

What is the Green New Deal Resolution (GNDR)?



Senator **Ed Markey** and Representative **Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez** have introduced resolutions in the Senate and the House to frame the climate and inequality crises in the U.S. and to chart a legislative path forward that will ensure solutions to radically decrease greenhouse gas emissions (GGE) while ensuring that the basic needs of the most vulnerable people among us are met. What follows is a summary of the resolution. .

The GNDR frames the twin crises in the U.S. as follows.

1. Many of us are aware that the general scientific consensus has long been that we have at most until 2030 to mitigate the worst impacts of the climate crisis and warned of the horrendous consequences of not doing so: mass migrations and severe economic losses among them . To keep temperature from increasing above 1.5 deg Centigrade, we must drop emissions by 40%-60% by 2030 and reach net zero emissions by 2050. Since the U.S. has emitted a disproportionately large amount of GHG currently in the atmosphere, and has the technological capacity to decrease emissions, we should take the lead in this effort.
2. Simultaneously the U.S. is facing the crisis of economic inequality with declining life expectancy, wage stagnation, deindustrialization and anti-labor policies. The economic recovery since 2008 has benefited the top 1% and there is a racial wealth gap of a factor of 20 between white and black Americans.

The GNDR emphasizes that climate change, pollution and environmental destruction have exacerbated **systemic injustices** on **frontline and vulnerable communities**.

Systemic injustices are defined to be racial, regional, social, environmental and economic.

Frontline and vulnerable communities are defined to include indigenous peoples, communities of color, migrant communities, deindustrialized communities, depopulated rural communities, the poor, low-income workers, women, the elderly, the unhoused, people with disabilities, and youth.

With these broad twin lenses of environmental imperative and economic urgency, the GNDR points to the opportunity to create well paying jobs, provide economic security and counteract systemic injustices while we move forward aggressively towards reducing GGE.

GNDR Goals:

- Achieve net-zero GGE through just and fair transition for all workers
- Create millions of good high-wage jobs
- Invest in infrastructure and industry to sustainably meet challenges
- Secure for all people: clean air, water, resiliency, healthy food, access to nature, sustainable environment
- Promote Justice and Equity

Via a 10-year mobilization GNDR states that benchmarks are to be achieved with the following goals and projects:

- build resiliency by providing funding/investments for community-defined projects

- repair/upgrade infrastructure: eliminate pollution and GGE; access to clean water; reduce risks posed by climate impacts; all infrastructure bills address climate
- 100% clean power: expand renewables, new capacity
- upgrade distribution: smart grid
- spurring massive growth in clean manufacturing – remove GGE from manufacturing
- remove GGE from agricultural sector: family farms, increase soil health, sustainable food system
- overhaul transportation: remove GGE and pollution from transportation sector
 - EV
 - Transit
 - high speed rail
- mitigate health, economic impacts through funding for community-defined projects
- remove GHG gases by restoring ecosystems: soil C storage, land preservation, afforestation
- restore protect endangered ecosystems
- clean up hazardous waste – ensure economic development & sustainability
- identify/remove other emission/pollution sources
- promote exchange of technology, expertise, products, funding services to help other countries achieve a GND

GND must be developed through transparent/inclusive consultation with frontline & vulnerable communities, unions, civil society groups, academia, businesses.

GND goals and mobilization will require that we:

- ensure public receives ownership stakes and returns on investment
- ensure federal govt take environmental and social costs into account
- provide resources/training/education to all people, focus on frontline & vulnerable communities so that all may be full and equal participants in GND
- make public investments in research/development of clean renewable energy technologies
- direct investments to spur development, business, wealth, in frontline communities
- ensure democratic/participatory processes
- ensure high quality union jobs
- family sustaining wage, medical leave, paid vacation, retirement security
- protecting right to organize, unionize, collectively bargain
- strengthen/enforce trade rules, procurement standards,
- protect public lands/waters/oceans – ensure no abuse by eminent domain
- obtain free, prior, informed consent of indigenous peoples
- protect small businesses from from domestic/international monopolies
- guarantee all people of the U.S. high quality healthcare/housing/economic security/clean water/ clean air/ healthy affordable food/ access to nature