

Green New Deal Oversight Board

April 20th, 2026
Public Meeting

4/20/2026

Green New Deal Oversight Board



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& Environment

Staff Updates



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First People's Climate Fund Launch



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First People's Climate Fund Launch



Application for Seattle Transportation Levy Oversight Committee



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Committee and Application Information

- 1 Mayor appointed position (find length of term)
- Committee Members oversee how levy funds are spent (levy is \$1.55b over 8 years)
 - Monitor budgets, track progress on projects, make sure funds are being used as promised
- Application is now open and closes **4/22 at 8:00am**
 - Application is asking for resumes

New Investments in Seattle's Immigrant and Refugee Communities to Expand Legal Defense Services



Grant Purpose & Details

- Increase capacity in legal service providers to offer full legal representation of immigrants facing deportation
 - Investing in Legal defense network
 - Office of Immigrant and Refugees is seeking proposals from non-profits to provide legal representation for people facing detention, removal, or in danger of loss because of immigration status
- Supporting Community Resilience
 - RFPs up to \$10k aimed at grassroots groups and neighborhood organizing to respond to federal policy changes for immigrants and provide community aid for basic needs, know your rights presentations/info sessions, family safety planning/ community resilience
- Deadline to apply: **April 24th by 5:00pm** (via FLUXX)



Preliminary CAP Recommendations



Clean Heat Program Lunch and Learn



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Environmental Justice Committee Recruitment



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Committee and Application Information

- Recruiting for 4 positions
- Committee members advise on grantmaking strategy and make recommendations for the **2026 and 2028 Funding cycles**
- Application now open and closes **May 8th**



Board Field Trip



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Details

- We are invited to Rachel's Land
- Opportunity to:
 - Learn about current issues, work with the land, relax, make tea or salts
- Dates
 - June 9th or 10th
 - June 18th
- Marion will send out a calendar poll, please fill out by May 4th



Board Appointments



Reappointment and Vacant Positions

- 2026-2029 Frontline Community Rep (FCR)
 - Reappointment for Nancy
 - **3 Vacant**
- 2026-2029 Tribal Rep
 - **2 Vacant**
- 2026-2029 Youth Rep
 - Reappointment for Hannah
 - **1 Vacant**
- **2025-2028** Labor Union Rep
 - **1 Vacant**

Current Positions for 2025-2028

- **Aki** Emissions Reduction Rep
- **Nina** Emissions Reduction Rep
- **Emily** Emission Reduction Rep
- **Roz** Workforce Training Rep
- **Jamie** EJ Org Rep
- **Fatima** EJ Org Rep
- **Peter** Labor Union Rep
- **Brittani** Labor Union Rep
- **John** Labor Union Rep

Board Support Needed

- Application Review (2-3 Members)
 - Look over applications once they are received (includes resume, letter of intent and questions)
 - decide who to interview
- Interview Process (2-3 Members)
 - Review interview questions, process, rubric of what the Board is looking for in candidates
 - Do the interviews
 - Post meeting debrief to decide on who to recommend

Executive Committee Updates



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Lunch and Learn



Details of the Lunch and Learn

- Opportunity to learn more about legislation that ensures that any bank hired by the City to underwrite municipal bonds either:
 - Has a net zero by 2050 target for its lending and underwriting or
 - Does not provide major lending and underwriting services to the fossil fuel industry.
 - See if the Board will sign onto a letter to endorse the legislation
- Tuesday May 5th 12:00pm-1:00pm
- Please let staff know if you would like to attend so that they can send you a link.

Earth Month Events and Invites



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Details on Events

- Has anyone attended an Earth day event that they'd like to share?
- Is anyone supporting any events that they want to invite Board members to?
- Events- Check out the [table](#) in the chat and feel free to add events Board members might be interested in attending.

Social Housing Board Appointment



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Process Update

- Executive Committee has updated the flier please share it out
- Criteria: Need to be a Green Buildings expert and will have to have regular check ins with the Board
- Candidates must email their resume and letter of intent to Executive Committee members by April 30th.

