



City of Santa Fe 25-Year Sustainability Plan and the Green New Deal:

A Comparison

April 2019

PURPOSE

The proposed federal Green New Deal (GND) represents a bold vision of a sustainable future. Unfortunately, implementation is not likely at the federal government level at this time. Therefore, it falls on local governments, to implement local actions. Cities are leading the way, across the country and around the world, to ensure sustainability policies, programs, and practices. Santa Fe stands in the forefront of these with our own bold **Sustainable Santa Fe 25-Year Plan** (Plan), which is a collection of objectives, targets and strategies to lead us to carbon neutrality by 2040. The Santa Fe Plan encompasses the same goals as the GND, but it is much more comprehensive. Our Plan establishes goals in eleven specific areas, and provides detailed strategies to help us accomplish them.

This document compares the federal GND proposal (*text in purple italics is adapted directly from the federal Green New Deal*), comparisons to our Sustainable Santa Fe 25-Year Plan by demonstrating the alignment to current City of Santa Fe programs through examples of projects that are currently underway. This is not a comprehensive list of all city activities, and not a complete examination of our Plan, but illustrates through examples how we are already endeavoring to become the “the most sustainable city in America.”

PROPOSED SANTA FE GREEN NEW DEAL GOALS

The Santa Fe Green New Deal (GND) includes the following Goals that were extrapolated and made locally-appropriate from the proposed federal GND:

The Federal GND's Goals Are:

1. *To achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions through a fair and just transition for all communities and workers;*
2. *To create good, high-wage jobs and ensure prosperity and economic security for all people of the City of Santa Fe;*
3. *To invest in the infrastructure and industry of the City of Santa Fe to sustainably meet the challenges of the 21st century;*
4. *To secure for all people of the City of Santa Fe for generations to come—*
 - a. *clean air and water;*
 - b. *climate and community resiliency;*
 - c. *healthy and affordable food;*
 - d. *access to nature;*
 - e. *high-quality health care;*
 - f. *affordable, safe, and adequate housing; and*
 - g. *economic security; and*
5. *To promote justice and equity by stopping current, preventing future, and repairing historic oppression of indigenous peoples, communities of color, migrant communities, deindustrialized communities, depopulated rural communities, the poor, low-income workers, women, the elderly, the unhoused, people with disabilities, and youth (referred to in this resolution as “frontline and vulnerable communities”).*

Comparison to Sustainable Santa Fe 25-Year Plan Goals

The Sustainable Santa Fe 25-Year Plan includes all of the elements of the GND goals. The Plan establishes a bold goal of carbon neutrality, or net-zero greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), by 2040. Using the framework of the “Triple Bottom Line,” it acknowledges that sustainability can only be achieved if its’ three elements are in balance: *Ecological Resilience, Economic Vitality, and Quality of Life & Social Equity*. Each category contains specific elements with objectives, targets, and strategies designed to move Santa Fe to its goal.

Ecological Resilience-An ecologically resilient Santa Fe is one that not only protects and conserves its natural resources, but also seeks to adapt and restore them despite the pressures of climate change and its impacts on the region.

Ecological Resilience Elements: Energy; Ecosystems; Water; Waste

Economic Vitality- An economically vital community is one that invests in and uplifts its unique human and natural capital.

Economic Vitality Elements: Transportation; Built Environment; Community Development

Quality of Life and Social Equity-A socially equitable community with high quality of life is one in which every person has access to resources to successfully meet their basic needs.

