

GND & Food Convening 5/31/19

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I. EMERGING PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES

Principles and Priorities for Food and Agriculture Green New Deal Policy (synthesis of our conversations on 5/31 at the CUNY Urban Food Policy Institute)

Introduction: We have a broken food system- built on centuries of racialized land dispossession and labor exploitation. The United State's agricultural system has benefited from and exists because of the early and long-standing exploitation and enslavement of Black & Indigenous people. We applaud the call for "good jobs" that is part of the GND resolution which, while necessary it is not sufficient as the history of food, agriculture and land reminds us. Thus the call to provide land to the landless farmer has to acknowledge the millions of acres of land lost by Black farmers and Indigenous peoples. Any just transition must consider how they are included in such solutions. As we know that just 100 years ago (1920), Black Farmers owned around 14% of American farmland and today that number is barely 2%. While land ownership is dwindling for all farmers, there is a history - and very present reality - that is imperative we contend with within the GND platform. That is: a significant and intentional disinvestment in Black, Latina/o, Indigenous and other marginalized communities that has dispossessed these communities from land and the wealth creation historically connected to land ownership.

Histories of exclusion and dispossession are the root of contemporary inequalities in rates of food insecurity, wages and income, and health inequalities. The GND should uplift this and recognize that land-ownership is a significant approach in myriad other structural inequities being addressed/mitigated. The Green New Deal should focus on making land accessible to the 350,000 landless farmers in the US and breaking the monopolies over fisheries stocks. The Green New Deal should focus on keeping fossil fuels in the ground and big energy companies out of the policy making arenas. We need a joined-up approach that understands the most pressing social issues of our time -- hunger, poverty, racial injustice, immigration, war and conflict, weakened democracies -- are part and parcel with the most pressing environmental issues of our time.

Just as we need to decentralize our energy system in the United States to reduce reliance on large oil and gas corporations, we need decentralized planning in our food system. We need to break up agro-food monopolies (including in the retail sector) to curb corporate power driving unsustainable food production & distribution practices. The leadership to rebuild rural communities must come from the farmers, farmworkers, and fishing communities who produce our food using the principles of agroecology + the food chain workers who bring the food to store and table. These are the people who deal firsthand with the economic, ecological and social impacts of our industrialized and fossil fuel-dependent food system.

A just transition requires a comprehensive commitment, rooted at the City, State and Federal levels, to building the necessary infrastructure to support small/mid sized farmers & food producers. It also must incorporate accountability measures that make less room in the marketplace for massive agribusinesses and more room for the vendors that are aligned with values rooted in racial & gender equity, a commitment to creating/supporting our workforce, sustainable practices, humane care of animals, nutritious/nutrient dense & culturally rooted foods, and supporting our local and regional food economies.

A Green New Deal offers and opportunity for creating a regional and national good food network that encompasses food production and land access, public purchasing and procurement, anti-hunger and nutrition policy, and regulation of our current wasteful industrial food system.

Principles and policies:

Principle #1: All public money spent on food, including food and nutrition programs like SNAP, school food, TEFAP, and public procurement, should contribute to reducing

greenhouse gasses by shifting resources to agro-ecological production, making healthy food affordable, reducing food insecurity, and strengthening workers' rights.

Public Money in Food and Nutrition Programs

- SNAP is public money and it should be used for the public good. Supermarkets and food retailers redeemed 63.3 billion dollars in 2017. We need to change the stocking standards for supermarkets to be able to participate in SNAP to increase the market and support for agro-ecologically produced food that supports workers rights. Stocking standards can and should be redirected to support the regional agriculture community and to support supply chain development for small food retailers, particularly those owned by historically marginalized groups.
- In addition to SNAP certification for stores that purchase more local agro-ecologically grown food, consumers using SNAP should get incentives for shopping at these retailers (e.g. SNAP stretch).
- Develop specific city and state agendas to reduce consumption of ultraprocessed foods in institutional food programs, through SNAP incentives (not penalties), and through retail incentives such as FRESH
- Protect and expand the food and nutrition safety net: eliminate the SNAP ABAWD restriction, the SNAP exclusion of full time post-secondary students, rules deterring enrollment by eligible immigrants, and other efforts to undermine the safety net.
- Establish a universal free school lunch and p\breakfast program integrated with food education.

Public Money in Purchasing and Procurement

- Green procurement. Give priority to agro-ecologically produced food, preferably from nearby producers, in all public procurement including schools, child care, hospitals, etc.
- Public procurement and feeding programs must identify the foods that have a higher carbon footprint and reduce purchase of these, along the lines of Meatless Mondays. Reducing purchasing and consumption of higher carbon footprint foods like meat produced by CAFO's contributes to lower carbon emissions in public procurement and improved health outcomes.
- Increasing farm-to-food bank tax credits, farm-to-school reimbursement rates and other financial incentives for more local dairy and protein donations and procurement channels

- Use public money to support the creation of food hubs and food processing facilities for New York State produced foods that can be purchased through school food and other public programs.