Library Levy Update



Update: Payroll and Expense Tax Revenue Forecast



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**We will
return
from our
break at
6:21**

PPP Committee: 2027- 2028 Budget Recommendations



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Recommendation Review

- We will go through each recommendation one at a time
- Everyone will get time to read through the recommendation
- Then, using the poll sent out on zoom we will ask you to vote if:
 - Agree with the Recommendation
 - Agree, but have minor feedback (e.g., quick fixes to strengthen/clarify language)
 - I need to block the recommendation- major red flags

Recommendation 1: Ensure PET funding is aligned with its original intended uses

Overview: In this case, the letter that was written by the Executive Committee is part of the overview for this recommendation. The letter clearly asks that City officials “ensure PET funding is aligned with its original intended uses: to advance equity and justice in the housing, economic development and climate work the City is leading.”

Recommendation 2: Sustain funding for the following existing Green New Deal funded programs

Recommendation: The Clean Heat Program: Continue to invest in the Clean Heat Program as it is on track to meeting the goal of transitioning all oil tank-heated homes to electric heat pumps by 2030. The program provides free conversions for low-income households and heat pump rebates for moderate-income households. Continued funding would expand funding for gas to heat pump rebates for moderate-income households and support a window heat pump pilot program where 2-3 multi-family housing buildings would get access to plug in window heat pumps. Due to the recent passing of SB 6200, a tenant's right to cooling, there will be an expected increase in demand.

The Municipal Energy Efficiency Program (MEEP): Continue to invest in MEEP to support upgrades of City-owned, community-serving buildings, such as libraries and community centers, for clean energy and climate resilience. Ensure these investments are prioritized for facilities in frontline communities.

Recommendation 2: Sustain funding for the following existing Green New Deal funded programs

Recommendations Continued: The First Peoples Climate Fund (formerly Indigenous-Led Climate Initiatives Fund): The First People's Climate Fund originated from a GND Oversight Board budget recommendation to create a fund that invests in Native and local Tribal climate leadership. The Board is in strong support of continuing the First Peoples Climate Fund as it aligns with the City's commitments made at the 2025 Tribal Nation's Summit, supports ongoing cultural and resource preservation initiatives, and uplifts the knowledge and expertise that the original stewards of these lands hold to holistically address the climate crisis and meet the unique needs of Tribal and Urban Native communities.

Clean Energy Apprenticeship and Workforce Development: Continue to create climate career pathways for individuals who are underrepresented in the trades connected to clean energy, especially in priority hire zip codes. Focus on supporting youth, people of color, the LGBTQAI+ community, and women. Ensure there are pathways to union jobs and support targeted local hire practices.

The Building Emissions Navigator Program: Continue to prioritize grant funding and technical assistance for building owners that directly serve frontline communities. The Building Emissions Navigator Program provides coaching, project management, and capital support for under-resourced building owners such as nonprofits and affordable multifamily housing providers so they can comply with the Building Emissions Performance Standard (BEPS). In addition to sustaining funding for the Navigator program, we ask the City to ensure prioritizing engagement and investments with frontline communities who are disproportionately affected by climate change, specifically in zip codes 98108 and 98118 where community members have expressed desire for upgrades to multifamily housing and community buildings to create healthier, climate-ready spaces for residents and support these residents in advocating to building owners the need for compliance.

Community Leadership through Community Assemblies and Community-Led Research: Continue to fund strategies for community leadership and policy co-creation through vetted models such as community assemblies and community-based participatory research. Community assemblies have already been successful in streamlining City planning processes by generating clear recommendations from frontline communities about how to efficiently and effectively use our City resources to co-design plans, policies, and programs to uplift climate solutions that meet community needs.

Recommendation 3: Return Funding for the Environmental Justice (EJ) Fund Back to its 2023-2024 Budget

Overview: The EJ Fund continues to create an enormous impact in advancing public health, safety, and climate resilience for our communities. The growing pool of applications for the EJ Fund has far surpassed available funding as more organizations are seeking funding for community-led efforts to advance environmental and climate justice. Investments in community-scale solutions to the climate crisis is an integral component to ensuring Seattle's residents with the fewest resources have what they need to adapt to a changing climate.

