

Gulf South for a Green New Deal Policy Platform

(2019)



The Seas Are Rising... AND SO ARE WE!

Acknowledgments

This document is offered with sincere gratitude to the multitude of frontline organizations, community leaders and concerned residents across the Gulf South (TX, LA, MS, AL, FL) for the work they do every day in their own communities. That work has created and shaped the collective vision for our region that comprises this document. We would also like to extend special thanks to the Wallace Global Fund, Climate Justice Alliance, 11th Hour Fund, and Foundation for Louisiana for their generous support.

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Gulf South Rising report designed by Jan Sutherland Wells

Green New Deal

Gulf South for a Green New Deal. (1)

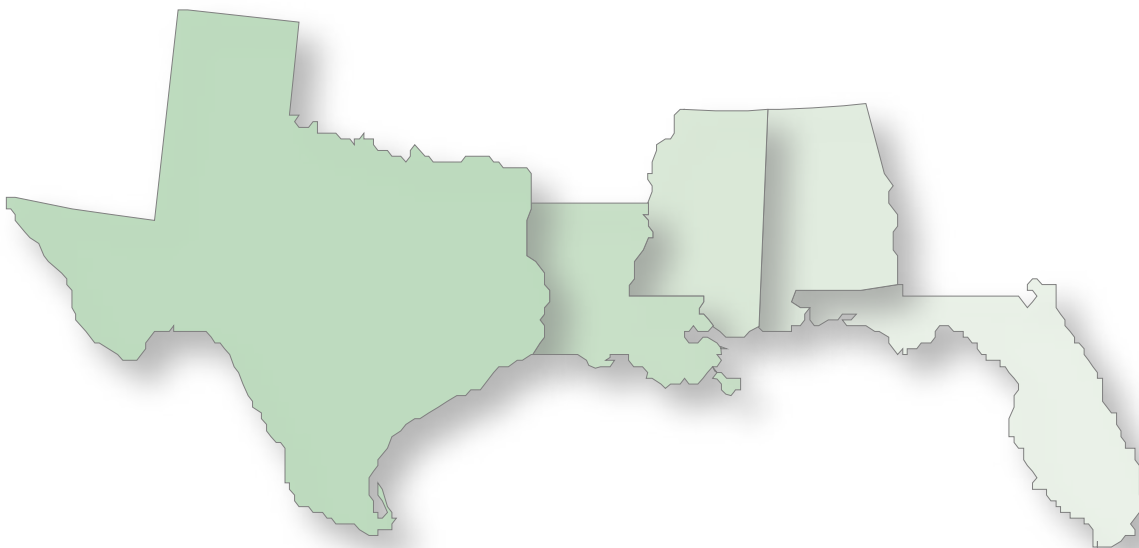
The Gulf South is uniquely positioned to be a national leader in the movement for a Green New Deal. With the climate crisis accelerating faster than even most scientific predictions, deep investment in Gulf South frontline communities will yield an opportunity for this region to be a global leader in equitable approaches to a socio-economic transformation that builds wealth and sustainability for the nation and the world.

Gulf South for a Green New Deal is a multi-state effort to address the impact of the global climate crisis on some of the most unique communities in the US. In May 2019, more than 800 advocates, farmers, fisherfolk, and community leaders from across the Gulf South gathered in New Orleans around a shared vision to advance regional sustainability in the face of the global climate crisis.

The creation of the Gulf South for a Green New Deal (GS4GND) Policy Platform was a six-month process anchored by the [Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy](#) (GCCLP). Using techniques from the People's Movement Assembly Process, GCCLP facilitated a five-state process of formalizing frontline voices. Through a broader regional organizing effort, over 100 original signatories are listed herein. Additional signatories will be updated quarterly.

