



A GREEN NEW DEAL FOR SHEFFIELD: LOCAL MANIFESTO 2021



LABOUR
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**GREEN
NEW DEAL**

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INTRODUCTION

The need for urgent action to address the current climate and ecological emergencies is now recognised by scientists, governments and the wider public world-wide. So far, many promises have been made, but the actions taken at national and international levels in no way match what is needed.

Individual action alone cannot achieve the level of structural change that is required for full decarbonisation and restoration of our environment. There is therefore a desperate need for action at the local and regional level.

Sheffield City Council has already declared a climate emergency, and has recently taken the bold step of bringing forward its target for zero-carbon missions to 2030. It has also commissioned a [report](#) from an independent consultant that details the actions necessary to achieve this. What is now needed is an immediate start to the implementation of that report, in a comprehensive strategy to create a Green New Deal for Sheffield.

As Labour members in Sheffield, we call for a Green New Deal, setting out how individuals, businesses, major employers and the City Council can pull together to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and the production of harmful carbon emissions.

We believe that Sheffield City Council's implementation of a Green New Deal should:

- address all sectors of the local economy, including energy, housing, food, transport, the natural environment and health
- have a key focus on providing jobs and training
- wherever possible draw on local sources of investment and local businesses to deliver the necessary changes
- be fair and transparent, so that the burdens and benefits of transition to a decarbonised society are shared across all sectors of society
- wherever possible, involve collaboration and consultation with the local community
- be city-wide: through collaborating with all the large employers in and around the city (e.g. hospitals and universities)

A Sheffield Green New Deal based on these principles will help to regenerate our local economy and tackle financial hardship following a year of COVID-19 and ten years of austerity. It will also help to build consent for a rapid transition to a low-carbon economy that everyone will have a stake in.



GOOD JOBS IN A GREEN ECONOMY

The coronavirus crisis has devastated jobs in all sectors of the economy. In Sheffield, the number of people on universal credit has doubled since the beginning of the pandemic. This unemployment crisis cannot be resolved by a return to the pre-pandemic norms of low paid, precarious work and zero-hour contracts. The climate emergency is an unprecedented crisis, but in tackling it, there is a massive opportunity for the creation of thousands of well paid, socially beneficial and secure jobs that are environmentally sustainable.

What's needed in Sheffield

The key areas in Sheffield that are responsible for the majority of carbon emissions have already been identified, and Sheffield City Council already knows what work needs to be done. As we plan its implementation, we will likely identify disparities between the scale of the project and the capabilities of the current workforce to deliver within the required time frame, whether this be through the size of the workforce or lack of skills.

Where there are gaps in the workforce, we need a collaborative approach to invest in Sheffield's workers, training young people, the unemployed and those in carbon-intensive industries to be Sheffield's green workforce of tomorrow. This can be done through a wide array of 'climate apprenticeships' delivered by our universities and further education colleges, and developed in collaboration with trade unions and employers.

For the successful uptake of any retraining, we must ensure that there are secure jobs at the other end. Any jobs we create must be good for the workers and must offer the real living wage.

As well as jobs that directly address decarbonisation, we should also see a rebalancing of the workforce towards jobs that are socially useful. Green jobs aren't exclusive to typical 'green' industries like fitting solar panels, but range from planting trees and insulating homes to building flood defences and social care.



Coronavirus has had a drastic effect on an already dysfunctional economy. We need to ensure that the post-pandemic economy works for all and that we re-build using principles of social and environmental justice as foundations for a fairer economy. Embedding environmental justice in job creation means guaranteeing that all jobs are inclusive and created in collaboration with marginalised groups. Our jobs should be representative of the inclusive, modern society we would like to achieve, meaning they should be accessible to everyone regardless of gender, race, sexuality, disability or class.

Our Green New Deal must challenge the status quo and put an end to the accumulation of wealth by a wealthy minority through ensuring plural ownership of the economy. We should promote diverse economic ownership by expanding the use of public sector insourcing, municipal ownership, co-operatives, worker ownership and small local businesses. These models ensure that wealth created by workers and local communities are retained by them, rather than being extracted as profits to distant shareholders. Democratic and socially-minded enterprises are more likely to uphold workers' rights, guarantee workers the fruits of their labour and ensure communities see the maximum benefits of a Green New Deal.

