

GREEN NEW DEAL
— NETWORK —

February 11, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We, the undersigned organizations, write to thank you for your early commitment to addressing the historic crises this nation faces and to urge you to build on this commitment by going big on jobs, care, climate, and justice in the economic rebuilding and recovery plan you have indicated you will soon introduce. Specifically, **we call on you to produce a plan that will create at least 16 million family-sustaining jobs that put people to work solving the climate crisis and providing care—and to ensure those jobs are distributed equitably and remain in place over the next decade, as outlined in the THRIVE Agenda.**

We write with appreciation for the significant actions you have already taken toward these ends in the first days of your presidency as part of the Build Back Better platform. You have brought skilled leaders with a track record of advocating for the public interest into your administration and have announced a number of groundbreaking executive actions to cut pollution, create jobs, prioritize racial justice, and, of course, provide care during a pandemic. We thank you for advancing a whole-of-government approach to climate change and environmental justice. In addition, the commitments you made during your campaign to invest trillions of dollars into climate, manufacturing, and care jobs are substantial. We look forward to working with your administration and Congress to deliver and expand on such commitments.

As you have recognized, the pandemic, racial injustice, economic distress, and climate change constitute severe and intersecting crises, each grounded in systemic challenges that are far from new, but all of which are acute in this moment. Our country can emerge from these crises, and can do so stronger than before, but to do so requires even bolder government action than you have proposed to date—action as ambitious as the New Deal, which put millions of Americans back to work in the wake of the Great Depression. This time though, we can and must ensure everyone is included and provided the opportunity to participate in the process.

The comprehensive economic recovery proposal you plan to introduce presents a crucial opportunity to address interconnected crises at scale. What you propose will set the stage; what you prioritize will have considerable impact on what Congress passes.

Last fall, hundreds of union, racial justice, climate, and other grassroots organizations and more than 100 members of Congress joined forces to launch [the THRIVE Agenda](#), a bold blueprint to transform, heal, and renew our economy in a way that creates millions of jobs in service of a just, healthy, and equitable society.

The endorsing organizations represent tens of millions of people who have been harmed by the pandemic, are struggling in this economy, navigate the reality of racism and injustice every day, and have been harmed by the floods, fires, droughts, and storms caused by our changing climate. **Our communities are eager and ready to get to work** building a regenerative economy that tackles the overlapping crises of mass unemployment, injustice, public health, and climate change. And we want to do it with good jobs, represented by unions and distributed equitably—including within communities that have previously been excluded from economic opportunity and that have been disproportionately harmed by pollution. One analysis from economists¹ indicates the THRIVE Agenda would create nearly 16 million family-sustaining jobs—enough to end the unemployment crisis, with at least 40 percent of investments focused on disadvantaged communities and those on the front lines. Polling has found strong support in swing states and districts for each of the eight pillars of the THRIVE Agenda.²

A large, cross-movement, multiracial, grassroots coalition worked with congressional leaders like Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer to craft the THRIVE Agenda. When the THRIVE Agenda was introduced last year, Leader Schumer stated, “I make you this pledge. If, God willing, I become Majority Leader next year, you can be sure we’ll make it a top priority to pass a just economic renewal bill following the principles of THRIVE to confront climate change, economic inequality, and racial justice.”

We note that some of your actions and proposals to date already include components of the THRIVE Agenda outlined below, and we thank you for it. **We call on you to work with us to incorporate the entirety of the THRIVE Agenda into the economic recovery proposal you will soon announce.**

We will be mobilizing in support of this bold agenda, and commit to having your back when you incorporate it into your pending recovery proposal.

