

GREEN NEW DEAL FACTSHEET

Contra Costa County Climate Leaders

A project of Generation Green - a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

Find Links to Other Local Government Policy Opportunities at

www.cccclimateleaders.org



WHAT?

A “Green New Deal” is a program of investments in equitable clean-energy jobs and infrastructure, transforming and transitioning not just the energy sector, but the entire economy. The general goals include:

- *Energy Goals:* A complete conversion to a 100 percent renewable energy system for both electricity and transport by 2030, partnered with the full de-carbonization of the economy by 2040.
- *Five Zeros:* A zero carbon grid, zero carbon transportation, zero carbon buildings, zero waste and zero wasted water, as well as a just transition for fossil fuel workers, equitable housing and environmental justice for all.

WHY?

Global Crisis: The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) [study](#) finds that approximately 1.0°C of global warming has already occurred from human activities and that global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052, if carbon emissions continue to increase at the current rate. The climate crisis imposes serious risks to our food and water resources, economic stability and our survival if global temperature averages rise above 1.5°C. Many regions will become uninhabitable, creating mass displacement and conflict. California is at the forefront of the climate crisis, with unprecedented temperature rise, wildfires and droughts.

Local Solutions: Given the scale of the climate crisis, drastic and immediate action is taken by city, state and federal governments. Your city can do its part to offset the impacts of the climate crisis and set an example for other city and state governments by implementing a Local Green New Deal. A City Green New Deal creates the framework by which a city can contribute to reducing GHG emissions and achieving global temperature goals. In addition to these measurable climate benefits, a City Green New Deal brings about a healthier community, creating local jobs and reducing pollution. Cleaner air, water and a focus on social and environmental justice attracts skilled professionals and jobs, enhances quality of life and keeps citizens politically engaged, locally!

WHO?

Local governments, environmental justice organizations and youth-led activist groups like Sunrise Movement must work together to fight the climate crisis. Cities across the globe are already developing local Green New Deals. In 2019, nearly [100 mayors committed to push forward with a Green New Deal](#). While the U.S. Senate refused to vote on the proposed [Green New Deal](#) resolution, state and local governments are leading the way to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions while also addressing a just transition from fossil fuels, environmental injustice and the housing crisis. The State of California has been taking [steps towards a Green New Deal](#) for years, and our cities are the best vehicle to achieve these climate goals!

HOW?

To become a Green New Deal City your local government should start with a resolution that recognizes we are in a [climate emergency](#). This will ensure that all city government operations, services, infrastructure, and emissions are brought in line with climate science guidelines to reduce emissions. To create a local Green New Deal, the emergency declaration should commit to implementing policies that address inequalities, jobs, public services, accessibility, and renewable energy, and call on other levels of government to match financing for sustainable energy projects. Many cities pass a stand alone green New Deal Plan.

Resources:

- [The Bay Area Green New Deal](#) outlines ten goals for local cities to follow in passing a Green New Deal.
- The Los Angeles [Green New Deal pLAn](#).
- Sample Green New Deal Resolution. [Here](#).



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LOCAL GREEN NEW DEALS: CA & NY

State of California In 2016, **SB 32** committed to a 40% decrease in greenhouse gas emissions below 1990 levels by 2030. In 2018, **SB 100** set goals of 50 percent renewable electricity by 2025, 60 percent by 2030, and 100% “zero-carbon” electricity by 2045.

Coastal metropolises and rural cities in California and New York have established local Green New Deals:

- **Los Angeles, CA** April 2020. Los Angeles passed the “[LA Green New Deal, Sustainable City pLAn](#),” 100% carbon-free energy by 2050 to power all of the city’s electricity, buildings, & transportation.
- **Chico, CA** November 2019. promising 100% clean electricity by 2030 and climate neutrality by 2045. Affordable housing, local green jobs creation, sustainable food, special projects earmarked for the city’s poorest residents, Reduce water and waste. [Link](#) and [More](#).
- **Ithaca, NY** Green New Deal passed 2019. Carbon-neutrality community-wide by 2030. Address economic inequality & racial injustice. [Link](#)
- **New York, NY** Green New Deal passed 2019. Carbon neutrality & 100% clean electricity by 2050. Create thousands of green jobs. Require existing buildings cut emissions. Ban inefficient glass-walled buildings. [Link](#) and [More](#).

Bay Area cities have established policies or implemented projects aligned with the tenets of a Green New Deal, including renewable energy goals, building electrification and a just transition. While these local cities have not passed official Green New Deals, their efforts echo the values and legislation proposed by Green New Deals globally.

