

# GREEN NEW DEAL FACTSHEET

## Contra Costa County Climate Leaders

A project of Generation Green - a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

Find Links to Other Local Government Policy Opportunities at

[www.cccclimateleaders.org](http://www.cccclimateleaders.org)



## WHAT?

**A “Green New Deal” is a program of investments in equitable clean-energy jobs and infrastructure, transforming and transitioning not just the energy sector, but the entire economy. The general goals include:**

- *Energy Goals:* A complete conversion to a 100% renewable energy system for both electricity and transport by 2030, partnered with the full de-carbonization of the economy by 2040.
- *Five Zeros:* A zero carbon grid, zero carbon transportation, zero carbon buildings, zero waste and zero wasted water, as well as a just transition for fossil fuel workers, equitable housing and environmental justice for all.

## WHY?

**Global Crisis:** The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) [study](#) finds that approximately 1.0°C of global warming has already occurred from human activities and that global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if carbon emissions continue to increase at the current rate. The climate crisis imposes serious risks to our food and water resources, economic stability and our survival if global temperature averages rise above 1.5°C. Many regions will become uninhabitable, creating mass displacement and conflict. California is at the forefront of the climate crisis, with rising temperatures and increasingly severe wildfires and droughts.

**Local Solutions:** The scale of the climate crisis warrants drastic and immediate action by city, state and federal governments. Your city can do its part to offset the impacts of the climate crisis and set an example for other city and state governments by implementing a local Green New Deal. A City Green New Deal creates the framework by which a city can contribute to reducing GHG emissions and achieving global temperature goals. In addition to these measurable climate benefits, a City Green New Deal brings about a healthier community, creates local jobs and reduces pollution. Cleaner air, water and a focus on social and environmental justice attract skilled professionals and jobs, enhance quality of life and politically engage citizens.

## WHO?

Local governments, environmental justice organizations and youth-led activist groups like Sunrise Movement are working together to fight the climate crisis. Cities across the globe are already developing local Green New Deals. In 2019, nearly 100 mayors committed to push forward with a Green New Deal. Even though the U.S. Senate declined to vote on the proposed Green New Deal resolution, state and local governments stepped up and are leading the way to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions while also addressing a just transition from fossil fuels, environmental injustice and the housing crisis. While the State of California has been taking steps towards a Green New Deal for years, and cities are on the front lines of this crisis and thus are the best vehicle to achieve these climate goals!

## How?

To become a Green New Deal City your local government should start with a resolution that recognizes we are in a [climate emergency](#). This will ensure that all city government operations, services, infrastructure, and emissions are brought in line with climate science guidelines to reduce emissions. To create a local Green New Deal, the emergency declaration should commit to implementing policies that address inequalities, jobs, public services, accessibility, and renewable energy, and call on other levels of government to match financing for sustainable energy projects. Many cities have chosen to pass a stand-alone Green New Deal.



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### Resources:

- [The Bay Area Green New Deal Model](#) outlines ten goals for local cities to follow in a Green New Deal.
- The Los Angeles [Green New Deal pLAN](#)
- The Council of Canadians provides a [Sample Green New Deal Resolution](#).
- The Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) [Environmental Unionist Caucus](#) seeks to unite the labor movement and the environmental movement.

## EXAMPLES OF LOCAL GREEN NEW DEALS IN CALIFORNIA

**State of California** - SB 32 commits to a 40% decrease in greenhouse gas emissions below 1990 levels by 2030. In 2018, SB 100 set goals of 50% renewable electricity by 2025, 60% by 2030, and 100% “zero-carbon” electricity by 2045.

In 2020, the City of Los Angeles passed a comprehensive Municipal Green New Deal in the “[LA Green New Deal, Sustainable City pLAN](#)” which proposes 100% carbon-free energy by 2050 to power all of the city’s electricity, buildings, and transportation, as well as many other ambitious programs.

Bay Area cities have established policies or implemented projects aligned with the tenets of a Green New Deal, including renewable energy goals, building electrification, and a just transition:

- **San Jose, CA** - Provided a city-wide ‘[Green Vision](#),’ a 15-year sustainability plan to steer economic growth and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Under that plan, the City made strides as a national leader in the sustainability movement. In 2018, that plan was updated with [Climate Smart](#), an ambitious campaign to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save water, and improve quality of life. Details of the [Climate Smart Plan](#) focus on building public-private partnerships. The program includes [Better Communities](#) for residents and [Building Performance Leaders](#) for commercial, municipal and educational facilities.
  - **Funding** - To fund these programs, San Jose applied for and received the [American Cities Climate Challenge grant](#) and a [Bay Area Air Quality Management District grant](#) which supported a [heat pump water heater rebate program](#). Policies and ordinances, which include a reach code and natural gas ban ordinance can be found on their [reach code webpage](#). The city’s Energy and Water [Building Performance Ordinance](#) includes a staff position funded by associated fee and goes beyond the state’s requirements for building benchmarking and energy efficiency.
- **Richmond, CA** has a [solar farm project](#) that is an example of a public-private partnership to increase renewable energy infrastructure and create hundreds of good jobs in the process.
  - [Green job training program](#)
  - [Climate Action Plan](#)
  - A separate climate and energy element in their [General Plan](#)And they participate in a [Community Choice Energy program](#).
- **City of Chico Green New Deal** was introduced to the City of Chico and serves as a model along with tips, information, and opportunities for going forward. Other local efforts have included:
  - [Butte County Local Food Network](#)
  - [Climate Emergency Declaration staff report](#)
  - [Climate Action Commission](#)



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Meanwhile, some cities aren't waiting for a Green New Deal before initiating green economic development projects.

