

September 4, 2019

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Sustainability and Transportation Committee  
**From:** Yolanda Ho, Analyst  
**Subject:** Green New Deal Oversight Board (CB 119604)

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On September 6, 2019, the Sustainability and Transportation Committee will discuss and may vote on [Council Bill \(CB\) 119604](#) establishing a Green New Deal Oversight Board (Board) that would support implementation of initiatives identified in the Green New Deal for Seattle ([Resolution \(RES\) 31895](#)).<sup>1</sup>

This memorandum describes CB 119604 and proposed amendments. Attachment 1 is the amended bill.

### **CB 119604**

CB 119604 would establish a Green New Deal Oversight Board, staffed and administered by the Office of Sustainability & Environment (OSE). The Board would advise and support City efforts to implement the Green New Deal for Seattle. Key aspects of the proposed Board include:

- 16 members comprised of:
  - Eight community representatives directly impacted by racial, economic, and environmental injustices (including one tribal member and two individuals between the ages of 16 and 25 at the time of their appointment);
  - Three representatives of environmental justice organizations;
  - Two representatives of labor unions; and
  - Three representatives with experience in greenhouse gas reduction and climate resiliency strategies relevant to cities (e.g., public health, infrastructure, sea-level rise, extreme weather events, etc.).
- Terms of three years, with a limit of two consecutive terms.
- Members for whom participating on the Board presents a financial hardship would be eligible for compensation at a rate of \$50 per hour.

The proposed legislation also requests that OSE form an interdepartmental team (IDT) to implement the Green New Deal for Seattle and to support development of individual climate plans for all City departments. The IDT would include representatives from the Department of Parks and Recreation, Seattle Department of Transportation, Office of Planning and Community Development, Office of Housing, Seattle Public Utilities, Seattle City Light, Office of Economic

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<sup>1</sup> See Central Staff [memorandum](#) from the August 6, 2019, meeting of the Sustainability and Transportation Committee for more background information on the Green New Deal for Seattle and discussion of the potential impacts of CB 119604.

Development, Seattle Department of Human Resources, Office of Emergency Management, Department of Neighborhoods, the Mayor’s Office, City Council, City Council Central Staff, and others as needed.

Each department’s climate plan should include targets and metrics to monitor the City’s effort to achieving decarbonization by 2030. OSE would report on these plans to Council by July 1, 2020, and provide progress reports annually beginning in 2021. The IDT is also expected to meet quarterly with the Board on the development of these plans as well as policies, programs, and projects related to the Green New Deal for Seattle.

**Proposed Amendments**

The following table describes a summary of the amendments proposed for CB 119604. Attachment 1 is the amended bill.

*Table 1. Description of proposed amendments to CB 119604*

Location	Amendment
Page: 2 Line: 19	Director’s duties expanded to “provide staff support for all boards, commissions and committees associated with the Office of Sustainability and Environment”
Page: 3 Line: 3	Clarified that the Board will be an advisory body to the Mayor and City Council
Page: 3 Lines: 8 – 23	<p>Modified duties of the Board to include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Providing proposals for the design of new policies, programs, and projects and for modifications to existing policies, programs, and projects to the Mayor, City Council, and City departments that advance the Green New Deal for Seattle. Before the Mayor submits to the Council any changes to City policies related to the Green New Deal for Seattle requiring Council approval by ordinance, the Mayor will notify the Board. Policy areas include, but are not limited to the following: public health; climate change and climate preparedness; environment; energy; workforce development, including green jobs; housing; and transportation;</li> <li>2. Supporting the planning and implementation of individual City departmental annual climate action plans and specific actions, policies, programs, and practices, to make Seattle climate-pollution free by 2030;</li> <li>3. Providing recommendations on City budget priorities;</li> <li>4. Coordinating efforts with the Environmental Justice Committee, Equitable Development Initiative Advisory Board, Transportation Equity Workgroup and other City Boards and Commissions, as needed; and</li> <li>5. Reviewing a quarterly report of outcomes and indicators for the previous year related to policies, programs, and projects related to the Green New Deal for Seattle.</li> </ol>
Page: 4 Line: 8	Removed requirement for confirmation by a majority vote of the City Council to allow for confirmation by a majority of Councilmembers present.

