



The New Green Deal: we have done this before and we can do it again

Sunday April 14, 2019

by

Tony Green

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Agenda

What is
the Green
New Deal?

Déjà Vu?

How can
we meet
its goal?



The Coming Storm



The United States needs to reduce its annual greenhouse emissions from 2016 by 16 percent to achieve our 2025 reduction target communicated through the Paris Agreement and 77 percent to reach our 2050 target.

To strive for the global goal of a 1.5-degree future, the U.S. should aim for zero net emissions by mid-century. This requires massive economic and technological transformation in how we create and consume energy, build structures, and transport people and goods. This transformation must accelerate now.



The Coming Storm

While air and water quality have dramatically improved in the U.S. since the passage of landmark environmental regulations in the 1950s and 1970s, progress has slowed. Too many Americans live without access to consistent clean air and clean water. Air pollution from vehicles and smokestacks cause 200,000 early deaths each year and led to negative health effects such as asthma and lung disease. America's drinking water and waterways are threatened by aging infrastructure and pollution from fossil fuel production. We cannot guarantee clean air and clean water without cutting emissions and fossil fuel extraction.



The Coming Storm



It is hard to envision America without picturing its glorious landscape—whether it is the rolling plains and hills, wide rivers, snow-capped mountains, sandy coastlines, great lakes, or rich forests. The American landscape is not only our heritage but also a vital resource.

Our lives and livelihoods rely upon the landscape for food, fiber, minerals, homesteads, protection, wildlife, and recreation. Clean air and clean water are not possible without healthy, robust lands.

This landscape is our largest natural emissions sinks, literally absorbing millions of tons of greenhouse gases out of the air annually. We must tend to it.



The Coming Storm

Green is not just about environmentalism, it is about livability for the long-term.

As more people move to cities, particularly along the coasts, risk of exposure to poor air quality and threats from climate change only increase.

The right investments in sustainable and resilient infrastructure today will improve livability and reduce the economic and social costs of future disasters.



The Coming Storm

Accomplishing a Green New Deal requires millions of new living wage jobs that provide dignity to families and renew our vision of America in the 21st century. It will grow the economy and revive our belief in a good American job.



The Coming Storm



There has been great progress over the past 50 years of environmental regulation tackling air quality, water quality, lead, and hazardous materials—and yet millions of Americans, especially children, continue to be exposed to toxins in the environment.

Climate change presents entirely new challenges that impact specific communities disproportionately, and many of the proposed solutions will not benefit these communities equitably.



