

Group 4 Kit: Civic Action for Just Renewal

“Recovery efforts must support the transition to a more equitable, sustainable, and diversified economy, and not entrench outdated economic and social systems that jeopardize the health and wellbeing of people, worsen the climate crisis, or perpetuate the exploitation or oppression of people,” - Just Recovery press release

The International Renewable Energy Agency forecasts that renewable energy will be crucial to countries meeting their GHG reduction targets, by replacing oil and gas with renewables. Successful and climate-resilient economies have to find a way to decouple economic activity from greenhouse gas pollution.

The federal government recently released a bill, the Canadian Net Zero Emissions Accountability Act, which would legislate the government to set GHG reduction targets to meet Canada’s 2030 and 2050 goal. This bill is a first step, however, a lot of work is needed to pass the legislation.

The economic recession and pandemic have prompted environmental and civil society groups to call governments and countries to “build back better”. Action is needed at all levels (local/municipal, provincial/state, nation, and international) to shift towards renewable energy and low-carbon economy.

Earthkeepers and 400 other civil society organizations called governments to adopt the principles of Just Recovery. EK and other Christian organizations have also supported a Parliamentary petition calling for the same.

NDP Member of Parliament Peter Julian introduced a private members’ bill that would establish a Green New Deal, which calls for investment into renewable energy, energy efficiency, and support a just transition for workers in oil and gas industries, while phasing out or halting all fossil fuel development.

More action is needed to push our provincial and municipal governments to adopt similar measures or their own version of a Green New Deal. This group will focus on civic action and advocacy centered around a Just Renewal and Green New Deal at local and provincial levels in BC, or to support national level efforts alongside other faith-based groups and civil society.

What to read/watch before the conference:

1. EK Letter on Just Recovery/Just Renewal:
<https://www.theearthkeepers.org/2020/calls-to-incorporate-just-recovery-principles-in-government-response-to-covid-19-pandemic>
2. Peter Julian's private member's bill and rationale for a Green New Deal for Canada: <https://www.peterjulian.ca/in-the-house-motion-m-1-green-new-deal-for-canada>

Actions you can take before Catalyze for Climate 2020

1. After reading the petition text and legislative motion, sign onto Peter Julian's private members' bill petition for a Green New Deal for Canada:
<https://www.peterjulian.ca/in-the-house-motion-m-1-green-new-deal-for-canada>
2. Sign 350.org's letter (and add your own personalized message) to Prime Minister Trudeau, urging the government to work with all parties to pass the Canadian Net Zero Emissions Accountability Act: https://act.350.org/letter/c-12-response/?akid=135600.4447624.UnptVU&rd=1&t=6&utm_medium=email&utm_source=actionkit