

California Green New Deal Framework Summary

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Summary of Objectives

- Achieve state-wide carbon neutrality within 10 years, and net-negative emissions thereafter;
- Work toward justice and equity for all Californians by stopping current, preventing future, and repairing the historic oppression of Indigenous, POC, frontline, and vulnerable communities;
- Ensure California's infrastructure, industry, and food supply is robust, sustainable, equitable, and resilient to current and future impacts of climate change;
- Enact a just transition for California's economy, prioritizing historically marginalized, vulnerable, and frontline workers, as well as workers currently employed in unsustainable industries;
- Harmonize current scientific knowledge with traditional Indigenous knowledge to maximize the responsible stewardship of California's natural and working lands and waters;
- Provide leadership to the rest of the nation and the world on how to achieve the above objectives quickly, responsibly, and compassionately.

Chapter Summaries

Setting the Goals

1. Emission Mandates

Objectives: Establish mandatory GHG emission and sequestration targets; ensure accurate GHG reporting/tracking.

Notable Policies: State to net-zero carbon by 2032; net-negative thereafter.

Laying the Groundwork

2. Governance

Objectives: Ensure the instrumentalities of the state are fully operational for the purpose of enacting pro-social systemic change, and are free from racial bias.

Notable Policies: Climate emergency declaration; centralized climate planning; confronting and addressing racial bias in policies; ending regulatory capture.

3. Green Financing

Objectives: Create new, robust financing systems focused on public benefit, equity, and justice.

Notable Policies: Public banking; expanded green bond market; achieving economic equity and a just transition; Cap-and-Trade revision.

4. Green Workforce

Objectives: Ensure there is an adequate workforce to meet the target mandates and objectives that advances racial and economic equity.

Notable Policies: California Green Corps; transition fossil fuel workers; right to unionize.

5. Education

Objectives: Revise California's public education system to prepare students for the reality of climate change; increase participation in climate- and equity-focused vocations.

Notable Policies: Strengthen regional identities; increase quality and access to public education; community colleges as training centers; enhance academic participation in state climate action.

Going the Distance

6. Transportation

Objectives: Achieve a zero-carbon transportation sector by 2032; reduce total vehicle miles traveled through equitable, accessible multimodal options.

Notable Policies: Fossil fuel vehicle phase-out; improve regional transportation planning and implementation; accelerate electric vehicle and zero-carbon fuels research.

7. Forestry Management & Ecosystem Stewardship

Objectives: Reduce the severity of wildfires and other climate impacts on state natural ecosystems; increase carbon sequestration potential of natural ecosystems.

Notable Policies: Implement California Forest Carbon Plan; regional ecosystem stewardship planning and implementation; blue carbon sink habitat restoration.

8. Community Planning

Objectives: Reach net-zero for the built environment by 2030; improve community resiliency to climate change; incorporate equity and environmental justice into community planning.

Notable Policies: Building electrification mandates and incentives; natural gas ban; increase urban sustainability and housing density; regional resilience networks and community resilience centers; community wildfire protection planning; urban forestry; public broadband.

9. Agriculture & Food Security

Objectives: Maintain California's natural and working lands as a net sink of carbon; increase equitability and sustainability of state agriculture; prioritize food supply security

Notable Policies: Implement regenerative agriculture practices; align crop insurance policies with state sustainability goals; incentivize low-GHG diets; establish a public-benefit central seed supplier; preserve agricultural lands; prioritize small, mid-sized, and disadvantaged farmers; establish sustainable aquaculture practices and community fisheries.

10. Energy

Objectives: Transition to 100% renewable energy by 2030 with accompanying storage and resiliency goals; implement a bottom-up, decentralized, public benefit energy system for California.

Notable Policies: Prohibit the shareholder model for electric utilities; support California's Community Choice Energy (CCE) agencies and municipal utilities; prioritize renewable energy over fossil power in daily energy service; increase energy storage capacity; nuclear decommissioning.

11. Industry

Objectives: Achieve a net-zero industrial sector by 2032 founded upon corporate accountability and green and community-based businesses.

Notable Policies: Fossil fuel industry phase out; increase corporate oversight; expand California Buy Clean program; mandate responsible advertising in line with state sustainability and equity goals; incentivize green and community-based businesses.

12. Waste Management

Objectives: Create a circular economy in California that achieves net-zero GHG emissions from the waste sector by 2030; ensure nuclear waste safety.

Notable Policies: Single-use plastic ban; responsible packaging requirements; mandatory municipal composting and recycling; incentivize community reuse centers; improved nuclear waste management.

13. Water

Objectives: Re-establish California water rights management upon established scientific principles and equitable access to ensure safe, sustainable, and resilient state water resources.

Notable Policies: Redefine "reasonable and beneficial" use of California water resources to be in line with state climate and equity goals; conjunctive management of surface and groundwater; implement central and regional water banks; implement regional water management planning; review commercial extraction of state water resources; improve resiliency of state water resources; water recycling requirements.