one of the clearest ways for us to demonstrate what's wrong with economics. In addition, we want to continually build

our network's successes by giving groups the tools to assess and challenge their own curriculum, campaigning on the issues relevant to their university.

Objective 1 | [Campaigning for Climate Conscious and Ecological Economics at universities, with coaching and training for our university groups to win major reforms](#)

Objective 2 | [Relaunch Curriculum Review and Campaign Resources as ready to use Toolkits for Members to Win on their chosen Issues](#)

Goal 2 | New Voices Leading on Changing Economy Narratives

The contribution of a 21st-century economist extends beyond universities and academic publications. Rethinkers must challenge the prevailing ideologies, tools, and language shaping governments, institutions, businesses, and civil society. By building a global membership organisation, we empower young economists to advocate for a more critical and socially engaged economics in the media, their workplace and their communities. Economists of today should see themselves as servants to their communities, working alongside social movements and where possible, with governments, to harness economics as a tool for challenging injustice and driving meaningful change.

Economics research should be more responsive to scientific advances in climate and earth sciences as well as political economy concerns. The economics discipline attempts to drive our research allies out and discredits their new ideas. We will continue to promote trailblazing research that draws attention to the limitations of the discipline and policies of the just transition.

That said, many of the ideas and policy solutions needed for our times are well understood within social movements. Through our popular economics and political education we will support climate and social movements to shape national policy with the intellectual weight of heterodox and political economy traditions.

We need to address a narrative gap online too. In the age of rightwing podcasters, the “manosphere” and a massive ecosystem bankrolled by conservative funders in many countries are shaping online discourse and consequently mainstream discourse. Within our own niche, we identified a real problem with most young influencers repeating mainstream economic orthodoxies, such as “the public purse is empty” or “we can’t afford climate action”, among others. To remedy this, we’re

creating a UK community of influencers who feel educated and empowered to help progressive social media influencers gain more confidence in economics so that they can challenge mainstream dogma and present new ideas.

Objective 1 | Monitoring trends within the economics disciplines and promoting research from heterodox and political economy traditions

Objective 2 | Organising digital content creators and influencers to practice new economy narratives and frames

Objective 3 | Building the capacities of climate and social movements on national economic policy demands (shared priority with Goal 3)

Goal 3 | Youth-Led Policy Making that Leads to a Just Transition

Economics education, research and praxis should collectively provide the tools for a just transition: clean energy abundance, ecologically equal exchange, end of dependency, climate justice and reparations. It should underline that economic justice requires the international financial, economic, governance and legal architecture to change. This requires sovereign equality, democratic multilateralism, legal integrity and a spirit of dialogue and understanding of power to be central to economic policy.

Policymaking is lacking the depth and ambition to tackle the climate crisis and municipal governments are not well supported to take on these challenges. In many cases globally there are no specific climate duties or clear action plans to shift local governments to more sustainable practices. Funding cuts are widespread and new economic ideas are not implemented as they struggle against the mainstream.

Cities like Paris reveal that cities can lead the response to the climate crisis with their Climate Action Plan and rapid decarbonisation agenda. Hundreds of members leave our university groups looking to rethink economics in their communities, and with our new city-based groups we will organise our members to change economic policy at the local governmental level.

At a higher level, economics research and praxis must update its conception and measurement of economic progress - governments and international bodies to move beyond GDP as the single measure for the health of an economy and modernise economic indicators by regularly tracking — labour-market indicators;

proportion of the population that can afford a nutritious diet; paid and unpaid work; personal leisure and relational time; and per capita carbon dioxide emissions.

With the ongoing UN process to define a new metric to move beyond GDP, there is an exciting opportunity for Rethinkers across the world to support and campaign for its implementation in national accounting processes.

Organisationally, we want our international members to lead campaigns to reshape financial and economic architecture, contribute to a just transition and be part of the social movements that agitate for a better world in local, national and intergovernmental spaces.

Objective 1 | Mobilising our members to advocate for a sustainable and critical economics in local government

Objective 2 | Working with national agencies and academic centres to move beyond GDP

Objective 3 | Building the capacities of climate and social movements on national economic policy demands (shared priority with Goal 2)

THE PILLARS OF OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

These pillars describe the three ways that we work. Organising builds our power and the collective capacity of our organisations. Educating builds the capacity and analysis of the individuals working in our groups and wider society. This also creates a collective intelligence of the network to better target its efforts. Agitating sets the goals for our groups to work towards, ensuring we are all working towards the same aim and engaging our work in challenging powerful institutions. All three are required to create change, albeit some of our work focuses more on one than the other and our programmes are often developing one area.

Organise to build communities of rethinkers

Organising our members and community is how we build power in our groups that can push for change in institutions and wider society. Groups help us root our activities in organisational units (like workplaces, institutions, cities etc), and decentralise our work to give members in Ecuador, Philippines, India and elsewhere the autonomy and resources to define their own direction and respond to their contexts. Youth membership helps us build a powerful collective voice for the international movement, putting our generation at the centre of systemic change. Building a community helps us create a new democratic and inclusive culture both to transform our members into Rethinkers and challenge the existing culture of hierarchy, prejudice and monothinking of the economics discipline. Towards this end, we are building an international membership organisation and regional organisations around the world to achieve our goals.

Educate ourselves and others

Critical education is the spark that mobilises young people by connecting today's crises to the economics that's taught at the university, researched in academic and policy setting and practiced in the wider world. Taking control of our own education will enable the collective emancipation of our members from mainstream economics and generate new ideas and initiatives towards changing education and wider society. Popular economics education will help us democratise economics knowledge, helping us to take up our role in service of our communities and social movements. Collective and critical economics education traversing borders will help to decolonise and diversify our education as we root our understanding in an internationalist perspective.

Agitate to transform economics in education, narrative and policy

Agitating (campaigning) is how we test our power by pressuring universities, governments and other decision makers to concede to our demands and ultimately make change. It creates the motivation and urgency to organise our community. It is itself political education as members face power and the decisions that contribute to an unjust world. University undergraduate economics education still requires major upheaval and is a key determinant of how economists are trained to think.

Simultaneously, we will also organise youth voices to challenge local and national policy so they reflect the realities of the cost of living crisis and implications of the planetary emergency. As one of the few organisations mobilising young economic thinkers internationally, it gives us a unique opportunity to work in coalition with others to challenge intergovernmental organisations and global financial architecture and its use of outdated ideas, models and instruments.

ASSUMPTIONS

The problems with the discipline of economics are symptomatic of the problems enmeshed in our economic system. Over the 20th century and until now, the spirit of neoliberal capitalism has shaped our working lives, the media we consume, the food we eat and how we form personal and political relationships. This neoliberal ethic bolstered by the mainstream tenets of the economics discipline has shaped how we think, plan and talk about the economy or how to intervene in it. It has created an 'economic common sense'.

This 'economic common sense' does not sufficiently explain or analyse the reality beyond these parameters let alone what goes on outside of this sphere. The climate crisis is seen as an 'externality' in economics textbooks with the damage done to the earth seen as something that can be paid for, let alone protected or replaced. Things that are not traded on the market, such as domestic labour, or that do not act to maximise profit, are excluded from analysis; as are socio-political structures of wealth and power.

This economic common sense is not by accident. These have simmered over a period of time and tried, tested and applied across contexts: a deliberate strategy to transfer wealth and power from people and public institutions to a powerful few and private corporations; effective financialisation of social life and being. This has led to a systematic erosion of the public sphere and among other things, sharp increase in inequality globally and within countries, particularly highlighted at points of crisis such as the financial crash of 2007 and the pandemic in 2020. And despite the

economic decolonisation processes across the third world, there is continued control of wealthy private corporations in the Global North over the Global Majority and its population through the extraction of land and resources. Furthermore, the international financial architecture enables unequal exchange at multiple levels, contributing to an ever rising global debt crisis.