Our Story Begins



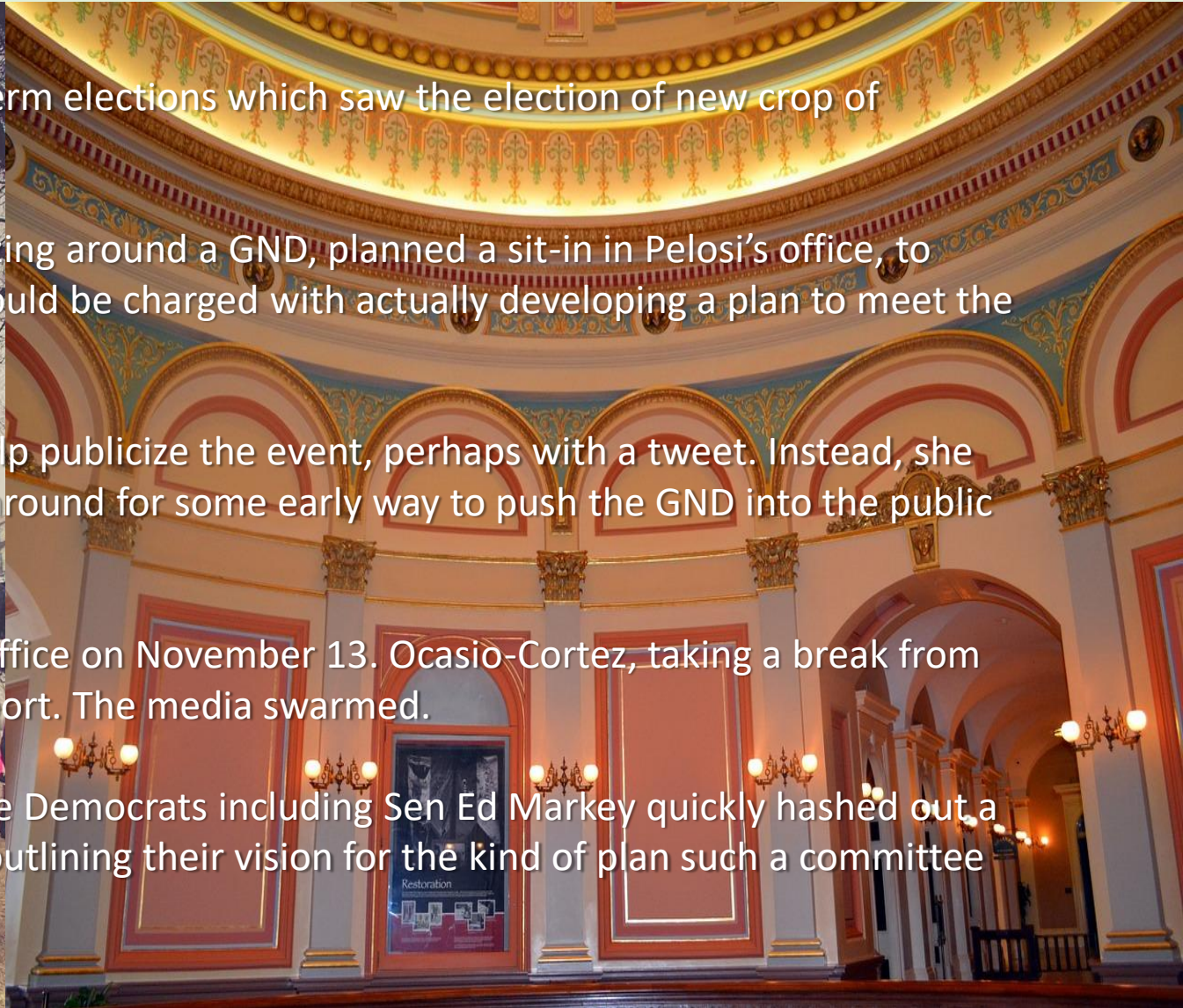
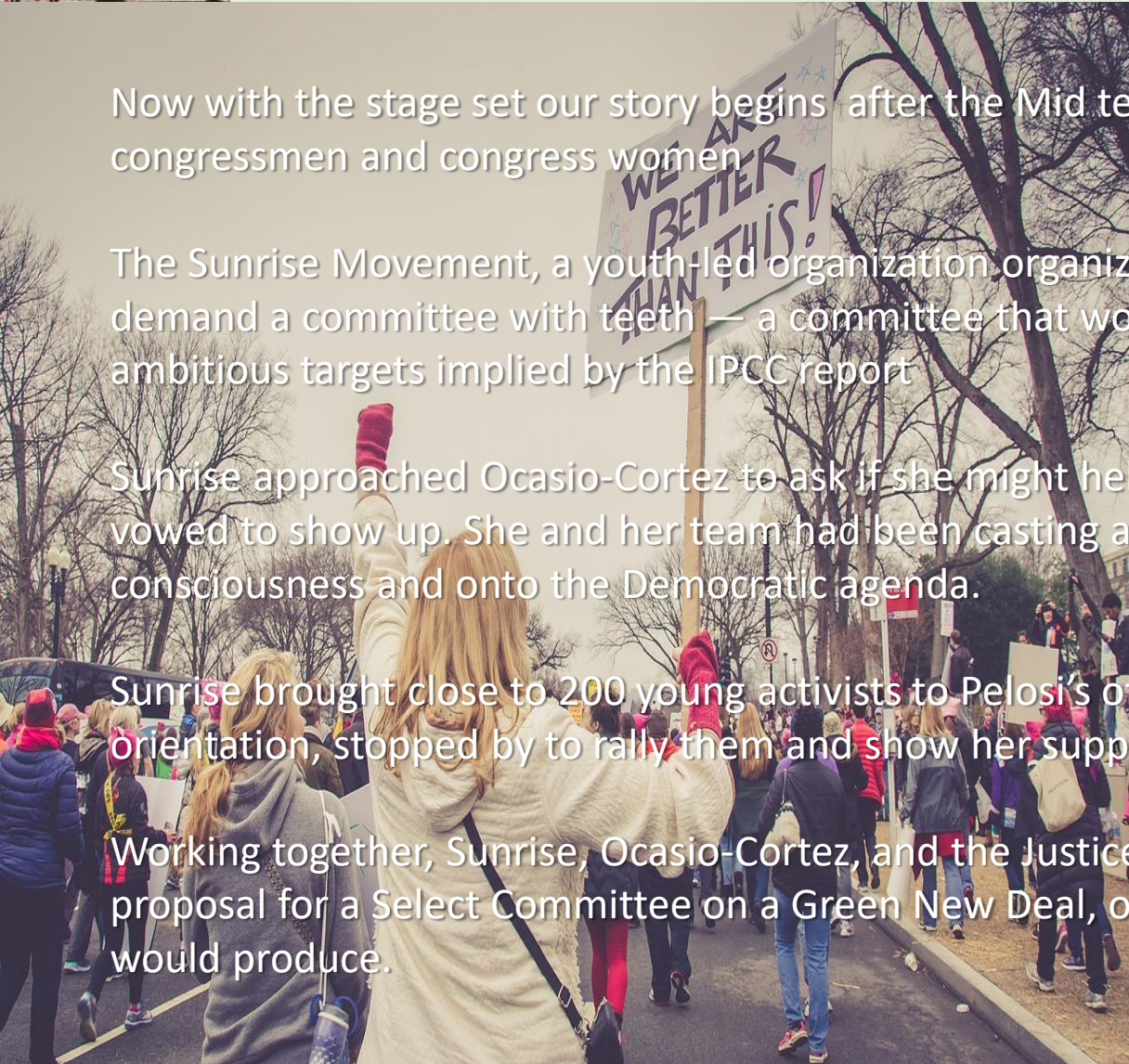
Now with the stage set our story begins after the Mid term elections which saw the election of new crop of congressmen and congress women

The Sunrise Movement, a youth-led organization organizing around a GND, planned a sit-in in Pelosi's office, to demand a committee with teeth — a committee that would be charged with actually developing a plan to meet the ambitious targets implied by the IPCC report

Sunrise approached Ocasio-Cortez to ask if she might help publicize the event, perhaps with a tweet. Instead, she vowed to show up. She and her team had been casting around for some early way to push the GND into the public consciousness and onto the Democratic agenda.

Sunrise brought close to 200 young activists to Pelosi's office on November 13. Ocasio-Cortez, taking a break from orientation, stopped by to rally them and show her support. The media swarmed.

Working together, Sunrise, Ocasio-Cortez, and the Justice Democrats including Sen Ed Markey quickly hashed out a proposal for a Select Committee on a Green New Deal, outlining their vision for the kind of plan such a committee would produce.





They stand behind the Green New Deal



THANK YOU FOR STANDING WITH US

Establish a Select Committee for a Green New Deal & reject fossil fuel campaign donations.