The Council is already accredited by the Living Wage Foundation and has ensured that 80% of its supply chain pays the real living wage, but should work with trade unions and Sheffield Needs a Pay Rise to ensure that the real living wage is more widespread. If all the large institutions in Sheffield (like hospitals and universities) committed to increasing the uptake of the real living wage for their staff and within their supply chains, we could start to see the transformation of our economy and real change for workers in Sheffield.

Our proposals for Sheffield

- Identify key areas for decarbonisation in Sheffield and invest in associated sustainable jobs
- Develop a series of climate apprenticeships to develop our 'green workforce of tomorrow'
- Create well-paid jobs that compensate workers fairly
- Expand uptake of the real Living Wage throughout supply chains in Sheffield
- Encourage the start-up and growth of co-operatives and worker owned businesses to encourage diverse and democratic ownership structures
- Ensure that new jobs are created in collaboration with marginalised groups

LOCAL FINANCE FOR A JUST TRANSITION

We must ensure that any spending on Sheffield's Green New Deal has the maximum impact locally. With the lack of meaningful finance from national government, we need to explore new and innovative local forms of finance. By putting local sources of money to use in Sheffield, as well as trying to gather outside investment, we can begin to facilitate a transition from fossil fuels to a green economy. From harnessing the benefits of newfound regional devolution powers, to utilising local sources of capital, we must explore innovative and decentralised forms of locally financing a Green New Deal in order to minimise dependence on Westminster.

What's needed in Sheffield

We should continue and expand Sheffield City Council's steps in utilising local procurement as a tool for boosting the local economy, extending this to its expansion and encouragement of local green jobs. This approach should not be limited to the council, but adopted by all major institutions in Sheffield, including our universities and hospitals. This can add hundreds of millions of pounds to regional economies every year, which can then help to fund the transition to net-zero.

Sheffield City Council could also explore other forms of financing for a Green New Deal, looking at initiatives that have been successful in other local authorities. For example, Birmingham City Council has raised £45 million through its issue of the 'Brummie Bond', while local authorities in the North-West are banding together to form 'North-West Mutual', a community bank that is aimed at 'serving the everyday financial needs of ordinary people'.

The council could also look at how local public pension funds could be used to the benefit of local people. As pensions look to divest from fossil fuels, they should be encouraged to invest a proportion of their wealth into the communities whose residents pay into them. From South Yorkshire Pensions Authority, to the pension funds of our 'anchor institutions', we should encourage them to buy into a new 'Regional Investment Bank' or invest more money directly into local projects. With the combined efforts of all the councils and 'anchor institutions' across Sheffield City Region (Sheffield, Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham), we could start a fund with the power to begin tackling the climate emergency at a local level.

Another option for contributing to funding a Green New Deal for Sheffield is to develop a local Community Municipal Investment. This form of investment allows anybody with the financial means to invest in their local council. In an economically divided Sheffield, this would encourage those who can to safely invest in the council's projects, which would not just help our decarbonisation efforts, but begin to address inequalities and rates of poverty across the city. Those who have saved money during the pandemic would find a home for their savings which could help those who have lost out.

Our proposals for Sheffield

- Create a fairer, more sustainable, decentralised and resilient economy through adoption of Community Wealth Building.
- Create a more efficient local economy through encouraging progressive procurement city-wide
- Explore new ways of financing and harnessing local money in order to expedite our green transition
- Create a new Regional Investment Bank to channel inward investment and facilitate decarbonisation in priority areas
- Create new, local pathways for financing a Green New Deal through utilising local sources of money

ZERO CARBON HOUSING

In Sheffield, households are accountable for 33% of carbon emissions. Decarbonising current and future housing is critical in tackling the climate crisis, and this is something we must begin now.

Transforming housing to meet our net zero emissions target also means moving from old, cold and damp to warm and dry, which has huge social benefits, including helping us in the fight for the complete eradication of fuel poverty (which affects 1 in 10 Sheffield households). Better quality housing can also act as a form of preventative 'medicine' for numerous related health issues like asthma, pneumonia and heart disease. The illnesses caused by poorly-insulated homes cost the NHS £1.36 billion per year.