Location	Amendment
Page: 4 Line: 10	Initial terms changed to be staggered by two groups, each a year apart, such that no initial member will serve less than two years on the Board.
Page: 5 Line: 2	Members of “communities directly impacted by racial, economic and environmental injustices” defined as “part of a community-based organization or community group that represents a community that is disproportionately burdened by pollution and environmental hazards and, based on socioeconomic and population health risk factors, is particularly vulnerable to an increased pollution burden; and must carry out the majority of their work using a community-based approach in the Seattle area.”
Page: 5 Line: 6	Increased tribal representation from one to two positions and prioritized representatives of the Suquamish Nation and Muckleshoot Indian Tribe for membership.
Page: 5 Lines: 11 – 14	Reduced representatives of organizations engaged in environmental justice work from three to two and added one representative of an organization involved in workforce training.
Page: 6 Line: 3	Added requirement that the Board submit an initial workplan to the Council and the Mayor by July 1, 2020, and provide an updated workplan annually in subsequent years.
Page: 6 Line: 6	Removed requirement for confirmation by a majority vote of the Board to allow for confirmation by a majority of Board members present.
Page: 6 Line: 15	Added the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections to the Interdepartmental Team (IDT).
Page: 6 Lines: 20 – 23	Added that climate plans developed by City departments should include specific actions and timelines for implementing actions annually, with a priority on actions that can be implemented immediately.
Page: 6 Line: 21 Page: 7 Line: 6	Changed goal of City departmental climate action plans to the “elimination of climate pollutants” by 2030
Page: 7 Line: 2	Added that the IDT should consult with the Board on the implementation of climate action plans, not just on the development of these plans.
Page: 7 Line: 4	Added that each City department should present its climate action plan to the City Council.

**Next Steps**

If this proposal is adopted, the Council will need to appropriate resources to OSE during the 2020 budget deliberations for Board member compensation and possibly additional staffing to support the work of the Board and proposed IDT. As discussed previously, future staffing and fiscal resources may also be necessary in the out years to support ongoing implementation and monitoring of climate action plans.

**Attachment:**

Attachment 1 – Amended CB 119604

cc: Kirstan Arestad, Exec Director  
Aly Pennucci, Supervising Analyst

**CITY OF SEATTLE**

**ORDINANCE \_\_\_\_\_**

**COUNCIL BILL \_\_\_\_\_**

..title

AN ORDINANCE relating to the Green New Deal for Seattle; establishing the Green New Deal Oversight Board; providing compensation for those who incur a financial hardship by their participation on the Board; requesting that the Office of Sustainability and Environment create an interdepartmental team to advance the Green New Deal for Seattle; amending Section 3.14.970 of the Seattle Municipal Code; and adding a new Section 3.14.979 to the Seattle Municipal Code.

..body

WHEREAS, concurrently with this ordinance, The City of Seattle (“City”) is considering a resolution affirming support for the federal Green New Deal and identifying goals and actions for a Green New Deal for Seattle; and

WHEREAS, within that resolution is a commitment to creating new revenues to implement some of the necessary actions to achieve the goals of the Green New Deal for Seattle; and

WHEREAS, in addition to aligning the City’s current investments to support the Green New Deal for Seattle, resources above and beyond dedicated revenues for a Green New Deal for Seattle will be necessary to achieve the City’s goals; and

WHEREAS, a Green New Deal Oversight Board (“Board”) will offer insight and perspective from those communities most impacted by economic, racial, and environmental injustice, supported by individuals with various areas of expertise in the issue areas outlined in the Green New Deal for Seattle resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Board is intended to hold the City and other stakeholders accountable to their commitments to implementing equitable policies, programs, and projects that realize the vision laid out in the Green New Deal for Seattle; and

1 WHEREAS, the Board will ensure that racial equity is centered in all City policies, programs,  
2 and investments related to the Green New Deal for Seattle by engaging Black,  
3 Indigenous, and people of color and advancing their priorities; and

4 WHEREAS, it may be a financial hardship for some Board members to devote significant time  
5 to this Board without compensation; and

6 WHEREAS, City departments need to develop actionable plans, targets, and metrics to ensure  
7 that the City is doing its part to meets Seattle’s goal to be free of climate pollutants by  
8 2030; NOW, THEREFORE,