Read the resolution at jdems.us/GND



As do these organizations



GREENPEACE

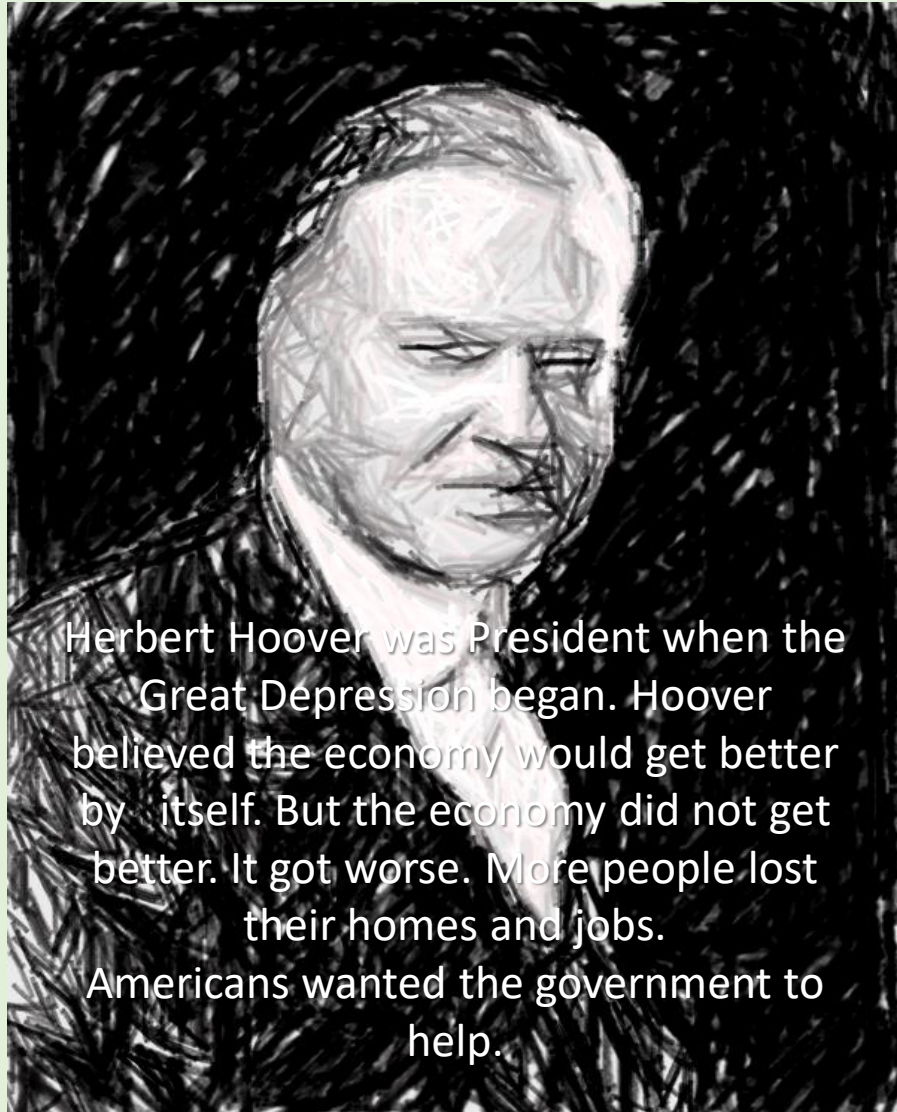
Some say the Green New Deal should include an expansion of the Clean Air Act; a ban on crude oil exports; an end to fossil fuel subsidies and fossil fuel leasing; and a phase-out of all gas-powered vehicles by 2040



Interesting enough six of the largest, most influential environmental advocacy groups have not signed on: the Sierra Club, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Environmental Defense Fund, Mom's Clean Air Force, Environment America, and the Audubon Society.

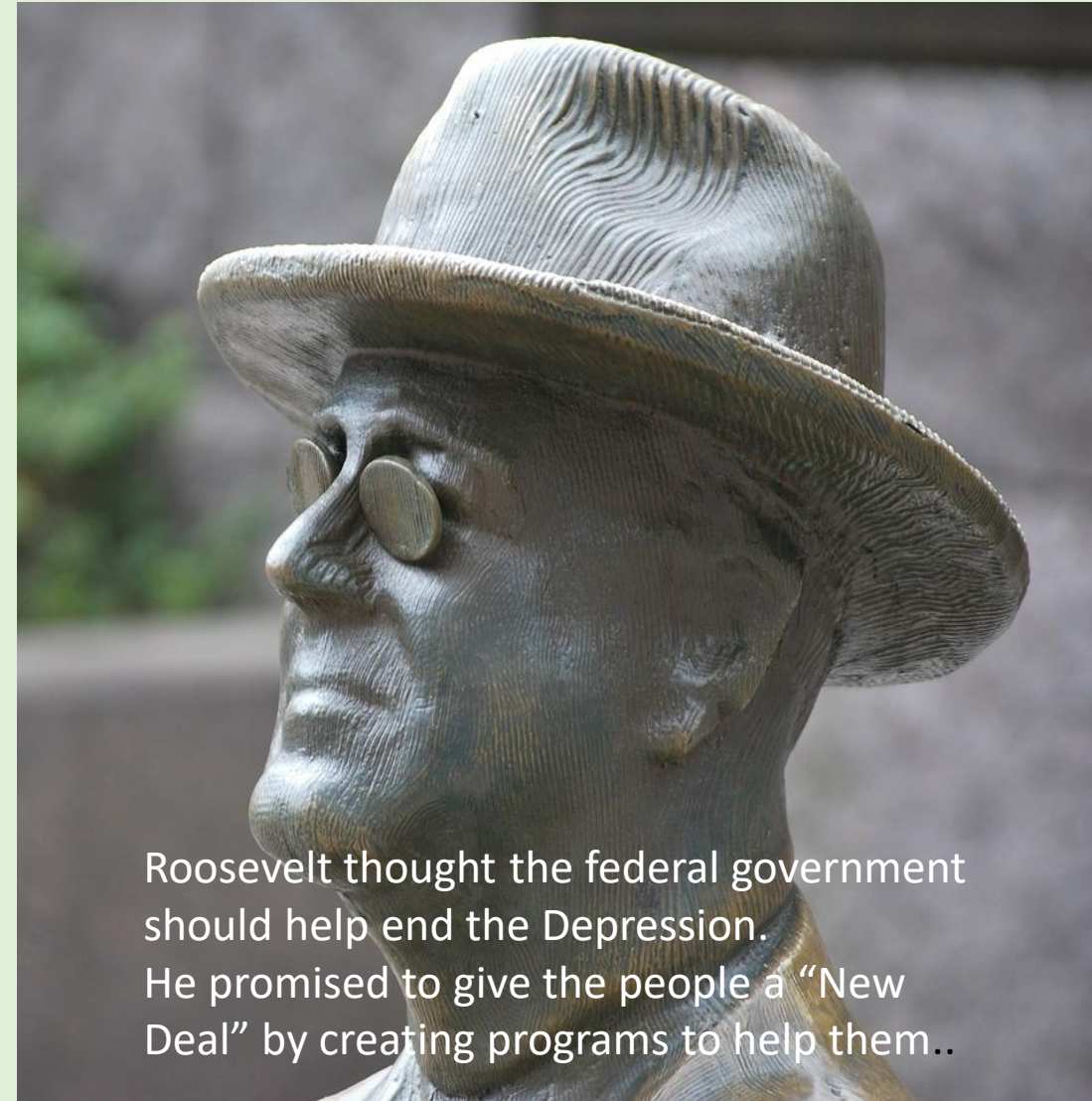


What is the Green New Deal?



