

The Green New Deal Must Include a Federal Renewable Energy Commission to Replace FERC

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Our country and world desperately need the enactment of a Green New Deal. The science is clear: by 2030 we must be decisively onto the path of energy efficiency, conservation and wind, solar and other genuinely clean and safe renewable energy sources. Fossil fuels must be in a sharp and permanent decline as the power source for electricity, as well as for transportation and heating/cooling of buildings.

This Green New Deal (GND) shift will lead to the creation of millions of new jobs, including for those historically discriminated against and for those currently working in the fossil fuel industry. It will strengthen the labor and other movements and increase the number of good-paying, union jobs in our economy. It can be a major driver of the kind of positive, justice-based social and economic transformation so clearly needed in the United States.

This shift is already happening, but not rapidly enough. Just as FDR's New Deal in the 1930s created the legislation and policies that began to raise the U.S. out of the Great Depression, the Green New Deal can bring together the people of this country and concentrate our collective efforts on the historic, must-succeed task of transforming our energy system and economy and doing so within the third decade of this century, by 2030.

In order for GND legislation to accomplish this task it must include a transformation of the federal agency tasked with regulating and overseeing the U.S. electrical grid-FERC, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

FERC was created in 1977 when Congress passed the Department of Energy Reorganization Act. Over 40 years later, it's time for a FERC overhaul. FERC must be replaced by FREC, the Federal Renewable Energy Commission.

A transformed FERC would not be a revolving door for its leaders and employees with the fossil fuel industry, as it is currently. An [investigative article](#) in April, 2015 in Greenwire summarized it this way:

"Employees at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission have deep ties to the industry they regulate, according to agency documents detailing their job negotiations and stock holdings. Ethics records throughout 2014 show agency staff seeking employment with grid operators, law firms and utilities that the agency has jurisdiction over and often meets with as it sets new orders and rules. In addition, FERC employees have held stock in or remain part of pension plans from companies that can be affected by the agency's work."

Leaders and employees of a new Federal Renewable Energy Commission must be personally and professionally committed to the historic task of shifting rapidly from fossil fuels to renewables. Leaders must be chosen based not upon their ties to the fossil fuel and nuclear power industries but on their experience with and commitment to renewables.

FREC's new purpose must be made explicit in a mission statement which commits it to lead the urgent work of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and shifting to a renewable, jobs-creating, justice-based and energy efficient power grid and economy.

As distinct from the way FERC operates, potentially affected and proximate communities must be notified from the very beginning of planning processes for proposed new and/or expanded energy infrastructure. They must be given sufficient support, including funding, to enable them to fully participate in decision-making processes.

FREC's funding stream must not be dependent on fossil fuel industry "fee-for-service." Right now ALL of FERC's budget comes from fees on industries that have business before FERC. It is in the financial interest of FERC to have as much business with them as possible. Given the power of the fossil fuel industry, this encourages corruption and pro-industry bias.

Many of us signing this statement have been resisting FERC's pro-fossil fuels policies going back many years, particularly as hydraulic fracturing with horizontal drilling-fracking has disrupted lives and communities and led to an explosion of new fracked gas pipelines and other infrastructure. FERC has proven itself to be a rubber-stamp agency for the pipeline and gas industry, granting permits for all but two of

over 400 proposals for new interstate gas development. It is long past time for FERC's abuses to end!

We urge elected officials, media outlets, community and religious leaders and all people of good will to join us in our public call for FERC to be replaced by FREC. As we continue to resist FERC, fracking and fossil fuel infrastructure, we must build a movement toward this essential, critically-needed objective.

[*\(Click Here to Sign the Statement\)*](#)

Signed:

- 1. Beyond Extreme Energy**
- 2. 1000 Grandmothers for Future Generations**
- 3. 198 methods**
- 4. 350.org- National**
- 5. 350 Bay Area**
- 6. 350Brooklyn**
- 7. 350 Central Mass**
- 8. 350 Charlotte**
- 9. 350 Columbia**
- 10. 350 Conejo / San Fernando Valley**
- 11. 350 Fairfax**
- 12. 350 Loudoun**
- 13. 350 Marin**
- 14. 350 Montgomery County**
- 15. 350 NJ-Rockland**
- 16. 350 NYC**
- 17. 350 PDX**
- 18. 350 Seattle**
- 19. 350 Triangle**
- 20. 350 Vermont**
- 21. 350 Westlake**
- 22. 350 West Sound Climate Action**
- 23. Abalone Alliance Safe Energy Clearinghouse**
- 24. Abita Committee for Energy Sustainability**
- 25. Agricultural Missions, Inc**
- 26. Animals Are Sentient Beings, Inc.**
- 27. Appalachian Gas Working Group, WV Rivers**
- 28. Aquashicola/ Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy**
- 29. Backbone Campaign**
- 30. Back Country Excursions**
- 31. Baltimore People's Climate Movement**

