

# Green New Deal Goals and Congressman Rick Larsen's Work on Climate Change

The Green New Deal sets ambitious goals, several of which Congress can achieve right now. However, many of the proposals have not been fully developed. It is my priority to address the impacts of climate change and ensure the United States transitions to clean renewable energy and environmental sustainability, creating good-paying jobs.

Here is a non-exhaustive look at some of my work to address climate change:

## GREEN NEW DEAL GOAL

## MY WORK TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE

### Greenhouse Gas Emissions

*“To achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions through a fair and just transition for all communities and workers.”*

- Support the House passage of the *Climate Action Now Act* to prohibit using federal funds to withdraw the U.S. from the Paris Agreement and require the president to develop and follow a plan to meet greenhouse gas reduction goals.
- Original cosponsor of the *100% Clean Economy Act of 2019* which calls for a net-zero pollution economy by 2050 and works to improve public health and create clean jobs.
- Support a resolution highlighting the UN’s IPCC Climate Change report and urging immediate action to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Support at least \$2.6 billion for the Department of Energy’s Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy and \$100 million for the EPA’s Diesel Emissions Reduction Grants in FY2020.
- Joined letters to President Trump opposing the administration's attempt to rollback key methane emission standards.
- Member of the bipartisan Solar Caucus to support investment in clean energy technologies to reduce emissions.

### Clean Air and Water, Climate and Community and Sustainable Environment

*“To secure for all people of the United States for generations to come—clean air and water; climate and community resiliency; healthy food; access to nature; and a sustainable environment”*

- Founder and co-chair of the bipartisan Estuaries Caucus to champion robust federal funding to support these critical ecosystems
- Helped pass the *America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018* and championed a significant increase in funding for the Puget Sound Adjacent Waters Restoration program.
- Secured \$35 million for a new NOAA Mukilteo Research Station to lead water quality and ocean acidification research.
- Support the *PUGET SOS Act* to improve federal investment and engagement in Puget Sound recovery efforts.
- Championed the *Protect and Restore America’s Estuaries Act* to reauthorize and improve the National Estuary Program.
- Support the *Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act* to encourage conservation and efficient water and energy technologies.
- Support the *Save our Seas 2.0 Act* to improve U.S. response to marine debris and encourage international cooperation to address marine plastics.
- Sent letter to the Army Corps opposing mining in the Bristol Bay watershed, which threatens coastal communities, salmon and regional environment.
- Support legislation to permanently reauthorize and provide mandatory funding for the LWCF and extend funding for the *North American Wetlands Conservation Act* programs.

### Smart Power Grids

*“Building or upgrading to energy-efficient, distributed, and “smart” power grids, and ensuring affordable access to electricity.”*

- Championed increasing BPA borrowing authority by \$3.25 billion to modernize Washington’s electric grid, integrate renewable energy sources and create jobs.
- Support the *Promoting Grid Storage Act* and *Better Energy Storage Technology Act* to improve research and development of new technologies to increase energy storage capabilities for the nation’s electric grid.

### Energy and Water Efficient Buildings

*“Upgrading all existing buildings in the United States and building new buildings to achieve maximum energy*

- Support the *Energy Storage Tax Incentive and Deployment Act* to make home and business owners eligible for solar energy storage investment tax credits through 2021.
- Joined a letter to the Ways and Means Committee highlighting comprehensive and widely supported clean energy tax incentives and credits, including energy efficient buildings.

*efficiency, water efficiency, safety, affordability, comfort, and durability, including through electrification.”*

- Working to ensure state and local governments have the resources to become more energy efficient. The Opportunity Council uses these funds to weatherize thousands of homes, creating good jobs and saving families money on energy bills.

## **Transportation, Infrastructure and Agricultural Industries**

*“Overhauling transportation systems in the United States to remove pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector as much as is technologically feasible, including through investment in—(i) zero-emission vehicle infrastructure and manufacturing; (ii) clean, affordable, and accessible public transit; and (iii) high-speed rail”*

- Led passage of the *FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018* to invest in the next generation of green fuels to cut the carbon footprint of aviation and ensure sustainability.
- Introduced the *IMAGINE Act* to advance cutting-edge materials that improve safety, promote resiliency and support jobs.
- Sent letters to the Trump administration expressing the need to protect strong clean vehicle emissions standards and to protect states’ ability to adopt stronger standards.
- Support research and development grants to invest in the next generation of green manufacturing in the U.S.
- Engaged in a Transportation & Infrastructure Committee hearing to examine how federal infrastructure policy can help mitigate and adapt to climate change.
- Support the *Living Shorelines Act* to invest in green, nature-based infrastructure and construct and restore living shorelines as part of climate change mitigation efforts.
- Joined a letter to House leadership urging the extension of the biodiesel, alternative fuel vehicle refueling property and second-generation biofuel producer tax credits that support farmers and businesses which invest in alternative fuels.

## **Labor**

*“To create millions of good, high-wage jobs and ensure prosperity and economic security for all people of the United States”*

- Support fair labor standards in U.S. infrastructure investments.
- Oppose efforts which would have undermined David-Bacon & Project Labor Agreements.
- Support legislation to increase the federal minimum wage to \$15/hour by 2025
- Support *Green Jobs and Opportunity Act* to help prepare the U.S. workforce transition to a clean, net-zero carbon emission energy economy.

## **Justice and Equality**

*“Promote justice and equity by stopping current, preventing future, and repairing historic oppression of indigenous peoples, communities of color, migrant communities...”*

- Championed a *Violence Against Women Act* amendment supported by the Tulalip Tribes to extend protections to Tribal elders and children.
- Support the *Tribal Coastal Resiliency Act* to help tribes protect their people and landmarks from changing landscapes and weather events.
- Support CDBG grant funding to promote affordable housing and job creation in vulnerable communities.
- Support increased refugee admissions and repeal of Trump administration Muslim bans.
- Joined the *Not Invisible Act of 2019* to combat the epidemic of missing persons, violent crime and trafficking of Native Americans and Alaska Natives.

## **Hazardous Waste and Abandoned Sites**

*“Cleaning up existing hazardous waste and abandoned sites, ensuring economic development and sustainability on those sites”*

- As a senior member of the Armed Services Committee, support increased funding for Hanford clean-up, including \$708 million for work at the Hanford site in Fiscal Year 2020.

## **Higher Education, Health Care, and Housing**

*“Providing resources, training, and high-quality education, including higher education, to all people of the United States” ...*

- Introduced the *Youth Access to American Jobs Act* to create partnerships between high schools, community colleges and state apprenticeship plans to build paths to good-paying manufacturing jobs
- Support the *GREEN Act* to fund clean energy and STEM curricula workforce development, improve safety, promote resiliency and support jobs and local economies.
- Serve on the Community College, Career and Technical Education, and Research and Development Caucuses.
- Support the *Climate Change Health Protection and Promotion Act* creating a federal strategic plan to ensure the U.S. public health system can respond to the impacts of climate change.
- Support the *Accelerating Veterans Recovery Outdoors Act* to identify opportunities for the use of outdoor spaces as recreational therapy for veterans, when appropriate.