Herbert Hoover was President when the Great Depression began. Hoover believed the economy would get better by itself. But the economy did not get better. It got worse. More people lost their homes and jobs. Americans wanted the government to help.

The Election of 1932



Roosevelt thought the federal government should help end the Depression. He promised to give the people a “New Deal” by creating programs to help them..

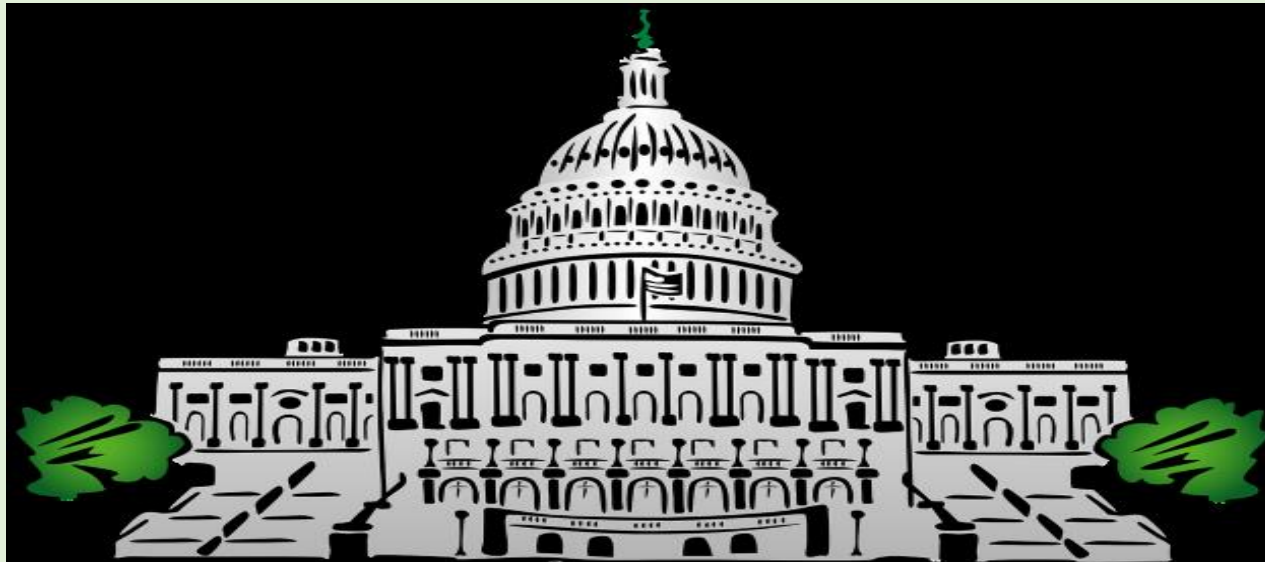


What is the Green New Deal?



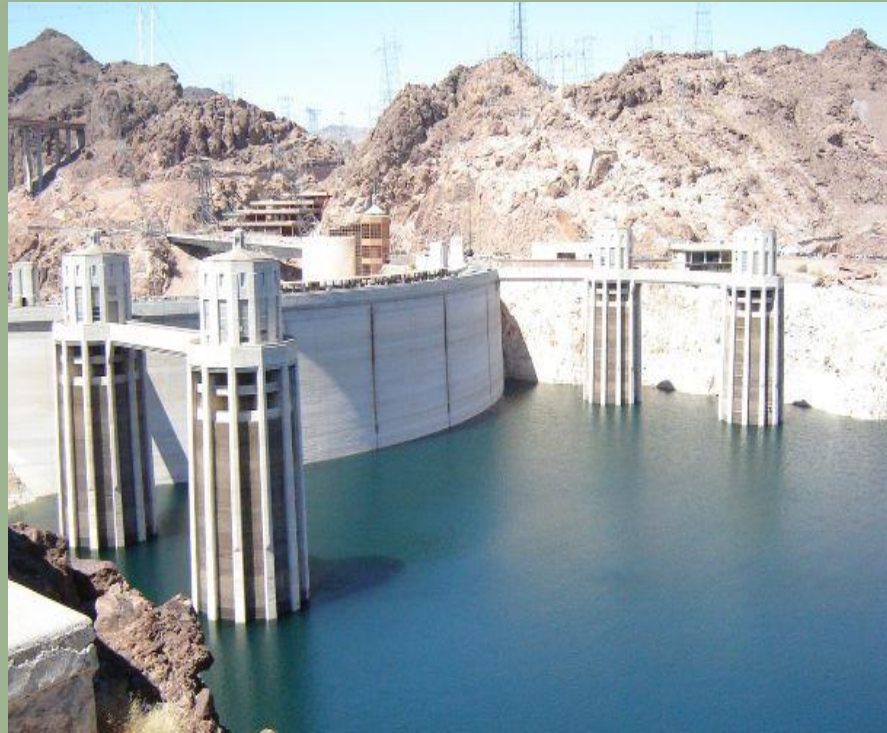
The long Term impacts of the New Deal included

- 1) It helped pull the United States out of the depression
- 2) It changed government – many programs still implemented today





What is the Green New Deal?



What was implemented which was “green”

The Civilian Conservation Corps, or CCC, gave people jobs that conserved, or protected, the natural environment. CCC workers planted trees and cleared hiking trails. The Tennessee Valley Authority, or TVA, gave people jobs building dams on the Tennessee River. These dams created hydroelectricity for rural areas. The dams also prevented floods. Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) – direct relief and work projects for the homeless and unemployed.