As global political forces build pathways from neoliberalism to authoritarianism, the political and social movements fighting for a better world are still ensnared by economics dominated by a drive for profit above anything else. In recent years, US foreign and domestic policy has produced a confusing malaise of policies aimed at destabilising the economic system to further benefit imperialist powers and apartheid systems, providing a smokescreen to the forces shaping our lives. We need a different approach to economics and a new generation of economists to work in and with social movements challenging political and economic decisions that aren't for the emancipation of all human beings and wellbeing of the planet.

To do this we need to think about the competing economic forces and ideologies that are redirecting our members and potential members towards economic ideas, models and tools designed to maintain the systems of oppression.

Below are some areas that our theory of change seeks to address:

1. **The economy** which ultimately shapes the culture and institutions of economics is a crucial determinant to how we understand the deliberate policy choices that lead to inequality and injustice. As social and political movements resist and fight back against economic imperialism, this challenges the economic common sense by demonstrating how our system causes harm and what can be done to change economic relations, not deliberated in the economics classroom or textbooks. Campus mobilisations against fossil fuels and for Palestine do not detract from our organising, they provide opportunities for solidarity, learning and help strengthen our movement. Likewise, our organisers can provide much-needed economic insights and support to other movements.
2. **Economics teaching at the universities and research** reinforces the monolithic and hegemonic approach of mainstream neoclassical economics and the ethos of the neoliberal university, creating the ideological foundations for the economy as we see it. When the dominant neoclassical framework shapes undergraduate training, it creates a false sense of neutrality and objectivity, leading students to adopt a distorted, apolitical worldview. The discipline marginalises academics that try to do things differently and the presence of a critical student voice can counteract this. Similarly, academic

journals and funding ecosystems limit the potential for policy-relevant, interdisciplinary, disruptive research, underresourcing ideas and schools of thought that would contribute to a just transition to a sustainable economy. These structural limitations determine how institutions and economics departments deal with questions of pluralism in faculty composition and individuals succumb to authority bias.

3. **Political education** through social media, newspapers and other courses reinforces economic dogma sustaining the economy and validated by the economics discipline. For most of our potential members, they regularly receive news and analysis that reinforces their own education even if they are critical of it. There is a growing ecosystem of new economic thinking among new age formats like podcasts, educational websites and progressive strands on social media that we should support. However, much of it focuses on society and culture, rather than the political economy and more generally needs much broader reach. We need to identify where we can intervene to provide our own political economic education and how we can boost that of our allies.
4. **Culture** within economics is toxic to anyone daring to do things differently. As our own work and those done by others shows, mainstream economics thrives on gatekeeping, intellectual narrowness and unjustified hierarchy. All of this while peddling simplistic narratives about the world around us. The discipline promotes a narrow ideal of rigour and treats it as the benchmark of intellectual seriousness, marginalising other ways of knowing and being. This creates a culture of silence among students, early-career researchers, and professionals who quickly learn that challenging foundational assumptions carries professional risk. Over time, self-censorship becomes rational behaviour, collectively erasing the experience of women, people of colour, indigenous communities, working class people, queer communities, disabled people and many other underrepresented and marginalised groups. It contributes to the fear and lack of confidence that our members have to speak out or challenge the discipline to reform, limiting our impact to those that have the loudest voice.

Our theory of change aims to resist these strands and build a membership with an emancipatory culture within the discipline of economics and its institutions across education, research and practice.

THEORY OF CHANGE

At the heart of our theory of change is that we are creating the youth wing of the new economy that will turn economists into activists and activists into economists. We will do this by building a youth organisation that organises, educates and agitates for economics that works for all at universities, workplaces, local, national and intergovernmental spaces.

As a membership organisation, building a presence at universities, in cities and wider society, we see our role within the movement as building a powerful block of young critical thinkers who can Rethink, Reteach and Rebuild Economics. Our Pillars of Organise and Educate help us transform a disenfranchised and alienated audience, receiving a toxic education into a youth membership body ready to promote a truly scientific and emancipatory economics. These pillars help us build a presence of members and groups, strategically placed to have maximum impact to affect the discipline and its real world application. Critical education both sparks the motivation in our members to envision and agitate for a better economics, while also building the capacity of our members to understand what changes the economics discipline needs to make.