- **City of Pinole** - [Visit Pinole](#) is a campaign to support economic growth and public-private partnerships.
  - Funding for [Community-Based Public-Private Partnerships](#)
  - [Partnerships with Marin Clean Energy](#)
- **City of Fremont** – with three fire stations on [solar microgrids](#). During a blackout, critical facilities with solar microgrids can island from the electricity grid and still serve the community. This project included local cleantech companies. and used a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) that generates revenue and has no up-front costs. The [final report](#) to the California Energy Commission gives more details.
- **City of Burlingame** joined [numerous cities](#), and passed [their own all-electric reach code](#) for new construction and larger renovations projects.

In Southern California, several cities have passed commitments to 100% renewable energy.

- ✓ **San Diego, CA** - 100% renewable energy and 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2035. A comprehensive [Climate Action Plan](#) launched by Republican Mayor Kevin Faulconer seeks to increase water and energy efficiency in buildings, expand public transport, increase the number of electric vehicles, promote walking and cycling routes, implement zero-waste strategies, & enact climate adaptation measures.
- ✓ **San Francisco, CA** - [100% renewable energy](#) by 2030. Now, more than 18.5 MW of in-City renewables already installed, with 15 MW of solar PV (more than 2,000 systems) city-wide and 3.5 MW of biogas cogeneration at the wastewater treatment plants. All public transportation runs on electricity or biodiesel.
- ✓ **Solano Beach, CA** - 100% renewable energy by 2030
- ✓ **Encinitas, CA** - 100% renewable energy by 2030

## GREEN NEW DEALS: OTHER STATES AND COUNTRIES

- ✓ **Ithaca, NY** (2019) – [Ithaca's Green New Deal](#) sets a goal of carbon-neutrality community-wide by 2030 while addressing economic inequality and racial injustice.
- ✓ **New York, NY** (2019) – [New York City's Green New Deal](#) includes goals of carbon neutrality and 100% clean electricity by 2050 while creating thousands of new green jobs. Some strategies include requiring existing buildings to cut emissions and banning inefficient glass-walled buildings.
- ✓ **Columbia, SC** – The [City of Columbia, SC](#) has committed to clean energy, energy efficiency, and water conservation improvements including the goal of 100% renewable energy by 2036. Their resolution emphasizes economic growth, job creation, and reduced utility costs. Between 2015 and 2016, they supported the increase of solar energy–related jobs in Columbia by 46%.
- ✓ **Chicago, IL** - 100% clean renewable energy in buildings community-wide by 2035. Part of the 2018 [Resilient Chicago](#) plan. Sectoral targets include 100% renewable electricity for city government by 2025 and a 100% electrified bus fleet by 2040 as well as a push for community solar.
- ✓ **Concord, NH** – The City of Concord has a [100% Renewable Energy Goal Strategic Plan](#) for 100% renewable electricity by 2030 and 100% clean energy in all sectors by 2050.
- ✓ **Denver, CO** – The City of Denver has a [100% Renewable Electricity Action Plan](#) for 2030 which seeks an 80% reduction of carbon emissions by the year 2050.
- ✓ **Fayetteville, AR** – The City of Fayetteville's [Climate and Energy 2019 Report Card](#) tracks progress toward [their ambitious goals such as](#) 100% clean energy by 2050.
- ✓ **Georgetown, TX** - Already powered by 100% renewable energy through long-term deals for solar and wind power, Georgetown, TX, found that [renewable energy was cheaper and more reliable](#) than fossil fuels.



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- ✓ **Lancaster, CA** - Net zero electricity by 2020. Since 2008, the city has actively recruited solar and other renewable energy developments to great success. The latest is the world's largest renewable hydrogen fuel plant which will convert municipal solid waste into hydrogen vehicle fuel. This strategy has generated hundreds of jobs. Partnerships with local higher education to develop programs ensures that the local workforce has the skills needed for future jobs in renewable energy.
- ✓ **Rochester, MN** – The City of Rochester created a [proclamation](#) for 100% renewable energy in electricity, heating/cooling, and transportation sectors by 2031.
- ✓ **Salt Lake City, UT** – Salt Lake City set a goal to be [Climate Positive by 2040](#) including 100% renewable electricity by 2032 and an 80% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2040.

### International Examples

- ✓ **Bamberg, Germany** - 100% renewable energy and energy self-sufficiency by 2035. This city benefits from the German Feed-in Tariff Law which encourages robust investment in renewable technologies. The majority of installed renewable energy is owned by citizens, farmers, and small businesses.
- ✓ **Copenhagen, Denmark** - [Carbon neutral by 2025](#). Construction of land and offshore wind turbines, energy retrofitted buildings, implementation of low-energy construction in all buildings and promotion of solar energy.
- ✓ **Frankfurt-Am-Main, Germany** - [100% renewable energy supply by 2050](#) with approximately 25% from energy generated within the city, 25% from outside the city, and 50% from a decrease in total energy consumption.
- ✓ **Munich, Germany** - [100% renewable electricity](#) and 100% renewable heating by 2025. Geothermal energy as well as biomass and wind power. Munich's public utilities are entirely in public hands.
- ✓ **Perpignan, France** - In 2015, the city set a goal to become "[energy positive](#)," by generating more electricity with renewable sources than the citizens consume. Strategies include modifying the metropolitan area's approach to urban development: improve energy efficiency of housing, more sustainable transportation, organic agriculture, local food production, water conservation, and environmental protection. As of 2020, the city had achieved 70% of their goals.

