



Climate Justice Policy



ENVIRONMENTAL
SOLUTIONS
INITIATIVE

What's in this module?

Activities:

1 video
1 reading
4 optional activities
1 optional project

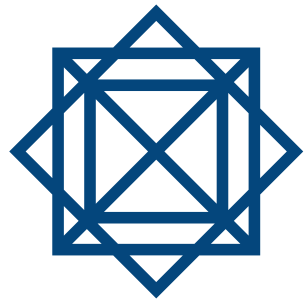
Contents:

This module discusses current climate and environmental justice policy in the US and in international law, including the Paris Agreement and the Green New Deal.

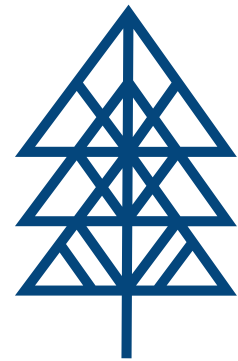
Key Resources:

- [Global Center for Climate Justice: The Green New Deal Resource Hub](#)

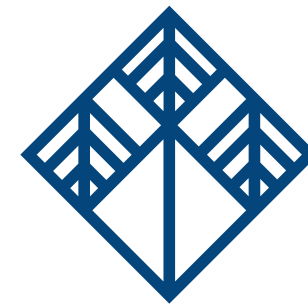
Agenda and Learning Objectives



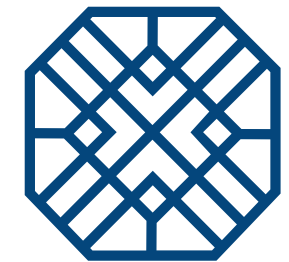
Understand the importance of policies in realizing climate justice goals



Examine currently implemented and proposed climate policies



Evaluate the effectiveness of real world climate justice policies



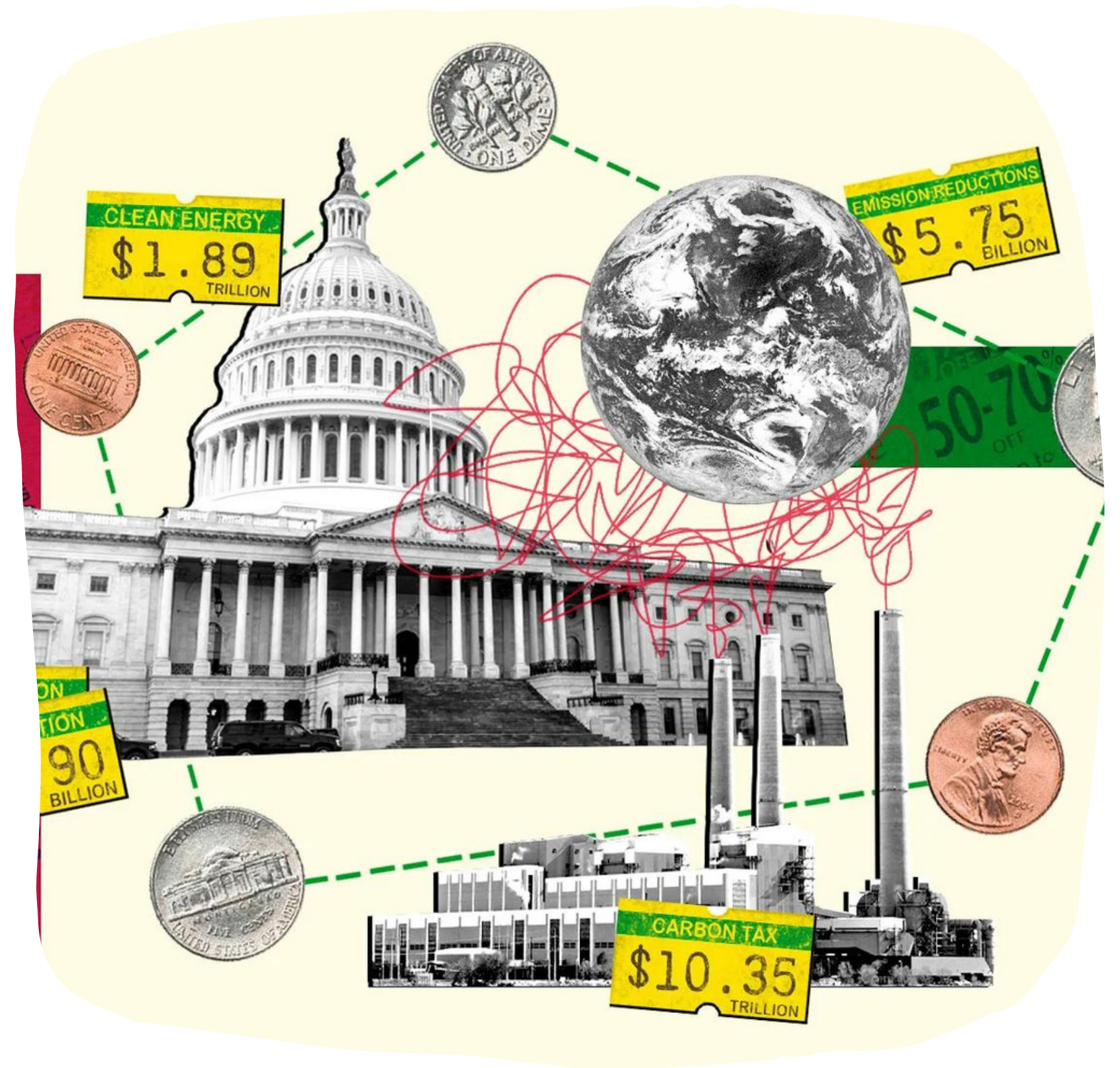
Research and assess local climate justice policies in the Boston area