We support our members and groups to Agitate for changes in the teaching, narrative and practice of economics to move us towards our vision of an economics and economy that serves people and planet. However, agitating for change is also an education in itself as Paulo Freire puts, “Reading the world always precedes reading the word.” Agitating for change creates a clear goal for our groups to move towards, politicising their group culture and events. Therefore organising, educating and agitating needs to be part of every group or organisational unit in Rethinking Economics if we are to build power and create systemic change.

We are unique as one of the only international organisations that has consistently made significant changes to economics education. Our commitment to youth organising centres this power building strategy at the heart of transformative change, working directly with policy makers and aligning ourselves with social movements resisting genocide, the climate crisis and global inequality. Our focus on power building and membership creates a future for our movement where we are able to create a harmonised international voice for economic justice and plan to be around as long as it takes to arrest the climate crisis and bring about a new economy.

ORGANISATIONAL OBJECTIVES: ORGANISE

Why are we becoming a Youth Membership Organisation?

To become a Youth Membership Organisation we are making two major shifts in how we organise ourselves. Firstly, we are moving from a free membership where anyone who identifies with Rethinking Economics is automatically seen to be a Rethinker and the organisation is accountable to its groups only; to a paid membership (as little as \$1 a month) where Rethinkers will be encouraged to become individual members of Rethinking Economics International that will have democratic rights to elect representatives and vote in referendums. This will make individual members central to the direction of the organisation, whereas before you needed to be a member of a highly functioning group that met regularly to exercise democratic rights. In our previous governance model, we struggled to get enough votes from the groups to legitimise decisions.

This shift is about further democratising and decolonising the organisation, which we have set out to do over the past 5 years. Giving individual members direct power over the organisation allows us to support democratic participation globally, regardless of where we are able to grow groups. The majority of our groups are based in Europe and the stability of those groups tend to be linked to grant fundraising, which is easier to raise in Europe than elsewhere. The grant income that REI does raise is often attached to grant conditions or has geographical scope, further limiting our ability to grow our membership in the Global South. However, some of our Global South groups have huge memberships and reach in their communities but have limited funds to grow their organisational infrastructure. Membership income will therefore be a step towards the organisation's financial resilience where a steady membership income is ringfenced to be democratically controlled by the members and spent by the democratic mandate of the International Council.

To balance this shift in power from groups to individuals the International Council will require representatives from Regional and National networks and those networks will be required to grow groups at universities and elsewhere to maintain their position. Only groups will be able to propose motions to the International Council, maintaining its central role in changing the organisation.

Secondly, we are defining ourselves as a youth organisation. There has been a lack of clarity over this due to the casual nature of our membership. The aforementioned shift to individual membership, challenges our role as a student movement as we decide who is a member or not. For much of our existence we have organised members across academia obscuring the student focus and the original mission of

the organisation has always been much broader than university: we are changing education so we can change society. We are committed to diversifying the movement, particularly in relation to working classes. Hence, limiting ourselves to only those attending the university means we do not reach to the many Rethinkers that are interested in changing economics in the classroom, their workplaces and in wider society. This shift will allow us to create communities of young economic thinkers across education, policy, government and civil society that support climate, gender, racial and economic justice movements.

We believe that the presence of students and student movements are central to our theory of change and without them there is no Rethinking Economics. However, in broadening our mission to Rethink, Reteach and Rebuild Economics, we want to incorporate more members outside of university education in this pursuit. Limiting membership to youth (defined as up to 35 years old) helps us stay rooted in our commitment to student and youth movements as the fulcrum of change and rebalances power from a discipline and society that preferences older members and entrenches a culture of paternalism and hierarchy that needs renegotiating. In practice we have a membership tier for supporters 35 years older (Solidarity Members) and we will continue to work with anyone willing to contribute to transforming economics.

This shift will help us launch City Groups, where our members craft a critical economic voice in their city, identifying where the global economic system is being reproduced locally. We will support those members to create political education through assemblies, events, newsletters, blogs, discussion articles and social media. Alongside social movements, our Rethinkers can then advocate and convene with local politicians on policies and campaigns they organise from the grassroots. This will be key to changing the role of the economist from an extractive and elitist figure to one in service of their community.