Recommendation: Restore the EJ Fund's budget to \$1.7 million to make deeper and wider investments in climate solutions led by communities who are hit first and worst by climate change.

Recommendation 4: Fund A Program for Youth-Led and Youth-Serving Community Initiatives

Overview: Young people are the future. They will enter the workforce as we retire and inherit the Earth and our changing climate. Investing in the education and skill development of youth is a necessary part of taking climate action. Currently in Seattle, there are many youth-serving career focused programs but very few of them bring youth into environmental justice work to build career skills, provide strong mentorship, and provide financial compensation. There is a need to address this gap as we plan for our future and ensure young people have the skills and confidence to go into climate and environmental careers.

Recommendation: Contract with a community organization to establish and run a one-year pilot program in the form of a youth leadership fellowship, based on the examples of previous and existing programs such as Rooted in Vibrant Communities' former [Green Pathways Fellowship](#) and the Washington Bus's Summer Fellowship. This program should support initiatives focused on building youth leadership (ages ~15-30) in climate and environmental justice and include paid opportunities to learn leadership, organizing, advocacy, policy development, and civic engagement skills. This pilot would support the City's workforce development goals, while adding capacity for community organizations. The pilot project could start in Lake City or South Seattle, prioritizing low-income neighborhoods, and expand to other neighborhoods over time.

Recommendation 5: Create a Healthy & Sustainable Homes Navigator Program

Overview: In addition to the climate crisis, Seattle is facing a gentrification and housing displacement crisis. This investment aims to increase access to existing low-income homeowner rebate programs that are often difficult to successfully navigate. Access to these services could address immediate health and maintenance concerns in homes while delivering other home upgrades that reduce climate emissions and allow low-income or fixed-income homeowners to remain in their homes.

Recommendation: Provide funding to expand existing City liaison programs to connect low-income residents with the full suite of City home-related upgrade services such as: weatherization, electrification, water conservation, tree planting, fire alarm installations, side sewer replacements, minor home repairs, emergency preparedness resources, and other measures that support healthy homes, and mitigate economic displacement and gentrification. Liaisons would ensure that low-income residents are aware of existing services and would support residents as they navigate access to the services they are eligible for through coaching and technical assistance with the City's Civiform.

Recommendation 6: Coordinated Neighborhood-Scale Decarbonization and Resilience Program

Overview: The City is already advancing building and home decarbonization through Building Performance Emissions Standards, Clean Heat, the Municipal Energy Efficiency Program and other programs. These programs focus on individual buildings and owners versus board scale actions. Scaling up decarbonization and climate resiliency requires shifting away from building-by-building approaches while expanding neighborhood-scale efforts. Scaling up could greatly expedite emissions reduction while improving air quality in frontline communities. Prioritizing neighborhood-scale decarbonization better serves communities with limited resources for upgrades and the greatest burden of pollution and climate change impacts. This work is already taking place on a small scale like the Resilience District in the Duwamish Valley or Brighton Communities that is building decarbonized community-driven housing at a neighborhood scale. By expanding this type of work, the City could scale up decarbonization in more neighborhoods and intentionally plan for community resilience and the energy transition.

Recommendation: Scale up existing City work to decarbonize and harden buildings to make them more climate resilient by taking a neighborhood-scale approach, starting in frontline communities across Seattle. Include climate resilience measures in this planning, such as upgrading HVAC systems and backup battery storage, in addition to transitioning buildings from gas and oil to electric heating. Create opportunities for programming, education, and resourcing that gets neighbors and the neighborhood prepared for various climate hazards. Prioritize affordability and anti-displacement measures including, strong protections for tenants, minimizing upfront costs, and keeping utility bills as low as possible for residents. Partner with existing organizations, affordable housing developers, and trusted community spaces that support low-income residents stay in place and ensure that work to upgrade buildings is done by union labor.