Public Universities and extension services

- Public universities must serve the public good. Increase state funding to CUNY and SUNY to provide education and technical assistance through Land Grants and Extension services to assist farmers in transitioning to agro-ecological growing practices, to support new farmers, and to develop the technical expertise and a workforce capable of creating supply chains between small and medium sized farmers, public institutions and retailers.

Principle #2: Health, food and agricultural policy should seek to reduce the size, influence and subsidies provided to the ultra-process food industry-- the large multinational agricultural, - industries that food manufacturing food service and food retail corporations that constitute the economic foundation of the world's food system and to enlarge, strengthen and support alternative systems based on agroecology and smaller scale urban and regional agriculture. This approach will contribute both to lower GHG emissions from the agricultural and food sectors and to a reduced burden and lower costs of diet-related diseases such as cardiovascular diseases, hypertension, diabetes and several types of cancer.

Principle #2: Create living waged jobs in the food and agriculture sectors that build and sustain infrastructure for carbon reduction, increase food security, community wealth creation, and improved nutrition.

- Ensure fair, family-sustaining living wages and safe, humane working conditions for farmworkers, fishers, and other food industry workers.
- Equalize labor laws to provide farmworkers with full legal rights, and ensure that all food system workers have a voice in food production, access to healthy food, and the freedom to organize and unionize without retaliation by passing and enforcing the *New York Fairness for Farmworkers Act*
- Increase TEFAP administration funds to create federally funded, living waged jobs in food banks, pantries and soup kitchens to provide community meals and emergency food and reduce reliance on private and corporate philanthropy.
- Invest in good food jobs: upgrade cooking skills (and compensation) for school food workers, child care workers, home health care workers, institutional food providers.

- Integrate climate and health perspectives into food workforce development programs so as to increase number of entry level food workers with activist perspective and concrete skills

Principle #3: Expand employment and community ownership of land for urban and regional agriculture and the infrastructure for waste reduction

- Community Garden preservation, creation and ownership – community gardens help preserve and protect buildings from flooding. Garden preservation and creation is urban climate mitigation work similar to retrofitting buildings.
- Establish funding, incentives and support for hubs that can offer Value Added Processing to provide the procured food from small, regional farms in a desirable and usable form
- Invest in a Community Land Trust model as it relates to open access with land that can be used for cultivation (community gardens included)
- Creating Green Jobs using commercial composting facilities that utilize farmland to generate energy and process food scraps locally (community gardens included)

Principle #4: Transform agricultural subsidies and state funding to make small and medium scale agro-ecological farming economically sustainable

- Enact parity policies (supply management) to prevent agro-industry overproduction and boom-bust cycles.
- Provide structural incentives for environmentally-sound production (re: agroecology) and disincentives to discourage large-scale mono-cropping and CAFOs.
- Protect US fisheries and waterways through policy such as MSA, Gulf Coast regeneration, and regenerative ocean farming, such as oysters and mussels
- Tax credits/incentives for farms and businesses generating a low carbon footprint including waste to energy/zero waste goals
- Creates a comprehensive state soil health program with enforceable, detailed benchmarks that requires all state agencies that touch on food, agriculture and land management to consider soil health. To invest effectively in “drawdown” of greenhouse gases (GHG), a GND must include incentives and training for farmers to become the true managers of solar power that photosynthesis makes possible because the largest, and only remaining, “sink” for carbon on earth is the soil and regenerative farming practices increase soil carbon.

- A GND must provide living wages to farmworkers for a normal work week and allow them to access land and the resources to farm should they want to become farm managers.
- Provide loans for specialized equipment or equipment loans
- Centralized community ownership over renewable energy used to power local food production
- Ear-marking Community Food Projects funds and additional federal funding streams as line items to support community designed sustainable agricultural practices

Principle #5: Regulate and Reduce Food Waste by requiring producers to take financial and physical responsibility for the post-consumer life of their products.

- Implement mandatory source-separation of organic waste by businesses
- Incentivize businesses to implement food waste prevention techniques
- Increase regulations on corporate food waste that make food retailers and producers financially responsible for wasted food and for its redistribution to community meal programs and/or emergency food programs.