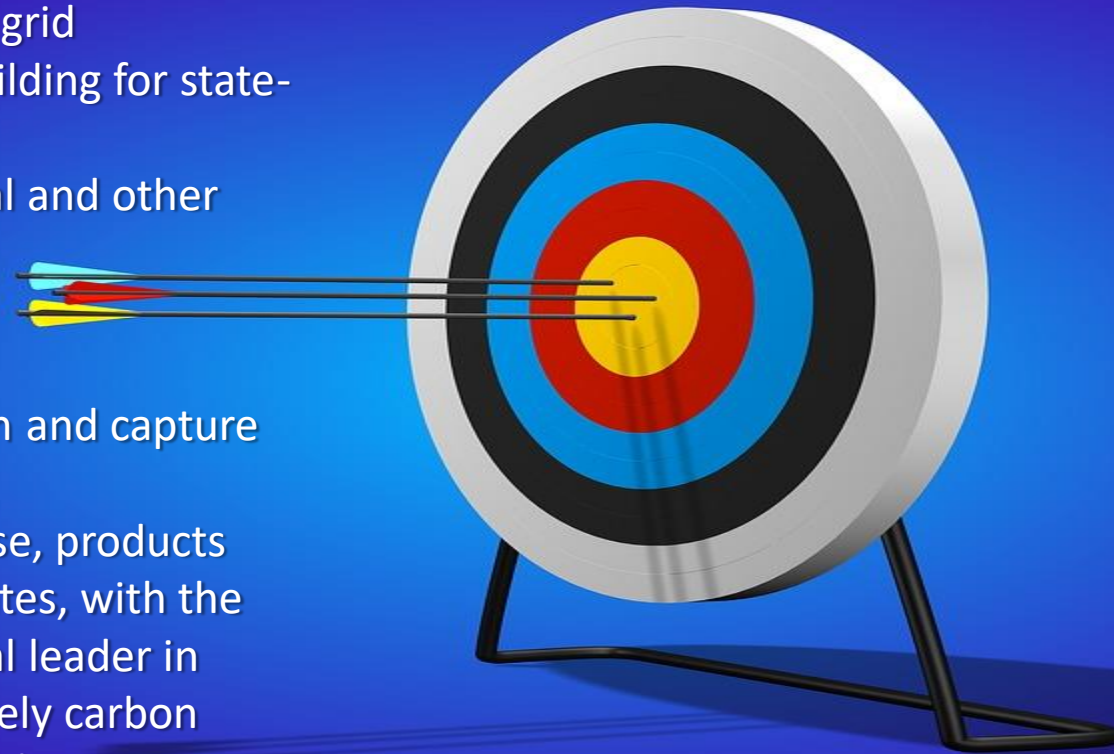


Green New Deal – The Goals



Green New Deal Goals include.....

- ✓ 100% of national power generation from renewable sources
- ✓ Building a national, energy-efficient, “smart” grid
- ✓ Upgrading every residential and industrial building for state-of-the-art energy efficiency
- ✓ Decarbonizing the manufacturing, agricultural and other industries;
- ✓ Decarbonizing, repairing and improving transportation and other infrastructure
- ✓ Funding massive investment in the drawdown and capture of greenhouse gases
- ✓ Making “green” technology, industry, expertise, products and services a major export of the United States, with the aim of becoming the undisputed international leader in helping other countries transition to completely carbon neutral economies and bringing about a global Green New Deal.





Principles of the Green New Deal



A Green New Deal is a big, bold transformation of the economy to tackle the twin crises of inequality and climate change. It would mobilize vast public resources to help us transition from an economy built on exploitation and fossil fuels to one driven by dignified work and clean energy.



Climate Change and inequality are inextricably linked. We cannot tackle one without addressing the other. A Green New Deal would take on **both**.

<https://www.sierraclub.org/trade/what-green-new-deal>

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Principles of the Green New Deal



DECARBONIZATION

We want the policy to match the findings in the IPCC report — to match the scale of the problem,” says Waleed Shahid of Justice Democrats. That means decarbonizing the US economy: getting the electricity sector to zero carbon as soon as possible

This includes changing 100% of our energy sources from fossil fuels to clean(er) and renewable energy sources like wind, hydroelectric, solar, geothermal, renewable natural gas and nuclear power by 2035, with the goal of getting to zero net emissions from energy by 2050.





Principles of the Green New Deal



JOBS



The Green New Deal is not just about climate policy. It is about transforming the economy, lifting the up the poor and middle class, and creating a more muscular, active public sector.

We are experiencing many of the exact same problems that America struggled with in the 1930s, and a robust investment in a new jobs program is exactly what this country needs.



Principles of the Green New Deal



JUSTICE

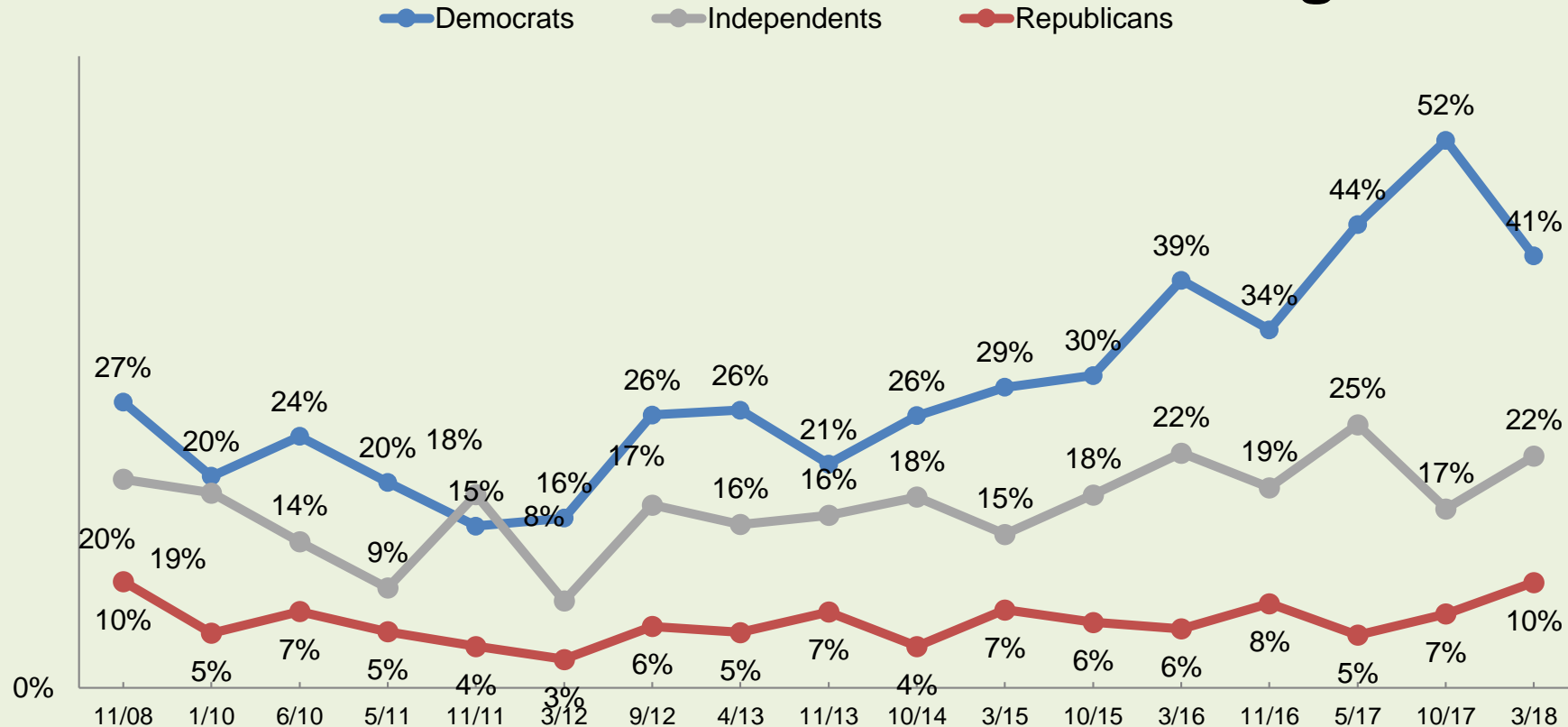
We should to avoid the mistakes of the original New Deal, many elements of which entrenched or exacerbated racial inequalities which were in place at the time.





