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# Candidate Climate Plan Summary

# MICHAEL BENNET

## **ABOUT THE PROJECT**

The Green New Deal is an ambitious policy agenda to tackle the climate crisis, create quality jobs, and promote justice. It has become a core element of many Democrats' platforms in the 2020 Presidential race, with more than half of all candidates endorsing the Green New Deal and widespread, bipartisan support among American voters.

To determine the thoroughness of each candidate's climate platform in addressing the features of the Green New Deal and allow for some basis for comparison, Data For Progress created a Candidate Climate Plan Summary for the debate-eligible Democratic candidates' climate policy proposals to-date. We include on a rolling basis candidates with published presidential campaign plans, rather than public statements or legislative history. Using a rubric of 48 essential Green New Deal components, we identify where each candidate 1) addressed a component with a proposed federal policy or action, 2) acknowledged a component but lacked clear policy details, or 3) did not include a component. We assess only the presence of specific components, but do not evaluate the merits of any particular approach.

If you see something missing from our analysis, please contact Data For Progress via our website.

# MICHAEL BENNET

Has called for a Green New Deal? **NO**

## PROPOSALS

- ★ [America's Climate Change Plan](#)

Very thorough	MICHAEL BENNET'S POLICY AGENDA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Addresses <b>18</b> of <b>48</b> components in our GND rubric</li><li>◐ Acknowledges <b>9</b> components</li></ul>
Thorough	
Incomplete	
Very incomplete	

Senator Bennet's Climate Change Plan targets a net-zero emissions economy by 2050, largely achieved through a new Climate Bank to finance innovation and state action spurred by a federal Climate Challenge. The plan also aims to conserve 30 percent of U.S. lands and waters by 2030, and to reach 150 GW of renewable energy deployed on public lands in that same time period.



**\$1 trillion**  
federal investment  
in Climate Bank



**10 million jobs**  
created in the low  
carbon workforce



**10 years**  
to achieve spending  
and jobs targets

## COMMITMENT TO GREEN NEW DEAL PRINCIPLES

*The Green New Deal is an ambitious plan for climate action, job creation, and justice.*

Bennet's climate plan focuses largely on market-based action and partnerships with the private sector and states, but includes some provisions for social and economic justice. He promises to prioritize the most-impacted communities when investing in infrastructure and waste reduction, and plans to create a new Office of Climate and Environment Justice at the EPA to help mitigate unjust environmental impacts. Bennet has no plans to hold polluters accountable or liable.

Rather than federal regulation, Bennet uses incentives, partnerships, and engagement with the private sector in the effort to decarbonize, create new jobs, and spur global action. Notably, Bennet frames his electricity sector approach in terms of consumer choice and empowerment; he requires power providers to give consumers a zero-emissions energy option, but does not require them to fully eliminate emissions on any specific timeline.

# HAS MICHAEL BENNET OUTLINED A POLICY AGENDA THAT ADDRESSES THE KEY COMPONENTS OF THE GREEN NEW DEAL?

We took a look at Michael Bennet’s official climate plan(s) to determine which components of the Green New Deal he has **Addressed**, **Acknowledged**, or **Not Included**. Where obvious, we also reviewed non-climate policies and statements that outline a clear plan to address the Social Safety Net components of the Green New Deal.



Plan addresses component with federal policies and actions.



Plan acknowledges component but lacks clear policies or actions.



Plan does not include component.

Low Carbon Economy	<b>ELECTRICITY SOURCES &amp; EMISSIONS</b> Eliminating emissions from the power sector in the 10-15 year time frame	
	<b>ENERGY SECTOR SOURCES &amp; EMISSIONS</b> Eliminating emissions from the full energy sector in the next 20-30 years	
	<b>ECONOMY-WIDE EMISSIONS TARGET</b> Eliminating emissions from the full economy in the next 30 years, including land use, industry, and waste	
	<b>NON-RENEWABLE CLEAN ENERGY SOURCES</b> The development and use of nuclear, hydrogen, and carbon capture energy technologies	
	<b>CARBON PRICING &amp; SOCIAL COST OF POLLUTION</b> Applying a price to carbon and other pollution either through tax, fee, or cap & trade system	
	<b>ENERGY DEMOCRACY</b> Increasing community ownership of energy generation through more distributed system and cooperatives	
	<b>NATIONAL GRID IMPROVEMENTS</b> Modernizing the national grid to allow for more storage and long-distance transmission of renewable energy	
	<b>ENERGY EFFICIENCY</b> Energy Efficiency through new building, power, and industrial standards, technology, and retrofits	
	<b>ELECTRIC VEHICLES</b> Rapid expansion of zero-emissions vehicles and charging infrastructure	
	<b>TRANSPORTATION EMISSIONS</b> Eliminating emissions from full transportation sector, including aviation, rail, and waterborne	
	<b>PUBLIC INVESTMENT IN INNOVATION &amp; R&amp;D</b> Technology innovation research, development, demonstration, and distribution	
	<b>MOBILIZE CLIMATE FINANCE</b> Create a Green Bank or other fund to deploy public and private capital to achieve a low-carbon economy	