Principle #6: Democratic governance and decision making

- Participate in broad Climate Justice coalitions so that the GND will include agriculture, food and land in all discussions and proposals.
- Expand educating, organizing and agitating for GND, including food justice issues, on a grassroots level, e.g., in schools, community organizations, community gardens, faith organizations, unions, community boards. Food justice advocates need to be among the leaders in this work.
- Demand community-based democratic planning to implement a GND so that communities get to decide on the kinds of projects, developments, clean-ups, etc., that will take place in their neighborhoods, towns, cities, states.
- Demand environmental justice features to the GND and to local planning so that those most harmed by the present environmental and economic crises will be first served by and participate in developing the solutions to address them.
- Demand a complete end to the fossil fuel regime--no coal, oil, gas, synthetic fertilizers, and no more new fossil fuel infrastructure--and substitute these with 100% renewable energy and regenerative agriculture.

II. INPUT FOR CONVENING

What do you see as the 3-5 top food and agriculture policy priorities for a Green New Deal at the city, state or federal level?

Aziz Dehkan, New York City Community Garden Coalition

3-5 Policy Priorities:

- Community Garden preservation, creation and ownership
- Food security and an end to food apartheid
- Job creation
- Tying in the Climate Crisis with community gardens that are climate mitigators
- Ending the false narrative that affordable housing and open space are not mutually compatible

Jerome Nathaniel, Northeast Organic Farmers Association (NOFA)

3-5 Policy Priorities:

- At the forefront of any ag related GND policy necessarily has to be investments in land preservations. A federally funded study on the most effective State efforts for farmland preservation, the creation of tax incentives or directly connecting profits from sustainability-based industries to farmland preservation efforts are strategies to support our farmlands.
- Offer funding for state food and ag administrations to contract out trainings and certifications in GND approved industries and jobs, especially in communities of colors
- Increasing farm-to-food bank tax credits, farm-to-school reimbursement rates and other financial incentives for more local dairy and protein donations and procurement channels
 - Include more incentives and support for hubs that can offer VAP to provide the procured food in a desirable and usable form
- Ear-marking CFP funds and additional federal funding streams as line items to support community designed sustainable agricultural practices
- Creating a federal grading system to produce product labels that indicate the level of sustainable/regenerative/equitable agricultural practices for consumer awareness. Additionally, connecting small, mid-sized and minority farmers and growers with financial incentives to shift their agricultural practices to acquire higher grade levels, promotion, and consumer base.

Nancy Romer, Peoples Climate Movement-NY

3-5 Priorities: organizations, unions, community boards. Food justice advocates need to be among the

- Participate in broad Climate Justice coalitions so that the GND will include agriculture, food and land in all discussions and proposals.

Expand educating, organizing and agitating for GND, including food justice issues, on a grassroots level, e.g., in schools, community organizations, community gardens, faith leaders in this work.

- Demand community-based democratic planning to implement a GND so that communities get to decide on the kinds of projects, developments, clean-ups, etc., that will take place in their neighborhoods, towns, cities, states.
- Demand environmental justice features to the GND and to local planning so that those most harmed by the present environmental and economic crises will be first served by and participate in developing the solutions to address them.
- Demand a complete end to the fossil fuel regime--no coal, oil, gas, synthetic fertilizers, and no more new fossil fuel infrastructure--and substitute these with 100% renewable energy and regenerative agriculture.

Tiffany Finck-Haynes, Friends of the Earth

3-5 Policy Priorities:

1. Food policy priorities are reflected in a [letter](#) FOE and 25-30 organizations across the food movement representing labor, farmer, farmworker, fisher, environmental and public health organizations put together.
 - a. Summary of priorities include:
 - i. Carbon reduction, sequestration and climate resilience via a rapid, just transition that empowers farmers and ranchers to adopt ecologically regenerative, organic and agroecological practices;
 - ii. Fair prices for farmers, ranchers and fishers, anti-trust measures that help reverse food sector consolidation, and healthy working conditions with family-sustaining living wages for workers;
 - iii. Diversified, resilient local and regional food economies anchored by family farmers, ranchers and fishers that ensure healthy, sustainable food for all, combat consolidation in the food and farming sector and reverse the rapid loss of farmers and deterioration of farmland;
 - iv. Avoid “false solutions” and agribusiness-sponsored proposals that do nothing to address the systemic causes of our climate crisis and delay progress.

Maggie Dickinson, CUNY - Guttman Community College

3-5 Policy Priorities:

1. My priorities draw on both the federal GND resolution and the New York State senate’s call for a just transition to secure, among other things, healthy food for all people and to create broad economic security through the creation of high waged employment. My

priorities, then, are to identify sectors where funding living wage employment can most effectively help to transition our economy away from reliance on fossil fuels. I see several of these:

2. Policies that create well paid job opportunities for youth to learn sustainable farming practices and make land for farming accessible to new farmers, especially farmers of color.
3. Policies to regulate food waste and fund living waged jobs to transform what is now a largely volunteer charitable food sector. I am imagining a network of state or federally funded community meal programs similar to what food security activists have created in Belo Horizonte, Brazil.
4. Purchasing and procurement policies that strengthen ties between large institutions like schools, hospitals and emergency food providers and small to medium sized farms and sustainable local food producers.