What do people think about the Green New Deal?

Global Warming Should be a “Very High” Priority for the Next President and Congress



Where are people on this?

The level of public support for a Green New Deal will be high. Young people who feel economically insecure and are worried about the fate of the planet will gravitate toward these ideas.

Do you think each of these issues should be a low, medium, high, or very high priority for the next president and Congress? [Global warming]

Base: Registered Voters.



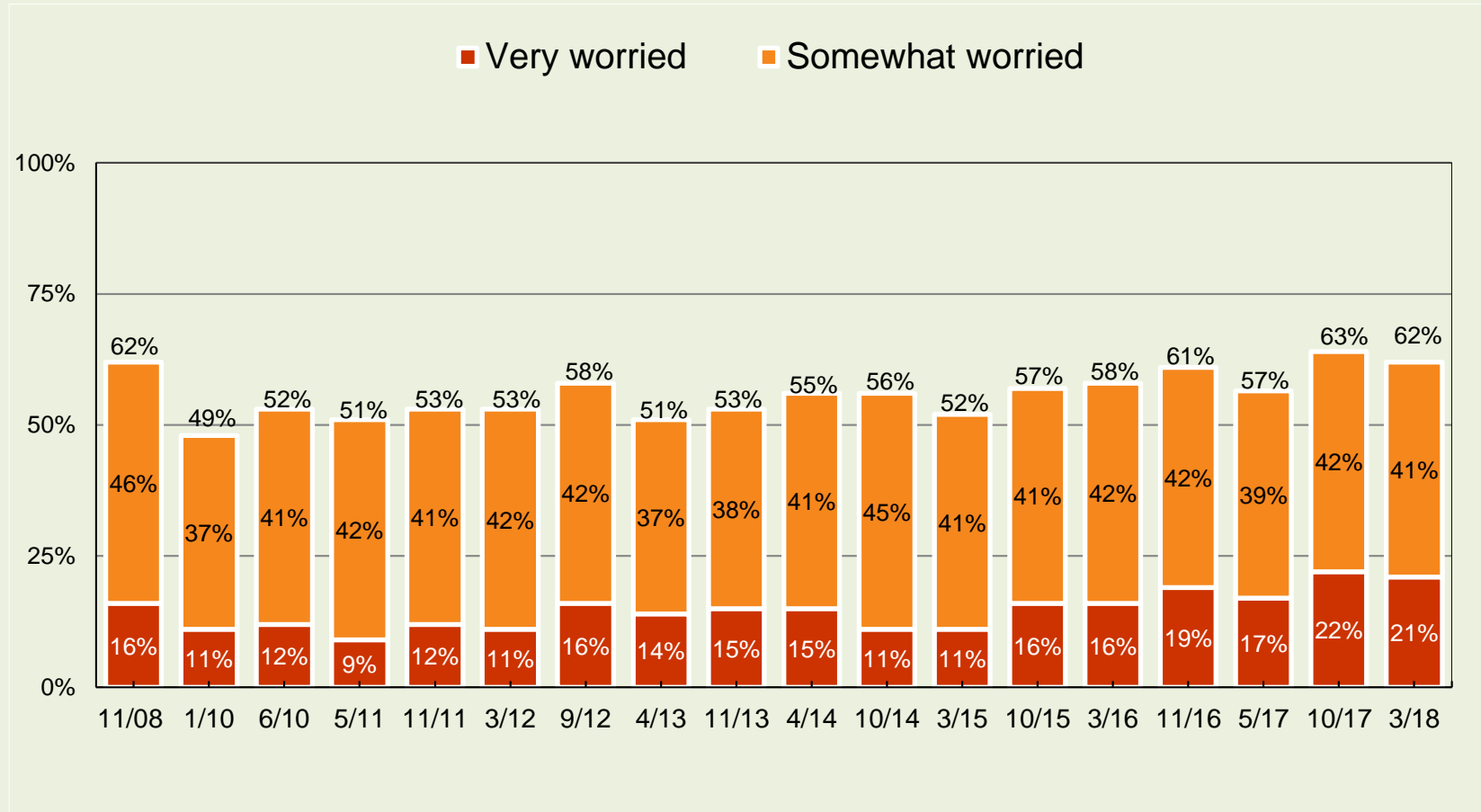
George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication



What do people think about the Green New Deal?



Few Americans Are “Very Worried” about Global Warming



How worried are you about global warming?

March 2018. Base: Americans 18+.



George Mason University
Center for Climate Change Communication

I titled this talk “we have done this before and we can do it again” for a reason – This is why

Everyone remember the movie “Back to the Future” - Where have we seen these before?



Deja Vu



The New York Times |

Opinion

Thomas L. Friedman: The power of green

By THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN APRIL 15, 2007

This article appeared in The New York Times Magazine.

I.

One day Iraq, our post-9/11 trauma and the divisiveness of the Bush years will all be behind us — and America will need, and want, to get its groove back. We will need to find a way to reknit America at home, reconnect America abroad and restore America to its natural place in the global order — as the beacon of progress, hope and inspiration. I have an idea how. It's called "green."

