

## **A Green New Deal: Public Investment for a Just, Inclusive Transition To Carbon Free Energy System**

Submitted by the PSC ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE WORKING GROUP

Whereas, the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (fall 2018) has concluded that humanity has less than 11 years to urgently cut greenhouse gases if we are to avoid far worse weather extremes than we are already experiencing with far worse hurricanes, droughts, flooding, as well as larger and more severe wildfires; and

Whereas, human health and safety are put at risk both by these disasters and by the expected food and water shortages associated with these weather extremes; and

Whereas, even though no nation that signed the Paris Agreement will reach its target of lowering emissions yet recent scientific evidence shows that these modest, voluntary targets of the Paris Agreement are insufficient to avoid disaster; and

Whereas, Democratic progressives, propelled by the young climate activists in the Sunrise movement, have proposed a visionary Green New Deal(GND), for massive public investment to transition the U.S. to carbon free energy and reduce the historic level of economic inequality; and

Whereas, workers, communities of color and rural and urban low-income people will continue to suffer disproportionately from the environmental degradation of air and water quality associated with the extraction, burning, transportation and production of fossil fuels and from the natural disasters, food shortages, and population displacements that climate change produces; and

Whereas, in 2017 alone the U.S. spent \$314 Billion on disaster relief (including a grossly inadequate response to Puerto Rico) and the ever rising costs of mitigating future disasters will continue to deplete resources that could otherwise pay for public investments in infrastructure, resiliency, public education, and public health; and

Whereas, much of the technical knowledge for transitioning energy production is already available but the U.S. has failed to curb the corporate interests, profiting directly or indirectly from fossil fuel production and their cheap plastic derivatives; and

Whereas, the New Deal's Hoover Dam and The Tennessee Valley Authority have modeled successful public energy development, production and flood control; and

Whereas, private investment for transitioning from fossil fuels has been completely insufficient and multinational corporate interests strongly oppose public efforts for a just transition, especially public financing and labor protections; and

Whereas, the labor movement must be engaged in shaping GND policies that include a just transition for workers, expand collective bargaining rights and create green union careers, particularly in disadvantaged rural and urban communities; and

Whereas, CUNY faculty and staff are already collaborating with NYC agencies to limit the city's carbon footprint, to solarize city buildings and to conduct research that will contribute further to conservation and an efficient transition to carbon free energy; and

Whereas, since students will confront the challenges of climate change and disproportionately bear its costs, we bear a direct responsibility as educators to help them understand the complex challenges of the climate crisis; therefore,

Be it resolved, that the Professional Staff Congress support the funding of a Green New Deal by progressive taxation; and be it further

Resolved, that the PSC support robust Green New Deal policies for federal, state and local initiatives that facilitate the creation of union jobs, a just transition for displaced workers, and prioritizes working class and low income communities of color historically and disproportionately impacted by pollution; and be it further

Resolved, that the PSC support eliminating all tax subsidies currently available to the fossil fuel industry; and be it further

Resolved, that that the PSC support policies that enable local and regional communities to develop, produce and own renewable energy, as well as federal, state and local policies for improving and transitioning public transportation, and promoting greater fuel efficiency and energy conservation; and be it further

Resolved, that the PSC work with faculty, staff and students to disseminate information about proposed solutions that address both economic inequality and climate crises; and be it further

Resolved, that the PSC will advocate for the implementation of a Green New Deal in coalition with our affiliates, Labor Network for Sustainability, environmental allies, community partners and elected representatives.

Be it resolved, that the PSC urge its members (faculty and staff) to engage with students to find solutions to this existential crisis and to particularly address ways of achieving a just transition to a fossil free world.