32. Baltimore Veterans for Peace
33. Berks Gas Truth
34. Berkshire Environmental Action Team
35. Beyond Nuclear
36. Bistel Co.
37. Boston Clean Energy Coalition
38. Breathe Easy Susquehanna County
39. Breathe Project
40. Brian Boortz Public Relations
41. Bronx River Bicycle Works
42. Buckingham: We the People
43. Bucks Environmental Action, PA
44. Burlington VT Climate Reality Chapter
45. Cancel Compressor Coalition, Va.
46. CASE
47. Center for Biological Diversity
48. Central Jersey Coalition Against Endless War
49. Chatham Research Group
50. Chesapeake Climate Action Network
51. Chesapeake physicians for Social Responsibility
52. Christians For The Mountains
53. Church Women United in New York State
54. Citizen Power, Inc.
55. Citizens Allied for Integrity and Accountability (CAIA)
56. Citizens Awareness Network
57. Citizens Coalition for a Safe Community
58. Citizens for Renewables
59. Citizens United for Renewable Energy (CURE)
60. Citizens' Resistance at Fermi Two (CRAFT)
61. Citizen Voices Radio Show
62. Clean Water for NC
63. Climate Action Alliance of the Valle
64. Climate First!
65. Climate Hawks Vote
66. Climate Jobs PDX
67. ClimateMama
68. Coalition Against Pilgrim Pipeline - New Jersey
69. Coalition for a Nuclear Free Great Lakes
70. Coalition to Protect New York
71. Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety
72. Connecticut Coalition Against Millstone
73. Conscious Talk Radio
74. Ct Shoreline Indivisible (CTSI)
75. DC Statehood Green Party
76. Dogwood Alliance

77. Don't Gas the Pinelands
78. Don't Waste Michigan
79. Don't Frack Calvert
80. Earth Action Inc., NY
81. Earth Evolution
82. Earthkeeper Health Resources
83. Eat for the Earth
84. ECHO Action NH: #FossilFree603
85. Efficiency 1st, a div. of Washington Power & Light, Inc
86. Elmirans & Friends Against Fracking
87. Energia Mia
88. Environmental Justice Task Force of the WNY Peace Center
89. Erie County Green Party
90. Extinction Rebellion New Paltz
91. Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition
92. Fiends of Bruce
93. Food & Water Watch (National)
94. Fore River Residents Against the Compressor Station
95. Franciscan Response to Fossil Fuels
96. FreshWater Accountability Project
97. Friends of Buckingham
98. Friends of Horseshoe Bend Park
99. Friends of Nelson
100. Friends of the Earth
101. Friends Of The Piscataquis Valley
102. Genesis Farm
103. Grand Junction for Peace
104. Green America
105. Green Country Sierra Club
106. Green Earth Goods
107. Green Education and Legal Fund
108. Green Party of Butler and Venango Counties (PA)
109. Green Party of Pennsylvania
110. Green State Solutions
111. GreeningUSA
112. Guilford Peace Alliance
113. Haw River Assembly
114. Heal(thy) Community Coalition
115. Hip Hop Caucus
116. Howard County Climate Action (MD)
117. Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc.
118. Hudson Valley Green Party
119. Idle No More Michigan
120. Indivisible We Rise West Central PA
121. Interfaith Moral Action on Climate

