

SAN DIEGO GREEN NEW DEAL ALLIANCE

INTRODUCTION:

The 2018 findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warn humanity with great urgency: we must slash greenhouse gas emissions in half globally by 2030, achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, and negative emissions thereafter. Failure to do so will cause catastrophic and irreversible consequences, with working class communities of color (“communities of concern”) poised to suffer disproportionately. Our communities cannot afford to wait for federal action; San Diego can and must lead efforts to achieve a liveable future in a way that creates good jobs and more just communities. The Alliance is committed to pursuing progressive revenue streams to achieve this vision.

OUR VISION:

A San Diego region that achieves zero carbon by 2035 through a fair and just transition for workers and communities of concern, the creation of good family-sustaining jobs, and the development of affordable, equitable, and inclusive communities powered by 100% clean electricity.

GOALS:

Advance environmental and social justice: Ensure everyone enjoys clean air and water, healthcare, culturally appropriate food, housing, and the resources to not just survive, but to thrive. Support reparations for indigenous and black communities. Work to understand and mitigate harmful impacts of a transition to a zero carbon future on communities of concern and our interdependence with others outside of our region.

Advance transformative engagement of our communities: Ensure meaningful participation and leadership from communities of concern in the transition to zero carbon. Promote climate education.

Ensure a just transition for workers: Advance the creation of good, family-sustaining jobs by increasing workers’ earning power, guaranteeing collective bargaining, requiring prevailing wages, and incentivizing worker-directed enterprises, all while supporting workplace development in communities of concern. Provide a just transition to workers impacted by a transitioning economy by providing severance packages, a climate job guarantee, wage and benefit parity, retirement security, free education, and family healthcare.

Achieve 100% clean electricity by 2035: Re-envision energy usage and infrastructure in the San Diego region through the promotion of energy efficiency and the democratization of energy systems, i.e. Community Choice Energy, community and rooftop solar, and microgrids.

Promote sustainable communities, housing, and transit: Create affordable and inclusive bikeable, walkable, transit-friendly communities that are connected to schools, jobs, shopping, and parks, while actively working to prevent displacement. Build a world-class regional transit system that is free to youth and rivals travel by car. End policies that incentivize vehicle use. Plant and maintain a robust urban forest.

Transform our relationship with natural resources and the environment: Protect and restore wildlife habitats and ecosystems in the interest of advancing the health and wellbeing of native species and our communities. Achieve sustainable and regenerative food systems. Learn and amplify the knowledge of indigenous communities in regenerative practices.

Adapt to a changing climate: Prioritize investments in adaptation infrastructure and public facilities such as shade structures and cooling centers in communities of concern. Support equitable and science-based efforts to plan relocation from the coastline as sea levels rise. Provide housing and support to climate refugees.