Warm up:

What climate justice policies are you aware of?

- What do you know about them?
- In your opinion, how effective are they?

Turn to a partner or small group and discuss your ideas...



Introduction

What is climate justice policy?

Climate justice policy refers to actions, strategies, and regulations aimed at addressing the unequal distribution of climate change impacts and promoting fairness, equity, and human rights in climate action. These policies recognize that certain populations bear a disproportionate burden of the consequences of climate change, despite contributing less to its causes.

Climate justice policies take a human rights based approach to climate action, ensuring that individuals and communities have access to clean air, water, food security, health services, and a safe environment, regardless of their socioeconomic status or background.



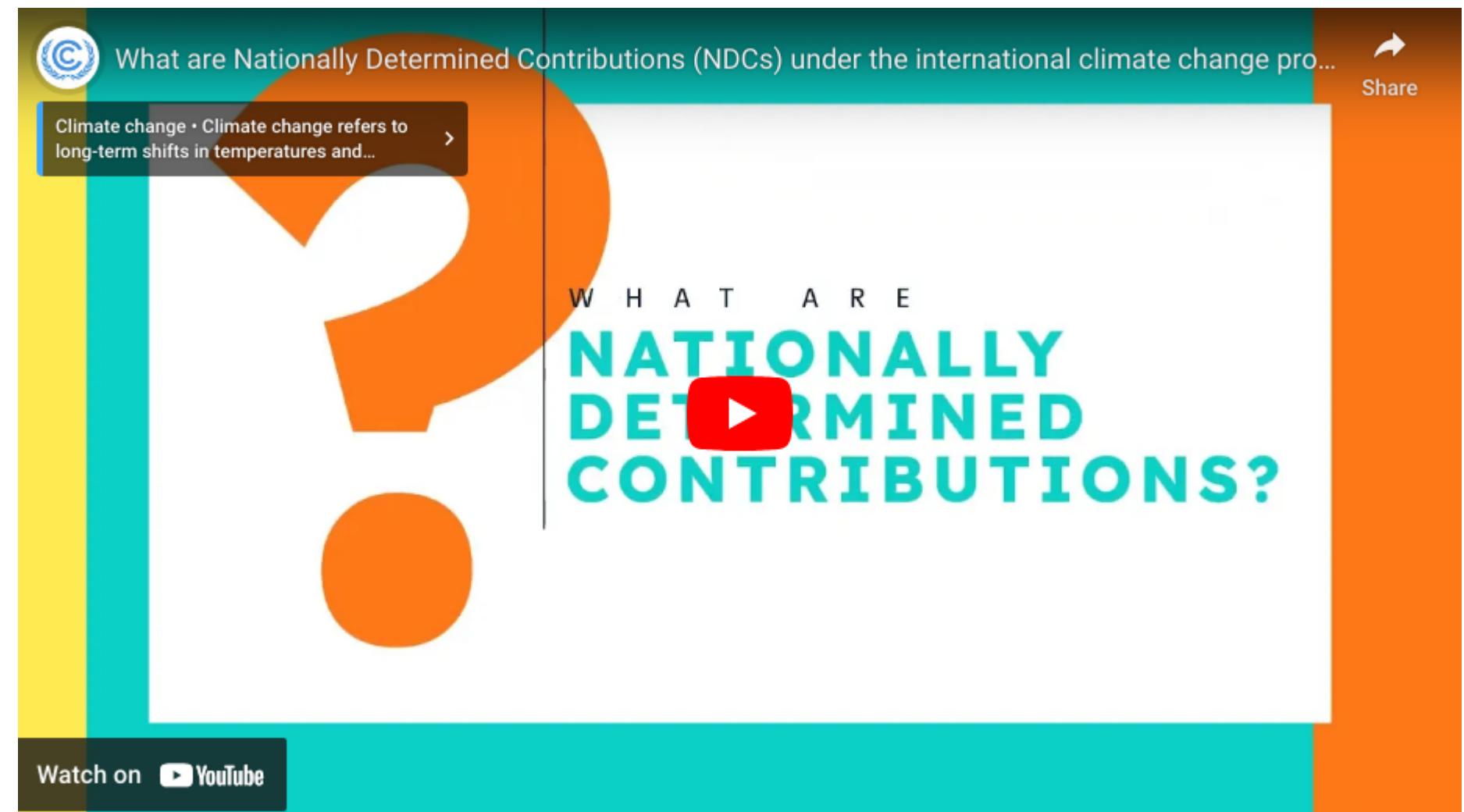
Tuvalu's Minister for Justice, Communication & Foreign Affairs Simon Kofe gives a COP26 statement while standing in the ocean in Funafuti, Tuvalu November 5, 2021.

Tuvalu Foreign Ministry | via Reuters

Activity 1

Watch and Define: Global Climate Justice Policy

The Paris Agreement: What are Nationally Determined Contributions?



The Paris Agreement and Climate Justice

The Paris Agreement is an international treaty designed to pursue efforts to limit the global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The Paris Agreement also promotes adaptation and providing financial assistance to developing countries that may face the steepest consequences from climate change while contributing the least to it.



Based on what you saw in the previous video, do you think NDCs are an effective way to enforce environmental standards?

Compare and Contrast


NDC Registry.

In accordance with Article 4, paragraph 12 of the Paris Agreement, NDCs communicated by Parties shall be recorded in a public registry maintained by the secretariat.



Credit: Axel Fassio/CIFOR

Showing 30 of 33 results

| Party | Title | Language | Translation | Version | Status | Submission Date | Additional documents |
|---|--|----------|-------------|---------|--------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
|  Antigua and Barbuda | Antigua and Barbuda First NDC (Updated submission) | English | | 2 | Active | 02/09/2021 | |
|  Argentina | Argentina Second NDC (Updated submission) | Spanish | | 3 | Active | 02/11/2021 | Argentina Second NDC (Archived) |

From the public UN registry of NDCs, pick two countries of interest, preferably one more developed nation and one developing nation. Click under "Title" to read over each country's NDC goals. Between the two nations, what differences do you notice? How are their contributions framed differently in terms of mitigation goals, strategies, and resources?

Discuss as a group.