122. JustPeace
123. Lancaster Against Pipelines
124. LEAF of Hudson Valley
125. Lebanon Pipeline Awareness
126. LEPOCO Peace Center (Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern)
127. Longmeadow Pipeline Awareness Group
128. Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership, NJ
129. Maine Solar Energy Association
130. Marcellus Outreach Butler
131. Marshalls Automotive
132. Metro N.Y. Catholic Climate Movement
133. Milford Doers/Residents of Crumhorn Mtn
134. Mountain Lakes Preservation Alliance, WV
135. Movement for a People's Party
136. Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment
137. Naropa University
138. NC WARN
139. NCAPPPL--NC Alliance to Protect Our People and the Places We Love
140. Nevada Nuclear Waste Task Force
141. New River Conservancy
142. New River Valley Chapter of the Sierra Club
143. New York Interfaith Power & Light
144. New York Progressive Action Network - Enviro Committee
145. NH Energy Impacts on Health Study Groupup
146. Nicaragua Center for Community Action
147. NJ Skylands Sunrise Hub
148. NJ State Industrial Union Council
149. No Fracked Gas in Mass
150. North American Climate, Conservation and Environment(NACCE)
151. North American Water Office
152. North County Climate Change Alliance
153. Northeast Organic Farming Association-Interstate Council (NOFA-IC)
154. Northern New Jersey NOW
155. Nuclear Age Peace Foundation
156. Nuclear Energy Information Service (NEIS)
157. Nuclear Free campaign of the Sierra Club
158. Nuclear Information and Resource Service
159. Nuclear Watch South
160. NuclearBan.US
161. Nukewatch
162. NWSOFA/Indivisible
163. NYC Grassroots Alliance
164. NYC H2O
165. Occupy Bergen County
166. Oil Change U.S.

167. On Behalf of Planet Earth
168. Our Revolution
169. OVEC-Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition
170. Parallax Perspectives
171. Patriots From The Oil & Gas Shales
172. PAUSE - People of Albany United for Safe Energy
173. Peacemakers of Schoharie County
174. Pennsylvania Alliance for Clean Water and Air
175. People for a Healthy Environment
176. Physicians for Social Responsibility - Kansas City
177. Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) Philadelphia
178. Physicians for Social Responsibility- Philadelphia
179. Plymouth Friends of Clean Water
180. Plymouth Friends of Clean Water, NY
181. Popular Resistance
182. Power Shift Network
183. Preserve Franklin County Virginia
184. Preserve Giles County
185. Preserve Monroe
186. Preserve Montgomery County VA
187. Preserve Salem
188. Proposition One Campaign for a Nuclear-Free Future
189. Protect Our Water Heritage Rights (POWHR)
190. Radiation Truth
191. Reach Out America
192. Reclaim Augusta
193. Redwood Alliance
194. Residents Allied for the Future of Tioga (RAFT)
195. Residents Organized For a Safe Environment (ROSE)
196. Resist the Pipeline
197. Rockland Citizens Action Network
198. Roseland Against Compressor Station (RACS)
199. Safe Energy Rights Group (SEnRG)
200. San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace
201. Sane Energy Project
202. Santa Cruz Climate Action Network
203. Save our streams, PA
204. Save Passamaquoddy Bay 3-Nation Alliance
205. Save Planet Earth
206. Shrimpers and fisherman of the RGV
207. Sisters of Charity Federation
208. SocioEnergetics Foundation
209. Solar Wind Works
210. South Jersey NOW-Alice Paul chapter
211. Stop NY Fracked Gas Pipeline

- 212. Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion (SAPE)**
- 213. Stewart Enterprises**
- 214. Sugar Law Center for Economic and Social Justice**
- 215. Sullivan Alliance for Sustainable Development**
- 216. Summers County Residents Against the Pipeline**
- 217. Sunrise Movement Baltimore**
- 218. Sustainable Arizona**
- 219. Sustainable Medina County**
- 220. Terra Advocati**
- 221. The Banner**
- 222. The History Business**
- 223. The Peace Farm**
- 224. The Shalom Center**
- 225. Therapists for Social Responsibility**
- 226. Three Mile Island Alert**
- 227. Triangle Women's International League for Peace and Freedom**
- 228. Tricounty NY Transition**
- 229. Ulster Activists (Indivisible group)**
- 230. Unitarian Universalist Mass Action Network**
- 231. United for Action, NY**
- 232. Upper Green Side**
- 233. UUFHC**
- 234. Valley Watch, Inc.**
- 235. Vermont Citizens Action Network**
- 236. Vermont Yankee Decommissioning Alliance**
- 237. Vestal Residents for Safe Energy (VeRSE)**
- 238. Veterans PC Canada**
- 239. Voters of Watchunghills**
- 240. We Are Cove Point**
- 241. Whidbey Environmental Action Network**
- 242. White Rabbit Grove RDNA**
- 243. Wilco Justice Alliance (Williamson County, TX)**
- 244. WildEarth Guardians**
- 245. Women's Energy Matters**
- 246. Wyoming County Greens**
- 247. Yoga For Peace,Justice, Harmony With The Planet!**