The following summary lays out components of the THRIVE Agenda that are essential for an economic recovery rooted in justice. Any plan for economic renewal will be judged as adequate to the challenge based on whether it upholds the following eight pillars:

1. Create millions of good, safe jobs, strengthened by unions and collective bargaining, by investing in clean, renewable energy and energy efficiency; in public health, public services, and care work, including the historically unpaid work of caring for children, the elderly, and the sick; in upgrading our broken infrastructure to expand access to clean and affordable water, transportation, energy and high-speed broadband; modernizing and retrofitting millions of homes, schools, offices, and industrial buildings to cut pollution and

¹ In “Job Creation Estimates Through Proposed Economic Stimulus Measures” (September 2020), Robert Pollin and Shouvik Chakraborty of the Political Economy Research Institute at University of Massachusetts Amherst found that actions such as those contemplated in the THRIVE Agenda could create some 15.5 million jobs per year. <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5f53b5996b708446acb296c5/t/5f5a2a6dc21f38271ec5629b/1599744622100/THRIVE+--+PERI+Jobs+Analysis+FINAL.pdf>

² “Voters Support the THRIVE Agenda,” Data for Progress, September 2020. <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5f53b5996b708446acb296c5/t/5f5a2a24074004756e4c0af2/1599744563655/THRIVE+--+DFP+Poll+FINAL.pdf>

costs, and creating green, affordable housing; in protecting and restoring wetlands, forests, and public lands; cleaning up pollution in our communities; and in bolstering regenerative agriculture.

Your executive order on “Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad” ([climate executive order](#)) offers encouraging first steps toward such investments by, for example, leveraging public purchasing in support of clean transportation, working to expand renewable energy on public lands, moving to upgrade the energy efficiency and climate resilience of public buildings including public housing, and establishing a Civilian Climate Corps.

In expanding on this early action, the economic recovery plan should prioritize mobilizing direct, public investments, while excluding false solutions that increase inequality, privatize public lands or nature, violate human rights, or expedite the destruction of ecosystems. By prioritizing clean, domestic manufacturing and decent service jobs for these investments, we can develop and transform America’s industrial base, while creating high-skill, high-wage jobs across the nation. Your [executive order to strengthen Buy America](#) lays the groundwork to help achieve this objective. To create opportunities for family farmers and rural communities, the economic recovery plan must untangle the hyper-consolidated food supply chain that feeds Wall Street profits and instead invest in local and regional food systems that support farmers, agricultural workers, healthy soil, and climate resilience. Meanwhile, as the pandemic exposes the vital nature of the care economy, we must invest in job creation and increased protections, wages, and benefits for the unpaid and undervalued care workforce. Throughout the economy, we should drive investment toward real full employment, where every person who wishes to work has a viable pathway to a meaningful and dignified job with the option to join a union. New public employment programs should be established as necessary to help achieve this goal. The scale of investment should be sufficient to reach full employment and to address the interlocking crises we face.

This will require a multi-trillion dollar package as a down payment on a full investment of at least \$1 trillion per year over the next ten years. Each job created under this plan should be subject to high-road labor standards that ensure family-sustaining wages and benefits, including childcare support; ensure safe workplaces; and protect the rights of workers to organize. Your climate executive order takes an important step in this direction by directing agencies to update, apply, and enforce wage and benefit standards for public procurement.

2. Build worker power to fight inequality. This plan should give workers themselves the tools to ensure that millions of new clean energy jobs, as well as millions of existing low-wage jobs, become the family-supporting union jobs that everyone deserves. To reverse the corporate erosion of workers’ organizing rights and bargaining power, we must pass the PRO Act, which repeals unjust bans on worker protests, limits employer interference in union organizing, and ensures that employers may not use franchising or any other corporate structure to suppress workers’ rights or hinder collective bargaining with the companies that control workers’ jobs. In addition, the federal government must ensure that all public dollars go toward creating high quality jobs with access to a union. Your administration has taken a step in that direction by [directing agencies](#) to come up with new standards for federal contractors to ensure those workers are paid at least \$15 an hour.

Your economic rebuilding plan should advance sectoral bargaining in key economic sectors and ensure that no workers are misclassified as “independent contractors.” Labor reforms also must expand union representation for all workers, particularly women and people of color, including through registered apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs. In service of this goal, proposals must include your commitment in your Build Back Better plan to use the levers of government and federal funding to provide new opportunities to child and home care workers, workforces dominated by women—the majority of whom are Black and Brown—and who have been underpaid and discriminated against for too long. We appreciate your commitment to ensuring care workers can join unions and have a voice in their future.

