



## **THESE 15 MUNICIPALITIES ALREADY HAVE LOCAL GREEN NEW DEALS**

A Green New Deal is a transformational project that recognizes the urgency of our interlocking crises — including the climate emergency, the COVID-19 pandemic, ongoing colonization, economic inequality, racism, unjust treatment of migrants, and other ways that our society makes people vulnerable — and the scale of change necessary to tackle them.

It is more than a policy: it's an idea for massive societal transformation that has sparked movements around the world.

And across Canada, the U.S., and the UK, 15 communities – a combined population of over 31 million people — have already begun implementing local Green New Deals.

## CANADA

### CUMBERLAND, BRITISH COLUMBIA (Population 3,700)

Cumberland council has adopted a local Green New Deal in principle, responding to efforts by [two young local organizers](#) and based on the organizing guide and sample resolutions [published by the Council of Canadians](#).

Cumberland council has directed municipal staff to develop a report on how to implement a local Green New Deal that includes measures for cutting emissions in half by 2030 and 100% by 2050, as well as “green jobs, Indigenous rights, anti-racism and equity measures, housing, independence of elected officials, transit and transportation, energy, drinking water, wastewater and food security.”

### HALIFAX (Population 403,000)

In 2020, Halifax began implementing [HalifACT 2050](#), which is “as much an economic development plan as a climate action plan.”

The plan includes expanding and electrifying public transit, active transportation infrastructure, net-zero emissions for new buildings, large scale renewables, a food action plan, a rooftop solar program, retrofitting existing buildings, decarbonized infrastructure, coastal preparedness, and “approximately 170,000 person years of employment generated between 2020 and 2050, an average of 5,500 annually.”

### VANCOUVER (Population 631,000)

In November 2020, Vancouver city council adopted a comprehensive climate justice plan that is a municipal Green New Deal in all but name.

[Vancouver’s Climate Emergency Action Plan](#) focuses on buildings and transportation, as well as food, racism, historic oppression of marginalized communities, housing, equity, public health, carbon budgeting and accountability, and Indigenous rights.

## UNITED STATES

### AUSTIN, TEXAS (population 979,000)

The Texas capital [unanimously endorsed a national Green New Deal in May 2019](#) and began to explore options for a local one.

The [priorities of Austin's Green New Deal include](#) “carbon neutrality by 2050, quadrupling citywide transit use by 2039 and moving Austin Energy to 55 percent renewable sources by 2025.”

### DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA (Population 270,000)

In March 2020, the mayor of Durham outlined plans for a “[Green New Durham](#),” including the goals of reaching 80 per cent renewable energy in city buildings by 2030 and 100 per cent by 2050.

The local coalition, [A Green New Deal for Durham](#), is continuing to organize to ensure the local Green New Deal addresses renewable energy, housing, waste reduction, transportation, green space, employment, and public health.

### ITHACA, NEW YORK (Population 31,000)

The city council of Ithaca [unanimously approved a local Green New Deal on June 5, 2019](#). [Ithaca's Green New Deal includes](#) going carbon-neutral by 2030, reaching 100 per cent renewable electricity by 2025, a 50 per cent reduction in City vehicle fleet emissions by 2025, and adopting a Green Building Code to “reduce emissions in existing buildings by 2021.” The plan aims to ensure that “benefits are shared among all local communities to reduce historical social and economic inequities.”

### LOS ANGELES (Population 4 million)

[LA launched its Green New Deal in 2019](#). It calls for “a 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2025 — outpacing the standards set by the [2018] United Nations IPCC report.”

The LA Green New Deal implements a range of new measures for environmental justice, local water, affordable housing, public transit, food systems, expanding the urban tree canopy, creating thousands of green jobs, and a zero-carbon electricity grid.

### MILWAUKEE (Population 590,000)

[Milwaukee's climate plan](#) tackles the intertwined crises of climate, economic, and racial injustice. It aims to reduce emissions by 45 per cent by 2030 and 100 per cent by 2050 or sooner.

The [Task Force on Climate and Economic Equity](#) that was set up to make recommendations for reaching these goals has 10 working groups: Jobs and Equity; Education and Outreach to the Community; Green Buildings; Mobility and Transportation; Climate Finance; Greening the Grid; Waste and Sustainable Consumption; Land Use, Urban Agriculture, and Reforestation; Adaptation and Climate Resilience; and Implementation, Reporting, and Accountability.

