

NEWS

FROM THE OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER
PAUL KORETZ
FIFTH DISTRICT



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LA's Green New Deal Unfolds: Council Committee Moves Forward to Create World's First Office of Climate Emergency Mobilization **Full City Council Moves Motion to Develop a Green New Deal**

LOS ANGELES – April 16, 2019 – The Los Angeles City Council Energy, Climate Change and Environmental Justice Committee today voted unanimously to move forward Councilmember Paul Koretz's legislative proposal, developed with leadership from the Leap LA Coalition, Mayor Garcetti and Councilwoman Martinez, to: 1) create an Office of Climate Emergency Mobilization and initiate the process to hire the Director; 2) establish a Climate Emergency Commission with an appointee from a local Indigenous tribe, five appointees from CalEnviroScreen Communities in Los Angeles, a Labor worker appointee, and others, including experts on climate science, air quality, toxics, and workforce; 3) initiate a Community Assemblies process, so that community members from the most polluted and underserved sectors of the City can help lead the development of climate justice policies; and 4) formalize the City's official Climate Emergency Declaration. In a related policy effort earlier in the day, the full City Council voted to direct staff to develop Green New Deal policies for Los Angeles.

Councilmember Koretz of the 5th District has been working for nearly two years to develop these policies in partnership with the Leap LA Coalition, a coalition made up of environmental justice and climate change activist groups who have come together to combat climate change and drawdown greenhouse gas emissions with a focus on environmental justice and a just transition, so that any displaced workers receive retraining and support. The Sunrise Movement, who has been supporting the federal Green New Deal legislation, has also been supporting the Office of Climate Emergency Mobilization.

"The goal is to return us to a safe, just climate and healthy neighborhoods as soon as possible," said Councilmember Paul Koretz. "To survive, it is absolutely essential that we move forward into a clean energy future using the opportunity to create wins for everyone -- fix the environmental justice mistakes of the past, ensure we do not make the same mistakes going forward, and reduce the City's greenhouse gas emissions at an emergency pace consistent with the very strong recommendations of the October 2018 United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report."

"Today, the Los Angeles City Council voted in favor of my motion to develop a Green New Deal in Los Angeles that begins and ends with our frontline communities. Together, we will guide Los Angeles towards a more environmentally friendly, and more equitable future, said Councilwoman Nury Martinez. "It is called environmental justice for a reason. By starting in our most burdened communities, from Sun Valley to Wilmington, we are finally living up to the name. With the establishment of a new commission to oversee climate change and our climate emergency, I look forward to having members from these communities have a voice at the table."

"I used to think climate change was far off in the distant future," said Councilmember Koretz, "but it's here, it's now, it's hurting real people in real time and we need real action. Today we took another bold step toward a better future."

The Leap LA Coalition includes: Communities for a Better Environment, Esperanza Community Housing Corporation, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy – Los Angeles, a representative from the American Indian Movement; 5 Gyres Institute; The Climate Mobilization; and Naomi Klein's organization, The Leap.

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