

Winning a Green New Deal for Pennsylvania

OVERVIEW

Pennsylvania needs a Green New Deal to transition our economy off polluting fossil fuels and ensure everyone has access to clean air and water, family-sustaining union jobs, safe and healthy housing, and a just society.

Our movement has won major federal climate and infrastructure investments over the last 3 years, which shows that we can win policies to create new jobs and direct funding to the communities most impacted by the climate crisis. **However – we need even more funding to support communities still struggling with polluted air, water, and land, the corporate greed of fossil fuel companies.**

OUR DEMANDS

All abandoned oil and gas wells on Allegheny County-owned land must be identified, plugged, and monitored.

Funds for this effort should come from monies currently available through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). We demand that the necessary work to finish this project be done through the creation of adequate employment and union-wage jobs. Finally, we demand reparations for any communities or individuals adversely affected by fossil fuel infrastructure pollution on County-owned land.

Address health disparities faced by Black communities

From childhood asthma rates to maternal mortality rates, a Green New Deal for PA must take a comprehensive approach to addressing racial health inequities through strong public investment in health care and addressing sources of these disparities head on.



Protect communities from toxic air pollution.

We need stronger protections for communities in the path of air pollution, for those whose water and wells have been contaminated, for all who experience pollution from plastics pollution. The health harms from NOT addressing climate change must be prioritized.

To learn more, visit greennewdealnetwork.org or follow us @GND_Network

GREEN NEW DEAL
— NETWORK —

A downpayment for justice: GND wins in PA

PROGRESS

Our movement has won major federal climate and infrastructure investments over the last 3 years, which shows that we can win policies to create new jobs and direct funding to the communities most impacted by the climate crisis. **However – we need even more funding to support communities still struggling with polluted air, water, and land, the corporate greed of fossil fuel companies.**

RECENT WINS FOR A GREEN NEW DEAL

Pennsylvania Whole Home Repair Campaign

The Pennsylvania Whole Home Repair campaign successfully used funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (2021) to **establish a dedicated office to fund much needed repairs and energy efficiency upgrades for homeowners across Pennsylvania.** Campaign organizers worked closely with the office of State Sen. Nikhil Saval to win a \$125 million budget appropriation of state ARPA funds for this program.

Solar for Schools in Steelton-Highspire

The Steelton-Highspire School District is **leading the way on how schools can transition to solar power.** The school district transformed a former landfill into a 1.7 MW solar panel field, generating enough clean energy to power all of its schools and potentially saving as much as \$200,000 a year on electricity. The \$3 million project cost was funded through a power purchase agreement buoyed by federal solar tax incentives.

Inspired by this ambitious solar project, State Rep. Elizabeth Fiedler (D) introduced the **Solar for Schools legislation to create a grant program for solar energy assessments and to help pay for installation** and solar energy equipment to help other school districts, which can also tap into the 30-50% cost savings through new solar tax credits from the Inflation Reduction Act.

EPA Funds for Allegheny County	
\$1 million	The city of Mckeensport received an EPA grant to support a bioswale park to manage stormwater and pollution; a hazardous debris cleanup program ; and a safety feasibility study for building a new neighborhood on an abandoned brownfield.
\$330,000	EPA funds for Allegheny County for community resilience projects, including flood mitigation, particularly within communities of color.
\$1 million	PA Department of Environmental Protection funding to increase community outreach.

What federal money is coming to Pennsylvania?

CLEAN ENERGY

- **\$270 million of investment in large-scale clean power generation and storage** to Pennsylvania between now and 2030 via tax credits that will create jobs across solar, wind, storage, and other clean energy industries.
- Credits include bonuses for businesses that pay a prevailing wage.
- **Consumer tax credits covering 30% of the costs** to install solar panels and battery storage systems, which could enable an additional 610,000 additional Pennsylvania households to install rooftop panels.

TRANSPORTATION

- **\$3.2 billion over five years to improve public transportation** options across the state – which is essential for public transit users that spend an extra 68.8% of their time commuting, and for communities of color who are 5 times more likely to commute via public transportation.
- **\$23 million in funding to improve bus depots**, including redundant power feeders, backup generators, and electrical substations. This project will support its transition to a fleet of entirely zero-emission vehicles.
- **\$13.2 billion over five years** in Federal highway formula funding for highways and bridges. The bulk of this “highway” funding is multimodal and can be flexed to be spent on transit, biking and walking infrastructure.
- **\$265 million over five years to reduce transportation-related emissions**
- **\$301 million over five years to increase the resilience** of its transportation system

BUILDINGS

- **\$260 million in rebates** for home electrification and energy efficiency retrofits.
- **Grants to help state and local governments adopt the latest building energy codes**, which would save the average new homeowner in Pennsylvania 13.5% on their utility bills—\$341 annually.

RURAL

- **Climate-smart agriculture policies**, which will help Pennsylvania’s 52,700 farms lead on climate solutions and reward their stewardship.
- **Funding for electric cooperatives**, which serve about 220,000 homes, businesses, and other customers in Pennsylvania, will for the first time be eligible for direct-pay clean energy tax credits. And this legislation dedicates investments for rural electric cooperatives to boost resiliency, reliability, and affordability, including through clean energy and energy efficiency upgrades.

How can Pittsburgh use federal funds for green new deal priorities?

CLEAN ENERGY

Help Pittsburgh reach its commitment to convert power at all City facilities to 100% clean energy. Cities can take advantage of the Direct Cash Pay of Clean Energy Tax Credits for Government and Non-Profit Entities from the Inflation Reduction Act..

For the next 10 years (until 2033) non-profits, municipal governments, schools, tribes, and other tax-exempt entities can benefit from reduced costs when investing in solar.

Address Air Pollution in low-come communities. Cities can apply for funding to help research the impacts of diesel trucks, cars, and air pollution from freeways on vulnerable communities (source: EPA Air Grant & Funding)

Address the harms of racist highway policies by investing in green communities. Cities can apply for the \$3B Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant Program, which helps reconnect neighborhoods divided by infrastructure, mitigate negative impacts of transportation facilities or construction projects on communities, and support equitable transportation planning. Eligible entities include cities along with non-profit organizations, academic institutions, and states.

Accelerate decarbonization of buildings: schools, public buildings, affordable housing. Cities can partner with the State Environmental Protection Agency to ensure IRA funds for home clean energy and electrification rebates reach those who need them most!

Pay for just transition provisions for union workers who would be impacted by moving away from gas in buildings:

- **Workforce development:** Local governments can help engage industry partners, labor organizations, and community colleges to expand training opportunities with registered apprenticeship program requirements.(Source: C40 Cities)
- **Community Benefits Agreements:** local governments can increase the participation of disadvantaged community residents in workforce development and increase contracting opportunities for MWBEs

ENVIRO JUSTICE

ENVIRO JUSTICE

BUILDINGS

GREEN JOBS