

# Why we need a Global Green New Deal -- and how to win it

EDGE Funders Alliance

Prepared by War on Want + The Leap

## What is the Green New Deal & Global Green New Deal?



**The “Green New Deal” (GND) is a national policy framework designed to create millions of jobs by addressing climate and environmental challenges on an unprecedented scale.** The proposals vary by country, but include provisions for government programs to support mass transit, renewable energy infrastructure, building retrofits, electrifications of transport, and cleanup of toxic sites, among others.

**Most Green New Deal frameworks include requirements that these new jobs should be secure, well-paid and unionized,** prioritizing communities who’ve faced systemic discrimination in the current economy, or lost jobs in the energy transition. In this way, the GND is designed to be both a job creator and a vehicle for a “just transition” --- addressing climate issues, poverty, income inequality and racial discrimination all at once.

**A major critique of these Green New Deal frameworks, however, is that they have been developed and framed almost exclusively within wealthy G7 countries,** with little consideration of their potential effects on the rest of the world.

**For example, the programs do not account** for the unprecedented boom of rare earth mineral mining the GND would kick off in the Global South to meet surging demand for electric batteries, solar panels, and turbines, **and the earth’s rapidly-approaching material limits as a whole.**

Another core critique of national Green New Deals is a failure to grapple with the historical responsibility of the global North in creating this era of climate crisis and surging inequality, or the variety and richness of proposals originating from the global South on how to address them. In

short, winning the 'Green New Deal' is not enough - **we could win unprecedented policy shifts in rich economies and still lose the fight for a livable planet.**

**The Global Green New Deal** is an attempt to address these crucial gaps, and extend national-level GND planning and frameworks into the international sphere using a global justice lens. Hundreds of amazing groups and social movements around the world are advancing proposals for a fair and equitable global transition, that can address multiple crises at once and lay the groundwork for everyone to thrive. **Our goal is not only to connect, amplify these proposals, but develop a cohesive policy framework that shapes the policy discourse at national and global level on the 'green recovery' and drive mobilization behind these core demands and campaigns.**

## What work has already been done?

**The Global Green New Deal project kicked off in Spring 2020 with a free webinar featuring Arundhati Roy, Naomi Klein and Asad Rehman** that attracted over 11,000 signups to the project. Since then, War on Want and The Leap -- organizations based in the Global North but with a committed internationalist focus and deep global networks of climate, economic and social justice groups -- have worked to

- map the existing Global Green New Deal policy and campaign spaces;
- Explore and contribute to key research and global policy proposals around the thematic "pillars" of climate and food, land, labour, housing, material extraction, and more;
- prototype collaborative roundtables of policy experts and movement leaders within these issues, the first of which took place in October 2020 with the participation of 30 representatives of global movements, academics and policy experts from all continents
- and produce a series of webinars, conference events and policy write-ups on them.

Drawing on the research, planning and feedback from this development phase, we developed a detailed scope of work for the Global Green New Deal project.

## What will the project include?

Our plans for the next year are organised around three interconnected streams.

### 1. The Policy Building Blocks

We will summarize the core demands of our partner movements, academics and policy specialists as 10 "pillars" of a Global Green New Deal. This will be an accessible write up for an audience of young environmentalists, movements, activists and sectoral leaders, which will enhance their capacity to engage in the GGND work. This will be offered in multiple languages on our upcoming website.

Key policy briefs will include:

- Urgency and Ambition: 1.5c, the carbon budget and fairshares
- Tackling Inequality: Universal Public Services, Living Wages and Social Protection
- Debt, Reparations, Taxation: Financing a just recovery
- A post extractive future: Living within our planet's material limits

We will also produce policy briefs on how to fix the energy and food systems, protecting water and land rights, the nexus between trade and climate and more.

## 2. Communications and Political Education

We will produce a set of inspiring and educational campaigning materials around each of the pillars, including webinars, explainer videos, blogs, op-eds and social media content to educate multiple audiences on ideas like the intersection of crises, the carbon budget, technology transfers, debt forgiveness, material use – and build widespread support for the demands of the GGND.

## 3. Global Mobilisation

We will be organizing an escalating series of engagement and mobilisation activities around **key moments where the foundations of the ‘green recovery’ are being laid** - with G7, the World Food Summit and COP26 as key spaces, plus the WTO Summit and IMF/World Bank meetings.

War on Want is a key organiser of the COP26 civil society coalition in the UK, shaping its narrative and demands towards the Summit. Our intention is to shape public messaging towards the COP, **host a major convening around the GGND on site at COP** (subject to Covid restrictions), with **virtual gatherings of civil society and policy makers** in other spaces, and convene a follow-up **global recovery summit**, potentially in the Global South.

Our goal is to connect movement allies, as well as engage public citizens around these demands, with message coherence, and hold the line on them in our organizing efforts.