3. Invest in Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities to counteract racial and gender injustice and support them in building the power that they deserve. This plan should direct at least 40 percent of all investments to communities that have been excluded by racist and unjust practices such as redlining, which would honor your pledge to allocate 40 percent of investment benefits to frontline communities. These investments must enable job creation, economic ownership opportunities that close the racial wealth gap, pollution reduction, climate resilience, small business support, and public services expansion in communities of color, low-income communities, deindustrialized communities, and communities facing environmental injustice. Impacted communities must have the power to democratically plan, implement, and administer these projects, creating the possibility for the people of these communities to lead their own way in rebuilding and renewing their economies. This plan should prioritize local and equitable hiring and contracting that ensures good jobs are available to Black people, people of color, Indigenous, immigrants, people formerly incarcerated (including by banning the box), rural communities, unhoused people, women, poor people, LGBTQIAP+ people, disabled and chronically ill people, and marginalized communities. It should fight stigma and prohibit discrimination. Access to training and apprenticeships should be provided to ensure real pathways to good careers, including those that have historically been inaccessible. When workers are trained, good jobs rebuilding our economy should await them.

4. Strengthen and heal the nation to nation relationship with sovereign Native Nations. Systemic changes in U.S. policies towards Native Nations and their Peoples are essential to tackle our society’s economic, environmental, and health crises. We appreciate your recognition of this fact in your recent “[Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships](#).” For the economic recovery plan to deliver real benefits for Indigenous Peoples, the federal government must honor its Treaty commitments and Trust responsibility, including expanding the trust responsibility to encompass social and environmental concerns, to all Native Nations and their Peoples. Strengthening Tribal sovereignty and honoring the commitment to Indian Treaty reserved rights requires explicit support of the inherent sovereignty of these nations and their members. Specific initiatives that reflect the nuanced relationships with Native Nations must be promulgated, including removing impediments preventing Tribal nations from exercising their full and inherent authority over their own members, lands, and off-reservation hunting, fishing, gathering, and sacred site access and protection; the codification of Free, Prior, and

Informed Consent; and implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, without qualification.

5. Combat environmental injustice and ensure healthy lives for all, with a special focus on the Black, Indigenous, and Latinx communities that have endured alarming death rates from COVID-19 due to disproportionate exposure to air pollution and other cumulative health hazards as a result of decades of environmental racism. The Environmental Justice Scorecard, Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool, and White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council outlined in your climate executive order are welcome initiatives to bolster our push to curb longstanding environmental injustices. In line with the Jemez Principles of Democratic Organizing, these initiatives should include representation from organizations directly accountable to environmental justice communities. These communities should have a significant seat at the table and inform the planning and implementation process. To advance environmental justice, the economic recovery plan must curtail air, water, and land pollution from all sources to remove health hazards from our communities, replace lead pipes to ensure clean water is available to all, and remediate the cumulative health and environmental impacts of toxic pollution and climate change. In addition, this plan must ensure that impacted communities have equitable access to public health resources that have been systematically denied, which includes upgrading unhealthy and overcrowded homes, public schools, and public hospitals; ensuring access to healthy food, mental health support, and restorative justice; and investing in universal childcare, care for people with disabilities, senior care, and a robust care workforce.

