



BUILDING FEMINIST POLICIES FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

A policy screening and resource guide by
the Feminist Green New Deal Coalition

| ABOUT US

Feminism demands collective action. This global coalition consists of individuals and organizations working towards justice at all of the intersections that the climate crisis touches: migrant justice, racial justice, economic justice, labor justice, reproductive justice, global justice and gender justice. We come together to pursue intersectional climate justice, and we stand in solidarity with each other's movements for change. Together, this coalition advocates for feminist principles to guide our response to the climate crisis. Learn more about the Feminist Green New Deal Coalition [here](#).

Our vision is founded on 10 core principles for feminist action for climate justice, which should form the backbone of any climate policy proposal.

This document provides guidance for policymakers to assess whether proposed legislation or policy meets, both in spirit and materially, the principles laid forth. It also provides movement leaders and advocates with an intersectional gender lens into climate policy, along with concrete resources and tools. See the accompanying resource annex for more materials and information related to each Principle.

PRINCIPLES

1. REQUIRE INTERSECTIONAL GENDER ANALYSIS ACROSS ALL ACTIONS

Applying intersectional gender analysis when formulating policy can help avoid negative impacts of policies on individual persons and communities and greatly improve the potential positive and far-reaching impacts of policy. In our deeply unequal society, gender interacts with sexuality, race, national origin, class, disability, and other identities to shape people's access to power and resources, leaving some disproportionately impacted by and vulnerable to climate disruption.

EXAMPLE:

Due to structural inequalities, studies have shown that women and girls are disproportionately impacted by climate disasters: they often die at higher rates, **experience increased rates** of sexual and **domestic violence**. Further, **LGBTQ people are routinely excluded** from disaster preparedness and relief programs, frequently facing more difficulty finding safe emergency housing and shelter.

In developing this policy or legislation, were the following considered?

- How will this policy platform differently affect men, women, girls, boys, gender-nonconforming and gender-diverse people, and members of the LGBTQIA+ community in conjunction with other identities such as race, ethnicity, class, age, ability, and indigeneity?
- Have policy alternatives been proposed to remedy disproportionate impacts based on gender and social analysis?
- Does the proposed policy adequately address the needs and human rights of all people?
- Have members of most affected populations been included in designing policy and programming?

2. RECOGNIZE THAT THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS DOMESTIC CLIMATE POLICY

We can only avert climate catastrophe if the U.S. works with the rest of the world to mitigate climate change, support adaptation and resilience and advance feminist foreign policy that serves people and their communities, and is not coopted by corporate, militarized or exploitative agendas. The U.S. has historically been the largest emitter of carbon, and indeed, the **U.S. military alone is a bigger polluter** than approximately 140 countries. Meanwhile, Global South countries least responsible for the crisis **are experiencing the brunt of its effects** — from severe droughts to devastating typhoons to economic repercussions. The U.S. must address its climate debt to the Global South through ambitious and urgent emissions reductions; unprecedented commitments to climate finance; and reparations for impacted communities, including women and girls in all their diversity. Trade and tax policies must support Global South nations in transitioning to just, renewable economies, and end U.S. extractivist interventions globally. The U.S. must ensure that financing via the multilateral development banks does not support fossil fuel infrastructure, and that it does not engage in austerity policies towards countries that constrain their ability to implement national environmental and social protection policies.

In developing this policy or legislation, were the following considered?

- What implications will enacting this policy have outside the United States?
- Does this policy support developing countries in advancing their own just transitions or does it aim to serve the interests of U.S. businesses?
- Does it commit to international climate finance investments that support gender-responsive, low-emissions, climate resilient development in developing countries?
- Does this policy reflect a fair share U.S. effort that is commensurate with our capacity, resources and share of historical emissions?
- Does this policy acknowledge climate change as an underlying driver of migration and displacement and support those who have been forced or chosen to migrate?
- Does the policy take a holistic perspective to understand and address the interconnections between global U.S. militarism and the climate crisis?

3. CONFRONT INSTITUTIONAL PATRIARCHY AND RACISM

Systemic oppressions show up throughout countries, communities, movements, and policymaking spaces – from the criminalization of our bodies to racist gerrymandering and voter suppression, and from inequitable access to government flood insurance to the school-to-prison pipeline. Unless we tackle these systems head-on, they will continue to undermine the climate solutions we seek. We must fight for a true, participatory democracy. We cannot call on people to use their voice to confront the climate crisis when we know marginalized people's voices are systematically oppressed.