### What are the next steps?

1. **Launch of a fresh, accessible website to host the GGND content** (Spring/Summer 2021)
2. **Series of popular education webinars, policy briefs, talks and livestreams on the pillars (starting Spring 2021)**
3. **G7 Mobilisation** (June 2021): we will create a GGND hub that coordinates centralized and decentralized activities amplifying the policy framework, and shaping the discourse through powerful narrative interventions on 3 key areas, the climate crisis, the Covid pandemic and the economic crisis. Online and in person actions will take place in all G7 countries, along with parallel activities in 12 of the most impacted countries in the global South to raise the bar and pressure world leaders for greater urgency and ambition.
4. **UN General Assembly and Climate Week** (September 2021): we will organise a global day of action for the GGND around the UN General Assembly and UN Climate Week.
5. **COP Mobilisation** (November 2021): We will help to organise a Global Day of Action on November 6th with actions in over 100 countries, that will populate the call for climate justice with clear policy demands of the GGND. We will launch the GGND policy write up as part of a major gathering around the GGND - with movements, social scientists, academics, policy experts and decision makers to develop the runway for the GGND over the coming years. At the same time, we will provide movements with policy guidance and a toolkit to intervene with policy makers in the UN talks, and provide media training to other key actors to help shape the discourse around the Summit.

### Why do we need this work now?

This year will be critical to influence the conversation around Covid-19 recovery, and lay the foundations and pathway for what emerges from this moment of global upheaval. We have an unmissable chance to mainstream a truly transformative vision, and put pressure on governments to achieve a green and just recovery that leaves no one behind.

### Who are your partners?

The GGND ecosystem is continuously growing, and in the past year we have engaged with global processes such as the [Global Tapestry of Alternatives](#), [Progressive International](#) and [Demand](#)

Climate Justice, regional initiatives such as Ecosocial Pact of the South and Africa Climate Justice Convergence, renowned organisations like Stockholm Environment Institute and new initiatives such as the University of East Anglia's Centre for Environmental Justice and The Great Unraveling. Across the globe, we are engaging with global networks and War on Want's long-standing allies and partners like CENSAT, OCMAL, and Sintracarbon (Coal Workers Union, Colombia) in Latin America, Abahlali baseMjondolo, WoMin, Kenyan Peasant League and OTE in Africa, and MONLAR and the Bangladesh Agricultural Farm Labour Federation in the Asia Pacific region. Academic activists such as Kate Aronoff and Jason Hickel have been contributing to the details of the policy analysis. We will continue to engage and support our allies and collaborators as we deepen the level of dialogue around a GGND and its potential.

## What is the project budget?

The approximate total cost of the project, which started in January 2020, is \$745,000. We are extremely grateful to the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung and an anonymous donor who supported the early phases of the project. With the recent addition of Open Society Foundations to our supporters, we have raised just over \$340,000. We are now seeking to raise \$405,000 in the next six months to launch a public campaign that will educate and engage key audiences, and mobilise thousands of people around key international policy gatherings in 2021.

## How will my funds be spent?

In the past year, we have been able to convene a wide-ranging group of partners from across the world and we are currently working on the policy building blocks. Now that we have laid the groundwork, we're looking for your support to fast track the dissemination of the GGND pillars - and build the support we need to completely revolutionise the GND discourse. With your funds, we will create a global campaign that will engage multiple audiences of young environmentalists, movements, activists and policy makers around the world. Some examples of how your funds will be spent include creating new content for our upcoming website, launch of social media channels, a series of webinars centering the GGND pillars, explainer videos on key concepts such as 1.5 vs 2 degrees warming scenarios, reparations and fair shares, online and in-person gatherings to mobilise our audiences around G7 and COP26, blogs, op-eds and regular media presence.

## Who's behind the project?



**War on Want:** War on Want believes that by working together as a global movement we can challenge the deep-rooted causes of inequality and injustice. We have decades of experience supporting grassroots movements, trade unions and workers' organisations in Latin America, Africa and Asia. We stand with our partners in the Global South on the front lines of climate violence, and support human rights defenders in the fight for their land and livelihoods. In the UK, we campaign for

climate justice and for a Global Green New Deal to protect people and planet, and to hold UK based companies to account for their destructive operations. [waronwant.org](http://waronwant.org)



**The Leap:** The Leap exists to inject new urgency and bold ideas into confronting the intersecting crises of our time: climate change, racism and inequality. We believe that if we bring new people into our movements, expand Green New Deal coalitions beyond traditional environmental groups, and work with those allies to bring truly intersectional visions of a post-carbon economy to life, we can lay the foundations for a cultural shift inspiring massive public and political support for a Green New Deal. [theleap.org](http://theleap.org)

## **I want to help! Is my donation tax deductible?**

War on Want is the leading partner to receive donations, and a registered charity in the UK. The Leap is also able to receive 501(c)(3) donations, so your contribution can be fully tax deductible. Please contact War on Want's Senior Fundraising Officer Natalia Guidorzi at [nguidorzi@waronwant.org](mailto:nguidorzi@waronwant.org) for more detail.

## **I want to help in another way**

We would love to hear from you! Please contact Natalia Guidorzi at [nguidorzi@waronwant.org](mailto:nguidorzi@waronwant.org) EDGE Funders Network will also be hosting a working group for funders interested in further engaging with these ideas. To join in please email Martina Fin at [martina@edgefunders.org](mailto:martina@edgefunders.org).

## **How can I keep in touch with your work?**

You can sign up for updates at [www.globalgnd.org](http://www.globalgnd.org).