

History of a Public Controversy: The Green New Deal

Audio	Visuals
<p>In the words of UN Secretary General, António Guterres, “Climate change is the defining issue of our time – and we are at a defining moment.” As the consequences of climate change have grown increasingly pertinent, political activists and grassroots movements have become essential in spreading public awareness and prompting government action.</p>	<p>Begin with a video of UN Secretary General António Guterres speaking about climate change. Transition to image of Guterres as narrator begins speaking about him. Include a montage of shots of protesters taking a stance on climate change.</p>
<p>One notable response to the threat of climate change is a proposed solution in the United States, known as the Green New Deal.</p>	<p>Protestors are seen holding signs that say “Green New Deal” followed by a breakdown of the actual piece of legislation.</p>
<p>The Green New Deal was partially inspired by its namesake, the 1933 New Deal. Created by President Roosevelt to reverse the effects of the Great Depression, the First New Deal established sixty programs to employ American citizens. While the Green New Deal is similar in that it will also strive for social reform, its primary focus is on combating climate change through environmental policy.</p>	<p>Early video from the 1930s in which FDR presents the New Deal. Clips of workers from the 1930s who were employed because of the jobs offered to them through the New Deal.</p>
<p>The Green New Deal was originally conceptualized by the Sunrise Movement, a youth activist group that aims to counter the effects of climate change through social advocacy. In February of 2019, New York representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Massachusetts Senator Edward J. Markey proposed the plan to Congress.</p>	<p>Clips of the members of the Sunrise Movement at climate strikes. Videos of Cortez and Markey speaking about the Green New Deal.</p>
<p>The green new deal is a necessary response to climate change, acknowledging that action must be taken before the environmental and social consequences increase in severity.</p>	<p>Simulation of climate change on world map.</p>
<p>According to a report released by the IPCC in 2018, the increase in temperature should be</p>	<p>Shots of some of the manmade causes of climate change, followed by its effects, such</p>

<p>limited to 1.5°C to avoid flood risks, extreme heat waves, and loss of habitats for plants and animals.</p> <p>If no action is taken, the World Health Organization states that over 350 million people will experience deadly heat by 2050.</p> <p>In addition, the planet could be stripped of most existing life, including humans.</p> <p>Penn State meteorology professor Dr. Forest expands upon some of the predicted disastrous effects.</p> <p>2:44-3:17 of interview</p>	<p>as ice melting, wildfires, and dry earth.</p> <p>Clips of animals who have had their habitats destroyed by climate change.</p> <p>Picture of Dr. Forest.</p> <p>Interview</p>
<p>The Green New Deal is a resolution that is not enforceable by law, and is better described as a set of goals calling for mass environmental and social reform in the next ten years.</p> <p>The deal calls for a full commitment to 100% renewable energy, in hopes of reaching global net-zero emissions by 2050. This will require “overhauling transportation systems” to encourage the widespread use of electric cars and high speed rail. It will also encourage “upgrading all existing buildings” to improve energy efficiency and increasing cooperation with farmers to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>From a social policy standpoint, the Green New Deal will guarantee every American citizen a job that has a “a family-sustaining wage, family and medical leave, paid vacations, and retirement security.” It will also provide all Americans with “high-quality healthcare.”</p>	<p>Include images of the Green New Deal itself.</p> <p>Shots of windmills and solar panels to represent renewable energy.</p> <p>Shots of cars and airplanes while narrator is highlighting transportation.</p> <p>Shots of buildings and farming practices while narrator speaks about these topics.</p> <p>Shots of highlighted resolutions within the Green New Deal</p> <p>Shots of people working at jobs, people in retirement, and people receiving medical treatment.</p>
<p>The Green New Deal has caused debate in the political and public spheres, dividing the nation into strong supporters and opposers. The Democratic party tends to be mostly in favor of the deal, while the Republican party</p>	<p>Several clips of the Green New Deal being covered on national news, with varying opinions being presented.</p> <p>Shots of Democratic political leaders and</p>

<p>is largely against it. When examining the support and opposition, it is clear that the primary issue of concern is not whether climate change is a problem, but instead, if the Green New Deal is truly the right way to solve it.</p>	<p>Republican political leaders are presented to show the polarization on this issue.</p>
<p>The strongest debate over the Green New Deal comes from the concern that it is unrealistic, and represents a socialist takeover by the American government. Socialism can be defined as the “public ownership of the means of production.” The Green New Deal would enable the government to regulate various areas of production, transportation, agriculture, and the healthcare industry. According to Representative Chris Stewart from Utah, because of the Green New Deal, “The government will come into almost every part of everyday life” and “destroy freedom, democracy and the rule of law”.</p> <p>On the contrary, representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez has argued that the plan is neither socialist nor radical, but instead represents a return to representative democracy funded by everyday people.</p>	<p>Picture of Senator McConnell’s tweet against the Green New Deal and shots of President Trump speaking about the “socialist takeover.”</p> <p>Shots of production, transportation, agriculture, and healthcare.</p> <p>Clips of Representative Chris Stewart speaking.</p> <p>Clips of Cortez speaking about the Green New Deal.</p>
<p>The cost of the Green New Deal is also of large concern, given the ambitious goals it outlines. According to conservative think tank, American Action Forum, the cost of the deal could total \$93 trillion between 2020 and 2029. Shifting the electrical grid to entirely renewable resources is estimated to cost about \$5.4 trillion. In terms of jobs, the cost could reach \$44.6 trillion, with the other \$36 trillion allocated towards universal healthcare.</p> <p>In several tweets, Democratic Senator Markey disputed the cost calculation, arguing that the price estimate for the transition away from the electrical grid “came seemingly from thin air” and “lacked source documentation.” He pointed out that the Conservative think tank had analyzed the impact of eliminating</p>	<p>Shots of news outlets presenting the cost of the Green New Deal</p> <p>Clip of solar panels in a field followed by a construction site.</p> <p>Clips of people receiving healthcare.</p> <p>Pictures of Markey’s tweets.</p>