With 250,000 houses in Sheffield, most of which require an upgrade in order to bring them to the net-zero goal by 2030, the task for Sheffield City Council is great. Nationally, the scheme to provide grants to householders to help them adapt, or 'retrofit' their houses has so far been a failure, so local authorities must take on the responsibility as a matter of urgency.

We have the technology and the knowledge to make every home in Sheffield a green one, meaning it will cost little to nothing to keep warm and emit no carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Upgrading housing stock before 2030 is a big task, so it is the perfect opportunity for the creation of green jobs and with so many houses to do, this process must start now.



South Yorkshire Retrofitting Campaign Group's Proposal

Based on research and guidance from the UK Green Building Council (see [here](#) and [here](#)) the following measures are needed:

1. A comprehensive strategy for retrofit including a baseline assessment of the housing stock across tenure, a 'pattern book' of appropriate solutions and the setting of retrofitting targets;
2. The coordination of funding sources, including central Government grants/loans, innovative private finance investment, using housing revenues and combining relevant aspects of all services budgets;
3. A skills map and needs assessment, with support for the development of training via F.E. colleges and SME apprenticeships; engage university resources – research, innovation, equipment;
4. A procurement policy, and engagement with the supply chain, which encourages the growth of local contractors and manufacturers via a long-term programme whilst providing appropriate quality assurance;
5. A cross-tenure approach with communities, householders and landlords to demonstrate approaches that can also be applied to the advantage of whole neighbourhoods, e.g. energy generation sharing;
6. Phasing arrangements that allow for pilot schemes/case studies to test out approaches, finance, technical knowledge and application, and build skills;
7. Promotion of a 'whole household' and 'deep retrofit' approach which places at its centre participatory planning, equality and social justice. Allow volunteers and skilled experts to engage on a neighbourhood and individual basis.

Some more proposals for Sheffield

- Set deadlines & targets for full social housing retrofit to stimulate local markets
- Set deadlines & targets for widespread landlord licensing based on safe living conditions and carbon emission standards
- Introduce higher energy efficiency requirements for local new-build housing under the new Future Homes Standard
- Investigate the feasibility for more widespread uptake of district heating networks

ENVIRONMENTALLY-FRIENDLY TRANSPORT

Transport is another significant source of carbon emissions in Sheffield, not only contributing to global warming, but also having a direct negative effect on citizens through the resulting air pollution, currently estimated to kill 500 people in Sheffield every year, as well as causing and exacerbating a range of health problems.

While solutions such as electric cars are improving, the cost is simply unaffordable for most working families. We cannot punish people and make their lives difficult for not having the financial means to own an electric car - we must make the alternative options far more accessible, safer, affordable, inclusive and enjoyable. Some of these alternatives, like active travel, are inherently green but currently impractical and unsafe for some citizens. Other conventional forms of public transport need to be expanded and made green simultaneously.

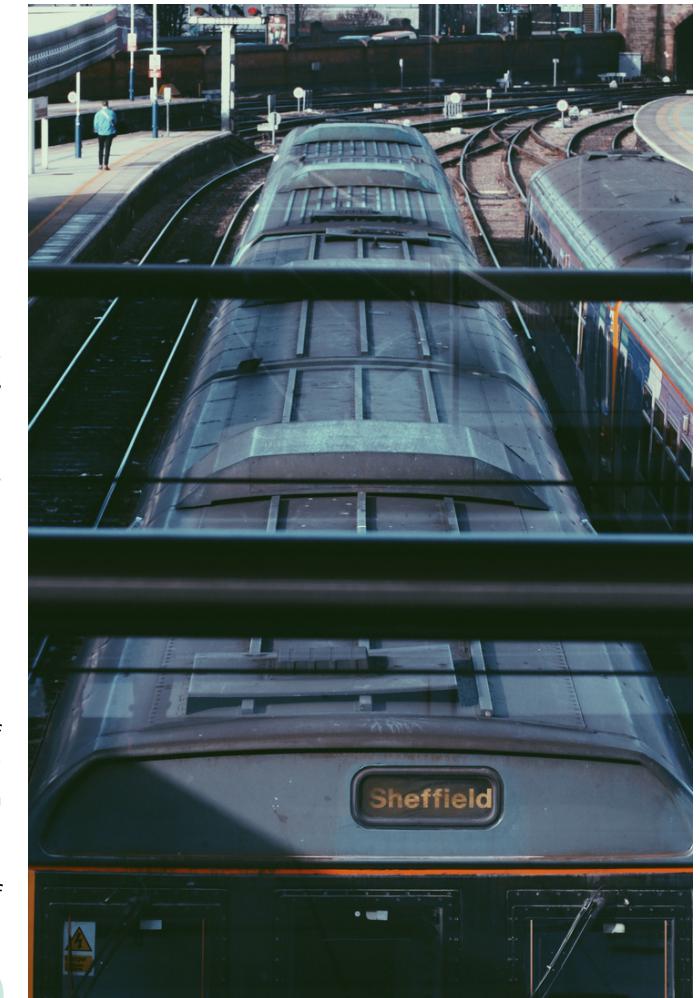
Sheffield City Council has already published a clean air strategy. This includes plans for clean air zones and the provision of assistance in replacing and upgrading old, polluting vehicles, to those people who have their livelihoods tied to a vehicle, such as taxi and van drivers. This is a great start, but we must go further.

We need to urgently reduce the number of journeys taken by private car. This can be done partly by cutting down on the amount of commuting in the city, and encouraging and supporting active travel (travel on foot or by bicycle), which the covid crisis has shown to be achievable.

However, it also requires greater support for the public transport system, increasing the frequency and reliability of services and using parking levies to help fund a drop in fares, so that buses and trams become a realistic option for those needing to travel regularly. These measures would be more efficiently achieved if the public transport system was not in private hands. Although the council cannot bring the buses into public control themselves, they must play a key part in demanding that Dan Jarvis, Mayor of Sheffield City Region, does this. A publicly controlled bus network will ensure that it is operated for local people, not profit, and is the only way we can begin the transition to a green fleet of buses.

Our Proposals for Sheffield

- Avoid the need for widespread commuting and transport through implementing principles of the '15-minute city'
- Lead and support the electrification of the city's taxi fleet
- Continue the electrification and greening of Sheffield's public transport
- Commit to sourcing increased grant and loan funding for e-bikes to stimulate further uptake
- Accelerate the move to municipal franchising of bus services through increased lobbying to gain control over routes, fares and standards of service, and most importantly ensuring it decarbonises at the necessary rate
- Expand suburban train and tram networks through the restoration of lost routes e.g. the Sheaf Valley



GREEN SPACES

The Green New Deal is not just a framework for the important task of transitioning to a zero-carbon economy, it also aims to create a fair society that allows each and every citizen to live a happy and fulfilled life.

