

<https://ithacavoice.com/2019/03/what-does-the-green-new-deal-mean-at-a-local-level/>

# Green New Deal(s)




A very quick overview

Presentation to EMC March 12, 2019

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# 2019 Democrats' (Federal) Green New Deal

- ▶ Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Senator Ed Markey, along with dozens of co-sponsors
  - ▶ Simultaneously aims to **fight inequity** and **tackle climate change**
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# 2019 Democrats' (Federal) Green New Deal

- ▶ The very first "whereas": **"human activity is the dominant cause of observed climate change over the past century"**



# 2019 Democrats' (Federal) Green New Deal

- ▶ It does not contain policy details or advocate for specific ways of reducing greenhouse gas emissions
  - ▶ But with a broad brush it **aims to make the US carbon-neutral – net zero carbon emissions – in 10 years**
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# 2019 Democrats' (Federal) Green New Deal

Calls for:

- ▶ a **guaranteed job with fair pay, family and medical leave, paid vacations and retirement security**
- ▶ **universal high-quality healthcare**
- ▶ **free higher education**
- ▶ **access to affordable, safe and adequate housing**
- ▶ **stronger labor, workplace health and safety, anti-discrimination, and wage and hour standards**
- ▶ **the clean-up of hazardous waste sites**
- ▶ **access to clean water and air, health and affordable food, and nature**

# 2019 Democrats' (Federal) Green New Deal





# 2019 Democrats' (Federal) Green New Deal

- ▶ House Select Committee on a Green New Deal was formed late 2018, with plans to release something in early 2019, and **draft legislation for implementation within 90 days**



# 2019 Gov. Cuomo's Green New Deal

New York's Green New Deal (Cuomo proposal) includes:

- ▶ **100% clean power by 2040** — the most aggressive goal of any state in the country
- ▶ **quadrupling New York's offshore wind** commitment to 9,000 megawatts by 2035
- ▶ **doubling distributed solar** deployment to 6,000 megawatts by 2025
- ▶ **delivering climate justice** to underserved communities
- ▶ expanding the **Bottle Bill** (5¢ deposit on bottles) to include most nonalcoholic drinks
- ▶ **banning plastic bags**






# 2019 Gov. Cuomo's Green New Deal

- ▶ Sets legislative targets for the use of **renewable energy (50 percent of energy statewide by 2030)** and **carbon elimination (100 percent fossil fuel free by 2050)**
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# 2019 Gov. Cuomo's Green New Deal

- ▶ Directs any transition project getting state funding to **pay a prevailing wage** and directs 40 percent of whatever state investment goes towards climate mitigation efforts to **go to low-income communities and communities most threatened by climate change.**
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# 2019 Gov. Cuomo's Green New Deal

- ▶ In **Cuomo's 2018 State of the State address**, he announced plans to set **targets for energy efficiency and energy storage**, both of which have now been approved by the DPS to **require utilities** to come up with plans for how they're going to contribute
- ▶ NYSEG (and others) currently working on those proposals; not likely to go into effect until late 2019 or 2020



# Climate and Community Protection Act

- ▶ NYS proposed legislation
- ▶ Has passed state Assembly past 3 years (2019 version in Senate: S2992, in Assembly: A3876) (State Senate is now Democratic-"controlled")
- ▶ Currently in Senate Environmental Conservation Committee (next step = to Senate and Assembly)



# Climate and Community Protection Act

"It shall ... be a goal of the state of New York to

- ▶ **reduce greenhouse gas emissions from all anthropogenic sources 100% over 1990 levels by the year 2050**, with an incremental target of **at least a 50 percent reduction in climate pollution by the year 2030**, in line with USGCRP and IPCC projections of what is necessary to avoid the most severe impacts of climate change"



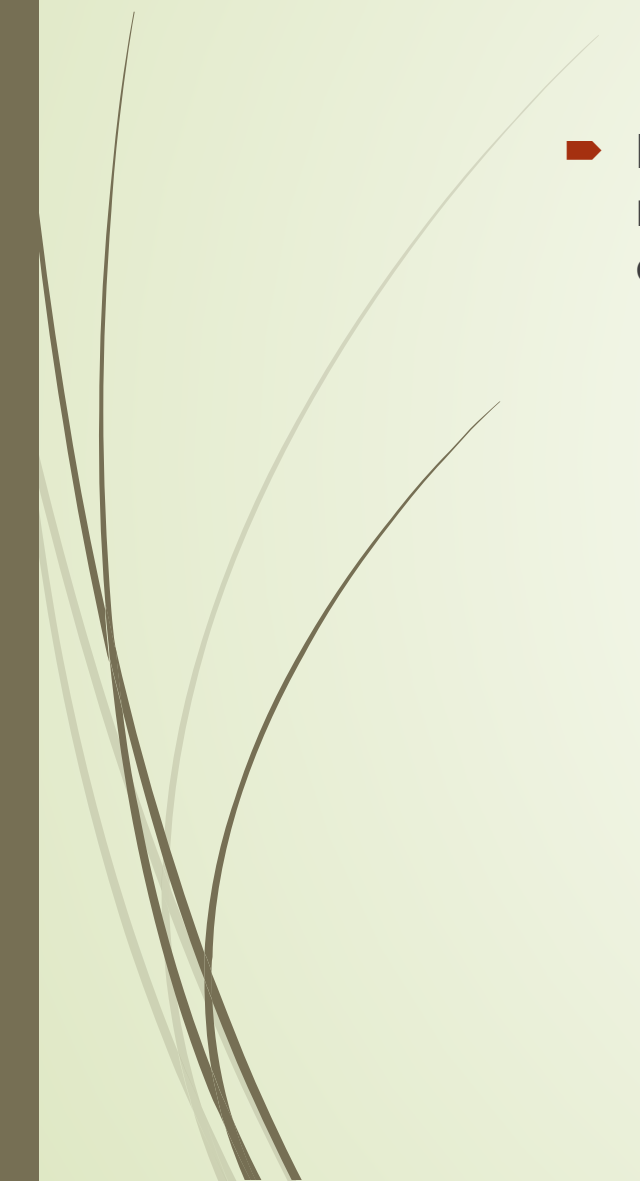
# Climate and Community Protection Act

Requires the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to establish:

- ▶ **greenhouse gas reporting requirements;**
- ▶ **statewide greenhouse gas emissions limits;**
- ▶ a **scoping plan**, developed in consultation with the Council, the Environmental Justice Advisory Group, the Disadvantaged Communities Working Group and other stakeholders, **outlining DEC's recommendations for attaining the statewide greenhouse gas emissions limits;**
- ▶ **regulations to achieve statewide greenhouse gas emissions reductions;**
- ▶ a **report**, not less than every four years, including **recommendations regarding the implementation of greenhouse gas reduction measures;**
- ▶ a **report on barriers to, and opportunities for, community ownership of services and commodities in disadvantaged communities**, including distributed renewable energy generation; energy efficiency and weatherization investments; and, zero emission and low-emission transportation options; and,
- ▶ **take actions to promote adaptation and resilience**



# Climate and Community Protection Act

- Establishes the "**New York State Climate Action Council**" consisting of 25 members including state agencies and individuals with expertise in environmental issues, environmental justice, labor, and regulated industries
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# Climate and Community Protection Act

- Establishes a **Climate Change Working Group** consisting of representatives from environmental justice communities, DEC, and the Departments of Health and Labor
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# Climate and Community Protection Act

- ▶ "Climate change especially heightens the vulnerability of disadvantaged communities, which bear environmental and socioeconomic burdens as well as legacies of racial and ethnic discrimination.
- ▶ "**Actions** undertaken by New York state to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions **should prioritize the safety and health of disadvantaged communities, control potential regressive impacts of future climate change mitigation and adaptation policies on these communities, and prioritize the allocation of public investments in these areas.**"



# Carbon Tax plans

"We have done extensive polling on carbon tax.  
It all sucks."

*John Podesta, Hillary Clinton's campaign chairman, wrote to another adviser in a memorable January 2015 email from the Wikileaks stash.*

# Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act

- ▶ Bipartisan federal proposal
- ▶ “ **amends** the Internal Revenue Code to **impose a fee on the carbon content of fuels**, including crude oil, natural gas, coal, or any other product derived from those fuels that will be used so as to emit greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.”
- ▶ “fee is **imposed on the producers or importers** of the fuels and is equal to the **greenhouse gas content of the fuel multiplied by the carbon fee rate**. The rate begins at \$15 in 2019, increases by \$10 each year, and is subject to further adjustments based on the progress in meeting specified emissions reduction targets. The bill also imposes a specified fee on fluorinated greenhouse gases.”
- ▶ “bill includes:
  - ▶ **exemptions** for fuels used for agricultural or nonemitting purposes,
  - ▶ **rebates** for facilities that capture and sequester carbon dioxide, and
  - ▶ **border adjustment provisions** that require certain fees or refunds for carbon-intensive products that are exported or imported.”
- ▶ The fees must be deposited into a Carbon Dividend Trust Fund and used for **administrative expenses** and **dividend payments** to U.S. citizens or lawful residents.
- ▶ The bill also amends the Clean Air Act to **suspend certain regulations that limit greenhouse gas emissions**.



# Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act

Citizen's Climate Lobby

*March 19, 2019, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm*


*Quaker Meeting House, 120 Third Street*






# Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act

- ▶ The IPCC's most recent report on the challenge of the 1.5 degree Celsius goal concluded that taxing emissions was part of the answer, but that a moderate tax couldn't solve the problem alone.
- ▶ Other policies, like energy efficiency standards and support for deployment of clean technology, are also needed.
- ▶ "There is no silver bullet for this deep decarbonization," the report said.



# Naomi Klein, "the Battle lines have been drawn on the Green New Deal", the Intercept, 2/13/19

- ▶ "... it is so critical to remember that **none of it would have happened without massive pressure from social movements**. FDR rolled out the New Deal in the midst of a **historic wave of labor unrest**: There was the Teamsters' rebellion and Minneapolis general strike in 1934, the 83-day shutdown of the West Coast by longshore workers that same year, and the Flint sit-down autoworkers strikes in 1936 and 1937.
- ▶ "During this same period, **mass movements**, responding to the suffering of the Great Depression, **demanding sweeping social programs**, such as Social Security and unemployment insurance, while socialists argued that abandoned factories should be handed over to their workers and turned into cooperatives.



# Naomi Klein, "the Battle lines have been drawn on the Green New Deal", the Intercept, 2/13/19

- ▶ "Now that the resolution is out there, however, **the onus is on all of us who support it to help make the case for how our overlapping crises are indeed inextricably linked** — and can only be overcome with a holistic vision for social and economic transformation."



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez speaks to activists with the Sunrise Movement protesting in the offices of House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi in Washington D.C., on Nov. 13, 2018.

Photo: Sarah Silbiger/The New York Times via Redux



MARCH 15 11:30

MEET OUTSIDE KULP,  
1401 N CAYUGA ST.

THEN MARCH TO THE COMMONS

15 MARS 2019



Student strike for action on  
climate change! Community  
members welcome as well

Facebook Event:

<http://bit.ly/2SwCWro>



Speaks to activists with the Sunrise Movement protesting in the offices  
of Nancy Pelosi in Washington D.C., on Nov. 13, 2018.

via Redux