إِنَّا عَرَضْنَا الْأَمَانَةَ عَلَى السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَالْجِبَالِ فَأَبَيْنَ أَن يَحْمِلْنَهَا وَأَشْفَقْنَ مِنْهَا وَحَمَلَهَا الْإِنسَانُ ۖ إِنَّهُ كَانَ ظَلُومًا جَهُولًا

“Indeed, We (God) offered the Trust to the heavens and the Earth and the mountains, and they declined to bear it and feared it, but man [undertook to] bear it. Indeed, he was unjust and ignorant” [Surah Al-Ahzab:72]

There is no doubt that we have taken on the role of [stewardship](https://muslimmatters.org/2016/11/22/a-trust-bestowed-upon-us/) in this life. It is more than just a title; it comes with great responsibilities. We have become a voice for the voiceless nature while it surrounds us with its beauty can not fend for itself. Over the centuries, those in power have abused and exploited the lands, and in cases, left it in ruins. The cycle continues as extractivism becomes more and more ruthless. For many years now, there have been plans proposed to governments to help and preserve what we have left. This comes across as the Green New Deal. Many countries have their version of it, the green party in America has had one developed for many years. Still, the most famous one is the recent bill by Alexandria Ocasio Cortes (AOC). It is a bill that is essential for our survival, and every Muslim should support this bill, regardless of their political affiliation. Nothing is perfect, but this is a step in the right direction. Do not let your perception of her bias you to not support this initiative. The goal of the GND is to reduce our carbon emissions to net-zero and meet 100% of our energy needs via clean, renewable energy by 2030. The Green New Deal also calls for the creation of millions of jobs to provide a job guarantee to all Americans, along with access to nature, clean air and water, healthy food, a sustainable environment, and community resiliency.

حَدَّثَنَا أَبُو بَكْرِ بْنُ أَبِي شَيْبَةَ، وَعَلِيُّ بْنُ مُحَمَّدٍ، قَالاَ حَدَّثَنَا وَكِيعٌ، عَنْ أَبَانَ بْنِ صَمْعَةَ، عَنْ أَبِي الْوَازِعِ الرَّاسِبِيِّ، عَنْ أَبِي بَرْزَةَ الأَسْلَمِيِّ، قَالَ قُلْتُ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ دُلَّنِي عَلَى عَمَلٍ أَنْتَفِعُ بِهِ ‏.‏ قَالَ ‏"‏ اعْزِلِ الأَذَى عَنْ طَرِيقِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ ‏"

It was narrated that Abu Barzah Al-Aslami said: "O Messenger of Allah! Tell me of an action by which I may benefit.' He (ﷺ) said: 'Remove harmful things from the path of the Muslims.' (Sunan Ibn Majah 3681)

The GND bill is implementing this hadith by removing harmful gases from our atmosphere. The idea isn’t to stop or reverse climate change; it is to practice our deen and fulfill our duties.

The second part is to Invest in sustainable, local agriculture and affordable mass transit.

حَدَّثَنَا قُتَيْبَةُ، ، عَنْ أَنَسٍ، عَنِ النَّبِيِّ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ ‏ "‏ مَا مِنْ مُسْلِمٍ يَغْرِسُ غَرْسًا أَوْ يَزْرَعُ زَرْعًا فَيَأْكُلُ مِنْهُ إِنْسَانٌ أَوْ طَيْرٌ أَوْ بَهِيمَةٌ إِلاَّ كَانَتْ لَهُ صَدَقَةٌ ‏"‏ ‏.‏ قَالَ وَفِي الْبَابِ عَنْ أَبِي أَيُّوبَ وَجَابِرٍ وَأُمِّ مُبَشِّرٍ وَزَيْدِ بْنِ خَالِدٍ ‏.‏ قَالَ أَبُو عِيسَى حَدِيثُ أَنَسٍ حَدِيثٌ حَسَنٌ صَحِيحٌ ‏.

Prophet Muhammad(ﷺ) said: “There is no Muslim who plants a tree or sows a field for a human, bird, or animal eats from it, but it shall be reckoned as charity from him.” (Bukhari, Muslim)

Being food secure is a blessing; in large cities, we are dependent on what is available. Living on the east coast, the majority of my food came from over 2000 miles away. Being able to grow our produce and share is genuinely an act of charity that would be greatly rewarded.

The third is to Create a jobs guarantee program to provide an excellent job to anybody who wants one, to provide the labour force of this massive transition.

Al-Miqdam reported: The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said, “No meal eaten by one of you is better than the meal he eats from the work of his own hands. Verily, the Prophet of Allah, David, upon him be peace, would eat from the work of his own hands.”

عَنْ الْمِقْدَامِ عَنْ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ مَا أَكَلَ أَحَدٌ طَعَامًا قَطُّ خَيْرًا مِنْ أَنْ يَأْكُلَ مِنْ عَمَلِ يَدِهِ وَإِنَّ نَبِيَّ اللَّهِ دَاوُدَ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام كَانَ يَأْكُلُ مِنْ عَمَلِ يَدِهِ

1966 صحيح البخاري كتاب البيوع باب كسب الرجل وعمله بيده

Finally, the intention to mandate that economically, racially and geographically marginalized communities are prioritized for investment and inclusion in the transition

Allah said:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُونُوا قَوَّامِينَ لِلَّهِ شُهَدَاءَ بِالْقِسْطِ ۖ وَلَا يَجْرِمَنَّكُمْ شَنَآنُ قَوْمٍ عَلَىٰ أَلَّا تَعْدِلُوا اعْدِلُوا هُوَ أَقْرَبُ لِلتَّقْوَىٰ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ

O you who believe, be persistently standing firm for Allah as witnesses in justice, and do not let the hatred of a people prevent you from being just. Be just, for that is nearer to righteousness. Fear Allah, for verily, Allah is aware of what you do.

Surah Al-Ma’idah 5:8

The major hurdle the Green New Deal faces is skeptics chipping away at it. They claim it to be unreal, illogical, hypothetical. Major opponents are conservatives, libertarians, and republicans. The Green New Deal can be seen as political, but if we want the best for our community and family, Muslims should support it. Unions, environmentalists, grassroots, and other faith groups are paving the way for the implementation of the GND. Federally, we are limited to impose such radical changes, but locally we can move mountains. America is filled with examples of GND ideas getting passed at a state or municipal level.

In 2017, California enacted the “Buy Clean Act”. The law states that when California spends taxpayer dollars on steel, glass, and insulation for infrastructure projects, the state must prioritize companies that limit climate pollution throughout its supply chain. In Pittsburg, unions, community groups, and environmental organizations formed a coalition called Pittsburgh United's Clean Rivers Campaign. Together they have been pushing for green infrastructure projects that could create jobs and drastically reduce flooding in some of Pittsburgh’s vulnerable neighbourhoods. One month after Trump's election, the Future Energy Jobs Act was signed into law in Illinois, thanks to the Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition. The passed law sets new energy efficiency standards and invests in weatherizing buildings across the state. There is an expectation of 7,000 new jobs created every year, reduction in pollution, and a saving of $4 billion in energy savings for the families of Illinois, with the priority being low-income homes. While we support bills and legislation that address our needs, we need to remain active. What is more powerful than bills and laws, are people-powered movements, especially when you have the truth on your side.