This document is a collective assertion that the Gulf South must be included in the development of national policy. This platform is not a comprehensive policy vision, but rather a starting point and living tool of regional alignment and broad organizing in the Gulf South. The principles, goals, and strategies of this Policy Platform are offered to address what a Green New Deal must look like to be successful in the Gulf South. We offer this document as a step towards climate justice, self-determination, and dignity for all people everywhere.

As goes the South, so goes the nation.



Introduction

The existence and severity of climate change is no longer a question. The global climate crisis threatens humans and every other species on our planet.⁽²⁾ Opinion polls across the nation, including the US South, show that people understand that our planet is warming out of balance.⁽³⁾

The first-hand experience of Gulf South communities with climate disaster further affirms calls from the global scientific data to address this threat and make frontline communities more resilient in the process.

The vision of the Green New Deal is to address the climate crisis and invest in national infrastructure through the creation of millions of living wage jobs, which offers an opportunity to heal and protect our communities and generations to come.

The Gulf South version of this Green New Deal vision strengthens the entire nation by starting with the US climate frontlines.

This document is intended to advise and advance Green New Deal federal policies that address the unique conditions and opportunities of Gulf South communities on the frontlines of climate change.



Landscape & Context

The Gulf South Defined.

Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida comprise the US Gulf South. Connected by the Gulf of Mexico, the Gulf South is the US's third coast with deep and historic ties to the Caribbean and Central America. This region plays a pivotal role in the US economy, current national defense infrastructure, and the ongoing global advancement of liberty, science, social justice, and social innovation.

The combined GDP of these five Gulf South states would constitute the world's 5th largest economy, ahead of countries like England, India, France, and Brazil. The five Gulf South states produce 11.5% of the nation's agricultural products by value(4) and have the most productive fisheries outside of Alaska.(5)

Fifty-one active military outposts and most of the nation's strategic oil reserves are located in the Gulf South. It is also the region that gave birth to the US's greatest social movements.

Freedom and liberation work are an integral part of the Gulf South's history, and today Gulf South communities retain a strong connection to culture, family, community, and land.

Indigenous Nations of the Gulf South.

This region encompasses the sovereign territory of the Seminole, Poarch Creek, Tunica-Biloxi, Houma, Choctaw, LaCombe, Chata, Atakapa- Ishak, Chittamatcha, Caddo and Coushatta Peoples, among many more. The state of Mississippi hosts the largest Black population in the nation, with Louisiana and Alabama rounding out the top 5 states with such populations.

These demographic trends are rooted in the on-going, generational impacts of the trans-Atlantic slave trade felt in the South. Direct descendants of the last kidnapped and enslaved Africans brought to the US on the schooner Clotilda in 1859 now live in the Africatown neighborhood near⁶ Mobile, Alabama.





Relevancy of Southern Liberation.

The Gulf South continues to play a significant role in the socio-economic transformation of the US. Social movements originating in Gulf South states have given rise to historic and modern struggles for human rights and civil rights around the globe. And while the political South has had a dark history, southern political resistance in states like Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida have proven some of the most effective use of our modern democracy.

W.E.B. Du Bois(7) characterized the relevancy of the US South as a key link in the chain for the American working class fighting against exploitation and violent suppression. "As goes the South, so goes the nation"(8) was a statement of fact of our national reality then and is a statement of fact for our reality now.

Generations of communities that have survived government sponsored genocide, enslavement, and decades of environmental racism have important perspectives for the social transformation vision of the Green New Deal.

Gulf South Natural Resources, Economy and Labor.

The Mississippi River is one of the nation's largest and most economically important water systems. It connects fertile agricultural land with the sea, which made it attractive for Spain, France, Mexico and the US during western colonization. Louisiana ranks #1 in the nation in the sheer volume of products imported and exported through its ports.(9) Alabama and Mississippi are two of the most forested states in the nation,(10) making them essential for the natural carbon sequestration needed to mitigate excessive greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere. Florida and Texas are among the most populated states in the country with economies that exceeds most countries globally. Florida and Texas have the 17th(11) and 10th (respectively) (12) largest economies in the world, and are two of the nation's major agricultural producers.

