

GREEN NEW DEAL OVERSIGHT BOARD

# 2022 & 2023

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## BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS



**Seattle**  
Office of Sustainability  
& Environment



**City of Seattle**

**Date:** June 2, 2022

**To: Mayor Bruce Harrell**

**From:** Green New Deal Oversight Board

**cc:** Councilmember Juarez, Councilmember Herbold, Councilmember Lewis, Councilmember Morales, Councilmember Mosqueda, Councilmember Nelson, Councilmember Pederson, Councilmember Sawant, Councilmember Strauss, Director Jessyn Farrell, Director Julie Dingley

**Subject:** 2022 and 2023 Budget Recommendations

Honorable Mayor Harrell,

We are writing on behalf of the Green New Deal Oversight Board (the Board) to transmit our 2022 and 2023 budget recommendations. Our 19-person Board plays a critical role in partnering with the City of Seattle to implement the Green New Deal and catalyze systemic bold shifts to address the climate crisis while centering race and social justice. To achieve this mission, in partnership with the City of Seattle and our impacted communities, we focus on three pillars:

- Address the climate crisis and environmental injustice through carbon pollution reduction and climate adaptation efforts
- Build an inclusive and equitable low carbon economy
- Promote community health and well-being by investing deeply in Black, Indigenous and other communities of color, immigrants and refugees as well as vulnerable communities and those with low incomes to reduce climate related health disparities and foster community resilience

As a Board, our mission is to connect frontline community-led voices and the Seattle city government to eliminate Seattle's climate pollution by 2030, while resolving racial, social, and economic inequities. We do this by:

- Recommending systemic changes and budget priorities to the Mayor, City Council, City departments and advisory boards
- Supporting departmental planning and implementation
- Coordinating efforts with City departments and related advisory groups pursuant to [Ordinance 125926](#).

Enclosed, you will find two sets of recommendations for the Green New Deal allocation of revenue generated via the Payroll Expense Tax. The first set is focused on the 2022 reserve fund, an approximate \$6.5 million set aside specifically for the Board's recommendations. The second set is focused on all 2023 Payroll Expense Tax revenues allocated for Green New Deal, including any revenue collected that is above and beyond projections.

These budget recommendations have been informed by:

- Community engagement efforts led by the Green New Deal Oversight Board that included a Community Listening Session and Community Input Survey
- Presentations provided by City departments on program areas that align with the pillars of the Green New Deal
- Presentation from the Office of Sustainability and the Environment summarizing findings from past community engagement efforts led by the City of Seattle from the Equity and Environment Agenda, the Duwamish Valley Action Plan and community led findings such as Powering the Transition by Puget Sound Sage and Our People, Our Power, Our Planet by Got Green and Puget Sound Sage
- Decades of unique technical expertise, professional networks, and community relationships that each board member holds

We are incredibly proud to deliver recommendations that provide a strategic blueprint for Seattle. This blueprint will allow the City of Seattle leadership to enact inclusive and just climate action that can make the vision of regenerative economies, health equity, and climate resilience, a reality for the City of Seattle while meeting our carbon reduction goals. These recommendations align with the values and goals outlined in Seattle's Race and Social Justice Initiative and build on the legacy of Seattle's Equity and Environment Agenda.

The recommendations before you have been unanimously adopted by the Green New Deal Oversight Board. We hope the allocation of funds for these recommendations can leverage and support the city's efforts to pursue additional funding from federal, state, private, and philanthropic sources to maximize these investments and accelerate just climate action.

Should funds for the Green New Deal portion of the payroll expense tax be used differently than what the board recommends for 2023-24, we strongly advise budget allocations to be aligned with the priorities of the Green New Deal. We welcome an ongoing dialogue with you and your staff regarding those investments. As always, we remain ready to work with staff at the Office of Sustainability and Environment and the City Budget Office to provide any additional information necessary to implement the enclosed recommendations.

We appreciate this opportunity to bring forward community voices to advise you on the Green New Deal budget allocations, and are eager to work with you and your staff to lift up Seattle's continuing global leadership in achieving climate justice for Seattle's communities.

We look forward to discussing our recommendations further with you and your staff and would appreciate a prompt and favorable reply.