Jan Poppendieck, CUNY Urban Food Policy Center

3-5 Policy Priorities:

1. support/promote/invest in regenerative agriculture (methods that enhance carbon sequestration). Create funding stream for R & D and for incentivizing transition.
2. Green procurement. Give priority to agro-ecologically produced food, preferably from nearby producers, in all public procurement--schools, child care, prisons, hospitals etc.
3. Invest in good food jobs: upgrade cooking skills (and compensation) for school food workers, child care workers, home health care workers, institutional food providers. Invest in new farmer development through training and land access.
4. Protect and expand the food and nutrition safety net: eliminate the SNAP ABAWD restriction, the SNAP exclusion of full time post-secondary students, rules deterring enrollment by eligible immigrants, and other efforts to undermine the safety net. Create incentives for green purchasing by SNAP, WIC and other low-income consumers.
5. Establish a universal free school lunch and pbreakfast program integrated with food education.

Onika Abraham, Farm School NYC

3-5 Policy Priorities:

- encouraging agroecological approaches within farming to reclaim ancestral and cultural, place-based knowing while offering space for envisioning and embodying future technologies that can best serve the land and the beings living with and within it
- equitable land reparations, reallocations and stewardship
- living, fair working conditions and financial security for farmers and farmworkers in NYC, NYS and worldwide

Ribka Getachew, NYC Community Food Advocates

3-5 Policy Priorities:

- First and foremost: An acknowledgment needs to be made that our country's agricultural system has benefited from and exists because of the early and long-standing exploitation and enslavement of Black & Indigenous people.
- Access to Land & Resources: As we know that just 100 years ago (1920), Black Farmers owned around 14% of American farmland and today that number is barely 2%. While land ownership is dwindling for all farmers, there is a history - and very present reality - that I'd assert is imperative we contend with within the GND platform. That is: a significant and intentional disinvestment in Black, Latina/o, Indigenous and other marginalized communities. The GND should uplift this and recognize that land-ownership is a significant approach in myriad other structural inequities being addressed/mitigated.
- A comprehensive commitment, rooted at the City, State and Federal levels, to building the necessary infrastructure to support small/mid sized farmers & food producers.
- Accountability measures that make less room in the marketplace for massive agribusinesses and more room for the vendors that are aligned with values rooted in racial & gender equity, a commitment to creating/supporting our workforce, sustainable practices, humane care of animals, nutritious/nutrient dense & culturally rooted foods, and supporting our local and regional food economies.
- Creating a regional and national good food network.

Alison Cohen, WHY Hunger

3-5 Policy Priorities:

- The Green New Deal should focus on making land accessible to the 350,000 landless farmers in the US and breaking the monopolies over fisheries stocks. The Green New Deal should focus on keeping fossil fuels in the ground and big energy companies out of the policy making arenas. We need a joined-up approach that understands the most pressing social issues of our time -- hunger, poverty, racial injustice, immigration, war and conflict, weakened democracies -- are part and parcel with the most pressing environmental issues of our time.
- Enact parity policies (supply management) to prevent agro-industry overproduction and boom-bust cycles.
- Provide structural incentives for environmentally-sound production (re: agroecology) and disincentives to discourage large-scale mono-cropping and CAFOs.
- Decentralized planning: the leadership to rebuild rural communities must come from the farmers, farmworkers, and fishing communities who produce our food using the principles of agroecology + the food chain workers who bring the food to store and table. These are the people who deal firsthand with the economic, ecological and social impacts of our industrialized and fossil fuel-dependent food system.

Qiana Mickie, Just Food

3-5 Policy Priorities

Sherry Tomasky, New York Hunger Solutions

3-5 Policy Priorities:

- Maximize participation in federal and state nutrition assistance programs by:
 - Protecting eligibility guidelines for all who are eligible.
 - Improve access and streamline coordination at the federal, state and local level.
- Address food insecurity as a critical health determinant in the healthcare system
- Provide increased funding for nutrition programs (outreach, application assistance, referral systems)

Catarina Rivera, City Harvest

3-5 Policy Priorities:

- Land access and funding for urban and rural growers, with an attention to farmers of color
- Decrease food waste
- Funding and logistical support for emergency food providers to be able to purchase/acquire and/or process fresh fruits and vegetables to distribute
- Strengthen, expand, and protect stable conditions that support food security
 - Examples:
 - Self-Sufficiency Standard Report Topics: childcare, healthcare, housing, transportation, & wages
 - Public Charge and Immigration
 - Housing Not Hunger Campaign
 - Coalition and partner campaigns that support food security
- Increase access to healthy, affordable food
 - Examples:
 - Food supply
 - NYS Farm 2 Food Bank Bill
 - NYS Regional Food Hub in Hunts Point
 - Food Retail
 - Healthy Food Access Campaign
 - Healthy Retail Closures
 - Commercial rent protections for supermarkets (while this is a matter of city legislation, would like to know if anything can be done at the state and federal level to support)
 - Urban Agriculture
 - NYS Vital Brooklyn Initiative
 - Nutrition Incentives
 - Health Bucks & Healthy Savings

Joshua Lohnes, WVU Food Justice Lab

3-5 Policy Priorities:

1. Break up agro-food monopolies (including retail sector) to curb corporate power driving unsustainable food production & distribution practices.
 - a. Lower market access barriers for small and medium sized producers.
 - b. Mandate public institutional engagement in regional food systems
2. Long-term (10 year)support for farmers entering or transitioning toward agro-ecological production methods.
 - a. Land Access (e.g 0% loans or full fledged land reform program)
 - b. Living stipend tied to farm revenue (e.g price parity)
 - c. Coordinated regional production plans linked to farm aid
3. Large capital investments in the re-development of sustainable regional food economies.
 - a. Land Regeneration
 - b. Infrastructure (supply chains, processing, storage, distribution etc.)
 - c. Labor subsidy - Education, training, living wages and worker protections in all parts of food economy
 - d. Consumer subsidy that incentivizes regional consumption. (e.g. SNAP stretch)
4. Decouple Food & Empire.
 - a. Food surplus as geopolitical tool
 - b. Farm inviability
 - c. Fossil Fuel dependency.

Rositsa T. Ilieva, CUNY Urban Food Policy Institute

3-5 Policy Priorities:

1. Educate architects, urban designers, planners, and developers in viable strategies that would make organic waste reduction and separation easier and more convenient across a range of buildings and neighborhoods as well as educate consumers in the practice and benefits of organics waste reduction, separation, and recycling.
2. Work with local groups, including existing community-based organics collection and composting initiatives as well as community boards to elicit input on effective place-based solutions.
3. Prioritize retrofitting existing public buildings in NYC and State to facilitate organic waste separation and disposal and lead by example.
4. Consider the development of a zoning/financial incentives program for developers to include waste reduction measures in new projects in NYC and other municipalities in NY State.
5. Strengthen urban-rural linkages and circular economies by studying, and working to close, waste loops from farm to table and back.

Alicia Rodriguez, Land and Sea Institute; Matthew Hayek mhayek@law.harvard.edu

Top priorities for Green New Deal Policy Solutions Addressing Food

1. Create a coordinated system of 'nudges' in consumption environments where meat options exist
2. Develop food guidelines and a certification program for businesses and government to measure and reduce carbon emissions from food
3. Develop a sustainable food systems program (ag, manufacturing, food service) for NY state
4. Create plant-based nutritionist program for government-funded meals

Sandy Nurse, BK Rot

3-5 Policy Priorities:

Ashley Kosiak, JBF

3-5 Policy Priorities:

1. Protect US fisheries and waterways through policy such as MSA, Gulf Coast regeneration, and regenerative ocean farming, such as oysters and mussels
2. 350.org Reducing food waste

Ian Marvy, USDA

3-5 Policy Priorities:

Monika Wysocki, NYC Department of Sanitation Commissioners Office

3-5 Policy Priorities:

- Implement extended producer responsibility to require producers to take financial and physical responsibility for the post-consumer life of their products
- Shift procurement requirements to ensure taxpayer dollars are being used to support sustainable products
- Implement mandatory source-separation of organic waste by businesses
- Incentivize businesses to implement food waste prevention techniques

Suzanne Adely, Food Chain Workers Alliance

3-5 Policy Priorities:

- Equalize labor laws to provide farmworkers with full legal rights, and ensure that all food system workers have a voice in food production, access to healthy food, and the freedom to organize and unionize without retaliation. *New York Farmworkers Fair Labor Standards Act*.
- Policies must also address historical and current economic discrimination and structural racism endured by Black and Indigenous communities in NYS, including but not limited to land reparations.
- Economic Incentives and structural support for sustainable farming.
- Explore Pay Parity program's.