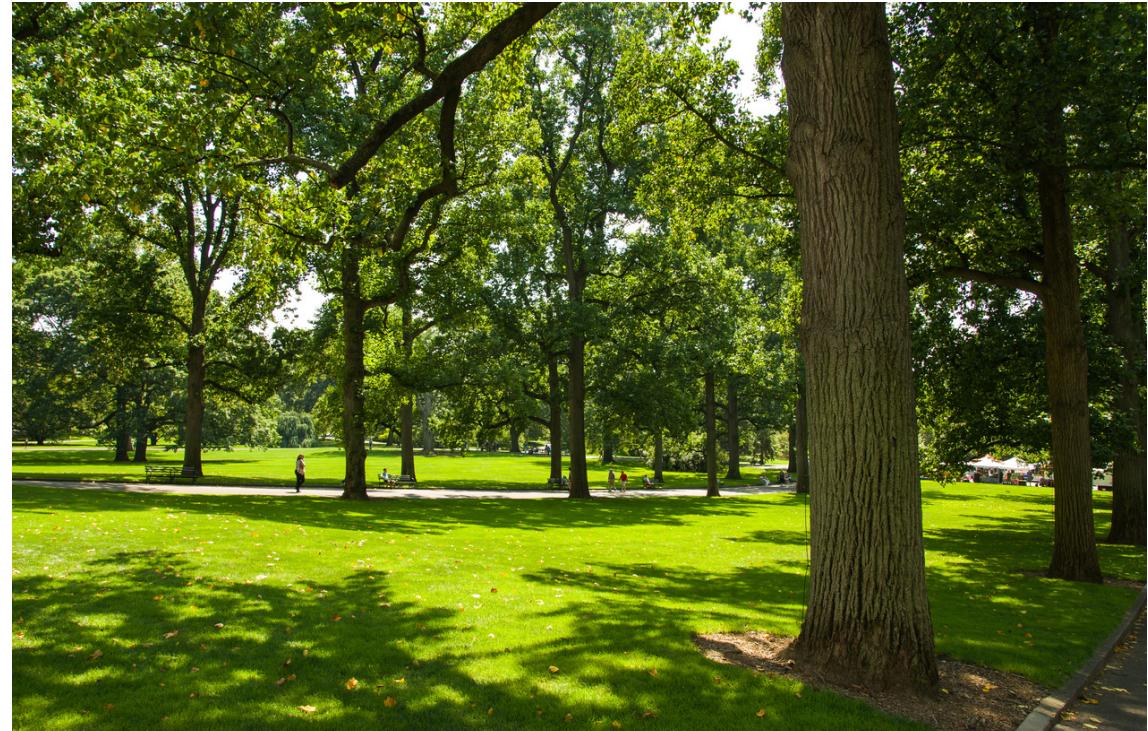
The Covid-19 pandemic and successive lockdowns have made apparent the necessity of easily accessible green space. This is crucial for both physical health, through providing a free area for exercise, and mental health, by providing an area for social gathering, or just an escape from our homes.

As well as being essential for our quality of life, green spaces can also act as carbon sinks and areas that cultivate bio-diversity. Due to this importance, it is vital that green spaces are protected and extended.

Labour Councillors in Sheffield City Council have been outspoken on the necessity to protect our precious green belts from development. We wholeheartedly support this. Green spaces and biodiversity are easy to destroy, but hard to restore - so we must not create future restoration work for ourselves by unnecessarily damaging green space.

Proposals for Sheffield:

- Increase areas that encourage biodiversity through re-wilding of roadsides and other unused urban spaces
- Proactively identify and safeguard small green spaces for community benefit
- Ensure that all communities have easy access to green space. Areas with less access must be prioritised in any expansion of green spaces
- Develop plans for extensive tree-planting and rewilding in areas across the city
- Enhance flood defences and natural flood mitigation measures.



LOCAL DEMOCRACY

Democracy is central to the Green New Deal - all communities should be able to have an input on the issues that affect them, not just at local election time.

We need to nurture a culture of local democratic engagement, with plentiful opportunity for consultation with grassroots community groups and trade unions. This discourse should not just be aimed at the council, but all large employers across the city. For Sheffield's journey to zero-carbon, we should be taking communities across the city with us, asking for and incorporating their feedback along the way, whether it be on a green strategy document or a pedestrianised road. This can be done through more effective and frequent digital communications, citizen education programs or policy workshops.

Economic power and democracy are fundamentally intertwined thus we should aspire to embed democracy in our economy through the aforementioned 'plural ownership of the economy'. Only by giving working-class communities a real stake in our economy can we ensure that everyone has a voice and everyone benefits from a Green New Deal in a more equitable way.

GREEN ENERGY GENERATION

Another important area in which we need to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels is in the generation of electricity. This area will become increasingly prevalent as we switch our homes away from fossil fuel based heating, and as we electrify our transport infrastructure.

As part of this process we must avoid, where possible, bloated, wealth extracting private energy companies, and champion decentralised, community-led and democratically owned energy systems.

We need to ensure that energy generation is owned either by the community or publicly as both of these ownership models will make certain that these services are run for people, not for profit. Any revenue from the schemes can then be funnelled into the community or reinvested into further green infrastructure.

