

Green New Deal Oversight Board

<http://www.seattle.gov/green-new-deal-oversight-board>

Date: November 1st, 2021

To: Council President Lorena González, Select Budget Committee Chair Teresa Mosqueda, Councilmember Lisa Herbold, Councilmember Debora Juarez, Councilmember Andrew J. Lewis, Councilmember Tammy J. Morales, Councilmember Alex Pedersen, Councilmember Kshama Sawant, Councilmember Dan Strauss

From: The Green New Deal Oversight Board (GNDOB)

Subject: 2022 Green New Deal Recommendations for the Proposed Budget

CC: Mayor Jenny Durkan, City Budget Director Ben Noble, Saroja Reddy (CBO), Akshay Iyengar (CBO), Interim Director Michelle Caulfield (OSE)

Honorable Seattle City Council President Gonzalez, Select Budget Committee Chair Mosqueda, and Council Members,

Thank you for passing our enabling Ordinance 125926 to convene the Green New Deal Oversight Board (GNDOB). Since August 16th, 2021, we have diligently discussed, intentionally developed and adopted our GNDOB values and vision statement, and Green New Deal policy, program and project definitions that informs our work. (See attached document.)

We take our role seriously to advise and make recommendations to the Mayor and City Council related to the GND for Seattle and monitor progress in meeting intended outcomes and goals.

In reviewing the proposed 2022 Budget, it is clear that the Mayor has taken steps to begin funding GND for Seattle. We are encouraged by this progress. However, we want the Council to take bold action given the immediacy of climate change and the harsher impacts on our frontline communities that is further exacerbated by the Covid pandemic. Therefore, we ask the Council to fully consider and adopt our GNDOB budget recommendations as follows:

- 1. We support the Solidarity Budget's principles** to divest from policing and reinvest in participatory budgeting, affordable housing, transit, clean energy, healthy neighborhoods and community-led solutions for public safety -- all of which move us towards the vision and goals of Seattle's Green New Deal.
- 2. We call on the City Council to use the JumpStart Seattle revenue as intended in the JumpStart Fund ordinance**, and fully fund the priorities in the community-led spending plan, including 9% of revenue dedicated to local Green New Deal investments. The JumpStart fund should be managed with transparency, accountability, and honesty.

3. We support the Green New Deal investments in the Mayor's proposed budget, including \$6.5M for recommended allocation by the Green New Deal Oversight Board; \$2.3M for a community climate resilience hub pilot in South Park; \$1.7M for oil home heating conversions; \$1M for clean energy pre-apprenticeship and career preparation programs with local hire focus from impacted frontline communities and a \$550K increase to the Environmental Justice Fund.

4. We recommend \$600,000 to support the GND OB to fulfill its Council-required responsibilities. This would be used to expand the capacity for community engagement, for research of GND best practices, and for monitoring and implementation of GND Policies, Projects, and Programs. This should be in addition to the \$6.5M allocated for GND OB spending in 2022.

5. Additionally, we support the budget amendments championed by community groups advocating for Seattle's Green New Deal:

- [\\$13 million for 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.

- [\\$380K for Indigenous-led sustainability projects](#)

The GND OB 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. Prioritizing Indigenous-led sustainability projects like water cisterns and rooftop solar at the Duwamish Longhouse is aligned with these values.

- [\\$100K for community climate resilience planning](#)

As Seattle experiences more and more deadly heat waves and wildfire smoke, we need a plan for keeping everyone safe. Smart plans begin with assessment, and that's what this amendment funds: a study to identify City- and community-owned facilities that could serve as climate resilience hubs, and what renewable energy upgrades are needed so that hubs can provide clean air & cooling even when the power goes out. Every Seattle resident should be within 15 minutes walk or bus-ride of this live-saving infrastructure.

As a newly formed board, we want to be fully engaged with the Council and will be monitoring the continuing 2022 budget deliberations. We will continue to learn, grow, develop, and improve our processes to ensure robust community engagement, in-depth dialogue with city departments, and a thorough review of the best available research inform our recommendations going forward.

Lastly, we recognize that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has created economic uncertainties. As other advisory and oversight boards have indicated, we expect the Mayor and Council to consult with the GND OB early and often in its development and implementation if rebalancing and/or reallocation is required that would impact the funding allocated toward the advancement of a GND for Seattle.

We are available to answer any questions or listen to any comments you might have regarding our recommendations. We can be reached through Jose Vasquez, our GND Advisor, at Jose.Vasquez@Seattle.gov 206-487-007.

We look forward to a positive response.

Sincerely,



Maria Batayola, Co-Chair



Tyler "Syrus" Valentine, Co-Chair

Green New Deal Oversight Board

Maria Batayola	Position 1, Frontline Representative
Matt Remle	Position 2, Frontline Representative
Tomas Madrigal	Position 3, Frontline Representative
Rachel Heaton	Position 4, Tribal Representative
Kristina Chu	Position 6, Youth Representative
Tyler "Syrus" Valentine	Position 7, Youth Representative
Dennis Comer	Position 9, Environmental Justice Representative
Debolina Banerjee	Position 10, Environmental Justice Representative
Emily Myers	Position 13, Labor Union Representative
Andrea Ornelas	Position 14, Labor Union Representative
Keith Weir	Position 15, Labor Union Representative
Jess Wallach	Position 16, Greenhouse Gas Reduction / Climate Resiliency Specialist
Deepa Sivarajan	Position 18, Greenhouse Gas Reduction / Climate Resiliency Specialist
Steve Gelb	Position 19, Workforce Training Specialist