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# Candidate Climate Plan Summary

# **KAMALA HARRIS**

## **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.

# KAMALA HARRIS

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

## PROPOSALS

- ★ [A Climate Plan for the People](#)

Very thorough	KAMALA HARRIS'S POLICY AGENDA:
Thorough	
Incomplete	
Very incomplete	

- Addresses **32** of **48** components in our GND rubric
- ◐ Acknowledges **8** components

Kamala Harris’s climate plan offers a sweeping, five-part roadmap to 1) promote environmental justice, 2) hold polluters accountable, 3) build a clean energy economy, 4) protect natural resources, and 5) assert American leadership on an international stage. She commits to several ambitious domestic targets: Carbon neutrality for the power sector by 2030, for all new road vehicles by 2030, and for the full economy by 2045. Harris intends to achieve these three targets through a clean electricity standard (CES), a zero-emission vehicle standard similar to Senator Merkley’s proposed bill, and a carbon fee—which, in a nod to Jay Inslee, she acknowledges as a part of the solution but not a “silver bullet.” As in these cases, she repeatedly elevates her colleagues’ climate efforts or invokes her own previously proposed legislation, such as the Climate Equity Act, which would require a qualitative and quantitative equity score to assess the impact of any environmental or climate policy on frontline communities.



*Direct investment unclear; \$10 trillion total mobilized*



*Specific jobs target not included*



**10 years to achieve total \$10 trillion mobilization**

## COMMITMENT TO GREEN NEW DEAL PRINCIPLES

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

Environmental justice, inclusive access to natural spaces, and energy democracy are all core tenets of Kamala Harris’s climate agenda. Beyond her own Climate Equity Act, Harris proposes to make all public lands free and accessible, increase funding for urban parks, pass a Water Justice Act to provide \$250 billion for safe drinking water infrastructure, and ensure consent-based siting for infrastructure projects that have historically infringed upon Indigenous sovereignty.

While she does not provide an overall jobs target, Harris asserts that her plan will create millions of high-quality jobs and training for displaced energy workers in clean energy, infrastructure, auto manufacturing, construction, transportation, and STEM professions. She estimates that her proposal to reduce waste by 75% will create over a million jobs alone. Harris expresses support for policies from Senators Merkley and Gillibrand that will establish strong labor standards and hire local workers for infrastructure improvements.

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

We took a look at Kamala Harris’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.

<b>Low Carbon Economy</b>	<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 SEQUESTRATION</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	