Sincerely,

  
Debolina Banerjee  
Co-Chair

  
Maria Batayola  
Co-chair

  
Syris Valentine  
Co-chair

# Green New Deal Oversight Board Members

\*Pending Council Confirmation

| <b>Name</b>       | <b>Appointed Seat</b>                                  |
|-------------------|--|
| Debolina Banerjee | Environmental Justice Representative, Co-Chair         |
| Maria Batayola    | Frontline Representative, Co-Chair                     |
| Kristina Chu      | Youth Representative                                   |
| Dennis Comer      | Environmental Justice Representative                   |
| Steve Gelb        | Workforce Training Specialist                          |
| Peter Hasegawa*   | Labor Union Representative                             |
| Rachel Heaton     | Tribal Representative                                  |
| Eunice How*       | Environmental Justice Representative                   |
| Tomás Madrigal    | Frontline Representative                               |
| Emily Myers       | Labor Union Representative                             |
| Nina Olivier*     | Greenhouse Gas Reduction/Climate Resiliency Specialist |
| Andrea Ornelas    | Labor Union Representative                             |
| Matt Remle        | Frontline Representative                               |
| Hibo Sahal*       | Frontline Representative                               |
| Deepa Sivarajan   | Greenhouse Gas Reduction/Climate Resiliency Specialist |
| Syris Valentine   | Youth Representative, Co-Chair                         |
| Jess Wallach      | Greenhouse Gas Reduction/Climate Resiliency Specialist |
| Keith Weir        | Labor Union Representative                             |
| Ken Workman *     | Tribal Representative                                  |

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## Key Definitions

**Frontline Communities:** The communities that experience disproportionate environmental harms and risks due to exposures, greater vulnerability to environmental hazards, or cumulative impacts from multiple stressors; these include Black people, Indigenous people, sovereign tribal nations, communities of color, immigrants, refugees, youths, elders, houseless people, disabled people, LGBTQ+ people, people with low and no income, and people who work in outdoor occupations.

**Focus Areas:** The geographic areas, defined broadly by zip code or neighborhood, where communities of color, immigrants, refugees, people with low-incomes, and limited-English proficiency tend to live, which are also areas highly impacted by socioeconomic and environmental challenges

## Mission Statement

The Green New Deal Oversight Board connects frontline community-led voices and the Seattle city government to eliminate Seattle's climate pollution by 2030, while resolving racial, social, and economic inequities. We do this by:

1. Recommending systemic changes and budget priorities to the Mayor, City Council, City departments and advisory boards
2. Supporting departmental planning and implementation
3. Coordinating efforts with City departments and related advisory groups pursuant to [Ordinance 125926](#).



# Core Values

The Green New Deal Oversight Board adopted the following values which guide the way they enact their mission.

- We act with mindful urgency to accomplish our vision and mission.
- We listen and are guided by frontline communities.
- We engage, consult, and obtain consent from impacted tribal nations. We practice having an open mind and cultural humility
- We seek to build trust and reliability with respectful, honest, caring, and transparent interactions within and outside the Green New Deal Oversight Board.
- We are guided by accurate information, science, and community experience and insight.
- We seek to creatively solve problems and conflict by addressing the root causes and will not accept false solutions that continue extractive practices and/or prioritizes profits over communities.



# Focus Areas for Budget Recommendations

The following are high level focus areas followed by descriptions of potential types of activities that fall under each focus area:

1. **Addresses the Climate Crisis & Environmental Injustice** through carbon reduction & climate adaptation efforts
  - Transitioning homes and buildings off gas and oil to electricity and support energy efficiency in buildings
2. **Builds an Inclusive Low Carbon Economy**
  - Workforce development, contracting, transitions for workers whose jobs depend on the fossil fuel industry, and training workers for renewable energy jobs and other low carbon industries
3. **Promotes Community Health and Well-being**
  - Reduction of climate related health disparities and fostering resiliency
4. **Supports Connection for Frontline Communities to Green New Deal Programs**
  - Outreach & engagement, education, technical assistance, & in-language services
5. **Builds Capacity for the Green New Deal**
  - Supports staffing costs and compensation needs for board members if participation on the board provides a financial hardship





# Criteria

The following criteria is intended to be used to assess and prioritize the focus areas and activities recommended for funding with Payroll Expense Tax revenue that supports a Green New Deal for Seattle. This criterion was applied in the development of recommendations.