Quality of Life and Social Equity Elements: Education & Training; Health & Well Being; Food Systems; Social Equity

MOBILIZATION GOALS AND PROJECTS

Infrastructure

The Federal GND says:

- I. Repairing and upgrading the infrastructure in the City of Santa Fe, including—*
 - A. by eliminating pollution and greenhouse gas emissions as much as technologically feasible;*
 - B. by guaranteeing universal access to clean water through water planning aimed at achieving net-zero water; and*
 - C. by ensuring that any infrastructure planning and investments in the City of Santa Fe addresses climate change;*

Corresponding SSF Plan Elements: (A) Carbon Footprint; (B) Water, (C) Built Environment

Current City of Santa Fe Policies/Programs/Projects:

- Santa Fe has developed solar energy resources to power much of the wastewater and water systems.
- Green Bonds were used to finance an anaerobic digester to create heat and power at the wastewater treatment plan bringing renewable energy for that facility to generate 94% of the demand.
- Santa Fe’s water planning has included the likely effects of climate change on available water resources, resulting in diversification of its water sources to maximize the resiliency of the water supply.
- Water Conservation efforts have reduced per capita water usage to among the lowest in the nation. The *Eye on Water* application links to smart water meters and gives residential customers direct access to their usage information to reduce waste.
- Santa Fe has hosts the annual Next Generation Water Summit to facilitate the regional and state water community to take water supply security to the next level, towards net-zero water.

Next steps/in process:

- Develop policies and programs that incentivize greywater reuse in landscapes and rainwater for both landscapes and indoor use.

Energy supply

The Federal GND says:

- II. Meeting 100 percent of the power demand in the City of Santa Fe through clean, renewable, and zero-emission energy sources, including—*
- a. by dramatically expanding and upgrading renewable power sources; and*
 - b. by deploying new capacity; and*
 - c. building or upgrading to energy-efficient, distributed, and “smart” power grids, and ensuring affordable access to electricity;*

Corresponding SSF 25-Year Plan Elements: (a-c) Energy

Current City of Santa Fe Policies/Programs/Projects:

- Santa Fe adopted a next-zero carbon goal by the year 2040.
- Santa Fe supported the state’s recently-approved SB489, the Energy Transition Act, requiring forty percent renewable energy by January 1, 2025; fifty percent renewable energy by January 1, 2030; and a zero carbon resource standard by January 1, 2050, composed of at least eighty percent renewable energy.
- Santa Fe supported HB210/SB281, the State’s Community Solar Act which did not pass the 2019 legislature but which will hopefully be reconsidered in 2020.

Next steps/in process:

- Continue to lobby the state legislature to develop regulations to allow community solar projects that would give a greater number of people an opportunity to invest in their own clean energy future.

- Continue to develop solar power on City facilities where appropriate.

Buildings

The Federal GND says:

III. Upgrading all existing buildings in the City of Santa Fe and building new buildings to achieve maximum energy efficiency, water efficiency, safety, affordability, comfort, and durability, including through electrification;

Corresponding SSF 25-Year Plan Elements: Built Environment; Energy; Water

Current City of Santa Fe Policies/Programs/Projects:

- The City is proposing to extend its Green Building Code to multi-family structures and then to all commercial structures, both new and remodels/additions.
- The Public Works Department is conducting energy performance and asset management analyses of several City-owned buildings to improve and track energy improvements over time.
- The Convention Center is implementing energy, water and waste reduction measures and has already achieved 27% electricity savings.
- Fire Station #2 to be constructed in 2019 includes design measures for passive and active solar, water efficiencies, and natural and LED lighting.

Next steps/in process:

- Develop programs to reduce energy and water use in existing buildings by:
 - Creating a disclosure program at time of sale; and
 - Working with PNM and NM Gas to create effective rebates for energy conservation along the lines of the City's water conservation rebate program.

Jobs/Economy

The Federal GND says:

IV. Spurring massive growth in clean, low-water use manufacturing in the City of Santa Fe and removing pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from manufacturing and industry as much as is technologically feasible, including by expanding renewable energy manufacturing and investing in existing manufacturing and industry.