Serena Thomas, Restaurant Workers Opportunity Center

3-5 Policy Priorities:

Pamela Koch, Tisch Food Center

3-5 Policy Priorities:

- Create programs that provide supports for farmers who want to transition from conventional agriculture to agroecology methods (organic / biodynamic Real Organic Project etc) growing methods (including intensive grazing of animals that supports absorption of greenhouse gases) and supports for transitions from commodity crops to specialty crops
- Create programs that provide financial supports, land access, incentives, and training for young farmers and farmers of color
- Support for creating food hubs and food processing facilities for New York State produced foods, specifically supports that will provide the infrastructure for schools to meet the 30% [NYS extra meal incentive](#)
- Create programs that increase food safety net for New York State residents that include increased incentives for New York State foods
- Increased programs and funding for school-based and community based food and nutrition education (including gardening and cooking education)

Nick Freudenberg, CUPFI

3-5 Policy Priorities:

1. Conduct research that provides clearer evidence and frames arguments for policy makers that agricultural and food production practices that have made ultra-processed foods (those high in fat, sugar and salt) are the same practices that contribute to climate change . Therefore changing these practices will both mitigate climate change but also slow the growing burden of diet-related chronic diseases. This could add other human and economic justifications for taking action now.
2. Develop specific city and state agendas to reduce consumption of ultraprocessed foods in institutional food programs, through SNAP incentives(not penalties), and through retail incentives such as FRESH
3. Integrate climate and health perspectives into food workforce development programs so as to increase number of entry level food workers with activist perspective and concrete skills

Fern Estrow, FGE Food & Nutrition Team Consulting

3-5 Policy Priorities:

Craig Willingham, CUFPI

3-5 Policy Priorities:

Todd Fernandez, , Todd350NYC@gmail.com

3-5 Policy Priorities:

I'm coming to learn this subject from others, but here are a few ideas that have crossed my mind. We're also doing a comprehensive survey of GND policy proposals, as part of [The People's GND Working Group](#), and welcome input via [this survey](#). Here's a relevant chapter, [Legal Pathways to Carbon-Neutral Agriculture](#), from a new treatise by the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law, that we're using as a reference.

1. Federally outlaw chemical pesticides, subsidize and develop organic solutions.
2. Create national education campaigns to change eating habits, subsidize vegetarian food sources, mandate vegetarian meals in public schools and government facilities.
3. Mandate live video streaming from all animal "farms" at all stages, including butchering and processing.
4. Establish a new national food distribution network and transportation system.
5. Ban import of products made from materials from protected forests, or grown on protected habitats.

Andres Bernal

3-5 Policy Priorities:

Kristin Reynolds, Independent Scholar

3-5 Policy Priorities:

- Policy equity (participation in creation/access to benefits of agricultural and food systems policy)
- Land and water access for food production/hunting/fishing (rural and urban)
- Economic equity
- Indigenous peoples'/communities' rights
- Reparations, as related to food, agriculture, and land

Dennis Derryck, Corbin Hill Food Project

1. There are a myriad of policies that are covered in the New Green Bill. Of concern is that the Black and Brown communities are relegated to being consumers and not economic citizens as we move along. Yes there is the ongoing recognition that the generalities do not intentionally speak to the fundamental structural issues of Blacks and Brown and historically marginalized communities and when they do, it becomes almost a coded word- simply referred to "good jobs." While necessary it is not sufficient. Thus the call to provide land to the landless farmer has to acknowledge the millions of acres of land lost by Black farmers. How are they included in such solutions?
2. One needs to intentionally also address the economic benefits that accrue to Black and Brown communities based on the many policy recommendations. Are they to be intentionally directed in building community wealth in Black and Brown communities, or are simply communities that

benefit from jobs. Unless intentional our Black, Brown and historically marginalized communities will be defined as beneficiaries through one measure, that of jobs created. Income disparities and wealth disparities require different strategies as we implement many of the New Great Deal policies if they are benefit Black, Brown and historically marginalized communities.

Erica Christensen Raml, Corbin Hill Food Project

3-5 Policy Priorities:

Ralph Chapman, Victoria University

3-5 Policy Priorities:

Elizabeth Henderson, NOFA-NY

1. To invest effectively in “drawdown” of greenhouse gases (GHG), a GND must include incentives and training for farmers to become the true managers of solar power that photosynthesis makes possible. The largest, and only remaining, “sink” for carbon on earth is the soil and regenerative farming practices increase soil carbon. The more fertile the soil, the more carbon it holds. The same practices that improve soil health, such as planting cover crops, recycling crop residues, and reducing tillage, the basic practices of organic agriculture grounded in agroecology, build soil carbon. So the GND should include state legislation that defines soil health; provides financial or other incentives to farmers and other landowners to increase soil carbon by developing systems of production that maximize soil health including fertilizer management, tillage reduction or no-till, cover cropping, alley cropping, silvopasture, and manure management; subsidizes soil testing costs or teaches farmers to do their own tests; provides education and technical assistance through Land Grants and Extension services; provides loans for specialized equipment or equipment loans; creates a comprehensive state soil health program with enforceable, detailed benchmarks that requires all state agencies that touch on food, agriculture and land management to consider soil health. Examples are: preferential food procurement policies and marketing supports; encouraging soil health as one of the goals of food policy councils and Climate Smart Communities initiatives; setting statewide goals for carbon sequestration through photosynthesis.
2. NYS should encourage farmers and landowners to use organic and regenerative systems, and set an example by using these systems on all state lands and institutions.
3. Provide for a just transition for all farms and farmworkers - NYS cannot afford to lose any more farmland or any more farmers, regardless of the production practices they currently use. So any GND programs should take into consideration the reality that most farms are very fragile small businesses, kept going through someone’s off farm earnings (according to USDA the average farm earnings for 2018 was negative over \$1300 - **-\$1300**). The emphasis should be on incentives, not punitive measures for farmers, even those operating CAFOs that stink up the neighborhood and pollute drinking water with chemical fertilizers and manure. Most of those farmers are salvageable! If NYS had fair contract legislation that supported farmers in getting prices that cover production costs, farmers would be less likely to overproduce, use excess fertilizer and toxic pest controls. They could afford to transition to less intensive livestock systems like pasture raised. And please also keep farmworkers in mind. Our food system rewards farmwork with the lowest possible wages and highest levels of danger. A GND must provide living wages to

farmworkers for a normal work week and allow them to access land and the resources to farm should they want to become farm managers.

4. Preserve farms and farmland. Farms give off fewer emissions than the houses that replace them through urban sprawl. There are lots of places to site solar arrays and windmills besides our highest quality farm fields.
5. Make sure farmers and farmworkers are at the table to review whatever program this group comes up with. If you hold meetings at the end of June, you will never get many NY farmers to participate. They are busy farming! And to enable farmworkers to participate, their time and expenses must be covered.

Dior St.Hillaire, GreenFeen

1. Community Land Trust model as it relates to open access with land that can be used for cultivation (community gardens included)
 2. Creating Green Jobs using commercial composting facilities that utilize farmland to generate energy and process food scraps locally (community gardens included)
 3. Tax credits/incentives for farms and businesses generating a low carbon footprint including waste to energy/zero waste goals
 4. Centralized community ownership over renewable energy used to power local food production
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III. HIGHLIGHTS FROM GUEST SPEAKERS SESSION

Andres Bernal - how do we pay for it? This is the question that so many policies get met with. It limits how we can think about big policy. We have gone from climate denial to a place where we are talking about policy that is big enough to meet the scale of the problem. Our federal government is not like a household. Unlike a family the government is the issuer of our currency and we are all users. We should be evaluating resources not the dollars to pay for it. For a green new deal, we need to put limits on some kinds of investments and increase others. No longer thinking in crude financial terms but in terms of social goods. A jobs guarantee is a big part of this - we accept a certain level of unemployment as the anchor to prevent inflation. Instead, we need to anchor our economy through an employment guarantee.

Pete Sikora - NYCC - started organizing around climate change because of Sandy. NYC wins - fight for 15, Amazon, climate limits on buildings in NYC, stop the Williams pipeline. We are going to win by getting people into the streets and building a multi-racial coalition. If we can get people into the streets over and over, we can get city and state politicians to fold. We need to move state by state to organize power at that level to get to a federal GND if that is going to be possible. How can we as a network facilitate a multi-racial coalition in the streets and pushing

Onika Abraham Farm School NYC - who is in the room. Who is being paid to be here. This kind of meeting on a Friday from 9:30-5 is limiting in terms of who is and can be in the room. Doing work on Saturday's, with child care, and thinking about who can be here and how. Bring back what we can learn to community spaces about policy work. How do we build on the resources we already have in NYC to use that as a jumping off point to help them feed their families. Farm school is a decentralized space to do agro-ecology that centers black and brown people. Do experiential work together to share knowledge and be equals. Need to see communities as resources, not as empty vessels. 2 year program. Students go on to do a lot of different things. Cooperative economics are one of the ways younger people are organizing, to make them more accessible and more profitable. Farmers can't make it financially because he had student debt, has two children, feel marginalized in upstate communities. Strong sustainability vs weak sustainability. Strong sustainability that there are certain functions that the environment performs that cannot be duplicated. So our ozone layer can't be replaced. Our soil takes eons to produce. Things in the community that cannot be replicated - by saying Amazon can feed us. That replaces our community relationships. Nothing is wasted, nothing is disposable - especially people.