Council owned land and property, alongside the holdings of 'anchor' institutions such as hospitals and educational institutions, should all be examined for their suitability as sites for solar panels, from panels on single roofs to large arrays like the solar farm built on the grounds of New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton. These arrays could be funded by local investors and will pay for themselves over the long term, but the council needs to be an enabler and collaborator in the process.



Proposals for Sheffield:

- Explore the feasibility of solar panels for all Sheffield City Council-owned offices and buildings
- Collaborate with 'anchor institutions' and neighbourhoods to maximise the land and property available for local energy generation
- Appoint a councillor to be responsible for the implementation of local energy generation projects

SUSTAINABLE FOOD

Food plays a large part in carbon emissions and given the rates of food poverty, should be addressed as a social crisis under a Green New Deal. Whether it be increases in the use of foodbanks or unequal access to fresh, healthy food, we must tackle this through a just local food infrastructure that aims to eradicate these inequalities.

The multifaceted and complex nature of food means that we need strategies that take into account its sourcing, growth, distribution and consumption. Tackling this locally, and creating networks of local food infrastructure will decrease our dependence on importing food from other areas (national or international), thus cutting down carbon emissions from transportation.

A progressive food approach will also help Sheffield in developing socially-minded, local food enterprises that grow food in an environmentally friendly way, breaking from the norms of intensive and harmful agriculture.

There are a multitude of successful food projects around Sheffield, and although the council is a key player, it should recognise that there are other groups that have much more experience in delivering food-based projects and they are better placed to lead the implementation of Sheffield's food infrastructure. Consequently, the council should play a coordinating and facilitation role, in assisting new groups to start and established groups to reach their full potential, and providing assistance where necessary.

Proposals for Sheffield:

- Appoint a councillor with the responsibility of coordinating a city-wide food strategy
- Map land ownership to identify unused land that could be used for local food production
- Lead a consultation with local food groups into the best strategies for tackling food-based inequalities
- Champion projects that tackle food waste through collaboration with Sheffield food partnership and participating supermarkets.



MOTION IN SUPPORT OF THIS MANIFESTO

Pass this motion to your Branch/Constituency Labour Party (CLP) to show support for the implementation of this manifesto.

This Branch/CLP notes that:

- To prevent the worst effects of climate change, we must keep global temperature rises below 1.5°C.
- Over 1°C of warming has taken place, causing floods, droughts, heatwaves, pollution, and hundreds of thousands of deaths. The poorest suffer most.
- In order to mitigate the impacts of the crisis, urgent action must be taken at an international, national, and local level
- Combining decarbonisation with a progressive restructuring of the economy gives us the possibility to both create green jobs and fight the threat of climate chaos.
- Sheffield City Council has declared a Climate Emergency and set the ambitious target to be a zero-carbon city by 2030 despite an insufficient amount of assistance coming from the Conservative Government to tackle the Climate Emergency at the scale required.
- The Climate Emergency can only truly be tackled at a national and international scale - but in the absence of such change, we must start locally.
- Sheffield Labour for a Green New Deal (SLGND) has developed a Local Manifesto, setting out a vision and a strategy for locally implementing a Green New Deal, covering the following areas:
 - Good Jobs in a Green Economy;
 - Local Finance for a Just Transition;
 - Zero Carbon Housing;
 - Environmentally-Friendly Transport;
 - Green Spaces;
 - Local Democracy;
 - Green Energy Generation;
 - Sustainable Food Production

This Branch/CLP believes:

- The climate crisis is the definitive challenge of our time, a challenge Labour politicians must face up to at all levels of political representation.
- A Green New Deal is an approach to tackling the climate crisis that unifies social, economic, and climate justice - this principle should be at the heart of Labour's climate politics
- SLGND's Local Manifesto offers a radical and credible approach to beginning to tackle the climate crisis at a local level

This Branch/CLP resolves to:

- Write to the LCF, the Labour Group in Sheffield City Council and Dan Jarvis, Mayor of Sheffield City Region to promote the SLGND's Local Manifesto 2021 and show the Branch/CLP's support for its implementation.
- Promote SLGND's Manifesto to councillors, Branch/CLP members and other relevant parties
- Ask our ward candidate and Councillors to endorse SLGND's manifesto, and commit to enacting a Green New Deal in Sheffield.