In developing this policy or legislation, were the following considered?

- What does this policy do to invest in and shift power and resources towards Indigenous and Black people, people of color, women, non-binary and gender non-conforming peoples?
- What reparative measures are taken?
- Have movement leaders, especially Black-led and Indigenous movements, been consulted and given consent on the specific policy measures being proposed? Are they at the center of all stages of policy development and implementation?

4. CENTER INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS AND LEADERSHIP

Indigenous Peoples hold rights over and **protect 25% of the earth's land surface and 80% of remaining biodiversity**. **To accurately reflect substantive solutions to the climate crisis, Indigenous sovereignty and solutions are paramount.** This includes binding legal recognition of Indigenous land rights, enforcement of the right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent as codified in ILO 169 and UNDRIP, and recognition of the Rights of Nature.

In developing this policy or legislation, were the following considered?

- How does this policy redistribute power, uphold Indigenous Sovereignty and advance the self-determination of Indigenous Peoples?

- Have Indigenous Peoples been consulted and given consent on the specific policy measures being proposed? Has **Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)** of Indigenous Peoples and local communities been achieved?
- Have Indigenous Peoples been at the center of policy planning, implementation and decision-making?
- Does it uphold and respect the rights and sovereignty of Indigenous Peoples globally?

5. SYSTEMICALLY CONFRONT EXPLOITATIVE AND UNSUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION PATTERNS

The roots of the climate crisis lie in an economic system that encourages corporate greed, unsustainable production, and profit-seeking over the well-being of people and the planet. Globally, this system further entrenches neocolonial patterns of power and production between North and South countries and within settler-colonies like the United States. This endless pursuit of material growth empowers the fossil fuel, mining, and polluting industries most responsible for climate change. Tackling these patterns systemically requires engaged citizenship, movement building, organizing with labor, public education, and mobilization aimed at transforming our economy to one grounded in justice, equity, rights, sustainability, and respect for nature and ecological balance.

In developing this policy or legislation, were the following considered?

- Does this policy interrupt unsustainable production methods, patterns and systems, by minimizing the use of natural resources, toxics and emissions in the development of products and services across industries?
- Does this policy protect workers and ecosystems from exploitation?
- What does this policy do to limit and regulate corporate power?
- Does this policy include a clear roadmap for transitioning away from, and disinvesting from, harmful and exploitative practices and industries? Does it consider the reparative work needed for both transitioning workers and healing communities historically harmed by those practices and industries?

6.

ADVANCE REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

Climate justice and bodily autonomy are intrinsically linked. Reproductive justice frameworks put forth by Black, Indigenous, queer and trans people and feminists of color have have long outlined the ways in which the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the land we live on affects our health and well-being. **Advancing the right to bodily autonomy and ensuring universal, accessible, quality, gender-responsive health care is critical to achieving climate and reproductive justice alike.**

EXAMPLE:

Vertical bar Toxic chemicals that pollute our water, air and land also jeopardize our health, including reproductive health, often with a disproportionate impact on Black, Indigenous and Latinx women due to systemic and institutional injustice.

In developing this policy or legislation, were the following considered?

- Does this policy advance bodily autonomy and reproductive justice?
- How does this policy protect the right of all to clean air, water and land, and ensure universal, accessible, quality, gender-responsive health care for all?
- Does this policy posit reproductive health and rights as important to climate change resilience and adaptation, and if so, does it center a human rights based framework that ensures bodily autonomy?
- Does the policy advance environmental justice and mitigate the impact of climate change, pollution and toxins on Black and Indigenous women and communities of color?

7.

ENSURE DEMOCRATICALLY CONTROLLED, COMMUNITY-LED SOLUTIONS

Community-led climate solutions are more democratic, stronger, and longer-lasting. **To be effective, climate solutions should be community-owned and community-led, including inclusive**

financing and equitable distribution of energy and the development of just housing and education policies. It must also draw from, uplift, and support existing women and community-led solutions to the climate crisis, in the U.S. and globally. Crucially, actions must prioritize community self-determination regarding any policy or development project that impacts land and livelihoods, and affirm the necessity of [Free, Prior, and Informed Consent \(FPIC\)](#).