Objective 1 | [Create a youth membership body to promote a truly scientific and emancipatory economics and show solidarity to other social justice movements](#)

An individual membership tier for Rethinking Economics International will enable us to support the development of young critical economists globally, expanding beyond universities and increasing the working class base of the organisation. We will tailor training and networking opportunities to support them in their journeys, while encouraging all members to support student campaigning, allied movements and global economic policy and governance reforms.

Objective 2 | [Thriving University Groups](#)

For our campaigns to succeed, it's crucial to establish robust and thriving student groups embedded within universities and other educational institutions that possess the ability, analysis and bravery to challenge the status quo. We need groups that champion the perspectives of the working class, women, people of colour, and marginalised communities. RE International will continue to develop training, organising structures, guidelines, coordination and financial support to ensure groups can educate, organise and agitate on campus.

Objective 3 | [Launching our New Governance and creating Councils](#)

Regional Organisations are crucial for the development of groups and the advancement of our strategy globally. The economics discipline is global but many of the changes that need to be made, especially in universities, are specific to each country and region. This is true for economic policy as well. This is why we are committed to the decentralisation of the network and putting the leaders of these organisations at the heart of decision making at RE International. RE International will coordinate and coach regional networks to become Councils, which adopt and adapt the strategy, develop their own income streams and support the growth of local groups and members.

All of the above objectives speak to a renewed governance structure. We will continually work towards democratising the organisation so we are accountable and responsive to our members, supporting them to lead the organisation and make future changes to the strategy. The income raised from membership will be ringfenced for membership development and democratically controlled. We will deliver changes to the functioning of our International Council, its relationship to the groups, how motions shape the organisation and how members can vote on their representatives and referenda.

Objective 4 | [Launch City Groups](#)

A City Group is a collection of young Rethinkers who form a critical economic voice in the city, organising assemblies, producing agitational blogs, press pieces and campaigns in service of social movements and the people of their city, animated by local issues. We intend for these to utilise alumni from our student groups and wider membership interested in economics and questions concerning the economy. They should be rooted in self-education, reflection and a rejection of economics as it is currently practiced. We want these to channel young people who are angry or

despondent about how society and the economy functions into the next generation of Rethinkers - radical economic thinkers working to change the economy. We will be testing the creation of these groups incrementally as and when funding, staff capacity and membership density allows.

Objective 5 | Develop Communities of Practice

This is for networks of members to meet and work together from different local groups, sectors or geographies. They are designed to allow members to organise and self-educate around different schools of thoughts or thematic areas. They can also be campaign focussed enabling us to build coalitions across groups and expand our strategy beyond academia. It is not expected that they are formally constituted outside of Rethinking Economics International but is crucial in developing online communities. We have trialled these in a number of areas but they need to be integrated into our work further, with guidance on how to set them up and how they fit into our governance.

ORGANISATIONAL OBJECTIVES: EDUCATE & COMMUNICATE

A renewed pillar of Rethinking Economics' work is to educate ourselves and others. Members and groups educating themselves and society on the alternatives to the persistent, recurrent, unfolding economic and social crises. The outcome of critical education should be to bring individuals together, to ask and act for change. This doesn't happen in a vacuum and requires consistent pedagogical intervention and not just reactive engagement. RE International is ready to play its part to bring its membership to the point of realisation and systematically questioning and critiquing the contemporary economics structure while themselves creating and spreading powerful alternative narratives. Our objective through this pillar is to build a cadre of economists who are thoroughly grounded in the history of working class struggles; fight for the ideals of equality, liberty and fraternity in their classrooms, workplaces and the society; and build towards an internationalist horizon.

Through a process of combining critical pedagogies and popular educational practices, we have identified the following design principles for our educational programmes: Design for the learner, their context and today's challenges; Build on what the learner already knows; Consolidate learning through practice, action and repetition.