Texas and Florida also carry significant political weight, often playing decisive roles in national elections. Texas and Louisiana are among the nation's most oil rich states, which means the oil industry is a major part of their economies and these states are home to many oil and gas workers.(13) Laws protecting labor and workers are weakest in the Gulf South. Alabama, Florida and Louisiana are "At will" states(14) where workers can be fired without cause or notice, and all five Gulf South states harbor "right to work" laws(15) which, according to the AFL-CIO, "tilt the balance toward big corporations and further rig the system at the expense of working families [and..] make it harder for working people to form unions and collectively bargain for better wages, benefits and working conditions."(16)

Petrochemical Pollution, Environmental Racism & Fisheries in the Gulf South.

The Gulf South is the epicenter of the oil and gas industry. Most of the nation's infrastructure, nearly \$800 billion in assets, can be found in the region. In Louisiana alone there are 125,000 miles of pipeline and nearly half of the country's refineries. Texas refines 31% of the nation's oil and gas and produces more crude oil than any other state.(17) The region supplies over 75% of the country's liquid fuel and is the nation's largest exporter of oil and gas.(18) A Gulf South economy first built by enslaved labor has transitioned to a toxic economy fueled by environmental racism.(19)

The oil and gas industry in the Gulf South also poses a toxic threat to frontline communities during climate disasters. During Hurricane Harvey (2017), millions of pounds of toxic pollutants were leaked into the air by industry. Though production of oil has decreased on the Gulf Coast, toxic chemical production is flourishing.(20) Like oil and gas operations, a disproportionate amount of chemical storage and refining occurs in low-income and predominantly Black and Brown communities.

In addition to targeting marginalized communities, the multi-faceted petrochemical industry emits excessive quantities of greenhouse gases causing an acceleration of the global climate crisis.



View of the Holy Rosary Cemetery in Taft, Louisiana, with a petrochemical plant on the background. The cemetery is located in the so called 'Cancer Alley'.

Petrochemical Industries & Gulf South Fisheries.

Forty-one percent of the continental United States drains into the Mississippi River, bringing with it pollution from industrial agriculture.(21) These pollutants fuel harmful algae blooms causing a large and growing dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico. Toxic algae outbreaks kill marine life, further punish struggling seafood harvesters, and decreases coastal tourism. The source of this agricultural pollution is petrochemical-based fertilizers produced along the Gulf coast, which are toxic to local communities.

The BP Oil Drilling Disaster in 2010 killed 11 oil rig workers and released more than 130 million gallons of oil into fragile marine ecosystems in two countries. Tens of thousands of seafood harvesters, tourism companies, and hospitality workers were out of work for years and many never recovered. The oil drilling disaster also had direct health impacts on cleanup crews and Gulf residents namely from the use of toxic chemical dispersants. These chemicals dispersants are banned in Europe due to known harm to humans yet remain approved for use in Gulf South communities by government and industry.

Industrial Agriculture & Farmworker Rights. The industrial food system is a key contributor to the climate crisis through habitat destruction, greenhouse gas emissions, and soil depletion. Agricultural workers and land are often omitted from laws that protect other categories of workers and the environment. As targets of both social and environmental racism, farmworkers are on the frontlines of climate impacts.

This current corporate agricultural system has replaced traditional labor with fossil fuel combustion and exploits seasonal laborers who are often fleeing climate catastrophe in the Global South. Farmworkers must have access to healthy, productive, and affordable land and must be a part of the decision-making process to transform our national agricultural system.

Climate Change as a Threat Multiplier.