Corresponding SSF 25-Year Plan Elements: Energy; Economic Vitality; Waste

Current City of Santa Fe Policies/Programs/Projects:

- The Verde Fund provided resources to local non-profits to reduce systematic poverty, assist in achieving carbon neutrality and empower Santa Fe's workforce through the development of green job skill training for youth.
- Recycling is an economic engine that produces ten jobs for any one job created through landfilling. Recycling conserves natural resources directly, by relieving the need to use virgin materials; and indirectly, such as the reduction of water use in manufacturing processes. The City is working with other government entities across the state in the newly formed "Rio Grande Recycling Corridor Coalition" (also including the City of El Paso, TX) to improve the quality of materials collected and ensure that viable domestic markets for the materials can meet the demand.

Next steps/in process:

- Coordinate with the Santa Fe Community College to provide training for skills needed to achieve city programs such as the Green Building Code as it is expanded to additional building types.

Food Security

The Federal GND says:

- V. Working collaboratively with farmers and ranchers in the Santa Fe region to remove pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from the agricultural sector as much as is technologically feasible, including—*
- a. by supporting family farming;*
 - b. by investing in sustainable farming and land use practices that increase soil health; and*
 - c. by building a more sustainable food system that ensures universal access to healthy food;*

Corresponding SSF 25-Year Plan Elements: Food Systems; Ecosystems; Waste

Current City of Santa Fe Policies/Programs/Projects:

- Santa Fe supports and participates in the Santa Fe food Policy Council (SFFPC) which advises on policies that support development of healthy, affordable, local food.
- Santa Fe supported HB204, the Healthy Soils Act, establishing a statewide soil health program supporting farmer and ranches in soil stewardship.
- Senior centers are working to procure more locally grown food; and piloting a food waste compost program with the Environmental Services Division.*
- The Santa Fe Solid Waste Management Agency partners with Payne's Nursery to produce compost at its Caja Del Rio Landfill site.*
- Reunity Resources offers food waste collections to restaurants and produces compost for the public and its farm.*
- The Waste Water Division produces compost from biosolids and is working to increase production and end land injection of biosolids.*

Next steps/in process:

- Continue to implement that Santa Fe Food Plan and other policies per the advice of the SFFPC.

** All bullets related to composting also support the goal of carbon sequestration in soils in number VII.*

Transportation

The Federal GND says:

- VI. Improving transportation systems in the United States to remove pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector as much as is technologically feasible, including through investment in—*
- a. zero-emission vehicle infrastructure;*
 - b. clean, affordable, and accessible public transit; and*
 - c. expansion of use of fixed rail transportation;*

Corresponding SSF 25-Year Plan Elements: Transportation

Current City of Santa Fe Policies/Programs/Projects:

- Support use of bicycles for commuter trips and other transportation needs by expanding the pedestrian/bicycle trails system and providing education and awareness through Bike to Work Week and updating the Bicycle Master Plan.
- The City buses run Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and the Environmental Services Division is almost completely transitioned the solid waste collection vehicles to CNG. A new service facility goes on-line in 2019.
- Santa Fe Trails is conducting a Comprehensive Transit Service Plan and is testing a phone app to communicate real-time information to transit riders.
- The Santa Fe Governing Body passed a resolution directing city fleet vehicle to transition to electric where feasible.

Next steps/in process:

- The MPO is planning on developing a Pedestrian Improvement Program to identify, score, and rank needed improvements under \$50K.
- The Transit Division is working to upgrade their two transit hubs with construction scheduled to begin in the Fall of 2019.
- Staff is studying how to link and increase the number of electric charging stations and develop an implementation plan.

Ecology

The Federal GND says:

- VII. Removing greenhouse gases from the atmosphere and reducing pollution by restoring natural ecosystems through proven low-tech solutions that increase soil carbon storage, such as land preservation and afforestation; and*
- VIII. Restoring and protecting threatened, endangered, and fragile ecosystems through locally appropriate and science-based projects that enhance biodiversity and support climate resiliency.*

Corresponding SSF 25-Year Plan Elements: Ecosystems

Current City of Santa Fe Policies/Programs/Projects:

- Xeric Landscaping and street trees are required for developments in the City of Santa Fe.
- Green Infrastructure projects, such as “Raingardens” (storm water catchment basins) have been installed to capture storm water on site, direct it to native plant installations where it is naturally filtered, and then absorbed into ground. At least three are planned for installation this year.
- Santa Fe supported HB204, the Healthy Soils Act, establishing a statewide soil health program supporting farmer and ranches in soil stewardship.