Activity

2

Read & Investigate

[Global Center for Climate Justice:
The Green New Deal Resource Hub](#)



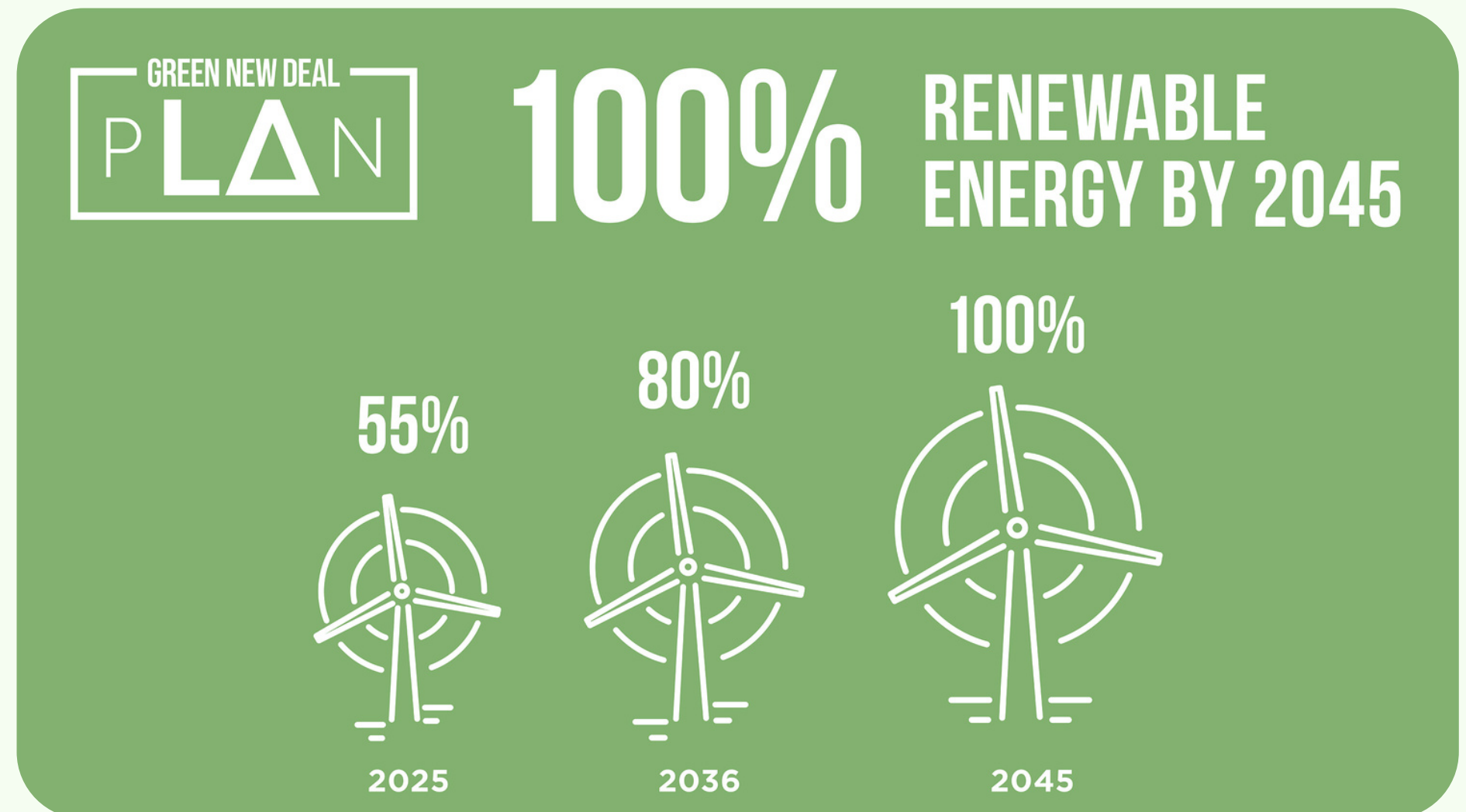
What is the Green New Deal?

The Green New Deal is a proposed set of economic stimulus packages and policy initiatives that aim to address climate change and economic inequality. It was first introduced in the United States by Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Senator Ed Markey in February 2019.



Transitioning to renewable energy sources:

The Green New Deal emphasizes the shift away from fossil fuels and the promotion of renewable energy technologies such as solar/wind power.



Via LA's Mayor Garcetti's local GND plans.

Upgrading/expanding Infrastructure:

The Green New Deal aims to improve energy efficiency in buildings, modernize transportation, and invest in resilient infrastructure to withstand the impacts of climate change.



