

Make sure to review our most recent position on the final GND resolution here and see what CJA members are saying about it in the news.

Talking Points to Expand Upon in Your Meetings with Your Representative & Local Elected Officials

The Green New Deal should support Communities, not Corporations

Local communities like ours all over the country are first and most impacted by climate change and disproportionately impacted by pollution, poverty and other negative impacts associated with the fossil fuel and dirty energy industry, which has caused and profited from such harm.

Oil refineries, pipelines, power plants, mines, incinerators and other polluting infrastructure is often sited next to our communities; we therefore, have had to create solutions out of necessity that address the multi-faceted impacts we deal with on a daily basis.

Forging pathways to a just and healthy future that transitions our community from these harmful industries to more healthy and regenerative systems like local food production; safe and affordable housing; public transportation, community-choice energy and zero waste (...list what you are doing here) is the way forward and should be the basis of any Green New Deal. This is what we call a Just Transition.

Sadly, most public spending through climate and energy legislation in the US, has subsidized dirty energy industries, either through investments in harmful energy technologies or incentives and tax breaks gained through market mechanisms like carbon trading. To seriously mitigate climate change and protect communities, we have to stop supporting corporate solutions and directly invest in the pathways proposed by communities on the frontlines of the ecological crises and industrial harm.

Frontline community knowledge bears the best solutions

Our communities understand the flaws and deficiencies of our nation's industrial systems better than most, especially where these systems have caused us direct harm. We have a clear sense of the systemic change we need to protect the health of our air, our water, our land and our children. We have been cultivating transformative pathways, for solutions rooted in place-based ecological knowledge and "lived experience" and hope you will support our work moving forward.

We must deepen democracy for future generations

Communities of color and working class communities are rapidly becoming the new voting majority across the country. To win our support, and speak to the core concerns of our members, any infrastructure investments and projects stemming from the "Green New Deal" should seek the approval and guidance of communities, workers and other constituents at the local level.

Frontline communities must be directly engaged, and supported to provide thought leadership as our nation transitions toward renewable energy and regenerative economies, especially since we have the clearest line of sight on what is most ecologically appropriate and beneficial in our backyards. Like most grassroots, place-based networks, the 68 member organizations of the Climate Justice Alliance have the knowledge and know-how to scale meaningful initiatives for the betterment of our community today.

A GND should seek to end the trillion dollars of public subsidies that are handed to the most destructive of industries. To both repair historic harm and finance a Just Transition, the GND must look to both "stop the ongoing financing of harm", while re-investing in a new economy that serves people and planet. We also need to develop capacity across multiple frontline communities, where the most

locally-appropriate solutions can be financed (reinvested) in ways that are regenerative, and intended to benefit the largest number of people locally.

We Need a Green New Deal for (____Name Your Community)

We can't wait for Washington to act, rather we want to build a Just Transition through a Green New Deal for (your city or community name), which needs to be supported by local and state governments today, through the direct engagement of our communities and many other allied public interest groups such as workers unions and neighborhood associations .

Moving forward, we ask that you support our local work and consult with us on any future movement around the climate crisis and transitioning our community from a harmful economy to a safe and just one where all of our communities can thrive and survive.

You can find more in-depth talking points and background on [the GND here](#).

Resources

- [Final GND Congressional Resolution](#) (Feb. 5, 2019)
- [CJA Statement on the Green New Deal](#) released December 2018
- [CJA Draft Greens New Legislative Session Letter](#) Signed by 600 orgs
- [Original GND](#) by the Green Party about 10 years ago
- Kathy Castor (14th D-FL) the Chair of the [Select Committee on Climate Crisis](#) (Formerly Climate Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming during Obama years started by Nancy Pelosi) in the House.

Background Documents

- APPENDIX A: [ENERGY DEMOCRACY PLATFORM](#)
- APPENDIX B: [CJA JUST TRANSITION PRINCIPLES](#)
- APPENDIX C: [JEMEZ PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZING](#)