- **Richmond, CA** This [solar farm project](#) is a good example of a public/private partnership to increase renewable energy infrastructure, and create hundreds of good jobs in the process.
- **San Francisco, CA** 100% renewable energy by 2030. As of mid-2013, more than 18.5 MW of in-City renewables had already been installed, with 15 MW of solar PV (more than 2,000 systems) citywide and 3.5 MW of biogas cogeneration at the City’s wastewater treatment plants. All public transportation in San Francisco runs on electricity or biodiesel. [Link](#).
- **San Jose, CA** October 2007. Green Vision 15-year-plan focused on the creation of jobs, improving quality of life, & the preserving the environment. All city sectors to be powered exclusively with renewable energy by 2022, and that per capita energy consumption also be reduced by 50%. The city aims to achieve this by envisioning itself as a solar-powered community. [Link](#).

In Southern California, several cities have passed commitments to 100% Renewable Energy:

- ✓ **San Diego, CA** 100% renewable energy & 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2035. Comprehensive Climate Action Plan launched by Republican Mayor Kevin Faulconer to increase water & energy efficiency in buildings, intensify public transport, grow the number of electric vehicles, promote walking & cycling routes, zero-waste strategies & climate adaptation measures. [Link](#)
- ✓ **Solano Beach, CA** 100% renewable energy by 2030. [Link](#).
- ✓ **Encinitas, CA** 100% renewable energy by 2030. [Link](#).



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LOCAL GREEN NEW DEALS: US & INTERNATIONAL

- ✓ **Boston, MA** . Citywide carbon neutrality by 2040, 100 percent renewable electricity by 2030, and a net-zero municipal footprint by 2024. [Link](#).
- ✓ **Columbia, SC** 100% renewable energy by 2036. Resolution emphasizes economic growth, job creation, & reduced utility costs. Helped increase solar energy–related jobs in Columbia by 46% in just one year (2015-2016). [Link](#).
- ✓ **Chicago, IL** 100% clean, renewable energy in buildings community-wide by 2035. Part of the 2018 *Resilient Chicago* plan. Sectoral targets: 100% renewable electricity for city government by 2025 & 100% electrified bus fleet by 2040. Push for community solar. [Link](#).
- ✓ **Concord, NH** 100% renewable electricity by 2030. 100% clean energy in all sectors by 2050 **Link:** 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY GOAL STRATEGIC PLAN (Draft)
- ✓ **Denver, CO** 100% clean, renewable electricity by 2030. 80% carbon emission reduction by the year 2050. [Link](#).
- ✓ **Fayetteville, AR** 100% clean energy by 2050. **Link:** <http://www.fayetteville-ar.gov/3234/Climate-and-Energy>
- ✓ **Georgetown, TX** Already powered by 100% renewable energy through long-term deals for solar & wind power. Renewable energy was cheaper & more reliable than fossil fuels. [Link](#).
- ✓ **Lancaster, CA** Net Zero electricity by 2020. Since 2008, the city has actively recruited solar & other renewable energy developments to great success. The latest is the world's largest renewable hydrogen fuel plant which will convert municipal solid waste into hydrogen vehicle fuel. Strategy has generated hundreds of jobs. Partnership with local higher education to develop programs ensures that the local workforce has the skills needed for future jobs in renewable energy. [Link](#).
- ✓ **Rochester, MN** 100% renewable energy in electricity, heating/cooling, & transportation sectors by 2031 **Link:** <https://www.rochester.mn.gov/Home/ShowDocument?id=9421>
- ✓ **Salt Lake City, UT** 100% renewable electricity by 2032. 80% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2040. [Link](#).

International Examples:

- ✓ **Bamberg, Germany** 100% renewable energy & energy self-sufficiency by 2035. City benefits from the German Feed-in Tariff Law which encourages robust investment in renewable technologies. Majority of installed renewable energy is owned by citizens, farmers, & small businesses. [Link](#).
- ✓ **Copenhagen, Denmark** Carbon neutral capital by 2025. Construction of land & offshore wind turbines, energy retrofitted buildings, implementation of Low-Energy Construction in all buildings, & promotion of solar energy. [Link](#).
- ✓ **Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany** 100% renewable energy supply by 2050. Approximately 25% from energy generated within the city, 25% from outside the city, & 50% from decrease in total energy consumption. [Link](#).
- ✓ **Munich, Germany** 100% renewable electricity & 100% renewable long-distance heating by 2025. Geothermal energy as well as biomass & wind power. Munich's public utilities are entirely in public hands. [Link](#).
- ✓ **Perpignan, France** "Energy positive" city goal set in 2015, i.e., become a city that generates more electricity with renewable sources than the citizens consume. Modify the metropolitan area's approach to urban development- engage in energy efficient housing, sustainable transportation, organic agriculture, local food production, air/water resource conservation, & environmental protection. 70% achievement as of 2020. [Link](#).