Investing in Green Workforce :

The Green New Deal creates well-paying jobs in industries related to renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable agriculture, and other sustainability-minded fields.



Promoting Environmental Justice:

The Green New Deal addresses the disproportionate impacts of climate change on marginalized communities and to ensure that the benefits of a clean energy transition are equitably distributed.



GND Action Areas: Click on the Links to Learn More

[Affordable Housing](#)

[Circular Economy and 0 Waste](#)

[Climate Change Adaptation](#)

[Decommodification of Necessities](#)

[Water Justice](#)

[Health + Just Recovery](#)

[Good Jobs in a Green Economy](#)

[Food Justice + Resiliency](#)

[Energy Democracy](#)

[Sustainable + Equitable Land use](#)

[Transforming Institutions + Processes](#)

[Transportation Justice](#)

[Divest + Reinvest](#)

Critique of the Green New Deal

The Indigenous Environmental Network:

“while we are grateful to see this support by the Representative and Senator, we remain concerned that unless some changes are made to the resolution, the Green New Deal will leave incentives by industries and governments to continue causing harm to Indigenous communities...We can no longer leave any options for the fossil fuel industry to determine the economic and energy future of this country. And until the Green New Deal can be explicit in this demand as well as closing the loop on harmful incentives, we cannot fully endorse the resolution.”

A Red Deal

To learn more about these critiques, explore two websites with links on the right: **The Red Nation & The Indigenous Environmental Network**



Front Page

Check out the latest here!

 The Red Nation /



Respecting and Adhering to Indigenous Knowledge and Natural Law

The Indigenous Environmental Network is an alliance of grassroots Indigenous Peoples whose mission is to protect...

 Indigenous Environmental Network / Nov 26, 2020

For more, see our [Indigenous Climate Action Module](#)

Activity

Small Group Discussion

Pick an action area that interests you and review the case studies and/or reports available that interest you. Keep the following themes in mind and take some notes to discuss your thoughts in your group.

- **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.