## **NEW YORK CITY (Population 8.3 million)**

[NYC's Green New Deal](#) “is comprised of \$14 billion in new and committed investments, legislation and concrete action at the City level that will ensure a nearly 30 percent additional reduction in emissions by 2030. The laws and investments of New York City's Green New Deal will directly confront income inequality, generating tens of thousands of good-paying jobs retrofitting buildings and expanding renewable energy.”

## **PORTLAND, MAINE (population 66,000)**

The [Green New Deal in Portland](#) includes green jobs, new requirements for solar and green roofs on new and existing buildings, designating urban zoning areas where solar panels can be installed in the future, developing “a coordinated regional plan to stop the use of fossil fuels to power buildings,” developing proposals to change the city code to “achieve reduction in use of fossil fuels or fossil fuel-based infrastructure in the city,” and a requirement that 25 per cent of the units in each new housing project be affordable.

## **PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND (Population 180,000)**

[Providence's Climate Justice Plan](#) addresses housing and buildings, community health, building a local and regenerative economy, clean energy, and transportation.

In addition to concrete carbon-reduction targets, the plan “also addresses the system-level changes that are needed in our governance structures, our economic system, and the overall health of our communities to ensure a just and equitable transition away from fossil fuels.” The plan was developed through “collaborative governance” using an anti-racist framework.

## **SEATTLE (Population 754,000)**

The Seattle Coalition for a Green New Deal waged an effective campaign to get [city council to adopt a Green New Deal in principle](#).

In August 2019, Seattle city council [committed to building a Green New Deal program](#) rooted in the core principles of environmental and racial justice, making the city climate-pollution free by 2030, establishing a Free, Prior, Informed Consent Policy with local Indigenous nations, ensuring decent wages and working conditions, making public transit free and widely accessible, transitioning from fossil fuel to electric heating, expanding urban agriculture, increasing affordable housing, increasing the city's tree canopy, recognizing the climate crisis as a moral emergency, upholding the rights to clean air, water, food justice and a healthy environment, and “prioritizing public investments in neighborhoods that have historically been underinvested in and disproportionately burdened by environmental hazards and other injustices.”

## UNITED KINGDOM

### LONDON, UK (Population 14.3 million)

[London's Green New Deal](#) includes doubling the size of the city's green economy by 2030 to accelerate job creation for all; becoming a zero-carbon, zero-pollution city by 2030 and a zero-waste city by 2050; getting buildings to net-zero emissions; modernizing public transit; and addressing inequalities, including the disproportionate impacts of air pollution, the climate crisis, and the pandemic on racialized communities.

### GLASGOW, SCOTLAND (Population 626,000)

Glasgow city council has [voted to support a Scottish Green New Deal](#), launched the Glasgow Climate Implementation Plan in November 2020, and is building on this plan with an even broader [Green New Deal framework](#).

The draft plan, which is [soliciting community feedback](#) until the end of May 2021, includes 61 recommendations for Glasgow to become [carbon-neutral by 2030 and have zero emissions by 2045](#). These include establishing a municipal "Just Transition Commission to ensure the burden of climate impacts is shared equitably and that all in Glasgow have equitable opportunities of access and success in our low carbon economy." Glasgow is currently scheduled to host COP26 (the next major UN climate summit) in November 2021.

### NORTH AYRSHIRE, SCOTLAND (population 135,000)

In September 2020, the city council in North Ayrshire [launched a local Green New Deal](#) to ensure a just recovery from the pandemic, "focused on setting out a new economic model that works for people, place and planet."

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## BUILDING A GREEN NEW DEAL IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Winning local Green New Deals doesn't happen in a vacuum. Years of grassroots organizing on multiple fronts have been creating the conditions for local Green New Deals to be winnable. And our work to win local Green New Deals can and should recognize, amplify, and help build connections between these various movements.

There are many communities that have already made strides toward the kind of transformation we need to tackle the crises of the climate, racism, precarious work, and inequality. They just need to be woven together.

Want your community to be the next one to build a local Green New Deal? [Get involved here!](#)