

Call for Contributions

**Public Administration Review's Blog (Bully Pulpit) Symposium:**

## **THE GREEN NEW DEAL: PATHWAYS TO A LOW CARBON ECONOMY**

### **Guest Editors**

Nives Dolšak

School of Marine and Environmental Affairs, University of Washington, Seattle

Aseem Prakash

Department of Political Science and the Center for Environmental Politics  
University of Washington, Seattle

### **Objective and Rationale**

In 2007, Thomas Friedman called for the [Green New Deal](#). In 2010 report prepared for the United Nations Environment Program, Edward Barbier outlined a plan for a [Global Green New Deal](#). But the idea of a Green New Deal captured popular imagination when Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) and Sen. Edward Markey (D-Mass.) formally presented the Green New Deal resolution to the US Congress ([House Resolution 109](#) & [Senate Resolution 59](#)) in 2019. Their Green New Deal (GND) proposal outlines an ambitious vision to transform America into a low carbon economy alongside addressing equity and justice issues. Several 2020 Democratic presidential hopefuls have endorsed it fully while others have endorsed it in spirit. The GND also has its critics. Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) has shrugged it off as a "green dream." Virtually, all Republican leaders have opposed it. They have dubbed it as socialist, un-American, and so on.

Very few dispute that climate change is real and requires urgent attention. The recent IPCC report and the [US Federal Climate Assessment](#) paint a grim picture of climate change. Yet, climate policy remains a polarizing issue. Moreover, under the Trump Administration, the US has withdrawn from the Paris Agreement. It seeks to roll back the Clean Power Plan and dilute the fuel economy standards. But even at the global level, climate policies are facing a political challenge. Carbon emissions increased in 2018 and countries continue to invest in coal. Rural France

has violently protested against a carbon tax. Political leaders in Australia and Brazil seem to have abandoned their countries' Paris pledges.

In the absence of federal leadership on climate policy, US States have emerged as climate leaders. But even climate leaders face challenges. California has canceled the high-speed rail project linking San Francisco with Los Angeles citing cost overruns. Washington state voted down citizen initiatives for a carbon tax in 2016 and again in 2018. Even Seattle, whose Mayor took the leadership role in founding the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement in 2005, is witnessing rising carbon emissions.

Given these policy challenges, this blog symposium will feature short, 1,000-word commentaries that examine both the successes and failures in the transition to a low carbon economy. Given the short time frame for climate action, which GND elements should be prioritized for implementation and why? Which administrative units ought to take the lead? What sorts of policy instruments should be employed? How will it be financed? What is the role of firms and nonprofits in the GND rollout? How can non-climate goals get incorporated in climate policies?

Given the expansive vision for GND, all policy scholars and practitioners are invited to explore how their work and expertise might relate to GND, and more broadly to the transition to a low carbon economy. The commentaries could address issues such as (but not limited to) the following:

- What sort of administrative structures are required to implement GND? To what extent is the experience of FDR's New Deal relevant? Might the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, a more recent case of administrative innovation in response to 9/11, offer a template on how to think (or not think) about the administrative challenges in the policy translation of the GND?
- Which specific elements of the GND can be implemented in the next 10 years, in what sequence, and why?

How might the GND at the state and city level look like if the federal government supports it? What if it remains uninterested in implementing it? What new policies might these subnational units adopt, beyond what they are already doing so? How will they fund them given that unlike the federal

government, they cannot run sustained levels of budget deficits?

- Which elements of the GND offer the possibility of bipartisan support? Wind energy is often suggested as an issue area where both sides, at least at the state level, have a shared interest. Are there other issue areas where such common ground might be found?
- California has recently canceled its high-speed rail project between San Francisco and Los Angeles due to massive cost overruns. Given that the GND seeks to create a network of high-speed railways, what lessons can be distilled from California's failure? Several countries have successfully created high-speed rail networks. What can America learn from them?
- How can the experiences of other countries in phasing out the fossil fuel sector and supporting the renewable energy sector inform the GND's policy translation?
- How might the GND influence the market and the nonmarket environment for firms? What specific industries can be expected to lend their political support or oppose it?
- The GND talks about a just transition to a low carbon economy. What are examples where the concerns of workers and communities in which they reside have been addressed in the process of industrial transformation? What roles should labor unions play in GND's policy translation and how would this be accomplished?
- What roles might nonprofits and advocacy organizations play in the policy translation of the GND?

## **Logistics**

We invite submissions (maximum 1,000 words) that examine one or more of these issues. These commentaries can summarize existing research or report on new research. All commentaries must be written in an accessible style; references, tables, and appendices should be provided as links embedded in the text.

In order to assure a timely review, please first email the story pitch to <nives@uw.edu> and <aseem@uw.edu>, in the following format:

(1) What is the story/argument? What is the takeaway? (maximum 100 words)

(2) How does this illuminate the theory or practice of public administration? (maximum 100 words)

Based on these submissions, the guest editors will invite the selected authors to submit their commentaries (1,000 words maximum).

## **Timeline**

Submissions of the pitch: May 1, 2019

Invitation to submit commentaries: May 10, 2019

Submission of the Commentary: June 1, 2019

Guest editors revert with comments: June 15, 2019

Submission of the revised Commentary, June 30, 2019

Online publication: July 1, 2019

## **About Public Administration Review**

*Public Administration Review (PAR)* is the premier journal in the field of public administration research, theory, and practice with an Impact factor of 4.591. **Google Scholar Ranks it as #1** in the “Public Policy and Administration category.” The 2017 ISI Journal Citation Reports also ranks *PAR* as the top journal in the field of pub