Recommendation 7: Store and Distribute Climate Emergency Kits to High-Risk Displacement Communities and Low-Income Households

Overview: As the frequency and intensity of climate-related hazards such as flooding, wildfire smoke, and extreme heat increase, frontline communities experience the multiple burdens of higher risk of these impacts while having the least access to resources to mitigate those risks. This initiative would support household and community climate resilience by distributing climate emergency preparedness kits to low-income households and those at risk of displacement, using existing community infrastructure such as mutual aid initiatives, resilience hubs, community centers, libraries, and other spaces used by the community to store and distribute these kits, in a hub and spoke model.

Recommendation: Purchase supplies and create distribution kits to mitigate climate impacts, including air purifiers and filters, n95 masks, fans, bottled water, emergency blankets, flood mitigation supplies (e.g., sand bags), and multi-lingual materials on how to access emergency services and other resources. Store materials in neighborhoods for easy, quick distribution and utilize existing infrastructure (mutual aid initiatives, community centers, libraries, places the City is already investing in as resilience hubs). These distribution sites should be selected to respectfully and efficiently reach communities at greatest risk, while also ensuring that culturally or environmentally sensitive spaces remain undisturbed. Work with shelters, community centers, daycares, elder care facilities, schools, and mutual aid initiatives to do distribution/create clean air spaces and education on how to manage climate hazards.

Recommendation 8: Implement Green Infrastructure in High Air-Pollution, Urban Heat Island, and Flood Prone Areas

Overview: Poor air quality, the urban heat island effect, flooding, and sewer overflows are not experienced equally in our city. A long history of redlining, roadway expansion, and heavy industry in, through, and around low-income and communities of color have led to climate and environmental inequities that are disproportionately experienced by those same communities. Intentionally planning and implementing green infrastructure like buffer zones and sustainable stormwater infrastructure can work towards closing inequities and building community climate resilience during extreme weather events such as heat waves and heavy storms.

Recommendation: Implement green infrastructure solutions in residential areas that regularly experience poor air quality, urban heat island effects, and flooding due to proximity to heavily trafficked areas and industry. Build off the Office of Sustainability and Environment's (OSE) Tree Equity Planning and Seattle Public Utilities' (SPU) Green Stormwater Infrastructure Mapping efforts that have identified areas most impacted by poor air quality and urban heat islands. These efforts have also identified where green stormwater infrastructure projects have already been implemented. Green infrastructure solutions could include: trees, plants, green walls, rain gardens and green rooftops between highways, heavy freight routes, existing right of ways and areas around schools, daycares, and playgrounds. Implementation should be done in coordination with OSE, SPU, Seattle Department of Transportation, WSDOT, and Seattle Parks.

Recommendation 9: Invest in Low Carbon Concrete Sidewalk Pilot Projects Throughout the City

Overview: The construction sector accounts for 23% of global greenhouse gas emissions, with concrete production being a significant contributor. The City of Seattle's Department of Transportation is considering ways to build sidewalks in neighborhoods that currently do not have any. The GND Oversight Board sees an opportunity for the City to partner with union labor to utilize low-carbon concrete and supplementary cementitious materials (SCMs) to build more pedestrian-friendly infrastructure while continuing to bolster our status as a leader in climate action.

Recommendations: Utilize SCMs in pilot projects and eventually write specifications to require utilization in all projects containing concrete. This investment would integrate low-carbon concrete into existing sidewalk replacement projects, planned sidewalk additions, and new capital projects using SCM. During implementation, prioritize neighborhoods that don't currently have side-walks and neighborhoods where sidewalks are deteriorating. By embedding low-carbon concrete requirements into its sidewalk program, the City can also send a strong, predictable market demand signal that accelerates industry adoption, reduces CO₂ emissions, and supports the regional transition to cleaner construction materials. This pilot program offers a practical, high-visibility opportunity for the City to lead by example, demonstrate feasibility, and catalyze broader market transformation in the concrete sector.

Recommendation 10: Develop a Climate Resiliency Recovery Fund for Communities Impacted by Climate-related Disasters and Hazards.

Overview: Climate change is already here, and our frontline and low-income communities are feeling the impacts during these disasters, including displacement, health complications, economic disruption and job loss, property damage, and the effects of disaster gentrification.