The phrase “Green New Deal” has existed in U.S. political discourse for at least a decade after New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman used it in a 2007 column calling for a plan to transition the American energy system from fossil fuels to renewable sources.

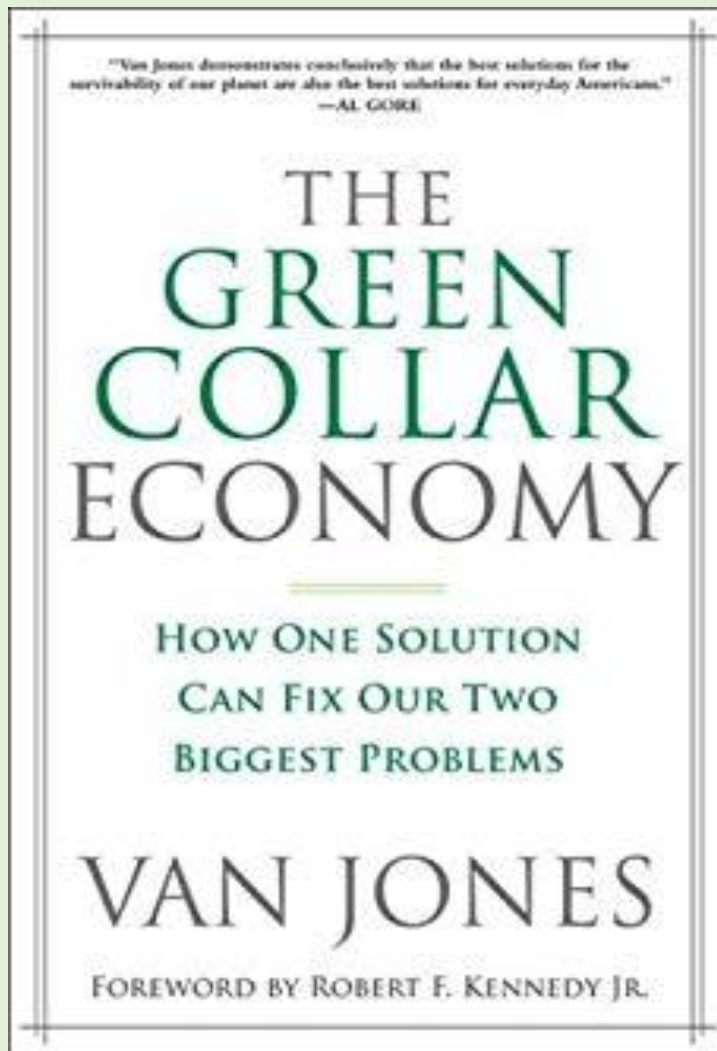
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Deja Vu

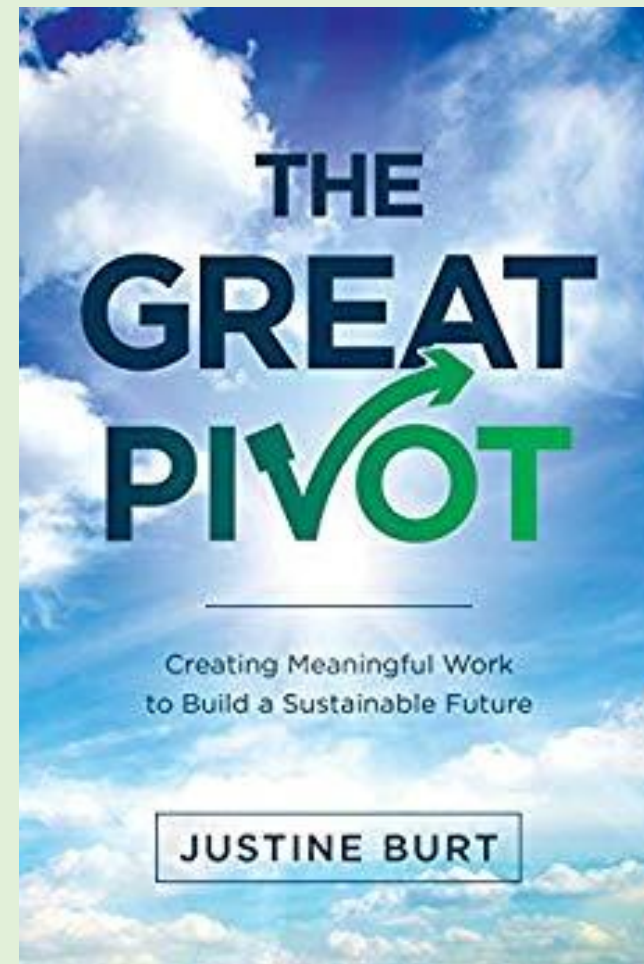


Van Jones, the CNN commentator who once served as President Obama's "green jobs czar," adopted the phrase in his 2008 book "The Green Collar Economy" to describe a plan to create thousands of low- and medium-skill jobs installing solar panels and insulating homes



“We can’t drill and burn our way out of our problems. But we CAN invent and invest our way out.”

—Van Jones





Deja Vu



President Barack Obama signed a prototype Green New Deal into law in February 2009, pouring an unprecedented \$90 billion into clean electricity, renewable fuels, advanced batteries, energy efficiency, a smarter grid and a slew of other green initiatives.



If you haven't heard of Obama's Green New Deal, that's because it was wrapped into an even larger and more controversial piece of legislation: The \$800 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, better known as the Stimulus Bill.



Deja Vu



A year later, the United Nations Environment Programme picked up on the phrase when outlining a “Global Green New Deal” for reducing greenhouse gas emissions without sacrificing economic development,

Would it not be efficient and wise to invest now to build that future sustainability, whilst stimulating the economy for growth, jobs and tackling poverty?





Deja Vu



The American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 (ACES) was a cap-and-trade bill that was wholly insufficient for the scale of the problem.

The bill was also known as the Waxman-Markey Bill, after its authors, Representatives Henry A. Waxman of California and Edward J. Markey of Massachusetts, both Democrats.

Waxman was at the time the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, and Markey was the chairman of that committee's Energy and Power Subcommittee.

Edward J. Markey is the co-sponsor of the Green New Deal along with Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.



How can we meet its goal?



The top three challenges facing the GND:

- 1) Paying for it
- 2) Convincing the public,
- 3) Winning over Democrats and Republicans

How can we meet its goals?





How can we meet its goal?