air travel, which was not included in the resolution. In Senator Markey's words, "'Any so-called 'analysis' of the Green New Deal that includes artificially inflated numbers that rely on lazy assumptions about policies that aren't even in the resolution is bogus."

When pressed for a cost of the Green New Deal, representative Cortez estimated it would amount to at least \$10 trillion. Cortez has stated that while she knows this will be unpopular from a political standpoint, the worsening effects of climate change make it necessary. It is estimated that in 2017, record natural disasters cost the U.S. \$306 billion dollars in damages. In 2018, natural disasters cost the national economy almost \$100 billion.

6:30-6:51 of interview

As climate change accelerates, such disasters will magnify and cause a greater amount of destruction. The provisions in the Green New Deal could lessen the strain on the economy by preventing disasters from becoming more extreme. In regard to the cost of the deal and this eventual payoff, Cortez says, "I'm not excited to say we need to spend \$10 trillion on climate, but ... it's just the fact of the scenario."

Conservatives continue to raise the question "how will we pay for it?", arguing that the Green New Deal is elitist and would have the greatest negative impact on middle and lower class families who cannot afford it. However, according to Cornell professor and lawyer Robert Hockett, financing the Green New Deal would be the same as financing other national projects. The money that the US treasury would spend is not privately issued, so single citizens would not experience the exorbitant tax raises that Conservatives are predicting. The Green New Deal would eventually pay for itself, improving upon infrastructure and leading to growth that is



Clips of Cortez speaking in Congress.

Shots of Hurricane Florence as a natural disaster.

Interview

Clips of natural disasters.

Image of Cortez speaking to public.

Shot of conservative news outlet.
Shot of representative Pete Stauber highlighting the negative impact of the Green New Deal on middle class families.

Image of Robert Hockett.

Images of the building of the Department of the US Treasury.

Videos of renewable technologies such as windmills and solar panels.

<p>“virtually unprecedented in our nation’s history”. The development of renewable energy industries that build solar panels, windmills, and other sustainable technologies would bring long term economic growth that makes the Green New Deal more than feasible.</p>	
<p>The impact of the Green New Deal on jobs has also sparked a lot of debate, as supporters argue it will create jobs, while opposers firmly believe it will do the opposite.</p> <p>Opposers argue that jobs that are eliminated from the coal, oil, and gas industries will not be sufficiently replaced by employment in the renewable energy sector.</p> <p>Additionally, the change in energy production will be harder for states that are the top fossil-fuel producers, such as Pennsylvania, Wyoming, West Virginia, and Texas.</p> <p>Some programs have already been designed to provide employment in green energy, however they failed in creating new jobs because of older workers’ inability to adapt to their new roles.</p> <p>In response to this concern, the Green New Deal includes a job guarantee, which will train workers and provide long-term careers. According to researcher Joseph Kane, workers will be required to maintain the clean energy facilities, ensuring that jobs are not just limited to construction projects. The job guarantee will also be unionized, assuring labor rights.</p>	<p>Video of Senator Ed Markey speaking on MSNBC about the need for the Green New Deal followed by a clip from Fox News claiming the Green New Deal will not be beneficial for the job market.</p> <p>Shots of American men working in mining and other fossil fuel industries.</p> <p>Videos and pictures showing employment in renewable energy field.</p>
<p>Ultimately, the general consensus is that climate change is real; the controversy lies in how to address it. The most prevalent solution is the Green New Deal, yet its economic and political implications have divided the nation. The largest debate is whether the Green New deal presents a realistic solution to climate change, or simply</p>	<p>Clips of the disastrous effects climate change has already had on the world.</p> <p>Video of Cortez pushing for the Green New Deal followed by news clip of Ben Stein claiming it is a socialist takeover</p>

an attempt at a socialist government. Although Republicans defeated the Green New Deal in a 57-0 vote in the Senate, the resolutions within the Green New Deal are still under debate. Regardless of whether the principles in the Green New Deal are emplaced, it is clear that the United States needs to take some form of action.

Clip of Republican Representative Ron Estes speaking to Congress.

Ends with many clips of the negative effects of climate change.