Resources

TOOLKITS



MODEL POLICIES



CASE STUDIES



REPORTS



MULTIMEDIA



ORGANIZATIONS

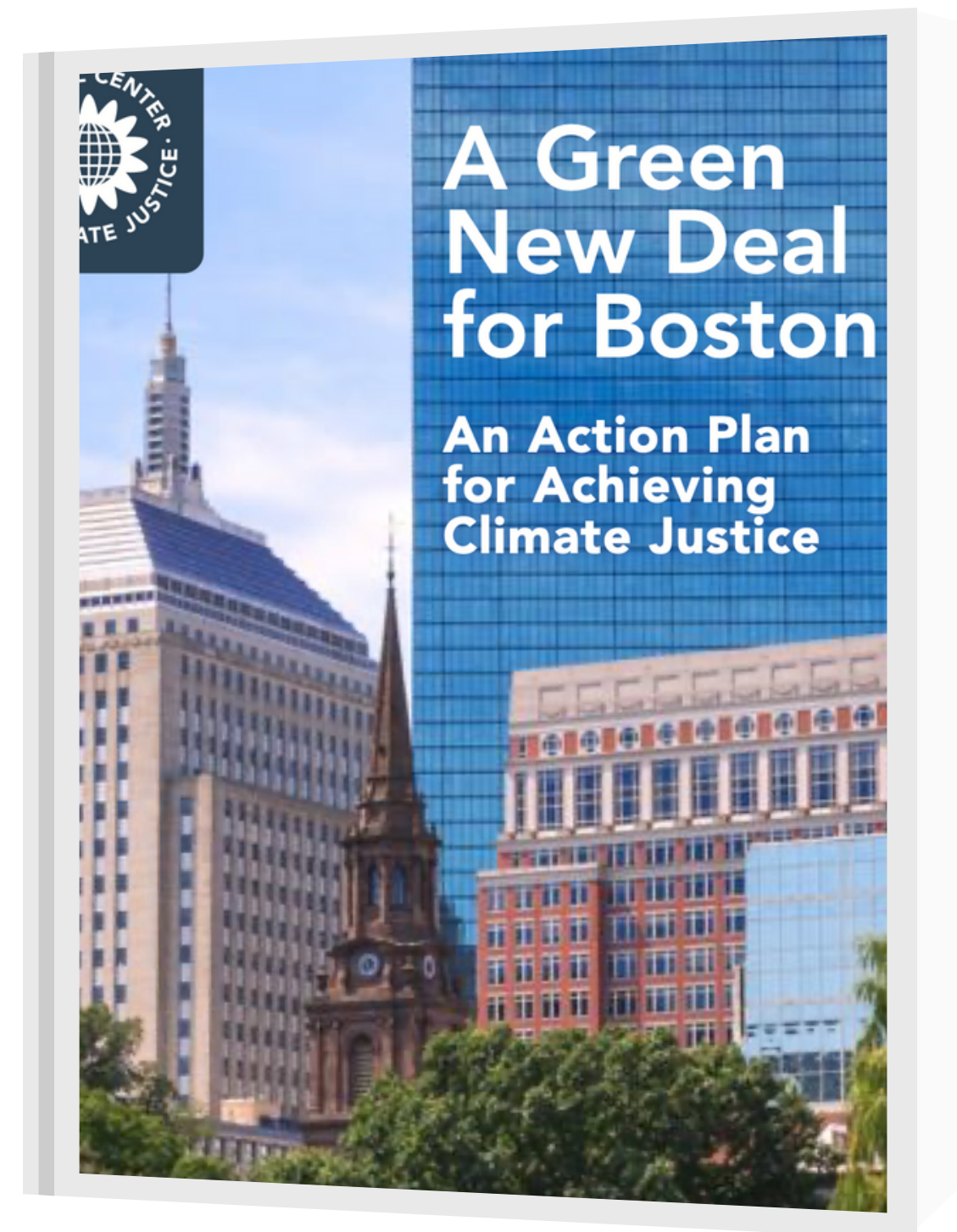


