



**Weston Brinkley** (Position #3 – University), Chair  
**Sarah Rehder** (Position #4 – Hydrologist), Vice-chair  
**Julia Michalak** (Position #1 – Wildlife Biologist) • **Elby Jones** (Position #2 – Urban Ecologist - ISA)  
**Stuart Niven** (Position #5 – Arborist – ISA) • **Michael Walton** (Position #6 – Landscape Architect – ISA)  
**Joshua Morris** (Position #7 – NGO) • **David Moehring** (Position # 8 – Development)  
**Blake Voorhees** (Position # 9 – Realtor) • **Elena Arakaki** (Position #10 – Get Engaged)  
**Jessica Hernandez** (Position #11 – Environmental Justice) • **Jessica Jones** (Position # 12 – Public Health)  
**Shari Selch** (Position # 13 – Community/Neighborhood)

July 15, 2021.

Michelle Caulfield  
Office of Sustainability and Environment  
700 5<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Seattle, WA 98124

RE: Green New Deal presentation

Dear Michelle,

The Urban Forestry Commission (UFC) would like to extend its gratitude to the Office of Sustainability & Environment for its ongoing work in support of Seattle’s Urban Forest. Specifically, the UFC appreciates the recent opportunity to connect with the members of Seattle’s Green New Deal (GND) team to better understand the group’s goals and strategies including carrying forward the Equity and Environment Initiative. The UFC commends the team’s focus on racial justice and acknowledgment of the urban forest’s role in environmental justice work, including reducing disproportionate air pollution in BIPOC communities, mitigating the heat island effect, providing equitable access to nature, and reducing the life expectancy disparity in Seattle. The UFC is interested in collaborating with the GND team to work towards larger impacts like closing the canopy cover gap.

The UFC is interested in and committed to supporting the GND and its goals. We are open to guidance on how our expertise could most effectively support the GND team, impacted communities and the Oversight Board. We have identified areas where we would like to collaborate and might contribute to these efforts:

1. Understanding sentiments communities have expressed around increased access to trees and nature contributing to gentrification and other barriers to tree planting.
2. Facilitating the development and implementation of strategies that residents would like to see to help alleviate the impact and concerns of gentrification.
3. Compiling actions that other cities are doing for the Green New Deal, especially other cities in King County, and coordinating on opportunities for Seattle to tie into a larger system of strategies.

4. Tracking changes to the urban forest is key to understanding this resource and Seattle's carbon footprint.

The UFC will be reaching out to build a relationship with the GND Oversight Board and explore how the groups can support each other's goals. Comparing current emissions trends with target levels highlights the need to focus on and pull together resources to make the necessary changes to protect Seattle's residents and the environment. The UFC is inspired to see the work the GND team has done and is excited to help keep the momentum going.

Sincerely,



Weston Brinkley, Chair



Sarah Rehder, Vice-Chair

cc: Mayor Jenny A. Durkan, Council President Lorena González, CM Lisa Herbold, CM Debora Juarez, CM Andrew Lewis, CM Tammy Morales, CM Teresa Mosqueda, CM Alex Pedersen, CM Kshama Sawant, CM Dan Strauss, Michelle Caulfield, Sharon Lerman, Urban Forestry Management Team, Urban Forestry Core Team, Lylianna Allala, Ani Krishnan, José Vasquez, Lisa Chen, Yolanda Ho

Patti Bakker, Interim Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator  
City of Seattle, Office of Sustainability & Environment  
PO Box 94729 Seattle, WA 98124-4729 Tel: 206-684-3194 Fax: 206-684-3013  
[www.seattle.gov/UrbanForestryCommission](http://www.seattle.gov/UrbanForestryCommission)