



Climate Justice Policy

Instructor Guide

Learning Goals

- Understand the importance of policies in realizing climate justice goals
- Examine currently implemented and proposed climate policies
- Evaluate the effectiveness of real world climate justice policies
- Research and assess local climate justice policies in the Boston area

Activities Included:

1. Watch and Define: Global Climate Justice Policy (examine the incorporation of climate justice into the Paris Agreement via Nationally Determined Contributions)
 - a. Students will watch a short clip from the UN discussing the basics of NDCs in the Paris Agreement
 - b. After reading the short introduction on the Paris Agreement as a whole, students will use the international NDC registry to read and think about the differences between these policies as proposed by developing and developed nations
 - c. Form small groups to discuss any takeaways in regards to similarities/differences in mitigation goals, strategies, and resources. Encourage students to think about whether or not this is an effective way to implement climate justice as a policy.
2. Read and Investigate: Climate Justice and the Green New Deal
 - a. Ask students to browse the provided website of the Green New Deal Hub, familiarizing themselves with the goals and main objectives of the GND
 - b. Students utilize the links on slide 14 to pick an action area from the GND that interests them, and have them explore the corresponding link on the GND hub
 - c. Students should make some notes and have discussions with 3-4 other students on what they found interesting
 - d. Some ideas students should keep in mind while browsing:
 - Analysis of Policy Frameworks: Examine the policy frameworks and mechanisms employed in each case study. Identify key elements such as community engagement, inclusive decision-making processes, funding mechanisms, and the integration of social and environmental considerations.



- Evaluation of Impacts: Assess the outcomes and impacts of the implemented policies on addressing environmental inequities. Evaluate indicators such as improved access to clean water and air, reduced pollution, enhanced community resilience, job creation, and empowerment of marginalized groups.
3. Applying new material: Analyze the effectiveness of proposed policies in spaces involving the Green New Deal's various action areas
- a. After getting a better idea of what the GND involves, students will read through the Boston Green New Deal Report
 - b. Students will use slide 17 to pick a section of the report that interests them to read within the report. As a take home mini project, students will be responsible for doing their own research on their chosen section and how it may apply to their learning in the course. In the next class, they will present their mini project (done in whatever form they wish) to their peers.

Key Resources:

- Activity 1: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_n2mXeP3wh4&feature=youtu.be , <https://unfccc.int/NDCREG>
- Activity 2: <https://www.gndcities.org/>
- Activity 3: <https://www.gndcities.org/green-new-deal-report>

Suggestions for Future Learning:

- Case studies: Integrate climate justice case studies into various subjects within the course. Students can examine real-world examples of climate justice policy implementation, allowing them to understand the complexities of addressing climate change in an equitable manner
- Simulation exercises: Organize climate justice policy simulation exercises where students role-play as policymakers, stakeholders, or affected communities. This hands-on approach allows students to understand the challenges faced in shaping just climate policies
- Policy writing and proposals: Task students with developing their climate justice policy proposals. They can draft policy recommendations that consider the needs of marginalized communities, incorporate principles of environmental justice, and promote equity in climate solutions



- Interdisciplinary projects: Encourage collaboration between students from different disciplines within the course. This allows for a more holistic understanding of climate justice issues and fosters creative solutions that draw on diverse perspectives

Additional Resources:

Onifade, T. (2021, October 1). *Climate Justice Under the Paris Agreement: Framework and Substance*. Social Science Research Network.

https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=4035947

What are NDCs and how do they drive climate action? (2023, May 31). UNDP Climate Promise.

<https://climatepromise.undp.org/news-and-stories/NDCs-nationally-determined-contributions-climate-change-what-you-need-to-know>

OHCHR | Integrating human rights at the UNFCCC. (n.d.). OHCHR.

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/climate-change/integrating-human-rights-unfccc>

Sadai, S., Spector, R. A., DeConto, R., & Gomez, N. (2022). The Paris Agreement and climate justice: Inequitable impacts of sea level rise associated with temperature targets. Earth's Future. <https://doi.org/10.1029/2022ef002940>

Asuka, J. (2020, August 21). Green Recovery/Green New Deal | Column | Renewable Energy Institute. www.renewable-ei.org.

<https://www.renewable-ei.org/en/activities/column/REupdate/20200821.php>

Markey and Ocasio-Cortez Reintroduce Green New Deal Resolution | U.S. Senator Ed Markey of Massachusetts. (2023, April 23). www.markey.senate.gov.

<https://www.markey.senate.gov/news/press-releases/markey-and-ocasio-cortez-reintroduce-green-new-deal-resolution>

Parker, R. R. (2022, June 14). How climate change and environmental justice are inextricably linked. *Washington Post*.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/magazine/2022/06/14/climate-justice-green-new-deal/>

Green New Deal Workforce Needs Assessment RFP Info Session Recap. (2023, May 4). Boston.gov.

<https://www.boston.gov/news/green-new-deal-workforce-needs-assessment-rfp-info-session-recap>

The Green New Deal Implementation Guide. (2023, April 20). Representative Ocasio-Cortez.

<https://ocasio-cortez.house.gov/media/in-the-news/green-new-deal-implementation-guide>