Activity

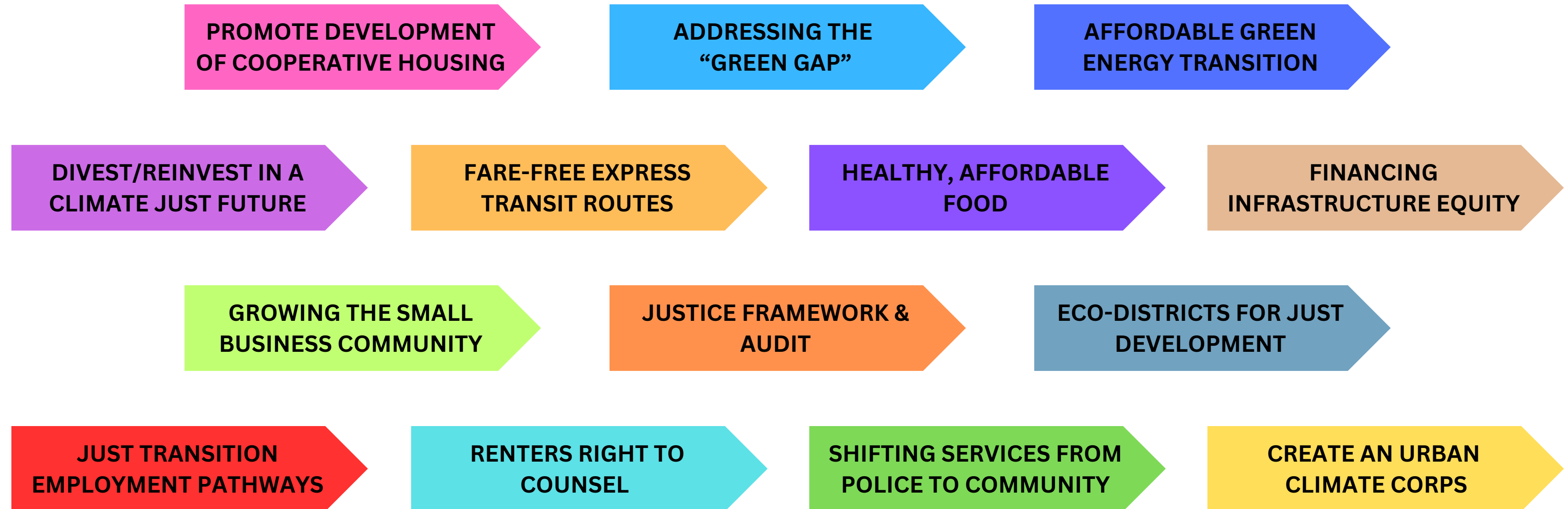
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Apply Your Learning