6. Avert climate and environmental catastrophe. This plan should spur the largest expansion of clean, renewable energy, emissions reductions, climate resilience, and sustainable resource use in history through investments and standards in the electricity, transportation, buildings, manufacturing, lands, and agricultural sectors. All investments must contribute to a livable climate and environment for today and future generations, including by staying below 1.5 degrees Celsius of global warming, while building climate resilience and sustainable resource use to keep communities safe. To that end, your climate executive order helpfully requires climate criteria to shape permitting decisions for infrastructure investments. The plan should prioritize direct public investment, while excluding false solutions that increase inequality, privatize public lands or nature, violate human rights, or expedite the destruction of ecosystems. Investments and standards for the power sector need to move the country by no later than 2035 to carbon pollution-free electricity that passes an environmental justice screen to prevent concentrating pollution in Black, Indigenous, and communities of color. We welcome your commitment to use procurement policies to support this goal, as described in your climate executive order. The economic recovery plan also should prioritize materials and parts that meet high labor, environmental, and human rights standards throughout the supply chain. To set the stage for such standards, we support the initiative in your climate executive order to craft new regulations “to promote increased contractor attention on reduced carbon emission[s].” Since the goal of this plan is to build a more just and sustainable economy, no funds under this plan should go to corporate fossil fuel and greenhouse gas polluters, but instead to workers and communities impacted by the economic and environmental crises. By acting to eliminate fossil fuel subsidies, your climate executive order supports this objective. Your

economic recovery package should reflect provisions in the recent climate executive order to eliminate fossil fuel subsidies.

7. Ensure fairness for working people and communities, particularly in industries and regions in economic transition or crisis due to COVID-19, climate change, and other economic shocks and shifts. We appreciate the initial steps you have taken toward this goal by creating an Interagency Working Group on Coal and Power Plant Communities and Economic Revitalization in your climate executive order. Going further, the economic recovery plan should include wage and benefit guarantees, guaranteed pensions and healthcare, early retirement offerings, crisis and trauma support, and equitable job placement for displaced workers and marginalized groups. In transitioning areas, investments must support economic diversification, high quality job creation, community reinvestment and tax base replacement, retooling and conversion, reclamation and remediation of closed and abandoned facilities and sites, child and adult care infrastructure, and funding to shore up budget shortfalls in local and state governments.

8. Reinvest in the public sector and establish public institutions to get the job done. Forty years of right-wing attacks on government have eroded the public sector's capacity to ensure that working families and communities have what they need to thrive. This plan must rebuild vital public services and strengthen social infrastructure in our cities and suburban and rural counties, including our public health and healthcare systems, schools, the postal service, rural electric cooperatives, and other services. It must invest in equitable public education opportunities and the workers who provide care to our youngest, our oldest, and communities burdened by neglect. This plan also must create new public institutions, inspired by and improving upon New Deal-era institutions, to ensure universal access to critical resources and to strategically and coherently mobilize and channel investments, in line with the above priorities, at the scale and pace that these times require. This institutional renewal must be coupled with democratic governance and accountability to correct the systemic misallocation of resources and representation that prevents so many of us from meeting fundamental human needs and pursuing fulfilling lives.

With urgent crises facing our nation, and with Democratic control of the White House and both Houses of Congress for the first time in a decade, the job-creating economic recovery package you will initiate this year may represent our last best chance to avoid the worst effects of climate change, while simultaneously making progress in confronting long-standing inequities in our society.

You can count on our support when you advance these proposals. We are ready to get to work.

Sincerely,

Green New Deal Network
Center for Popular Democracy
Climate Justice Alliance
Grassroots Global Justice Alliance
Greenpeace
Indigenous Environmental Network
Indivisible

Movement for Black Lives
MoveOn
People's Action
Right To The City Alliance
SEIU
Sierra Club
Sunrise Movement
US Climate Action Network
Working Families Party

198 methods
350 Conejo / San Fernando Valley
350 Everett, WA
350 Merced
350 New Hampshire
350 Sacramento
350 Seattle
350 Tacoma
350 Triangle
350.org
ActionAid USA
ALIGN: The Alliance for Greater New York
Alliance for a Green Economy
Alliance for Affordable Energy
Amalgamated Transit Union
American Postal Workers Union
American Federation of Teachers
American Friends Service Committee-Northeast office
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)
Anderson Prairie Farm
Annabessacook Farm
Another Gulf is Possible
Another season honey Homestead
Arctic Organics
ART NOT WAR
Asian Pacific Environmental Network
Association of Flight Attendants – CWA
Athens County's Future Action Network
Aytzim: Ecological Judaism
Backbone Campaign
Be A Hero
Beyond Extreme Energy
Beyond the Bomb
Biodiversity for a Livable Climate
BK ROT
Blue Future
Bold Alliance
Brightest