In developing this policy or legislation, were the following considered?

- Are these policies driven by the perspectives and demands of the communities that will be impacted by them, with clear evidence of deep consultation and consent?
- Are the solutions and measures outlined owned by the communities they are aiming to serve, if not, are there pathways towards community ownership?
- Has the Free Prior and Informed Consent of Indigenous Peoples and local communities been observed?

8. REJECT FALSE AND HARMFUL RESPONSES TO CLIMATE CHANGE THAT FAIL TO ADDRESS ROOT CAUSES.

Climate justice requires a 100% transition to renewable energy that is justly sourced and that divests from the mining, fossil fuel, and agribusiness based economy that fuels climate change. We must reject false ‘solutions’ that allow these drivers of the climate crisis to persist, that perpetuate oppressions, and that greenwash their harms. These include carbon trading, which allows industries to pay to pollute; biofuels that promote agribusiness at the expense of [smallholder and subsistence farmers](#), the majority of whom are [women](#); “greening” the military, which fails to confront US militarism and its [role in climate breakdown](#) and violence worldwide; carbon offset [programs that displace people](#), especially [Indigenous Peoples](#); dangerous [nuclear power plants](#); increased natural gas extraction justified by [carbon capture and storage](#) and other techno “fixes”; mega-dams that cause [irreversible damage](#) to biodiversity, food sovereignty and livelihoods; geo-engineering; and bioenergy.

In developing this policy or legislation, were the following considered?

- Does this policy rely on a driver of the climate crisis, such as the commodification of nature, extractivism, or unfettered profit-seeking, to also be the solution?
- Will this response, if enacted, benefit private interests more than public ones?
- Who will financially gain from implementation of this climate change “response”?
- Does this policy reject an over-reliance on market-based solutions to deliver results? Are there public accountability and control options over these solutions?
- Does the policy focus primarily on, or invest heavily in, technological solutions like carbon capture and storage and geoengineering, to the exclusion of tackling the systemic drivers of the crisis?
- Does this “solution” have any negative human rights or environmental implications?

9. CREATE REGENERATIVE ECONOMIES THAT CENTER SYSTEMIC, FEMINIST ALTERNATIVES.

A just transition must address inequalities in power and wealth while transitioning from a fossil fuel-based economy to a renewable and regenerative economy. This means transforming an extractive, unjust status quo into new, socially just and environmentally sustainable economies that respect and balance nature’s regenerative capacity. We must shift from the privatization and commodification of nature to sustainable, equitable production and resource use. This includes understanding that GDP is an insufficient and detrimental economic indicator and that alternatives are required that measure quality of life and well-being rather than production. Feminist economics further shows that women around the world have long disproportionately performed labor like housework, raising children, and elder work. This work is

almost always unpaid, undervalued, and invisibilized in economic and social policies at all levels. Our society is constructed upon and dependent on care work, and it is valuable, low-carbon, community-based work that should be revalued and centered in our new economy.

In developing this policy or legislation, were the following considered?

- Does this policy move away from extractivist, exploitative prioritization of private wealth accumulation?
- Does this policy move towards a more holistic valuation of unwaged and invisibilized care and reproductive labor, towards protecting human worth and health regardless of their labor and production, and towards living in right relationship with the Earth?

10. RESPECT THE LEADERSHIP OF YOUNG PEOPLE AS THEY FIGHT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

Young activists know there is an urgency to act, with many around the world already facing disastrous climate change impacts. We understand the need to leave the planet better than we found it, to learn from, recognize and build off long-held traditions of resistance, to embrace multi-generational movement building, and to lift up the vital work led by youth to confront climate change. **Justice and our survival demand that we work together across generations to make major, far-reaching changes quickly.**

In developing this policy or legislation, were the following considered?

- Does this policy adhere to the demands and needs of future generations and integrate youth movements' recommendations and knowledge?
- Does it open space for young people to meaningfully engage in and shape future policy and governance?
- Have young people been meaningfully engaged in the development of the measures proposed in this policy and are their ideas reflected?



SAVE THE
PLANET
NOW!

STOP

WOMEN
CHOOSING
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TAKING
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FIGHT

FEMINISTS DEMAND
CLIMATE JUSTICE