Recommendation: Develop a Climate Resiliency Recovery Fund to support frontline communities impacted by climate related disasters and hazards, especially when there are gaps in emergency response funding, or barriers resulting from jurisdictional lines. This may include supporting households with costs related to temporary or transitional housing, remediation to enable re-occupancy, rental assistance, and utilities assistance for those displaced by climate disasters. Utilizing existing analysis on which communities are most impacted by and vulnerable to climate change hazards, the City can concentrate resources to efficiently and effectively mitigate the impacts of climate-related disasters and support equitable recovery.

Recommendation 11: Fund A Program to Provide Resilience Planning Technical Assistance to Communities Throughout Seattle

Overview: Neighborhoods and communities that are hit first and worst by the impacts of climate change often lack the resources to adapt and build neighborhood-scale resilience. To ensure Seattle's frontline communities can build climate resilience, the City must provide technical assistance and resourcing to organizations already working on neighborhood resilience. Develop and implement a program to support communities across Seattle in developing resiliency pods and/or hubs. By building on the forthcoming Climate Resilience Framework and the [Juneau Street Resilience Pod Toolkit](#), communities most impacted by climate injustices can be prepared with resources and tools to create long-term, neighborhood-scale resilience and foundation for recovery in the face of increased climate impacts.

Recommendation: Pilot Resilience Pod/Hub Program with 5 groups in Othello, Rainier Beach, Chinatown-International District, Rainier Valley, and Beacon Hill. Build on partnerships with organizations and communities who have started this work from the Community Climate Resilience Framework early implementers and Office of Emergency Management Puget Sound Resilience Hub Cohort to support community-led stewardship of public green spaces, connect residents to existing City services that promote resilience, and develop a neighborhood-based communication chain for emergency correspondence.

Recommendation 12: Launch a study to identify economically viable opportunities to recover waste energy from Seattle's existing infrastructure

Overview: Waste energy is discarded hot water produced from industry. Data centers have raised the stakes for waste heat since they use vast amounts of electricity and/or water to keep chips cool. If strategic investments are made in technologies that turn waste energy into affordable clean energy, like The South Lake Union sewer heat recovery system which uses wastewater heat to provide hot water and space heating to supply 70% of the Alexandria Center Campus and the 303 Battery Street residential tower heating needs, this would reduce the cost of heat for all users on these systems. This is a tested and innovative way to reduce pollution, generate affordable clean energy, and invest in climate-resilient power sources. Seattle has several existing district energy systems which could tap into waste heat to reduce the cost of heat for all users on these systems. Harnessing and utilizing waste heat to heat homes could reduce utility costs. Projects like these also align with Seattle City Light's IRP goal of expanding in-territory power generation to prepare for major anticipated load growth in the next 20 years.

Recommendation: Fund an initial study that would identify economically viable waste heat recapture projects within Seattle City Light's service territory. The study would identify key stakeholders, as well as critical barriers to the successful deployment of these technologies. If viable projects are identified, the Green New Deal Oversight Board is most likely to support those where frontline community members have been engaged and reached informed consent and stakeholder negotiations have produced clear, agreed-upon community benefits. Additionally, we are most likely to support projects that produce reductions in pollution exposure in addition to heat capture, reducing harms and maximizing benefits for communities. The study should only be done on existing buildings.

Recommendation 13: Launch a Mechanical Insulation Pilot in City Owned Buildings and Spaces

Overview: In January of 2024, the City of Seattle faced an extended period of freezing temperatures which caused the Seattle Fire Department to respond to 150 calls for leaks across the City. Pipes must be inspected and missing or damaged insulation must be repaired. Unless and until we insulate our pipes, our city will continue to experience large-scale “freeze-thaw pipe failures” when we experience freezing temperatures. The great news is that fixing missing or damaged insulation also saves energy. This means that in some cases, this work can pay for itself through lower utility bills, especially at a large scale.

Recommendation: The City should run a large-scale pilot project to pay for insulators to inspect mechanical insulation on City buildings. The pilot project will attempt to quantify how much money is being saved through avoided freeze-thaw pipe failures, as well as through energy savings. The City should present its findings to local stakeholders such as other similarly situated public and private portfolio building owners and local utilities.