

What is the Green New Deal (GND)?

The federal Green New Deal is a congressional resolution to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as well as economic inequality and racial injustice. It focuses on creating new green jobs and training via a transition to clean energy, electrified transportation, and energy conservation. The Green New Deal for Seattle followed this model and was originally defined in and built on [City Council Resolution 31895](#) and, subsequently, [City Ordinance 125926](#). These policy documents laid out far-reaching goals for the GND, directed the Office of Sustainability and Environment to establish an interdepartmental team to ‘advance the GND for Seattle’ and established a 19-person GND Oversight Board. The Resolution and Ordinance were, in part, the result of a broad-based community organizing effort spearheaded by Got Green and 350 Seattle.

Advancing a GND for Seattle

[Mayor Durkan’s Executive Order \(EO\) 2020-01](#) directed City departments to advance a Green New Deal for Seattle and “work collaboratively and boldly to eliminate climate pollution, prioritize climate justice, and invest in an equitable transition to a clean energy economy.” The EO is mainly focused on greenhouse gas emissions reductions, and prescribes these direct actions:

- Reduce pollution to limit global average temperature increase to 1.5C
- Promote economic opportunity and access to stable, well-paying jobs
- Advance environmental justice especially the benefits of transitioning to clean energy

SPU and the GND

SPU is one of seven City departments working together to implement Mayor Durkan’s EO. Specifically, SPU is working to:

1. Identify options to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

The City Team, including SPU, will review and evaluate opportunities to lower greenhouse gases, and identify the top 10 City actions for greenhouse gas reductions by June 1, 2021.

2. Electrify Municipal Buildings

SPU is developing a two-phased strategy to electrify its buildings. Phase 1 is due September 1, 2020 and will include any new buildings or buildings with planned substantial alterations during the 2021 or 2022 budgets. Phase 2 is due January 1, 2022 and will include all other buildings owned by SPU.

3. Engage community during the clean energy transition

The City Team will work to center community leadership and priorities in the implementation of the clean energy transition. This includes:

- a) Identifying and strengthening economic opportunity pathways for workers most impacted by transition to a clean energy economy.
- b) Participating in stakeholder engagement to develop City policies for funding and investments, and to advance opportunities for community (philanthropic, business, labor, NGO, health care, tribes) partnership.

4. Measure Progress

SPU will participate in efforts to determine and track key indicators to better understand greenhouse gas emissions trends and prioritize investments.

SPU and Climate Change

Collaborative implementation of the GND is just a part of SPU’s climate work. SPU staff across the department are working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adapt our systems and operations to a changing climate, and leverage investments to better support communities the utility serves. There is an SPU core team of staff from each line of business, as well as Environmental Justice and Service Equity and Corporate Policy/Governmental Relations who are working to define and communicate about SPU’s climate work.

Questions? Contact Ann Grodnik-Nagle, Sam Keller, or Francine Johnson for more information.