



Candidate Climate Plan Summary

JULIÁN CASTRO

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.

JULIÁN CASTRO

Has called for a Green New Deal? **YES**

PROPOSALS

- ★ [People and Planet First: Parts 1 & 2](#)

Very thorough	JULIÁN CASTRO'S POLICY AGENDA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Addresses 32 of 48 components in our GND rubric ◐ Acknowledges 7 components
Thorough	
Incomplete	
Very incomplete	

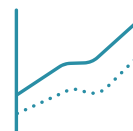
Castro has rolled out the first two segments of his People and Planet First plan, which focus on environmental justice and community resilience. The proposal targets a net-zero economy by 2045, with an interim target of 2030 to achieve carbon-neutrality in the power sector, zero-emissions standards for all new vehicles and buildings, and 50 percent of the economy-wide decarbonization goal. Noteworthy policy actions include 1) methane regulation through executive action, 2) creation of a \$50 billion Natural Infrastructure Revolving Fund to restore protective ecosystems, 3) a \$200 billion Green Infrastructure Fund to create high-quality, union jobs and build climate resilient infrastructure and clean transit systems, and 4) a carbon fee.



\$320+ billion
direct federal
investment



10 million jobs
in the clean energy
economy



10 years
to achieve spending
targets

COMMITMENT TO GREEN NEW DEAL PRINCIPLES




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













Castro leans heavily on his executive experience as HUD Secretary throughout the plan, leveraging a range of mechanisms to codify environmental justice into federal climate action. One such proposal is “carbon equity scoring,” a mandatory tool to assess the climate justice impacts of federal investment, whether implemented through executive authority or legislation. This scoring complements his emphasis on strengthening EPA’s equity standards and Office of External Civil Rights Compliance. Castro also promotes an “economic security guarantee” for fossil fuel workers impacted by the clean energy transition.

















In the plan’s climate resilience portion, Castro prioritizes affordability and security for vulnerable communities. He intends to strengthen flood protection standards, community risk management plans, and FEMA maps; reform National Flood Insurance Program costs and buy-out options; and re-establish and expand HUD’s National Disaster Resilience Grant program, which he oversaw in the Obama Administration.




















HAS JULIÁN CASTRO OUTLINED A POLICY AGENDA THAT ADDRESSES THE KEY COMPONENTS OF THE GREEN NEW DEAL?

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

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

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