

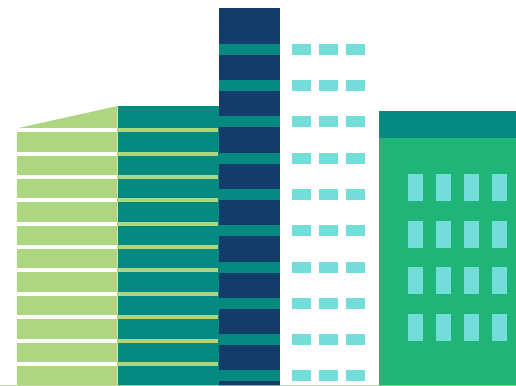
THE GREEN NEW DEAL: HOW TO MAKE IT HAPPEN

Momentum is growing for a comprehensive Green New Deal in the UK.

This election must deliver a Green New Deal.

The challenge is clear. We need a plan ambitious enough to tackle climate breakdown at the scale and speed set out by science.

We need a plan to create a fair society that works for everyone and involves us all.



The Green New Deal will deliver a fast and fair transformation of our economy and society, renewing almost every aspect of life in the UK: from the way we produce and consume energy, to the way in which we grow the food we eat, and how we work, travel, and heat our homes.

We can start investing in elements of a Green New Deal now, but to make transition possible at the scale and speed necessary will require legislation and a coordinated action

plan, developed with people and enabled by government. Implementing the Green New Deal will need to become a fundamental objective of government, nationally and locally, but it will also involve every single one of us: workers and investors, creatives and care workers, scientists and engineers, administrators and accountants, farmers and factory workers. Working together, we can tackle climate breakdown and create a fair society that works for all of us.

ASK YOUR CANDIDATE IF THEY WILL DELIVER A GREEN NEW DEAL

THE GREEN NEW DEAL BILL: WHAT IT IS AND WHAT IT WILL DO

The Green New Deal Bill, known formally as the Decarbonisation and Economic Strategy Bill, tabled in March 2019 by Caroline Lucas MP and Clive Lewis MP and first published in full in September 2019, was the first attempt to legislate for the Green New Deal in the UK.

The first part of the Bill sets out targets to reduce emissions to net zero by 2030 and to restore nature, reduce inequality and increase wellbeing. Then the Bill sets out the framework to reform the financial and economic system so government is free to work with all sectors to mobilise large sums to invest in the complete renewal of our economy and society. This will put people and democracy back in charge of the economy, so that we are able to make the big economic decisions that will shape our futures:

1 PUTTING GOVERNMENT IN THE DRIVING SEAT TO OPEN UP OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHANGE

We're so often told that we can't spend on the things we need – like transforming society so that it is fairer, and enables us to live within our ecological means – because the markets won't allow it. The Green New Deal would put government back in the driving seat, allowing us to invest in renewable energy, clean transport, climate-friendly farming and warm homes. It will reduce inequality and pay for itself through the income and tax revenues generated by the creation of skilled, well-paid jobs. To make that possible, we will need to do what governments do in wartime, for example, and bring offshore capital back onshore ensuring that government, not markets, can make the vital economic decisions we need.

2 INVESTING IN WHAT WE NEED

Since the introduction of austerity, the injection of billions into the financial system has protected and increased the prices of assets owned by the extremely wealthy, while cuts have been made to vital public services that should protect us all. Under the Green New Deal both the availability of credit and the tax system will work together to benefit the whole of society. This requires greater coordination between the Bank of England, the Treasury and the Debt Management Office (which issues government bonds) so that we can manage the flow of money through the economy, enabling us to invest in activity that reduces inequality and prevents the continued breakdown of the Earth's life support systems on which we all depend. The Green New Deal will make use of the full range of financing possibilities available to government from green bonds to pollution taxes.

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The infographic features a background of stylized buildings in shades of green and blue, connected by a network of green lines. The text is presented in white boxes with green borders. The overall theme is environmental and economic progress.

3

DELIVERING THE CONFIDENCE INVESTORS ARE CALLING FOR

A clear plan for government investment would give private investors the confidence they need to put resources into the Green New Deal too. Many investors are already committed to the idea of a 'just transition'. The Green New Deal would provide the private sector – including our pension funds – with new opportunities and a new, sound structural framework for investment.

4

CREATING A SAFE FUTURE FOR OUR PENSIONS AND SAVINGS

There is huge potential, particularly for our pensions and savings, to invest in our futures through the transformational Green New Deal programme, while providing the returns we need now and in the future. Changing tax incentives on pensions and ISAs would help direct funds into the Green New Deal. New green bonds issued nationally and locally, and new pension arrangements targeted at the green renewal of our infrastructure, would bring long-term benefits to everyday savers and to society.

5

NEW OBJECTIVES FOR BUSINESS, AND NEW KINDS OF BUSINESSES

Businesses that are currently obliged to maximise returns to shareholders will need to take account of other stakeholders – including the ecosystem – and the impact of their activities on the climate and on communities. Existing businesses will need to be better regulated, and new forms of business from worker-owned co-operatives to community enterprises will give many more of us a stake in our future.

6

REPLACING OUR MEASURES OF PROGRESS

Fixation on what Greta Thunberg has described as “the fairy tale of eternal growth” has driven us to the brink of our ecological limits and is driving inequality. It can no longer be our measure of progress. Instead, we should prioritise measures that help guide us towards real prosperity, like improvement in people’s health and wellbeing, the reduction of inequality, tackling the climate emergency, and the restoration and protection of the natural environment on which we all depend.

