

FOUNDATIONAL MODULE

Climate Justice Policy



CLIMATE JUSTICE
INSTRUCTIONAL
— TOOLKIT —

What's in this module?

Description

This module discusses current climate and environmental justice policy in the US and in international law, including the Paris Agreement and the Green New Deal.

Contents

1 video
1 reading
4 optional activities
1 optional project

Key Resources

- [Global Center for Climate Justice: The Green New Deal Resource Hub](#)



Learning Objectives

01

Understand the importance of policies in realizing climate justice goals

02

Examine currently implemented and proposed climate policies

03

Evaluate the effectiveness of real world climate justice policies

04

Research and **assess** local climate justice policies in the Boston area

Warm up

What climate justice policies are you aware of?

- What do you know about them?
- In your opinion, how effective are they?

Turn to a partner or small group and brainstorm your ideas.



Introduction

What is climate policy?

Climate justice policy refers to actions, strategies, and regulations aimed at addressing the unequal distribution of climate change impacts and promoting fairness, equity, and human rights in climate action. These policies recognize that certain populations bear a disproportionate burden of the consequences of climate change, despite contributing less to its causes.

Human rights approach to climate action

Climate justice policies take a human rights based approach to climate action, ensuring that individuals and communities have access to clean air, water, food security, health services, and a safe environment, regardless of their socioeconomic status or background.

Tuvalu's Minister for Justice, Communication & Foreign Affairs Simon Kofe gives a COP26 statement while standing in the ocean in Funafuti, Tuvalu November 5, 2021. Tuvalu Foreign Ministry | via Reuters