| CRITERIA                  | CRITERIA INDICATOR  |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>Equity</b>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The activity is likely to reduce environmental, health, and economic disparities linked to the root causes and impacts of climate change.</li> <li>• The activity should focus on ensuring benefits for <b>frontline communities in focus areas</b> as defined by the Green New Deal Oversight Board.</li> <li>• The activity is led by organizations with authentic connections to the community that is the focus of the activity. The organization’s leadership and staff reflect the culture and demographics of the focus community and seek to incorporate feedback from the community it serves.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Community Interest</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The activity is appropriate for or can be adapted to fit the needs, assets, and preferences of frontline communities.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Impact</b>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The issue or activity is likely to exert a sustained, powerful positive influence on the desired outcomes of the Green New Deal.</li> <li>• The issue or activity is likely to lay the groundwork for impactful policies, programs, projects, or additional investments that inform longer term and sustained efforts.</li> <li>• The issue or activity activates key industries, sectors, and institutions to contribute to and support the long-term work of advancing the goals of a Green New Deal.</li> <li>• The issue or activity has a meaningful effect on people it reaches and reaches many people in the focus population (impact = reach x effect).</li> <li>• Information is available to show that the activity is effective (“it works to produce the desired outcome”). Information can include data and experience from community activities such as participatory research, program evaluations, traditional Indigenous science &amp; knowledge etc.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Builds Capacity</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The activity builds and strengthens the capacity of community leaders, organizations, the Oversight Board, and city staffing to lead, develop, implement, and sustain solutions to improve economic, health and environmental outcomes linked to addressing the root causes and impacts of climate change.</li> <li>• Addresses current gap, need and/or builds on community assets</li> <li>• The activity complements existing activities – it fills a gap in existing activities and does not duplicate existing activities, or the activity builds on existing community assets.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Feasibility</b>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The resources from the GND allocation of the JumpStart Fund are sufficient to support the activity.</li> <li>• The expertise to implement the activity exists among those likely to conduct the activity.</li> <li>• The program or project is scalable.</li> </ul>  |

# 2022 and 2023 Budget Recommendations

1. **We recommend \$350,000 in 2022 and \$800,000 in 2023 to support the Oversight Board to fulfill its Council-required responsibilities.** This would be used to expand the capacity for community engagement, for research of Green New Deal (GND) best practices, and for monitoring and implementation of GND Policies, Projects, and Programs.

- \$200,000 of the 2022 recommendation and annually after 2022 will be contracted to conduct climate research in community identified topics such as but not limited to:
  - Community health indicators lead by community-based organizations
  - Best Practices for promoting Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color (BIPOC) workers in green constructions careers, renewable energy sector, and other environmental sectors
  - Environmental investments and affordable housing
  - The impacts of the tourism industry on the environment, impacts of low-wage travel sector employment on local communities, and best practices in mitigating negative climate, social, and economic consequences in the travel industry

2. **\$2 million in 2022 and \$4 million in 2023 for the Clean Heat Program focused on transitioning low-income homes off of oil heat** and workforce development.

Transitioning low-income homes off oil heat is a huge opportunity to tackle Seattle's climate pollution, improve the health of our communities, build climate resilience, and create good, living-wage jobs. With the Oil Heat Tax going into effect next year, this is a priority to ensure that low-income households aren't disproportionately bearing the costs of energy transition. The Clean Heat Program should utilize a portion of the funding to increase outreach and engagement efforts - including efforts to fund and develop Minority Business Enterprises (MBE) contractors and City Priority Hire practices.

3. **\$400,000 in 2022 and 2023 for Indigenous-led sustainability projects.** The Oversight Board recognizes that Indigenous leadership and cultural preservation are key to the success of Seattle's Green New Deal. Moreover, the City must ensure that its transition to clean energy does not simply repeat the same policies of resource extraction and energy colonialism. Prioritize Indigenous-led sustainability projects aligned with these values like, water cisterns and rooftop solar at the Duwamish Longhouse, Licton Springs, sites for religious ceremonies, and projects focused on energy and food sovereignty.

**4. \$2 million in 2022 for climate resilience hubs** - As Seattle experiences more and more deadly heat waves and wildfire smoke, we need a plan for keeping everyone safe by ensuring those most impacted have a place where they can seek help.

- \$500,000 of the \$1.5 million in 2022 to fund a study to identify City and community owned facilities that could serve as climate resilience hubs. These hubs would include renewable energy upgrades that are needed to provide clean air & cooling even when the power goes out among other resiliency investments. Every Seattle resident should be within a 15 minute walk or bus-ride of this live-saving infrastructure. The plan should identify optimal resilience hub sites and their feasibility.
- \$1.5 million to fund climate resilience hub strategies at existing community and cultural anchors – utilizing the Miller Community Center as a model.

**5. \$4 million in 2023 to fund the creation of Climate Resilience Hubs** outlined in the Climate Resilience Hub planning document. This funding should connect with the City's Equitable Development Initiative and potentially include the following:

- Solar energy upgrades
- Infrastructure to act as a cooling center
- Living and green roofs
- Emergency center
- Food hub
- Urban gardens and farms
- Accessible by a 15 minute walk or bus ride

**6. Environmental Justice Fund - Maintain the allocated \$550,000 for 2022 and increase the annual allocation to \$850,000 for 2023.** This level of funding will ensure continued support and resources for community led environmental justice projects like capacity building, urban farming, habitat restoration, and more. The recommended increased funding for the Environmental Justice Fund should include increased capacity within OSE to manage and maintain the program.

**7. Workforce Development - \$250,000 in 2022 and \$1 million in annual funding starting in 2023 for organizations** to provide pre-apprenticeship training programs and/or job readiness programs to place individuals, with a focus on Priority Hire individuals and youth, into registered clean energy apprenticeship programs and/or clean energy jobs. Priority Hire individuals are defined as individuals residing in economically distressed ZIP codes, and/or women, and/or BIPOC. Registered Construction Apprenticeships are any Washington State Apprenticeship and Training

Council (WSATC) registered construction apprenticeship programs. Clean Energy Jobs are construction jobs and/or WSATC registered construction apprenticeships that focus on clean and renewable energy, including the construction, installation, maintenance, and operation of these systems including Assemblers and Fabricators, Laborers, Boilermakers, Maintenance and Repair Workers, Carpenters, Operating Engineers, Construction and Building Inspectors, Plumbers and Pipefitters, Electricians, Sheet Metal Workers, Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC), Solar Photovoltaic Installers, Insulation Workers (floor, ceiling, and wall) and Steamfitters.

- Include an expansion of electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure through the lens of workforce development and apprenticeship programs to recruit and train more workers through Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program. These investments in workforce should ensure prevailing wage jobs and compensation during training.

**8. Clean Energy Program and Workforce Strategic Advisor** - \$70,000 for 2022 and \$140,000 of annual funding starting in 2023, to create a City of Seattle position at OSE to organize, track and take advantage of opportunities for climate investment funding from state and federal programs and other sources that can be used to advance Seattle's climate strategies, clean energy workforce development, and MBE development.

**9. Clean Buildings Accelerator for Under-Resourced Commercial Buildings and Multi-Family Housing** - Fund the Seattle Clean Buildings Accelerator that will provide technical support, training and incentives for under-resourced building owners and managers to meet the State of WA Clean Buildings requirements and to reduce emissions. Under-resourced building owners, include those serving or in BIPOC communities, Nonprofit, and Affordable multifamily (subsidized & unsubsidized). The Accelerator will provide a helpdesk and curated materials, light coaching-style trainings, Strategic Energy Management (SEM) for select buildings, help participants plan to comply with the State Clean Buildings Standards (if required) and a Seattle Building Performance Standards (BPS), access financial incentives from WA, City Light and others, explore and understand financing options like King County Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy and Resiliency (C-PACER) program, and provide incentives for building electrification.

- \$70,000 in 2022 and \$140,000 in 2023 to support a new Clean Buildings support program staff position in OSE, beginning in 2023, that would manage and grow the program, including engaging with community-based entities to reach more priority buildings, developing and implementing focused support for small business tenants and for subsidized and unsubsidized affordable housing; seeking outside grant

funding to provide direct capital grants to building owners; developing no to low-cost financing opportunities; and connecting to companion OSE efforts to grow inclusive clean energy career opportunities.

- \$4.5 million a year starting 2023 for in-depth engineering design and capital investments to support 10-15 buildings a year. Support would be provided to non-profit and affordable housing owners serving low-income and BIPOC communities.

**10. \$150,000 in 2022 for staff funding and \$2 million in 2023 for a program to support single family homeowners below 120% AMI.** Funding will focus on the following:

- Create an energy efficient one-stop-shop program for low to middle income households (Below 120% Seattle AMI) – the program bundles together the various environmental home investments into one application or program including weatherization, oil to electric heat pumps, building electrification, and/or solar opportunities.
- Develop financing options available to moderate income homeowners that could include a city funded or supported loan program that funds residential energy upgrades and electrification for low to middle income homeowners. The loan program could include an option for loan pay back when the property is sold.
- Provide incentives for efficiency and decarbonization beyond current incentives that provide societal benefits as calculated with the social cost of carbon (refer to CEEP Program)

**11. \$150,000 to research and develop a program focused on supporting single family rentals.** Support research and program design for a program to reach the 30,000 rentals in single family and less than 4-unit multi-family buildings (20% of all rentals) who are low and moderate income to allow for residents to stay in place and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These types of residential buildings should be targeted to reach residents and landlords in communities in which are threatened with economic displacement.

**12. \$1.2 million in 2023 to increase Climate Resilience projects and capacity building in local communities** like but not limited to:

- \$150,000 to create a reforestation study and urban canopy assessment for Seattle neighborhoods that suffer most from low tree canopy cover, extreme heat events, poor air quality, and health disparities.
- \$100,000 to create a youth staff position within the OSE focused on clean energy, climate justice, green careers, conservation, research on youth engagement strategies for future budget processes, etc.

- \$70,000 program budget for the youth position to pilot a Just Transition certification program for youth participants to promote existing and future projects that build capacity in local communities to increase climate resilience. Pilot program budget used to pay stipends to youth participants and fund field visits.
- \$300,000 Community Solar projects in schools and existing cultural anchors
- \$50,000 Create opportunities for local communities to participate in Community Emergency Response Team Trainings
- \$200,000 to fund climate adaptation projects and innovation

**13. \$500,000 in 2023 to Fund Electrification of Seattle Fleet, including medium and heavy vehicles.** In support of Seattle’s Transportation Electrification Blueprint, propose rapid conversion of Seattle’s fleet from fossil fuel cars to union made electric vehicles. The GND funding should be utilized to prioritize neighborhoods and communities who are highly impacted by medium and heavy vehicle air pollution.

**14. \$1 million in 2023 to incentivize replacement of gas and diesel vehicles with EVs** giving priority on medium and heavy-duty vehicles and communities at or below 120% AMI. Invest in workers and workforce development by incentivizing union-made vehicles. The city should connect the incentives to existing community led programs like Villa Comunitaria and partner with other government agencies like the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency.

**15. \$1 million in 2023 for a creative educational campaign around the goals of the Green New Deal,** climate resilience, sharing approachable climate indicators, healthy household practices, and other sustainability issues in Seattle. This campaign should contract with local artists, researchers, thought leaders, educators, and communicators to ensure engagement is in language and culturally responsive to a wide variety of communities.

# **ADDENDUM**

## Overview of 2022 and 2023 Budget Recommendations

| Recommendations   | 2022               |     | 2023                |     |
|---|--------------------|-----|---------------------|-----|
|   | Amount             | %   | Amount              | %   |
| 1. Support the GNDOB to fulfill its Council-required responsibilities   | 350,000            | 5%  | 800,000             | 4%  |
| 2. Clean Heat Program focused on transitioning low-income homes off oil heat  | 2,000,000          | 31% | 4,000,000           | 18% |
| 3. Support Indigenous-led sustainability projects   | 400,000            | 6%  | 400,000             | 2%  |
| 4. Climate resilience hub investments and future resilience hubs strategy   | 2,000,000          | 31% | --                  | --  |
| 5. Creation and activation of climate resilience hubs   | --                 | --  | 4,000,000           | 18% |
| 6. Maintain (2022) and increase (2023) funding for the Environmental Justice Fund                                     | --                 | --  | 850,000             | 4%  |
| 7. Support workforce development to provide pre-apprenticeships training programs in the environmental sector         | 250,000            | 4%  | 1,000,000           | 5%  |
| 8. Create a Clean Energy Program and Workforce Strategic Advisor position   | 70,000             | 1%  | 140,000             | 1%  |
| 9. Create a Clean Buildings Support program staff position + program funding for Clean Buildings capital investments  | 70,000             | 1%  | 4,640,000           | 21% |
| 10. Create staff position that supports an energy efficient one-stop-shop program for low to middle income households | 150,000            | 2%  | 2,000,000           | 9%  |
| 11. Research and develop program focused on supporting single family rentals  | 150,000            | 2%  | 150,000             | 1%  |
| 12. Increase Climate Resilience projects and capacity building in local communities                                   | --                 | --  | 1,200,000           | 5%  |
| 13. Fund electrification of Seattle Fleet, including medium and heavy vehicles  | 1,000,000          | 16% | 1,000,000           | 5%  |
| 14. Incentivize replacement of gas and diesel vehicles with electric vehicles   | --                 | --  | 1,000,000           | 5%  |
| 15. Create a creative educational campaign around the goals of the Green New Deal                                     | --                 | --  | 1,000,000           | 5%  |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>\$6,440,000</b> |     | <b>\$22,180,000</b> |     |



**END**



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