

AOC's Official Green New Deal Resolution.

- The resolution states that the Special Report on Global Warming by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the November 2018 Fourth National Climate Assessment report found that --
 - (1) human activity is the dominant cause of observed climate change over the past century;
 - (2) a changing climate is causing sea levels to rise and an increase in wildfires, severe storms, ect. Threaten human life, healthy communities, and critical infrastructure
 - (3) global warming at or above 2 degrees Celsius beyond preindustrialized levels will cause:
 - More than \$500,000,000,000 in lost annual economic output in the US by the year 2100
 - A risk of damage to \$1,000,000,000,000 of public infrastructure and coastal real estate in the US
 - (4) global temperatures must be kept below 1.5 degrees Celsius above preindustrialized levels to avoid the most severe impacts of a changing climate, which will require:
 - Global reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from human sources of 40 to 60 percent from 2010 levels by 2030
 - Net-zero emissions by 2050.
- “Because the United States has historically been responsible for a disproportionate amount of greenhouse gas emissions, having emitted 20 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions through 2014, and has a high technological capacity, the United States must take a leading role in reducing emissions through economic transformation.”
 - The resolution says that US is currently experiencing several related crises like a declining life expectancy “while basic needs such as clean air, clean water, healthy food, and adequate health

care, housing, transportation, and education are inaccessible to a significant portion of the US population.”

- “A 4-decade trend of economic stagnation, deindustrialization, and antilabor policies have led to:
 - Hourly wage stagnation
 - The third-worst level of socioeconomic mobility in the developed world
 - The erosion of the earning and bargaining power of workers
 - Inadequate resources for public sector workers to confront the challenges of climate change at local, state, and federal levels
 - The greatest income inequality since the 1920s
- According to her resolution, “climate change, pollution, and environmental destruction have exacerbated systemic racial, regional, social, environmental, and economic injustices” for pretty much every group (she lists a ton on the top of page 4) except white men.
- Climate change constitutes a direct threat to the national security of the US

To achieve the stated goal, AOC’s Green New Deal includes:

- “It is the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal--
 - (A) to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions through a fair and just transition for all communities and workers;
 - (B) to create millions of good, high-wage jobs and ensure prosperity and economic security for all people of the US;
 - © to invest in the infrastructure and industry of the US to sustainably meet the challenges of the 21st century;
 - (D) to secure for all people of the US for generations to come--
 - Clean air and water
 - Climate and community resiliency

- Healthy food
 - Access to nature
 - A sustainable environment
- (E) to promote justice and equality by stopping current, preventing future, and repairing historic oppressions of (pretty much every group that isn't white men)
- According to the resolution, these goals will be accomplished through a 10-year national mobilization that will require --
 - (A) building resiliency against climate change-related disasters by leveraging funding and providing investments for community-defined projects and strategies
 - (B) repairing and upgrading the infrastructure in the US which includes
 - © Meeting 100 percent of the power demand in the US through clean, renewable, and zero-emission energy sources
 - (D) building a “smart” power grid
 - (E) upgrading all existing buildings in the US and building new buildings to achieve maximal energy efficiency, safety, affordability, comfort and durability
 - (F) spurring massive growth in clean manufacturing in the US
 - (G) working with farmers to eliminate pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from the agricultural sector
 - (H) overhauling transportation systems to eliminate pollution and greenhouse gas emissions
 - (I) mitigating and managing the long-term adverse health, economic, and other effects of pollution and climate change
 - (J) removing greenhouse gases from the atmosphere and reducing pollution by restoring ecosystems through proven low-tech solutions
 - (K) restoring and protecting threatened, endangered, and fragile ecosystems
 - (L) cleaning up existing hazardous waste and abandoned sites

- (M) identifying other emission and pollution sources and creating solutions to eliminate them
- To achieve the Green New Deal goals, it will require the following goals and projects --
 - “(A) providing and leveraging, in a way that ensures that the public receives appropriate ownership stakes and returns on investment, adequate capital (including through community grants, public banks, and other public financing), technical expertise, supporting policies, and other forms of assistance to communities, organizations, Federal, State, and local governments agencies, and businesses working on the Green New Deal mobilizations;
 - (B) ensuring that the Federal Government takes into account the complete environmental and social costs and impacts of emissions through existing laws, new policies...
 - © providing resources, training, and high-quality education to all people of the US...
 - (D) making public investments in the research and development of new clean and renewable energy technologies
 - (E) spur economic development deepen and diversify industry in local economies, while prioritizing high-quality job creation
 - (F) ensuring the use of democratic and participatory processes that are inclusive of and led by frontline and vulnerable communities and workers
 - (G) ensuring that the Green New Deal creates high-quality union jobs that pay prevailing wages, hires local workers, offers training and advancement opportunities, and guarantees wage and benefit parity for workers affected by the transition.
 - (H) guaranteeing a job with a family-sustaining wage, family and medical leave, paid vacations, and retirement security to all people of the US

- (I) strengthening and protecting the right of all workers to organize, unionize, and collectively bargain
- (J) Strengthening and enforcing labor, workplace health and safety, anti discrimination, and wage and hour standards across all employers, industries and sectors.
- (K) enacting and enforcing trade rules, procurement standards, and border adjustments with strong labor and environmental protections.
- (L) ensuring that public lands and waters are protected
- (M) obtaining the free, prior, and informed consent of indigenous people for all decisions that affect them and their traditional territories
- (N) ensuring a commercial environment where every businessperson is free from unfair competition and domination by domestic or international monopolies
- (O) providing all people of the US with -
 - High-quality health care
 - Affordable, safe, and adequate housing
 - Economic security
 - Access to clean water, clean air, healthy and affordable food, and nature.

Just some loose thoughts and first reactions from reading the proposal

- Environmental protections does not seem to be the priority and main focus of a resolution that is supposed to be about reversing the effects of climate change.
- “Green” whatever (buildings, emission standards, energy sources, ect.) are used as an excuse to drastically restructure our economy/society. Many of the proposal that are supposed to be tied to improving the environment don’t relate at all (race, education, strengthening unions, ect.)
- According to the [Green New Deal FAQ](#) that was released (her office has now released a statement saying that this FAQ was

released by mistake and is just an unfinished draft), 92% of Democrats and 64% of Republicans support the Green New Deal. I have a hard time believing this is even close to being accurate. This FAQ is the same sheet that included language that called for economic security for all who are unable or unwilling to work.

- Listing 12 different “frontline and vulnerable communities” that are essentially minority groups has nothing to do with the environment and everything to do with identity politics.
- Nothing in the resolution comes close to offering concrete paths to achieving this. I know a resolution doesn’t have to be as specific as actual legislation but this offers absolutely nothing in terms of how these goals will actually be met.

Sources

“116th Congress 1st Session House Resolution”

<https://assets.documentcloud.org/documents/5729033/Green-New-Deal-FINAL.pdf>

“Green New Deal FAQ”

<https://apps.npr.org/documents/document.html?id=5729035-Green-New-Deal-FAQ>