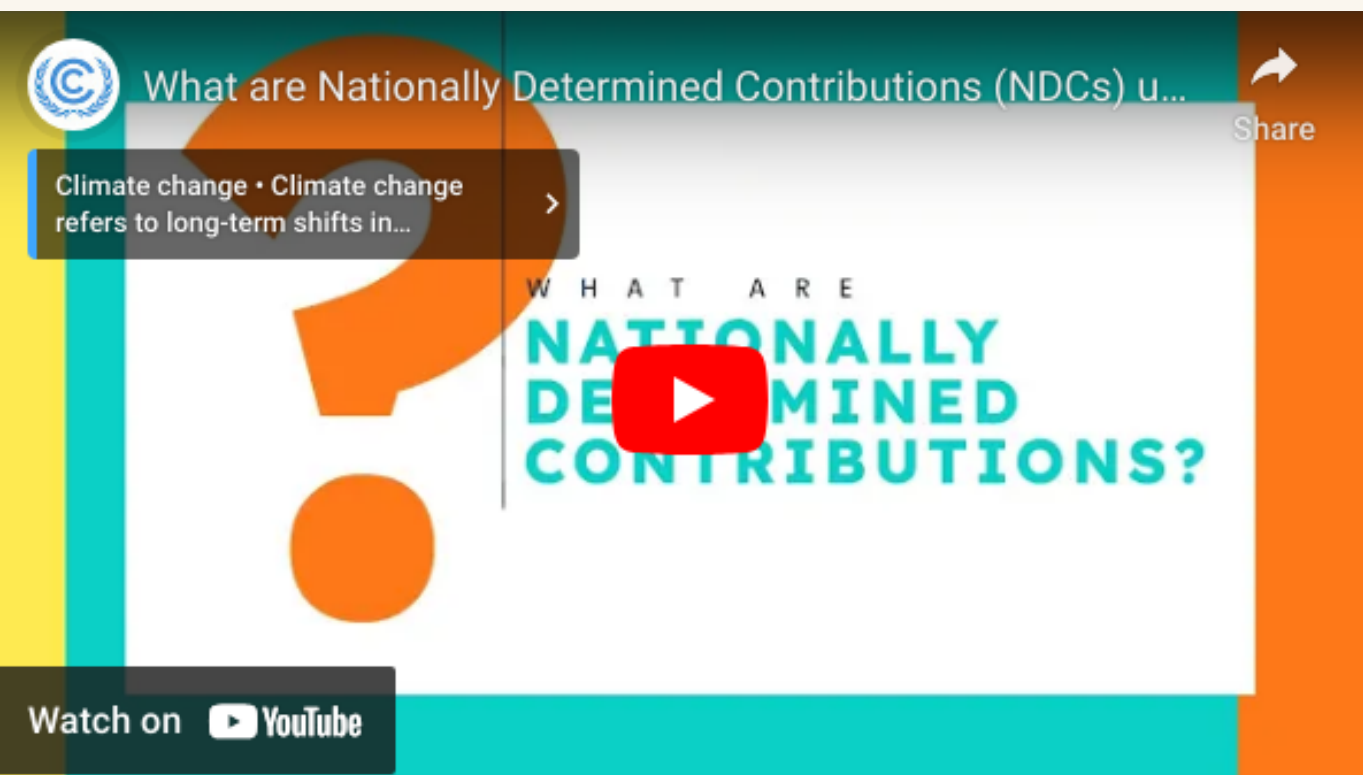


ACTIVITY #1

EXPLORING NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS: PART 1

Watch and Define

What are Nationally Determined Contributions?



What is the Paris Agreement?

The Paris Agreement is an international treaty designed to pursue efforts to limit the global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The Paris Agreement also promotes adaptation and providing financial assistance to developing countries that may face the steepest consequences from climate change while contributing the least to it.

Post-video discussion question

Based on what you saw in the previous video, do you think NDCs are an effective way to enforce environmental standards?

ACTIVITY # 1

EXPLORING NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS: PART 2

Compare and Contrast

1. From the public UN registry of NDCs, pick two countries of interest, preferably one developed nation and one developing nation.
2. Click under "Title" to read over each country's NDC goals.

Discussion questions

Discuss as a group:

- Between the two nations, what differences do you notice?
- How are their contributions framed differently in terms of mitigation goals, strategies, and resources?



NDC Registry.

In accordance with Article 4, paragraph 12 of the Paris Agreement, NDCs communicated by Parties shall be recorded in a public registry maintained by the secretariat.



Credit: Axel Fassio/CIFOR

Showing 30 of 33 results

Party	Title	Language	Translation	Version	Status	Submission Date	Additional documents
 Antigua and Barbuda	Antigua and Barbuda First NDC (Updated submission)	English		2	Active	02/09/2021	
 Argentina	Argentina Second NDC (Updated submission)	Spanish		3	Active	02/11/2021	Argentina Second NDC (Archived)

ACTIVITY #2

EXPLORING THE GREEN NEW DEAL RESOURCE HUB

Read and investigate

Global Center for Climate Justice:
The Green New Deal Resource Hub



GREEN NEW DEAL RESOURCE HUB

**READ THE BOSTON
GREEN NEW DEAL REPORT**



GREEN NEW DEAL RESOURCE HUB

**READ THE BOSTON
GREEN NEW DEAL REPORT**

The Green New Deal

What is the Green New Deal?

The Green New Deal (GND) is a proposed set of economic stimulus packages and policy initiatives that aim to address climate change and economic inequality. It was first introduced in the United States by Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Senator Ed Markey in February 2019.

Elements of the GND

- Transitioning to renewable energy sources
- Upgrading/expanding infrastructure
- Investing in a green workforce
- Promoting environmental justice

See the next slide for more details →

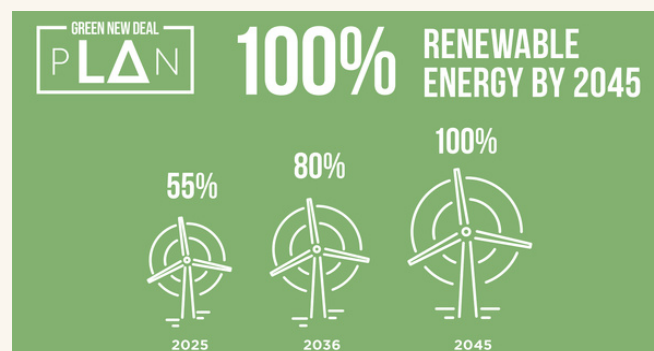


Elements of the Green New Deal

01

Transitioning to renewable energy sources

The GND emphasizes the shift away from fossil fuels and the promotion of renewable energy technologies such as solar/wind power.



02

Upgrading/expanding Infrastructure

The GND aims to improve energy efficiency in buildings, modernize transportation, and invest in resilient infrastructure to withstand the impacts of climate change.



03

Investing in a green workforce

The GND creates well-paying jobs in industries related to renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable agriculture, and other sustainability-minded fields.



04

Promoting environmental justice

The GND addresses the disproportionate impacts of climate change on marginalized communities and to ensure that the benefits of a clean energy transition are equitably distributed.