Next steps/in process:

- The Parks Division is planning a reforestation strategy to increase urban tree canopy.
- The Parks Division will introduce berms and swales into parks to increase infiltration and groundwater recharge.

PROCESS

A Green New Deal must be developed through transparent and inclusive process. This will be achieved by:

The Federal GND says:

1. Consultation, collaboration, and partnership with frontline and vulnerable communities, labor unions, worker cooperatives, civil society groups, academia, and businesses;
2. Promoting the exchange of technology, expertise, products, funding, and services, with the aim of making the City of Santa Fe the international leader on climate action, and to help other cities achieve a Green New Deal;
3. To achieve the Green New Deal goals and mobilization, a Green New Deal will require the following goals and projects—
 - a. providing and leveraging, in a way that ensures that the public receives appropriate ownership stakes and returns on investment, adequate capital, technical expertise, supporting policies, and other forms of assistance to communities, organizations, Federal, State, and local government agencies, and businesses working on the Green New Deal mobilization;
 - b. ensuring that the Governing Body takes into account the complete environmental and social costs and impacts of emissions through—
 - i. review of existing laws;
 - ii. new policies and programs; and
 - iii. ensuring that frontline and vulnerable communities shall not be adversely affected.
4. Working with the Santa Fe Public Schools and the Santa Fe Community College to provide resources, training, and high-quality education, to all people of the City of Santa Fe, with a focus on frontline and vulnerable communities, so that all people may be full and equal participants in the Green New Deal mobilization;
5. Directing investments to spur economic development, deepen and diversify industry and business in local and regional economies, and build wealth and community ownership, while prioritizing high-quality job creation and economic, social, and environmental benefits in frontline and vulnerable communities, and deindustrialized communities, that may otherwise struggle with the transition away from greenhouse gas intensive industries;

6. *Ensuring the use of democratic and participatory processes that are inclusive of and led by frontline and vulnerable communities and workers to plan, implement, and administer the Green New Deal mobilization at the local level;*
7. *Ensuring that the Green New Deal mobilization creates high-quality union jobs that pay prevailing wages, hires local workers, offers training and advancement opportunities, and guarantees wage and benefit parity for workers affected by the transition;*
8. *Guaranteeing a job with a family-sustaining wage, adequate family and medical leave, paid vacations, and retirement security to all people of the United States;*
9. *Strengthening and protecting the right of all workers to organize, unionize, and collectively bargain free of coercion, intimidation, and harassment;*
10. *Strengthening and enforcing labor, workplace health and safety, antidiscrimination, and wage and hour standards across all employers, industries, and sectors;*
11. *Enacting and enforcing trade rules, procurement standards, and border adjustments with strong labor and environmental protections; and*
12. *Obtaining the free, prior, and informed consent of indigenous peoples for all decisions that affect indigenous peoples and their traditional territories, honoring all treaties and agreements with indigenous peoples, and protecting and enforcing the sovereignty and land rights of indigenous peoples.*

Comparison to Sustainable Santa Fe 25-Year Plan Development and Implementation

Santa Fe has made clear commitments to equity and inclusion with such policies as its Living Wage, Sanctuary City declaration, and “Built for Zero” Homeless Task Force.

The Sustainable Santa Fe 25-Year Plan was developed over three years, with public input coming through many facets. The Commission leading the task was a Mayor-appointed citizen committee. Each of the eleven elements was developed with subcommittees of subject-matter experts from the public and private sector; as well as citizen volunteers. The Commission sought the input of many community groups and non-profits in both the environmental and social sectors.

The specific strategies also identify and incorporate government, educational, private sector, and non-profit partners needed for implementation. Meeting the triple bottom line consideration of **environmental, economic, and social** factors needed to ensure a Sustainable Santa Fe.