Clean Air and Clean Water	<b>CLEAN AIR</b> National clean air attainment	
	<b>METHANE LEAKAGE &amp; CAPTURE</b> Eliminate emissions from existing oil and gas operations, and capture emissions from waste/wastewater systems	
	<b>REFRIGERANTS AND HIGH-GWP POLLUTANTS</b> Phase-out all remaining high-GWP and ozone-depleting pollutants	
	<b>CARBON REMOVAL</b> Direct air capture and other negative emissions technologies	
	<b>WATER INFRASTRUCTURE</b> National lead pipe removal and water treatment upgrades for universal clean water	
	<b>CLEAN WATER ACCESS</b> Affordable water access and national conservation	
	<b>WATERWAYS PROTECTIONS</b> Expanded protections to national waterways from agricultural and industrial pollution	
	<b>POLLUTER LIABILITY</b> Holding firms civilly or criminally accountable for their current or historical pollution	
Natural and Working Land Restoration	<b>PUBLIC LANDS</b> Moratorium on fossil fuel extraction on public lands	
	<b>REFORESTATION &amp; AFFORESTATION</b> Forest and grassland restoration	
	<b>SENSITIVE LANDS AND BIODIVERSITY</b> Protection for crucial wildlife habitat, biodiversity hotspots, and ecosystem services in U.S. public lands and waters	
	<b>ARCTIC PROTECTION</b> Banning offshore drilling in the Arctic and the ANWR	
	<b>WETLAND RESTORATION</b> Expanded wetland protection and restoration	
	<b>SUSTAINABLE FARMING</b> Incentives and standards for sustainable farming practices with reduced chemical use and more diversification	
	<b>SOIL HEALTH</b> Incentives and standards to promote soil health for better food, water quality, and carbon storage	
	<b>BROWNFIELDS &amp; HAZARDOUS SITES</b> Remediation of polluted sites to return to natural or economic use	

<b>Sustainable and Resilient Communities</b>	<b>COMMUNITY RESILIENCE</b> Infrastructure and education to improve community resilience to climate related hazards	
	<b>PUBLIC SPACES</b> Increase availability and access to community green spaces and outdoor recreation	
	<b>PUBLIC HEALTH</b> Improving quality of, and access to, health services to address the public health impacts of climate change	
	<b>URBAN LAND USE &amp; MOBILITY</b> Reduce sprawl and vehicle travel by improving range, frequency, speed, safety, and affordability of mobility	
	<b>ZERO WASTE</b> Eliminate as much landfilling as possible through material waste reduction, reuse, and recycling	
<b>Job Creation and Economic Development</b>	<b>JUST TRANSITION</b> Targeting support to industries and communities affected by the transition away from fossil fuels	
	<b>JOB GUARANTEE</b> Ensuring anyone who wants a good job can have one supporting public projects	
	<b>WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT &amp; TRAINING</b> Education, training, and certification for good jobs required in the economy	
	<b>JOB QUALITY STANDARDS</b> Labor protections, minimum wages, and collective bargaining rights for all jobs	
	<b>LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b> Targeted investment to grow jobs particularly in marginalized and frontline communities	
<b>Social Safety Net*</b>	<b>ANTITRUST</b> Returning fairness to the economy by breaking up monopolies across various industries	
	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL &amp; SOCIAL JUSTICE STANDARDS</b> Ensuring all government actions, programs, and project abide by standard of fairness and equity	
	<b>SOVEREIGNTY RIGHTS &amp; INDIGENOUS LANDS</b> Respecting and strengthening the rights of indigenous peoples for the use of their historical lands	
	<b>BASIC INCOME PROGRAMS</b> Guaranteeing a basic level of income to provide for basic needs - food, housing, transportation	
	<b>UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE</b> Guaranteeing access to affordable healthcare for all and affirmation of health care as a human right	
	<b>PUBLIC BANKS</b> Using the US Postal Service or other entity to provide accessible and affordable banking to the economically vulnerable	
	<b>AFFORDABLE HOUSING</b> Solving the shortage of accessible, transit-connect, and affordable through financing, new construction, and policies	
<b>International Leadership</b>	<b>EDUCATION AND SCHOOL INVESTMENT</b> Funding infrastructure repair and upgrades for schools, investing in STEM education, climate and environment education programs	
	<b>GLOBAL GREEN NEW DEAL</b> Forming an international agreement or body to advance sustainable economy policy globally	
	<b>INTERNATIONAL TRADE</b> Using the power of trade to incentivize other countries to reduce carbon emissions and other pollution	