In addition to extreme weather, the Gulf South faces additional threats to the health and resiliency of coastal communities due to rising temperatures and increased tidal flooding and other impacts related to sea level rise. The region is already experiencing dangerous heat waves, which will only continue to worsen if immediate action is not taken.⁽²²⁾ The number of days exceeding 100 degrees is rising in all five states and is expected to quadruple by 2050.⁽²³⁾

By 2030, the number of flood events in the region will double, putting nearly 2 million homes at risk in just Florida and Texas alone.⁽²⁴⁾ Louisiana is experiencing one of the highest relative levels of land loss to sea level rise on the planet.⁽²⁵⁾ The acceleration of land loss is due to a deadly combination of oil and gas operations and engineered federal controls over the natural flow of the Mississippi River. Gulf Coast communities are significantly disadvantaged in preventing and recovering from flooding as a result of social and economic inequalities. The most impacted areas are host to long-standing tribal territories and historic Black communities.



Debris and Destroyed Buildings on Gulf Coast in the Aftermath of Hurricane Michael.

Frontline Values for a Green New Deal

The values reflected herein reveal our collective belief and agreements towards achieving a Green New Deal for the Gulf South. As communities living in and working on the frontlines of disaster and extractive industry practices, we know the promise of jobs and justice cannot be achieved without ensuring the following values are reflected at every stage in the design and implementation of Green New Deal policies.

Advance Equity.

The Green New Deal aims to create policies that address the climate crisis, serve the people and correct the current systems of injustice and inequity. Therefore, it must be acknowledged that not all people have contributed equally to the climate crisis, nor will all people feel the effects of the changes equally. The Gulf South disproportionately suffers many of the worst effects of climate change in the U.S.-- from increased temperatures to hurricanes and flooding, all while losing land to the rising seas.

Climate impacts exacerbate justice issues stemming from environmental racism, weak labor laws, discriminatory housing policies, obstacles to healthcare and systemic generational injustice.⁽²⁶⁾ Toxic petrochemical plants, biomass, oil and gas export terminals, toxic pipelines and prisons continue to fuel the extractive economy.

A Green New Deal in the Gulf South must advance equity by considering and repairing historical harm against those who have contributed the least to climate change and suffered the most -- and advance solutions to the climate crisis that center those most impacted.

Follow Indigenous & Frontline Leadership.

The voices and needs of Indigenous and frontline communities must be prioritized in a Green New Deal. The sovereign rights and treaties of all tribal nations must be acknowledged and honored. In order to move forward from the injustices inflicted on the Peoples of the Gulf South, there is a need for acknowledgement, healing and regenerative repair. Indigenous and Southern leaders must play a central role in the country's transition toward a more just and sustainable world.

Build Community Wealth & Health.

For too long workers in Gulf South communities have been forced into a false choice between a living wage and their health. Jobs associated with a Green New Deal must offer living wages and prioritize sustainable practices of farming, remediating toxic soil and reforesting our degraded land, transitioning our energy infrastructure to renewables like Solar and Wind energy, preparing vulnerable communities and land for a changing climate while caring for those in need, and investing in the next generation so that they are equipped to deal with a further changing planet.

Additionally, a legacy of incarceration, Jim Crow laws, and slavery has left generations of Black southerners with criminal records that bar them from economic opportunity. Green New Deal jobs must look beyond convictions when designing the workforce of tomorrow.

Invest in Visionary & Transformative Change.

The changing climate not only signals an existential threat on the horizon but it also stands as evidence that our current political and economic systems have failed us for the benefit of a few. Urgent national action capable of addressing the full scope and complexity of this moment is needed. We have an opportunity to create new visions, systems, and institutions capable of bringing forth a more just, equitable, and sustainable world.

Advance Community & Local Control.

To create a just and equitable people-centered economy, power must be shifted away from large corporations and to local communities. Communities must create and control their own wealth by providing pathways for affordable housing and sustainable homeownership, public control of natural resources, renewable energy sources and utility services. Unencumbered access to energy, clean water, clean air, healthy food, fair housing, livable wages and information are human rights rooted in self determination.

Use an Intersectional Approach.

