

GREEN NEW DEAL FOR PUBLIC HOUSING

H.R. - - - -, Green New Deal for Public Housing Act of 2026

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) and Delia Ramirez (IL-03)

The Green New Deal for Public Housing Act would provide a generational rebuild of America's public housing stock that decarbonizes neighborhoods and delivers thousands of union-wage jobs.

The nation is currently facing a climate emergency and an affordable housing crisis. We have an opportunity to address both issues at once by weatherizing, electrifying, and modernizing our public housing so that it may serve as a model of efficiency, sustainability, and resiliency for the rest of the nation.

The Green New Deal for Public Housing Act would transition the entire public housing stock of the United States, as swiftly and seamlessly as possible, into zero-carbon, highly energy-efficient developments that produce on-site renewable energy, expand workforce capacity (creating [~14,000 jobs](#) annually in New York State alone). It addresses the substantial public housing capital backlog by ensuring all public housing is brought up to safe and sanitary condition.

The Green New Deal for Public Housing Act would repeal the Faircloth Amendment, which limits the construction of new public housing developments. This is an important step toward providing affordable housing for all. The bill would create seven grant programs under one application process to modernize our public housing stock through:

- Deep energy retrofits to increase energy savings in all 860,000 public housing units;
- Addressing workforce development needs by prioritizing good-paying job opportunities for residents;
- Energy efficiency, building electrification, and water quality upgrades;
- Community renewable energy generation, the profits of which will be controlled by Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) to boost their coffers and increase self-sufficiency;
- Community resiliency and sustainability;
- Climate adaptation and emergency disaster resilience efforts.

The legislation blends housing and climate policy — turning public housing into a model of efficiency, sustainability, and resiliency for the rest of the Nation.

Green New Deal policies like this one create good-paying, union jobs and bolster workforce protections. This Congress, we are incredibly proud to receive our first endorsements from building trades unions. Endorsers of this bill include the National Low Income Housing Coalition, Popular Democracy in Action, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), the National Housing Law Project, the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers (SMART), and the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers.