



Democrat For City Council District 22

A Green New Deal for New York City & District 22

Tiffany Cabán

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ABSTRACT / SUMMARY

The Green New Deal,¹ and ‘Build Back Better,’² will utilize a system of cooperation and coordination among levels of government in which each level does what it does best.³ The federal government is best at (1) financing – thanks to the vast lending, borrowing, and spending power of the U.S. Fed and Treasury – and (2) harmonizing efforts among multiple states and localities to ensure they cohere rather than undercutting each other. States and localities are best at determining local needs and imperatives that are not understood in Washington.

The Green New Deal will be largely funded and nationally coordinated in Washington, even while funding and nationally harmonizing projects *determined* by and large *locally*. New York, including New York City and District 22, will have both opportunities and responsibilities.

The opportunity that the Green New Deal will present the City and the District is that of substantial federal funding for ambitious Green New Deal projects in NYC generally and D22 particularly. The corresponding responsibility this will place on NYC and D22 is to conceive and prioritize projects. We as a community must determine what we most need to do to make our city and community healthy, just, and sustainable in the way that the Green New Deal as a whole is meant to make our country itself healthy, just, and sustainable.

This process must be participatory. It must center the voices of impacted communities. It must recognize environmental harms perpetuated in systemically racist ways, and it must address those harms through reparative and restorative approaches, as well as through forward-facing equity-focused solutions. In pursuing these solutions,

¹ Robert C. Hockett and Rhiana Gunn-Wright, *The Green New Deal: Mobilizing for a Just, Prosperous, and Sustainable Economy*, Cornell Legal Studies Research Paper No. 19-09 (2019), available at https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3342494.

² See, e.g., Joe Biden, *Build Back Better*, Biden for President (2020), available at <https://joebiden.com/build-back-better/>.

³ See, e.g., Robert C. Hockett, “Who Will Make The Green New Deal? Literally All Of Us,” *Forbes* (Feb. 12, 2019), available at <https://www.forbes.com/sites/rhockett/2019/02/12/who-will-make-the-green-new-deal-literally-all-of-us/?sh=1da4e0c149af>

we can create at least 100,000 green jobs, prioritize training in impacted communities for those jobs, and deliver a new care-based economy that is rooted in sustainability and the kind of infrastructural investments that will enable our city to be carbon-neutral by 2030.

Our district, and districts across the city must meet together in multiple town hall meetings over the next several months to decide upon our most urgent Green New Deal needs. Only a holistic, roundtable approach that starts from a place of community-led decision-making can lead us to a green New York City.