To achieve a Green New Deal in the Gulf South, there must be an intersectional approach to the development of climate policy that advances jobs and justice. The challenges facing frontline communities are not rooted in a single issue but rather the consequence of intersecting breaks and injustices in our social fabric.

Affordable housing, access to healthcare, land sovereignty, and economic justice are necessary elements of climate resiliency. Eliminating policy barriers to formerly incarcerated, differently-abled, trans and queer people is climate equity. Informed consultation and consent from Indigenous leadership is climate justice.

Value All Humans Equally.

Every human being has value and the inherent value of our humanity is not measured by our economic output. This country deserves an economy rooted in the dignity and self-determination of communities, from the bottom up. Green New Deal mobilization must ensure the safety, dignity, and self-determination of all workers, and value non-workers - children, students, unemployed people, elders, and people with disabilities - as worthy of support.



Our Offering

WE AGREE

We commend Representative Ocasio-Cortez and Senator Markey for the courage to envision America's duty and ability to harness this country's power toward the repair of generational injustices. The foundation of this transformational vision is rooted in the best version of our collective selves. Communities in the Gulf South on the frontlines of industrial pollution and climate change have been calling on the federal government to act on environmental and climate justice issues for decades.

We are in a climate emergency, and bold national action is critical and necessary. Human activity is the dominant cause for this accelerated crisis. Industrialized nations bear a greater blame for the problem and therefore must take greater responsibility for the solution. Global warming at or above 2 degrees Celsius will have devastating impacts on health and well-being of our communities, our environment, and our way of life. We already see the impacts of a changing climate in the Gulf South. Tribal and historic communities are losing physical land, being displaced and relocated due to sea level rise. We agree that the Federal Government has a moral obligation to create a Green New Deal with the promise to create millions of new high paying jobs and counteract systemic injustices. We agree with several points and perspectives in the Joint Resolution recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal.(27)

Investments and opportunities associated with a Green New Deal must prioritize the needs and voices of those disproportionately impacted by our current social systems: Indigenous Peoples, communities of color, migrant communities, deindustrialized communities, depopulated rural communities, low-income workers, women, elderly, LGBTQ+ people, the unhoused, people with disabilities, youth, and people with criminal records. We applaud the Green New Deal's affirming the frontline assessment, namely that climate change, pollution, environmental destruction have exacerbated systemic racial, regional, environmental, and economic injustices. A fair and just Green New Deal must center the solutions of those impacted and provide access to healthcare, affordable housing, public transportation, and economic security, education, worker rights, and ownership needed to be full and equal participants.

The Green New Deal must be developed in direct collaboration with Gulf South communities on the frontlines of climate change. Rural communities, farmworkers and fisherfolk must be at the forefront of planning and implementing the Green New Deal. Locally-owned and small businesses must be accountable to collective community visions advancing sustainable practices through inclusive and democratic processes that advance equity. Multinational corporations responsible for exploited land, labor, and resources and contributing to climate change must be held accountable to workers and communities harmed by their business practices.

It is the goal of the Green New Deal to establish the projects that will give public sector workers the resources to confront the challenges of climate change, upgrade our failing infrastructure, restore our damaged natural ecosystems, eliminate toxic pollution and decrease greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation, energy, manufacturing and agricultural sectors.

The Green New Deal must advance educational opportunities, including job training that will develop the skills, knowledge, and innovation to address the accelerating climate crisis. Education must uplift traditional indigenous and ecological knowledge in order to address the unique realities and needs associated with a changing climate in the Gulf South.

We applaud and agree with the inclusion of a global community, many of whom face disproportionate impacts of climate change now and in the future. The United States has a responsibility and a moral obligation to reduce emissions more quickly than developing nations because, as a nation, we are responsible for 20 percent of the global greenhouse gas emissions accelerating the crisis. The sharing of technology, resourcing for climate financing and climate reparations help to define our "fair share" so that our global family can ensure healthy, sustainable, and resilient communities in the changing global climate reality.

WE CHALLENGE

Gulf South Objections to False Solutions.

We object to any false solutions that sacrifice one community for another, privatize shared public resources, disrupt natural systems or risk the health of humans or ecosystems. False solutions are rooted in an extractive economic philosophy, a discriminatory social standard, inaccessible technologies, decreased democracy and the disrespectful manipulation of natural systems and resources. What the Green New Deal cannot be is a “greenlight” to false solutions that cause harm to natural systems or marginalized communities.

We fully support the Green New Deal’s vision to create millions of high paying and unionized jobs. However, national action must acknowledge that a market based approach to climate resiliency and equity wrongly diminishes the need to strengthen the existing social safety net to benefit all people, starting with the most marginalized. Good-wage jobs alone will not be enough to ensure all families and communities impacted by climate change are able to remain healthy and resilient in the face of climate and socio-economic disasters. We must ensure that all families and communities can have their human rights and most basic needs met through an economic system and regulations that value human dignity.



*United Houma Nation:
Principal Chief
August "Cocoa" Creppel*

WE DEMAND

Gulf South Communities face a unique reality.

Our economy, present military relevance, coastal geography, social movement history and cultural context require a tailored approach to a Green New Deal that can shift the direction of Gulf South – and ultimately our entire nation. Green New Deal legislation must be rooted in human rights, understand the rights of nature, and protect the civil rights of all who make this country great. Government agencies must recognize that a successful Green New Deal will be intersectional in nature requiring open, better and more democratic communication and solution-building practices across agencies.

Indigenous People's & Land Reparations.

Recognize all Indigenous tribes of the Gulf South as sovereign nations, and follow local and Indigenous leadership regarding decisions that affect their communities and sovereign territory. Include land reform as part of reparations for Black (29), Brown, and Indigenous communities that have had their land stolen. Codify the standards for reparations provided in the Vision for Black Lives Platform. (30)

Environmental Justice Communities & Ecological Stewardship.

Acknowledge the targeting of marginalized communities as sacrifice zones for polluting industries and government. Policies aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions must also clean up toxic lands at the same rate, with the same financial support and urgency- prioritizing environmental justice communities. Preserve and restore our natural habitats, forests, and fisheries while prioritizing vulnerable communities and locally-owned businesses by bringing them into the decision-making process.

Equitable Climate Disaster Planning & Recovery (Displacement, Relocation & Gentrification).

Recognize the human right to remain both during climate disaster and during the permanent relocation processes due to climate impact. Relocation processes must be self-determined by communities and must assure the social, cultural, and economic requirements for a transitioning community to survive and thrive.

Combat climate gentrification by affirmatively furthering fair, affordable and equitable housing linked to reliable public transportation. Protect home ownership by providing material resources to families--especially communities of color and other vulnerable communities - for elevating and flood-proofing homes.

Sustainable Agriculture.

Transform the portions of the current U.S. agricultural system that exploit laborers through dangerous work, threatens public health, dismantles worker safety and accelerates the climate crisis. Federal financial support must redistribute unpolluted land in both rural and urban areas to historically marginalized communities and de-incentivize consolidation into mega-farms. Agricultural labor requires dignified working conditions and family-sustaining wages for all. We must subsidize healthy crops and farm biodiversity instead of monocultures. Our food system must be rooted in principles of community-based agroecology and food sovereignty.

Sustainable Fisheries.

Prioritize our last major self-renewing source of food: wild capture fisheries. The ocean must be protected from pollution, including plastics and petrochemical-based fertilizer and pesticide runoff. The runoff from industrial farms is responsible for the growing dead zone found at the mouth of the Mississippi River while other harmful algae blooms are decimating our fisheries and coastal fishing communities.

The ocean commons belong to us all. We must reject attempts to industrialize the ocean through factory fish farms and large scale aquaculture. The federal government must limit economic consolidation in fisheries and provide opportunities for training and economic support to historically disadvantaged communities to enter fisheries.

Updated Civil Infrastructure.

Invest in critical infrastructure like levees, bridges, and drainage canals, prioritizing local communities of color for service and jobs. Ensure community and economic development decisions are informed by the science of equitable, sustainable, and resilient community practices and developed in collaboration with frontline communities.

Worker Rights.

Overhaul the US labor system through the expansion of collective bargaining rights for all workers, including migrant workers and farmworkers. Support collective bargaining and repeal attacks on worker protections including the "Right to Work" and "At Will" employment laws. Create incentives to advance worker-owned cooperatives and establish eligibility processes to ensure that formerly incarcerated people play a role in a Green New Deal work force. Convict leasing and prison labor cannot play a role in an equitable economy and must be banned.

Just Transition from Extractive Industries.

Remediate toxic pollution to the satisfaction of the impacted community before new permits can be issued by state or federal agencies to polluting industries. Ban new pipelines and drilling leases for extractive industries on Gulf South lands and territorial waters. Prioritize abandoned oil rigs and other leftover physical oil and gas infrastructure for reuse in the advancement of renewable energy infrastructure.

Just Transition to Energy Equity.

Renewable energy job opportunities and investments in new infrastructure must prioritize opportunity and access for frontline communities currently reliant on extractive industry jobs. Low-income communities must be the beneficiaries of emerging technologies like renewables and jobs created by the Green New Deal must be accessible to everyone, including to formerly incarcerated people.

We also must use a just transition lens towards demilitarization; honoring the historic significance of the military in Gulf South communities while transitioning investment away from the military and towards job creation in regenerative local economies. In addition to transition from fossil fuels, we need a just transition away from nuclear energy that harms poor and Black communities living near facilities. The costs and burden of a fair and just transition must be paid by the industries that have polluted and poisoned communities and deliberately deceived the public about the threat their operations pose to our climate.

We Rise

Given its importance and significance, there can be no doubt that the Gulf South is the region to lead national change through a Green New Deal. Gulf South leaders see the Green New Deal as an opportunity to right past wrongs by building a better future together, but the South must not be left behind.

To confront this global challenge, the US must highlight values and solutions originating from the frontlines of climate change in the Gulf South and Global South. Significant and long-term investment in the Gulf South frontline is an equitable approach to the socio-economic transformation that builds wealth and sustainability for the nation and the world.

The seas are rising... AND SO ARE WE!

Three easy ways to Join Us!

1. Sign-up to receive updates at:
gcclp.org/gulf-south-for-a-green-new-deal
2. Endorse the GS4GND Policy Platform at:
tinyurl.com/GS4GNDPolicyPlatform
3. **Contribute** to the conversation using **#GulfSouth4GND** and **#GulfSouthRising** on your preferred social media platform



GULF SOUTH SIGNATORIES
(Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Texas)