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AN ACTION PLAN TO TRANSFORM THE UK

Having addressed the changes needed in our economic system, the Green New Deal Bill sets out an action plan to transform almost every aspect of life in the UK, ending our reliance on dirty energy, restoring nature and reversing inequality. To do this, the Green New Deal Group propose investing up to five per cent of Britain's annual GDP – or around £100 billion annually for the next ten years. The spending would be tapered over several years because of the shortage of "shovel-ready" projects, with £50 billion spent in year one, £75 billion in year two, rising to £100 billion a year invested for the remaining eight years. This balances the readiness of projects with the need to act quickly. It is possible that an even higher level of funding could be needed. But if, as likely, several positive and self-reinforcing dynamics are created by the process of change, lower sums would be needed. Numerous studies have shown that delaying or avoiding spending in response to the climate crisis will eventually result in much higher costs. In fact, not to invest in a Green New Deal would inflict greater economic, environmental and social self-harm.

ENSURING A 'JUST TRANSITION' AND A ROLE FOR EVERYONE

The Green New Deal will create good, secure jobs in every corner of the country. The plan will target investment at those that need it most including communities that have suffered from decades of deindustrialisation, communities that have been excluded from full participation in the economy including women and communities of colour, communities in areas where there are high levels of underemployment and unemployment, and people working in today's high emission sectors. This worker-led 'just transition' is needed to redress the historic mismanagement of previous industrial change and structural inequalities in the economy, to make sure that the Green New Deal works for everyone and enhances all of our lives.

NEW WAYS TO WORK AND PLAY

New forms of enterprise including community, worker and municipal co-operatives would also give many more of us a stake in the places we work. The Green New Deal will also change the way that we work, including the possibility of a standard four-day working week, providing time for people to spend in their communities. A shorter working week would enable us to distribute paid and unpaid work more fairly, including the caring roles more often carried out by women. It would give us more time to engage with politics, reinvigorating our democracy and revitalising our villages, towns and cities.

TRANSFORMING HOUSING AND ENERGY

The Green New Deal will accelerate the transformation of our energy supply, create the energy infrastructure of the future, make our homes as energy efficient as possible and ensure that all new homes are zero carbon and meet social needs. A '30 by 30' commitment to make every building as energy efficient as possible by 2030 would ensure that the 29 million homes and 2 million commercial and public sector buildings in the UK would be made energy efficient – keeping us warm in winter, while slashing energy bills and eliminating fuel poverty.

A BETTER WAY TO EAT: FARMING FOR OUR FUTURE

The Green New Deal will transform farming and food in the UK. It will decarbonise the way that we grow the food we eat, and link the way we produce food to better to public health. Moving to more plant-based diets would also be better for us, and better for the planet. The Green New Deal can accelerate the transition to agro-ecological farming methods and transfer subsidies to measures and farming methods that enhance biodiversity. Climate-friendly farming methods are rich in employment, highly productive and restore ecosystem health. Under the Green New Deal, our food system will become part of our health system.

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CREATING SPACE FOR NATURE: REVITALISING OUR ECOSYSTEMS

Human health and wellbeing are inextricably linked to nature, but we are witnessing a mass extinction event because of the pressure from economies on ecosystems. The Green New Deal will increase space for nature with policies to restore habitats in urban, suburban and countryside settings. A network of National Park and Market Garden Cities would transform the landscape for food growing and for beauty, greening our landscape and improving health. New wooded corridors running through the country would provide havens for wildlife, enhance the environment creating new places for us to work and play.

GETTING AROUND: WALKING, CYCLING AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT

A large-scale programme of transport measures would transform the way we get around, making it quicker and easier to travel and making the air we breathe cleaner, too. Investment in new rail stations, enhancements to existing stations, park and ride facilities, and bus priority and cycle lanes would get the process going. Rapidly expanding car clubs and bike hire schemes would also be transformational. Free buses, targeted fare reductions, cycling training, travel planning at schools, workplaces and stations, and personal travel advice would help transform the way the UK moves.

GUARANTEEING GLOBAL JUSTICE

The Green New Deal is about setting the economy, nationally and globally, on a path to living within its environmental means. It must also be about fairness in a warming world. The Green New Deal calls for the new financial mechanisms and technology transfers to help the majority world adapt to climate change and support people's wellbeing, breaking the carbon chains of fossil fuel dependence and the end of the economic culture of that has viewed people and places primarily for the extraction of profit.

REDISTRIBUTING POWER AND RESOURCES

Although the Green New Deal must be driven by national government, the detail of the plans in many areas will be best devised and implemented locally. The Green New Deal will mean providing the power and resources for devolved governments, elected mayors and local governments to make decisions for the communities they represent relating to the Green New Deal transformation plan. Local people will be directly involved in devising and developing those plans actively engaging all of us in the future of the places where we live and work. It will also mean new forms of common ownership throughout vital parts of our infrastructure, such as waterways, buses, parks, and railways.

PUTTING ON THE BRAKES

There are things a Green New Deal would need to stop immediately because they're driving us in the wrong direction. We need to stop aviation expansion, fracking, restrictions on onshore wind and plans for new roads and high-speed train services, where the money could be more effectively spent on improvements to the existing network. We must also end all subsidies for the fossil fuels we can't afford to burn. An audit of legislation would also be needed to remove any blocks and make sure that the whole of government pulls behind efforts to rapidly decarbonise and reduce corrosive inequality

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We have ten years. Together, let's make it happen.

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FIND OUT MORE

CAMPAIGNS:

Green New Deal UK
UKSCN
350.org
Labour for a Green New Deal
European Greens
Green New Deal for Europe
The Rapid Transition Alliance

PLANS:

Green New Deal Group
Common Wealth
New Economics Foundation
IPPR
Zero Carbon Britain
Greenpeace UK
Friends of the Earth
TUC

greennewdealgroup.org