Broward for Progress
Businesses for a Livable Climate
Carroll Gardens Association
CASA
Call to Action Colorado
CatholicNetwork.US
Center for Civic Policy
Central Florida Climate Action
Central Florida Jobs with Justice
Citizen Action of New York
Citizen Action of Wisconsin
Climate Hawks Vote
Climate Reality Project
ClimateMama
CODEPINK
Common Defense
Communication Workers of America
Communities United For Action
Connecticut Citizen Action Group
Conservation Lands Foundation
Davis Creek Farm
Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action
Dogwood Alliance
Down Home North Carolina
Earth Action, Inc.
Earth Ethics
Echotopia LLC
Elected Officials to Protect America
Experimental Farm Network
Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition
FCCPR Climate Crisis Task Force
Florida Rising
Fox Hollow Farm
Galaxy Organic Farm
GASP
Goosefoot Farm LLC
Grassroots Collaborative
Grateful Gardens
Grazy Days Family Farm
Green Earth Goods
Green State Solutions
Green Workers Alliance
Greenbelt Climate Action Network
GreenFaith
Greeningfullife
GreeningUSA
Haverford Climate Action Team
Hometown Action

Hope Well Wine
Illinois People's Action
Inness Farms
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement
Ironbound Community Corporation
J.F. Millet Nursery Gardens
Jane Addams Senior Caucus
JCAN (Jewish Climate Action Network)
Jewish Climate Action Network NYC
Kinetic Communities Consulting
LA Forward
Labor Network for Sustainability
Laura's Garden
League of Conservation Voters
Local Cuts Meat Co.
Long Island Progressive Coalition
Maine People's Alliance
Massachusetts Forest Watch
Massachusetts Peace Action Peace and Climate Working Group
Medicine Creek Farm
Miami Climate Alliance
Miami Workers Center
Michigan United
Milwaukee Riverkeeper
Mothers Out Front
Muddy Fork Farm LLC
Museum Of Universal Self Expression (MUSE, Inc.)
National Domestic Workers Alliance
National Network for Immigrant & Refugee Rights
NC Climate Justice Collective
Nelson - Winter Farm & Forest
Network for a Sustainable Tomorrow
New Hampshire Youth Movement
New Jersey Citizen Action
New Jersey Working Families
New Roots Farm
New York City Environmental Justice Alliance
New York Youth Climate Leaders
Northeast Organic Farming Association, Mass. Chapter
Nuclear Information and Resource Service
NY Renews
NY Small Farma
OneAmerica
Organic Consumers Association
Ospital Farms
Our Climate
Our Climate Education Fund

PA Stands Up
Paseo Farmers Market
People For the American Way
Peoples Climate Movement - NY
Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania
Possible Planet
Progressive Democrats of America
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada
RapidShift.Network
Resource Generation
Rights & Democracy (NH + VT)
Roan Creek Ranch
RuralOrganizing.org
San Francisco Rising
Sant La, Haitian Neighborhood Center
Seventh Generation
Shews Grass Fed Beef
Singing Frogs Farm
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team
Somos Sunrise
SouthWest Organizing Project
Sunrise Movement Chicago
Tai Chi 4 L.I.F.E.
TakeAction Minnesota
Texas Campaign for the Environment
The Center for American Progress
The CLEO Institute
The Climate Reality Project, Western New York Chapter
The Greenlining Institute
The People's Lobby
The Wilderness Society
Toluma Farms
Transition Town Port Washington
Unemployed Workers United
Union of Concerned Scientists
United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE)
United University Professions
United Vision for Idaho
US High Speed Rail Association
Utica Bridge Farms LLC
waianu farm
WildEarth Guardians
Women's Earth and Climate Action Network (WECAN)
Women's March
Women's March West Virginia
WV Citizen Action Group
Zioness