- 34th Street Wholistic Gardens & Education Center Inc.
- 350 New Orleans
- 350 Pensacola
- A Community Voice - Louisiana
- Action for a Liveable Tomorrow
- Alabama College Democrats
- Alabama Interfaith Power and Light
- Alabama Rivers Alliance
- Alliance for Affordable Energy
- Anthropocene Alliance
- Ashe Cultural Arts Center
- Austin Justice Coalition
- Baton Rouge Democratic Socialists of America
- Biloxi Islamic Center
- Biloxi NAACP
- Caridad Consulting, LLC
- Center for Fair Housing
- Clean, Healthy, Educated, Safe & Sustainable Community Inc.
- Climate Reality Project NOLA
- CLIMATE REALITY PROJECT NOLA
- Climate Reality Project: New Orleans, La
- Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc. (CCC)
- Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc. (CCC)
- College Democrats of Louisiana
- College Democrats of MS
- Community Justice Project
- Deep South Center for Environmental Justice
- Efforts of Grace, Inc./Ashe' Cultural Arts Center
- Equilibrio
- Farmworker Association of Florida
- Florida College Democrats
- Forging Alliances
- Fossil Free Tulane
- Foundation for Louisiana
- GASP
- Global Diversified Biosystems
- Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center
- Greater New Orleans Grower's Alliance
- Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance
- Green Party of Louisiana
- Green Party of New Orleans
- Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy (GCCLP)
- Healthy Community Services
- Healthy Gulf
- Hijra House
- Imagine Water Works
- Institute for Ashe Movement
- Institute of Women and Ethnic Studies
- Jewish Voice for Peace New Orleans
- Jewish Voice for Peace San Antonio
- Justice & Accountability Center of Louisiana
- Louisiana Bucket Brigade
- Louisiana Budget Project
- Magic City Youth Initiative
- Miami Climate Alliance
- Mike Siegel for Congress
- Mississippi Center for Cultural Production
- Mississippi Rising Coalition
- MQVN Community Development Corporation
- New Orleans Democratic Socialists of America
- New Orleans Workers' Center for Racial Justice
- Nfungotah, Inc.
- No Waste Louisiana
- One Voice, Inc.
- People's Justice Council
- Peoples Advocacy Institute
- Power Coalition for Equity and Justice
- Public Citizen Texas
- RISE St. James
- SEIU Local 21LA
- Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) HTX
- Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) Miami
- Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) SWFL
- Sierra Club, Alabama Chapter
- Southern Poverty Law Center
- SPROUT
- Step Up Louisiana
- Steps Coalition
- Sunrise Gainesville
- Sunrise Houston
- Sunrise Movement Austin
- Sunrise Movement Homestead
- Sunrise Movement South Florida
- Sunrise Movement Tallahassee
- Sunrise Orlando
- Sunrise PBC
- Sunrise San Antonio
- Sunrise NOLA
- Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services (TEJAS)
- Texas College Democrats
- The First 72+
- The Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance
- The People's Justice Council
- The Water Collaborative
- The Wind & The Warrior
- Voice of the Experienced (VOTE)
- YDSA at Louisiana Tech
- Zion Travelers Cooperative Center

NATIONAL & REGIONAL SIGNATORIES

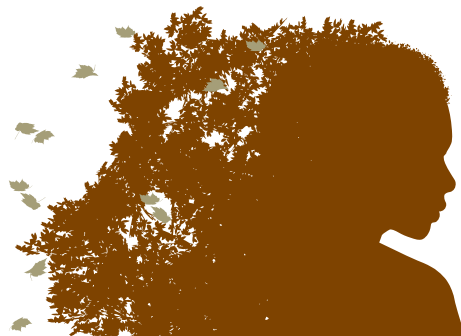
Alliance for a Green Economy
 Alliance for Climate Education (ACE)
 Citizens Awareness Network
 Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)
 Climate Justice Alliance
 Dogwood Alliance
 EcoEquity
 Hudson River Sloop Clearwater
 NISGUA - Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala
 Nuclear Information and Resource Service
 Oil Change U.S.
 Partnership for Southern Equity
 Power Shift Network
 Rachel Carson Council
 Showing Up for Racial Justice
 Sierra Club
 Southern Crossroads Organizing Project for Empowerment
 Sunrise Movement - National
 SURJ - Showing Up for Racial Justice
 UPROSE



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14. At Will- This term means that an employer can terminate an employee for any reason without warning. However, an employer can not fire an employee if the reason for doing so is illegal, such as firing someone because of their gender, race, or religion. Contracts in at-will state between employers and employees prevent the employer from pursuing a claim against the employer as a result of being fired. In other words, an employee can not sue for lost wages due to dismissal from the job, provided the dismissal was legal, as discussed above. Mississippi and Texas as have at will laws, but these states do allow for a few exceptions.
15. Right to Work- In states where there are right-to-work laws, employers and labor unions are prohibited from forcing any employee that is not part of the union to pay fees. Some states also include language that prohibits employers and unions from requiring union membership as a condition for employment.
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