Objective 1 | [Member Development Framework Implemented](#)

We have set out a Membership Development Framework that will be the bedrock of all the educational programmes we run. We want to develop the following capacities in our membership during the course of their association with the movement to ensure they have the skills to rethink, reteach and rebuild economics.

- Economics capacities: Systems change; Historical context; Political economy; Socio-ecological and climate-conscious economics; Critical pluralism; State, capital and neoclassical economics; Social structures of accumulation; Institutional and structural analysis
- Political capacities: Campaigning; Persuasion and debate; Movement building
- Organisational capacities: Organisational ecosystem; Recruitment and leadership development, Personal organisation; Organising groups; Institution-building
- Socio-emotional capacities: Emotional intelligence; Social connection; Facing adversity and cultivating resilience; Accountability; Principled Communications

Building programmes that advance these capacities will support us to develop our members into Rethinkers, turning economists into activists and activists into economists. This will help us to support our members to advocate within governments and universities for a new economic discipline, digital content creators to promote a new economy and build the capacity of climate and social movements.

Objective 2 | Members Stepping into Leadership

We need to create more pathways for members to take on leadership roles and expand the capacity of Rethinking Economics International. As we move into being a membership organisation, we need to act like way. That means designing roles for members to lead on whereby they have bounded responsibilities that are accountable to the membership as a whole. This should range from new governance support roles as we re-introduce the International Members Council to organising roles to support the growth of our groups and others to champion new economic and decolonised ideas in the network.

Objective 3 | Celebrating, framing, amplifying and connecting our campaigns, offers and membership

Messaging and communications aren't just about promotion of the work we do; they are our strategy in motion. They are how we stitch in and translate our vision into impact, how we stand apart in a crowded field, and how we make the critical edge of Rethinking Economics truly resonate with people and institutions in the world. We need an effective communications function for the entire movement to empower and learn from one another. This also entails equipping communicators and online content creators outside of the organisation, in strategic communication, narrative skills and tools to understand the economy and their economic contexts better, so as to put forth fresh and progressive economic narratives.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES SUMMARISED

We measure our impact towards these objectives through our Group Action Framework, and our continual mapping of campaign wins. These are sometimes shared as Impact Stories. We'll track the numbers of groups we're organising beyond the university, and their health through surveys. And work with individual leaders and learners is measured through before and after surveys linked to our Membership Development Framework. Our impact in policymaking will be evaluated through qualitative studies.

OUR SYSTEM-CHANGE GOALS: AGITATE

Goal 1 | Critical and Pluralist Economics Education at Universities and Beyond

Objective 1 | Campaigning for Climate Conscious and Ecological Economics at universities, with coaching and training for our university groups to win major reforms

Objective 2 | Relaunch Curriculum Review and Campaign Resources as ready to use Toolkits for Members to Win on their chosen Issues

Goal 2 | New Voices Leading on Changing Economy Narratives

Objective 1 | Researching trends within the economics disciplines and promoting research from heterodox and political economy traditions

Objective 2 | Organising digital content creators and influencers to practice new economy narratives and frames

Objective 3 | Building the capacities of climate and social movements on national economic policy demands (shared priority with Goal 3)

Goal 3 | Youth-Led Policy Making that Leads to a Just Transition

Objective 1 | Mobilising our members to advocate for a sustainable and critical economics in local government

Objective 2 | Working with national agencies and academic centres to move beyond GDP

Objective 3 | Building the capacities of climate and social movements on national economic policy demands (shared priority with Goal 2)

ORGANISATIONAL OBJECTIVES: ORGANISE

Objective 1 | Create a youth membership body to promote a truly scientific and emancipatory economics and show solidarity to other social justice movements

Objective 2 | Thriving University Groups

Objective 3 | Launching our New Governance and creating Councils

Objective 4 | Launch City Groups

Objective 5 | Develop Communities of Practice

ORGANISATIONAL OBJECTIVES: EDUCATE & COMMUNICATE

Objective 1 | Member Development Framework Implemented

Objective 2 | Members Stepping into Leadership

Objective 3 | Celebrating, framing, amplifying and connecting our campaigns, offers and membership