Green New Deal Action Areas

Affordable
Housing

Health + Just
Recovery

Circular
Economy and
Zero Waste

Climate Change
Adaptation

Good Jobs in a
Green Economy

Food Justice +
Resiliency

Energy
Democracy

Decommodi-
fication of
Necessities

Divest +
Reinvest

Sustainable +
Equitable Land
use

Water Justice

Transforming
Institutions +
Processes

Transportation
Justice

Critique of the Green New Deal

The Indigenous Environmental Network

"while we are grateful to see this support by the Representative and Senator, we remain concerned that unless some changes are made to the resolution, the Green New Deal will leave incentives by industries and governments to continue causing harm to Indigenous communities...We can no longer leave any options for the fossil fuel industry to determine the economic and energy future of this country. And until the Green New Deal can be explicit in this demand as well as closing the loop on harmful incentives, we cannot fully endorse the resolution."

More resources

Learn more about these critiques and the Red New Deal, explore:

- [The Red Nation](#)
- [The Indigenous Environmental Network](#)
- [Indigenous Climate Action](#) module

ACTIVITY #3

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Read and Review

Pick an action area that interests you and review the case studies and/or reports available that interest you. Take some notes to discuss your thoughts in your group.

Green New Deal Action Areas



Analyze

Examine the policy frameworks and mechanisms employed in each case study. Identify key elements such as community engagement, inclusive decision-making processes, funding mechanisms, and the integration of social and environmental considerations.

Evaluate

Assess the outcomes and impacts of the implemented policies on addressing environmental inequities. Evaluate indicators such as improved access to clean water and air, reduced pollution, enhanced community resilience, job creation, and empowerment of marginalized groups.

Discuss

Discuss your analysis and evaluation in a small group. Be sure to share which action area that you selected.

ACTIVITY #4

APPLY YOUR LEARNING

Read and Investigate

Policy Ideas for a Local Green New Deal and Just Recovery" section of the *Boston Green New Deal Report*



A Green New Deal for Boston

**An Action Plan
for Achieving
Climate Justice**



ACTIVITY #5

CASE STUDIES ON IMPLEMENTING A GREEN NEW DEAL

Choose a case study

In small groups of 3–5, pick one of these case studies to examine:

- Ithaca, NY
- Dekalb County, GA
- England
- Boulder Valley, CO
- Chicago, IL

Research your case study

Start with the initial resource provided to you, but then dig deeper by researching:

- Other perspectives on the topic of the initial resource and a GND
- Local social and political history relating to a GND
- More recent information relating to the topic of the initial resource or GND policy
- Local GND organizations and movements

Present your findings

In your small group, give a 5-minute presentation on your assigned case study. Be sure to include:

- A brief description of the topic discussed in the initial resource
- History of a GND in the area (if applicable)
- Recent GND developments (if applicable)
- At least 2 different (ideally local) perspectives on a GND
- Any GND organizations and movements you found

PROJECT OPTION #1

Evaluate the Effectiveness of Proposed Policies

PROMOTE DEVELOPMENT
OF COOPERATIVE HOUSING

ADDRESSING THE
“GREEN GAP”

AFFORDABLE GREEN
ENERGY TRANSITION

DIVEST/REINVEST IN A
CLIMATE JUST FUTURE

FARE-FREE EXPRESS
TRANSIT ROUTES

HEALTHY, AFFORDABLE
FOOD

FINANCING
INFRASTRUCTURE EQUITY

GROWING THE SMALL
BUSINESS COMMUNITY

JUSTICE FRAMEWORK &
AUDIT

ECO-DISTRICTS FOR JUST
DEVELOPMENT

JUST TRANSITION
EMPLOYMENT PATHWAYS

RENTERS RIGHT TO
COUNSEL

SHIFTING SERVICES FROM
POLICE TO COMMUNITY

CREATE AN URBAN
CLIMATE CORPS

Central Question

Knowing what you know now, can you apply the Green New Deal as a framework for your learning in class?

Instructions

1. Pick a section under the report from the previous slide and do some research on the importance of issues in this space, and evaluate the effectiveness of proposed policies.
2. Be prepared to discuss and present your ideas to your peers next class! You may choose any format to present (slides, infographic, video, etc.)

Beyond the Module

Take action through the GND Hub

- Subscribe to the newsletter
- Follow the Hub on social media
- Join the network

The GND Hub provides various resources supporting local organizations (including student/institution affiliated groups) interested in supporting the Green New Deal across the country.

Explore the Just Transition module

For more resources on climate and environmental justice: **Please explore other modules in the Climate Justice Instructional Toolkit.**



Module References

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