Read the *Boston Green New Deal Report: section “Policy Ideas for a Local Green New Deal and Just Recovery”*

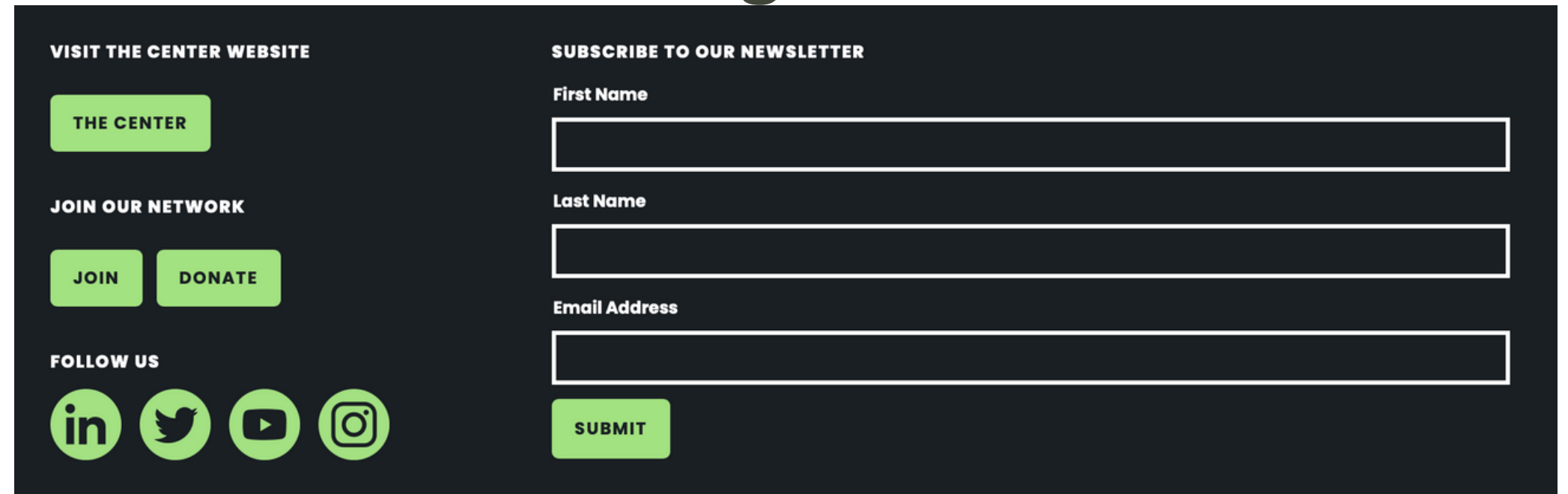


Project Option: pick a section under the report from the previous slide and do some research on the importance of issues in this space, and evaluate the effectiveness of proposed policies. **Knowing what you know now, can you apply the Green New Deal as a framework for your learning in class?**



Be prepared to discuss and present your ideas to your peers next class!
You may choose any format to present (slides, an infographic, video, etc.)

Take action through the GND hub!



The screenshot shows a dark-themed website interface with three main sections:

- VISIT THE CENTER WEBSITE:** A green button labeled "THE CENTER".
- JOIN OUR NETWORK:** Two green buttons labeled "JOIN" and "DONATE".
- FOLLOW US:** Four circular social media icons for LinkedIn, Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram.
- SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER:** A form with three input fields labeled "First Name", "Last Name", and "Email Address", and a green "SUBMIT" button.

Beyond the Module

Subscribe to the newsletter, follow the Hub on social media, or take action yourself by joining the network. The GND Hub provides various resources supporting local organizations (including student/institution affiliated groups) interested in supporting the Green New Deal across the country.

And explore our [Just Transitions Module](#)

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