Sure, it'll cost a lot of money. That's likely to rattle the nerves of self-proclaimed deficit hawks, Democrats and Republicans alike, who will ask the same tired questions: "How will we pay for it?" "What about the deficit and debt?" "Won't it hurt our economy?" In fact, these questions are already coming, with the eager help of the fossil fuel lobby.

Here's the good news: Anything that is technically feasible is financially affordable. And it won't be a drag on the economy — unlike the climate crisis itself, which will cause tens of billions of dollars worth of damage to American homes, communities and infrastructure each year.

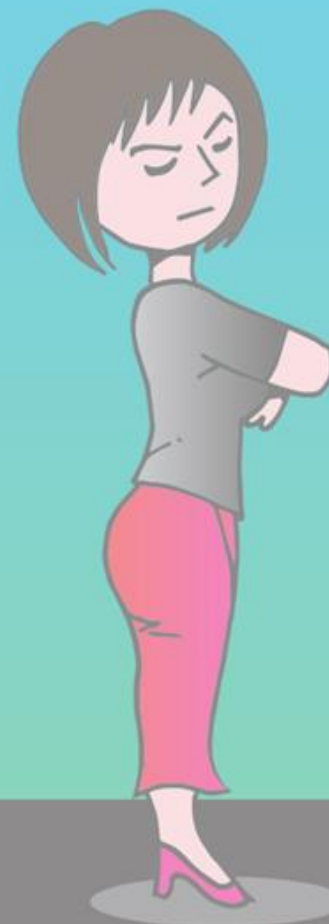
When Congress authorizes spending, it sets off a sequence of actions. Federal agencies, such as the Department of Defense or Department of Energy, enter into contracts and begin spending. As the checks go out, the government's bank — the Federal Reserve — clears the payments by crediting the seller's bank account with digital dollars. In other words, Congress can pass any budget it chooses, and our government already pays for everything by creating new money.

This is precisely how we paid for the first New Deal. The government didn't go out and collect money — by taxing and borrowing — because the economy had collapsed and no one had any money (except the oligarchs). The government hired millions of people across various New Deal programs and paid them with a massive infusion of new spending that Congress authorized in the budget. FDR didn't need to "find the money," he needed to find the votes. We can do the same for a Green New Deal.

déjà vu??



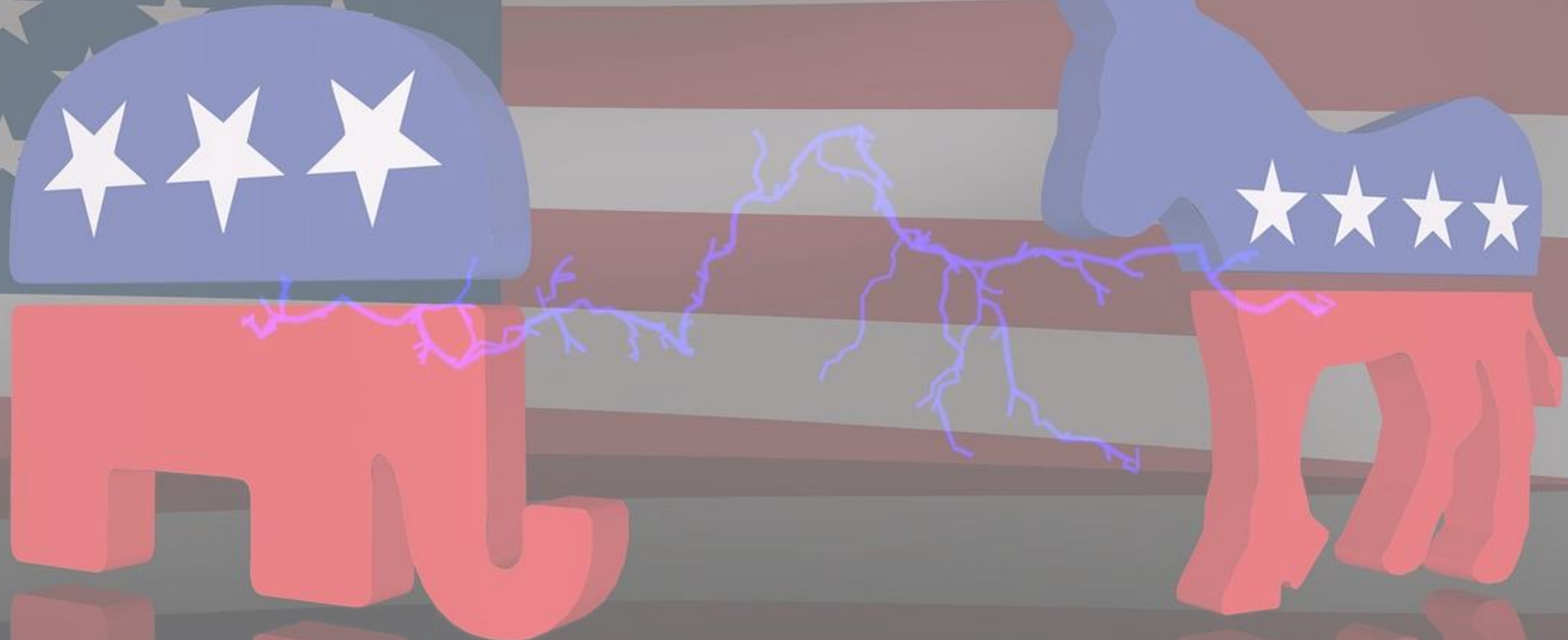
How can we meet its goal?



Convincing the public will require we need to make sure we do not discredit the messenger before hearing the message



How can we meet its goal?



A Bipartisan approach is KEY as Climate Change and Inequity are bipartisan



What does this mean?



There are two BIG Things to take out of the Green Deal - write these down!

1) The political will which created Green New Deal is glimpse of the future. There will be Politicians who are in line with sustainability desires of their constituents

2) Sustainability is finally on THE American AGENDA for the first time

Certainly, the idea will be modified but it is a start to a discussion this country needs to make.



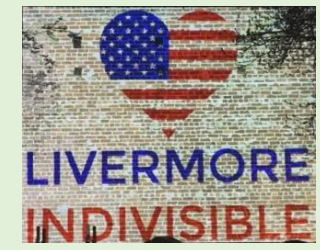


Closing Thought



“Faith is taking the first step even if you do not see the whole stair case” -

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Question and Answers