9 **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:**

10 Section 1. Section 3.14.970 of the Seattle Municipal Code, enacted by Ordinance 120121,  
11 is amended as follows:

12 **3.14.970 Director—Duties((:))**

13 The Director of the Office of Sustainability and Environment shall be the head of the Office of  
14 Sustainability and Environment, shall be responsible for the administration of the Office, and  
15 shall:

16 \* \* \*

17 G. Promulgate rules and regulations to carry out departmental activities pursuant to ~~((the~~  
18 ~~Administrative Code, SMC))~~ Chapter 3.02;

19 H. Provide staff support for all boards, commissions, and committees associated with the  
20 Office of Sustainability and Environment~~Provide staff support for the Green New Deal Oversight~~

21 Board;

22 I ~~((H))~~. Exercise such other and further powers and duties as shall be prescribed by  
23 ordinance.

1 Section 2. A new Section 3.14.979 is added to the Seattle Municipal Code as follows:

2 **3.14.979 Green New Deal Oversight Board**

3 A. There is established a Green New Deal Oversight Board (Board) that shall advise and  
4 make recommendations to the Mayor and City Council ~~to provide recommendations on the~~  
5 ~~design and modifications of policies, programs, and projects~~ related to the Green New Deal for  
6 Seattle; and monitor progress in meeting intended outcomes and goals. Duties of the Board shall  
7 include the following:

8 1. Providing proposals for the design of new policies, programs, and projects and  
9 for modifications to existing policies, programs, and projects to the Mayor, City Council, and  
10 City departments that advance the Green New Deal for Seattle. Before the Mayor submits to the  
11 Council any changes to City policies related to the Green New Deal for Seattle requiring Council  
12 approval by ordinance, the Mayor will notify the Board. Policy areas include, but are not limited  
13 to the following: public health; climate change and climate preparedness; environment; energy;  
14 workforce development, including green jobs; housing; and transportation;

15 2. Supporting the planning and implementation of individual City departmental  
16 annual climate action plans and specific actions, policies, programs, and practices, to make  
17 Seattle climate-pollution free by 2030;

18 3. Providing recommendations on City budget priorities;

19 4. Coordinating efforts with the Environmental Justice Committee, Equitable  
20 Development Initiative Advisory Board, Transportation Equity Workgroup and other City  
21 Boards and Commissions, as needed; and

22 B.5. ~~The Board shall review~~ Reviewing a quarterly report of outcomes and

23 indicators for the previous year related to policies, programs, and projects related to the Green

1 New Deal for Seattle. ~~The Council requires that, before the Executive submits to the Council~~  
2 ~~any changes to City policies related to the Green New Deal for Seattle requiring Council~~  
3 ~~approval by ordinance, the Executive will seek the recommendation of the Board.~~

4 BE. The Board shall consist of 16 appointed members, numbered 1 through 16. The  
5 Mayor shall make appointments to positions 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 12, and 15, and the City Council shall  
6 make appointments to positions 2, 4, 6, 10, 13, 14, and 16, and the Board shall make  
7 appointments to positions 8 and 11. Mayoral and Board appointments shall be subject to  
8 confirmation by ~~a majority vote of~~ the City Council. Terms shall be for three years, from May 1  
9 to April 30 three years later, except that the initial terms for positions 1 through ~~85~~  
10 April 30, 2023, ~~the initial terms for positions 6 through 10 shall expire April 30, 2021~~, and the  
11 initial terms for positions ~~911~~ through 16 shall expire April 30, 2022. No members shall serve  
12 more than two consecutive terms. Upon the resignation, retirement, death, incapacity, or removal  
13 of a Board member, the authority appointing such member may appoint a replacement for the  
14 balance of the term. If a person is appointed to fill the duration of an unexpired term, then that  
15 term shall count as one of the two consecutive terms only if the portion of the unexpired term  
16 actually served is at least one year. A member whose term is ending may continue on an interim  
17 basis as a member with voting rights until such time as a successor for that position has been  
18 appointed by the City Council or confirmed by the City Council. Any vacancy in an unexpired  
19 term shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. The appointing authority  
20 may remove any member for good cause, including unexcused absence from two or more  
21 consecutive meetings without cause.

