

July 30, 2020

Dear Mayor Durkan:

The 195 members of People for Climate Action - Seattle urge you to move forward with creating the Oversight Board to help realize Seattle's Green New Deal. We cannot wait any longer to formulate and execute a plan for Seattle to decrease its GHG emissions; PCA-Seattle is disappointed that the city is falling behind on its commitment to do so.

Last November, the City Council's Select Budget Committee voted to fund a strategic adviser in the Office of Sustainability and Environment to support the Green New Deal Oversight Board and the interdepartmental team on climate action. Under the Council's earlier legislation establishing the Oversight Board, eight members were to be appointed by the Mayor, eight by the Council, and the board's first meeting was to have been held in January, 2020.

We realize your administration faces immense challenges due to the pandemic, social unrest and a huge budget deficit, and we understand it is not possible to fill all positions funded by the Council. However, the climate crisis is on track to dwarf all others, and a strong and coordinated response to it is imperative, now. We therefore ask that the responsibilities of current OSE staff members be adjusted so that the Green New Deal Oversight Committee may be appointed and its work begin promptly.

PCA-Seattle has written a separate letter to the City Council, asking them to create a Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, in order to have a more effective and efficient process for identifying appropriate actions and providing appropriate evaluation and reporting.

It is imperative that a Green New Deal Oversight Board be established promptly, to devise an overall strategy to reduce GHG emissions in a just and equitable way, including use of the JumpStart payroll tax revenues earmarked for the Green New Deal. Please act now to put the process in place.

Sincerely,

Iris Antman

on behalf of People for Climate Action - Seattle
peopleforclimateaction.org

Steering Committee: Robin Briggs, Elizabeth Burton, Cindy Ervin, Keith Ervin, David Ramsay, Deejah Sherman-Peterson, Ron Sherman-Peterson

Cc: Jessica Finn Coven, Sara Wysocki, Chase Kitchen, City Council members

