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# Candidate Climate Plan Summary

# **BERNIE SANDERS**

## **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.

# BERNIE SANDERS

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

## PROPOSALS

- ★ [The Green New Deal](#)
- ★ [Housing for All](#)

<b>Very thorough</b>	BERNIE SANDERS'S POLICY AGENDA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Addresses <b>45</b> of <b>48</b> components in our GND rubric</li> <li>● Acknowledges <b>1</b> component</li> </ul>
<b>Thorough</b>	
<b>Incomplete</b>	
<b>Very incomplete</b>	

Sanders's climate plan aims to fundamentally restructure the federal government's relationship with the energy system - in fact, he specifically names eight agencies and sub-agencies that he plans to reorganize to do so. The proposal promises to "end the fossil fuel industry's greed" and take polluters head-on with financial and criminal penalties. Sanders's plan commits to full decarbonization of both the electric and transportation sectors by 2030, an incredibly ambitious target made even more difficult by his declaration of a moratorium on non-renewable clean energy technologies, including existing nuclear and carbon capture. Other noteworthy climate mitigation and adaptation strategies include 1) federal investment in electric vehicle infrastructure and a car trade-in program; 2) reshaping and connecting cities through high-speed rail, expanded zero-emission public transit, and a lawn reclamation initiative; 3) a new Climate Justice Resiliency Fund; and 4) \$200 billion in international climate finance through the Green Climate Fund.



**\$16.3 trillion**  
direct federal  
investment



**20 million jobs**



**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.*

Bernie Sanders offers a justice-centric approach not only through the energy transition but throughout all federal government. His Climate Justice Resiliency Fund creates an Office of Climate Resiliency for People With Disabilities. He plans to leverage the EPA's Office of Civil Rights, the SEC and the DOJ to hold polluters liable and protect marginalized groups. Sanders also would align his administration with the Jemez Principles, UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and other existing justice frameworks.

The Sanders proposal aims to end unemployment through the creation of 20 million high-quality, union jobs in manufacturing, energy efficiency, sustainable agriculture, and a Civilian Climate Corps. To mobilize this workforce, he plans to develop high-speed rail and broadband, create a new Power Marketing Authority, and build 7.4 million homes. Sanders job programs will prioritize displaced fossil fuel workers, Tribes, and minority, rural, and low-income communities.

## USE OF EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY

Data For Progress looked at which components of the candidates' plans invoked the use of executive authority. Executive and legislative pathways each have their own advantages, so this is not meant as a value judgment on the strength of a climate plan.




Sanders promises to declare climate change a national emergency. There are **18** components of a Green New Deal for which Sanders is likely to leverage executive authority, as determined by explicit statements in his plan or Data For Progress analysis. Notable executive actions include:










- ▶ Ending permits for new nuclear plants, and phasing out existing permits
- ▶ Regulating light- and heavy-duty transportation
- ▶ Holding polluters liable for damages and breaking up monopolies
- ▶ Implementing environmental justice standards across federal programs

The full range of components addressed with executive authority can be found below.

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

We took a look at Bernie Sanders's official climate plan(s) to determine which components of the Green New Deal he has **Addressed**, **Acknowledged**, or **Not Included**. Components that we find will likely leverage executive authority are marked with an "E." Where obvious, we also reviewed non-climate policies and statements that outline a clear plan to address 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.
- E** Plan leverages executive authority.

<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	

Low Carbon Economy	<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	

Sustainable and Resilient Communities	<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	●
Job Creation and Economic Development	<b>JUST TRANSITION</b> Targeting support to industries and communities affected by the transition away from fossil fuels	E
	<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	E
	<b>ANTITRUST</b> Returning fairness to the economy by breaking up monopolies across various industries	E
Social Safety Net*	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL &amp; SOCIAL JUSTICE STANDARDS</b> Ensuring all government actions, programs, and project abide by standard of fairness and equity	E
	<b>SOVEREIGNTY RIGHTS &amp; INDIGENOUS LANDS</b> Respecting and strengthening the rights of indigenous peoples for the use of their historical lands	E
	<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>EDUCATION AND SCHOOL INVESTMENT</b> Funding infrastructure repair and upgrades for schools, investing in STEM education, climate and environment education programs	●
International Leadership	<b>GLOBAL GREEN NEW DEAL</b> Forming an international agreement or body to advance sustainable economy policy globally	E
	<b>INTERNATIONAL TRADE</b> Using the power of trade to incentivize other countries to reduce carbon emissions and other pollution	E