

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

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

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 Valley
- 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!