22 CD. The 16 appointed members shall be comprised of the following:



1                   1. Eight members of communities directly impacted by racial, economic, and  
2 environmental injustices. These members must: be part of a community-based organization  
3 or community group that represents a community that is disproportionately burdened by  
4 pollution and environmental hazards and, based on socioeconomic and population health risk  
5 factors, is particularly vulnerable to an increased pollution burden; and must carry out the  
6 majority of their work using a community-based approach in the Seattle area. ~~One~~ Two of these  
7 members should be ~~a tribal member~~ representatives from federally recognized tribes whose treaty  
8 rights are connected to the lands and waterways of Seattle: one representative from the  
9 Suquamish Nation and one representative from the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe. Two of these  
10 members should be between the ages of 16 and 25 at the time of their appointment (Positions 1  
11 through 8);

12                   2. ~~Three~~ Two representatives of organizations engaged in environmental justice  
13 work (Positions 9 through ~~10~~);

14                   3. One representative of an organization involved in workforce training (Position  
15 11);

16                   ~~4~~3. Two representative of labor unions (Position 12 and 13); and

17                   ~~5~~4. Three individuals with depth of experience in greenhouse gas reduction and  
18 climate resiliency strategy relevant to cities and their residents, in fields such as public health,  
19 infrastructure, sea-level rise, or extreme weather events (Positions 14 through 16).

20                   ~~ED~~. The Board should meet every month, or as needed, beginning in January 2020 ~~and~~  
21 ~~shall coordinate efforts with the City's Environmental Justice Committee.~~

22                   ~~EF~~. Members shall serve without pay, except that members may request compensation of  
23 \$50 per hour served if participating on the Board presents a financial hardship. Upon such

1 request, the Director of the Office of Sustainability and Environment is authorized to expend  
2 funds in the Office of Sustainability and Environment’s budget for this purpose. No money may  
3 be expended for services rendered prior to a request being filed with the Director.

4 FG. The Board shall submit an initial workplan to the Council and the Mayor by July 1,  
5 2020, and provide an updated workplan annually thereafter.

6 G. The Board shall have the power to:

7 1. ~~By a majority vote of the Board, e~~lect one or more Board members to serve as  
8 Chairperson for a one-year term, and elect one or more members to serve as Vice Chairperson  
9 for a one-year term, who shall serve as Chair in the absence of the Chairperson.

10 2. Organize itself, establish committees or subcommittees, enlist the expertise of  
11 others as needed, and delegate duties for the performance of its work; and

12 3. Adopt rules of procedure to accomplish its functions.

13 Section 3. The Council requests that the Office of Sustainability and Environment (OSE)  
14 create an interdepartmental team (IDT) to advance the Green New Deal for Seattle. The IDT  
15 should be comprised of representatives from the Department of Parks and Recreation, Seattle  
16 Department of Transportation, Office of Planning and Community Development, Seattle  
17 Department of Construction and Inspections, Office of Housing, Seattle Public Utilities, Seattle  
18 City Light, Office of Economic Development, Seattle Department of Human Resources, Office  
19 of Emergency Management, Department of Neighborhoods, the Mayor’s Office, City Council,  
20 City Council Central Staff, and other departments as needed. The IDT should support the  
21 ~~creation~~ development and creation of annual climate action plans, targets, and metrics for all City  
22 departments that will collectively result in ~~decarbonization~~ the elimination of climate pollutants  
23 by 2030 and measure progress towards this goal. Each City department’s annual climate action

1 plan should include specific actions and timelines for implementing these actions, with an  
2 emphasis on actions that can be implemented immediately. On a quarterly basis, the IDT should  
3 consult with the Board on the development and implementation of City departmental climate  
4 action plans and progress towards goals as well as policies, programs, and projects ~~related~~ to  
5 advance the Green New Deal for Seattle. ~~OSE~~ Each City department should ~~present~~ present  
6 ~~individual City department its~~ climate plans ~~and report~~ to City Council by July 1, 2020, and  
7 thereafter provide annual reports on the City’s progress towards ~~decarbonization climate~~  
8 pollutant elimination goals.

1 Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force 30 days after its approval by  
2 the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten days after presentation, it  
3 shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Section 1.04.020.

4 Passed by the City Council the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019,  
5 and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this \_\_\_\_\_ day of  
6 \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

7 \_\_\_\_\_  
8 President \_\_\_\_\_ of the City Council

9 Approved by me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

10 \_\_\_\_\_  
11 Jenny A. Durkan, Mayor

12 Filed by me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

13 \_\_\_\_\_  
14 Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

15 (Seal)