Aziz Dekan - NYC Community Garden Coalition - grew out of burning of NYC. Losing community space to developers. People started organizing after a park was taking away. Gardners are climate mitigators. They were recognized by the governors as climate mitigators after Sandy - buildings with gardens next to them had less damage. All politics is by the block. We're the little model for how you create sustainability in a city. You can take land and make it work for you. Its the smallest scale you can get to imagine sustainability. We have to come up with a better idea for using 600 community gardens to do urban climate mitigation. But getting there takes organizing.

Suzanne Adley - dispossession in places like Yonkers - reparations would be nice. How do we do a GND with a deeper vision - growth is not really the right vision. We also have to think about the enormous footprint of the US in the world. The military is one of the largest polluters in the world. We also need to be able to address the movement of people and biodiversity which isn't contained by borders. Her work with immigrants who work in restaurants - people are leaving because the places they live are not sustainable.

Need to spread knowledge on the local organizing

IV. THEMATIC WORKGROUPS (Poster Discussion)

I. Agriculture

- Land → land reform
- Action to address structurally-determined racial disparities
 - Land ownership
 - Agriculture
 - Wealth
- Land Banks - stat to purchase and sell especially to Black & Brown communities
- Communal land & Cooperative ownership
 - Examples:
 - Radical Fairness
 - Historical / Federation Southern Cooperatives

- Regenerative agriculture
 - Renewable energy
 - Agroecology
- Ag Easements - to prioritize; change the 'rules'
- Micro hubs
- Self determination
- Acknowledge Ag policy Precedents
 - Racist ag policies
 - USDA discrimination (e.g., Pigford v. Glickman case)
 - Commissions reports - "[A Time to Act](#)" (1998) A Report of the USDA National Commission on Small Farms
- Decentralized policy decision making
 - Community level policy (GND) education
 - Example: Participatory Budgeting
 - Shifting decision making power with resources to actualize
- Recognize existing knowledge

II. Nutrition

- Policies and educational campaigns from Carbon intensive to healthier less carbon driven
- Streamline Nutrition Programs
 - Institutional / Community
 - Retail (SNAP/WIC)
 - Stocking standards
 - Redirecting to Regional Economies
 - What about culturally appropriate?
 - How to engage communities to design ideal Nutrition Programming
- Farm / Land Access
 - *Public \$ procurement or food benefits should contribute to reduce GHGs and strengthen rights and promote health*
 - Public Land Program
 - Prioritize low income Black/Brown/Latinx communities
 - Funding Innovation Lab for diverse foods
 - 21st Century Ag Extension
 - Prioritize and Require Climate Framework
- Workforce
 - *Food workers are the largest recipients of SNAP*
 - Low wage employer tax
 - Rights to organize and Worker Protections
 - Farm workers
 - Food Service / Retail
 - > Skilled Labor
 - CJ Reform
- Ag Emissions
 - Reframing what is recognized as climate mitigation work to build regional food economies
 - Local / Regional / Federal Procurement: Local Food into School / Institutions
 - Agroecological conditioned procurement
 - FNS Geography - specificities

- Distribution / Transport Emissions
 - INcentivize procurement through local subsidy
 - Reduce high carbon foods
 - Health and Disease prevention (e.g., less meat, sugars, oils,)
 - Goal Driven: Cut by %
 - Standards with Environmental Impact
- Community Food Charitable Infrastructure
 - Discourse shifting - Climate mitigation work
 - Capital investment
 - Re-imagine & Re-use Charitable Impulse
 - CCC / WPA / Jobs Guarantee
 - Charge \$ for food waste revaluation
 - *How do we engage those relying on Emergency Food?*
- Civic Food Education
 - Land/ Extension / Garden Support
 - E.g., 10 hours/year on the food supply chain
 - Cultivate solidarity between farm workers & teachers across class / race / gender / nationality / living place
 - Long-term generational change in perspectives / Diet preferences etc.
 - Gender + caring labor
 - Community meals / celebrations / potlucks
 - Values → Time

III. Food Waste

- Labeling
 - Short-term: National best by / sell by / “enjoy by” standards (steps already taken by FDA)
 - Long-term: Carbon food labeling
- Overproduction
 - Short: Tax-incentives to 1. Re-distribute and repurpose overproduced food; 2. Track and reduce waste
 - Long: Establish a fine/fee for grocery stores that “force” farmers to overproduce
 - Long: Create a Fund where the fees will be collected and used for environmental and social programs, projects, and initiatives
- Institutions
 - Short: Adopt the GFPP
 - Short: Scale up cooking from scratch currently piloted through the summer meals trucks initiative
 - Long:
- Infrastructure
 - Short: Introduce mandatory source separation – scale up
 - Short/Long: Policy for state incentives to build facilities (e.g., food hubs) / Localization of buildings and infrastructure may take time.
- Language
 - Need to retire the term “food waste”