



This Is Not Fine: Hottest Summer on Record Calls for a Reboot of LA's Climate Plan

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**We're on a highway
to climate hell"**

António Guterres, UN Secretary-General

2023 was the hottest summer in 120,000 years

L.A.'S GREEN NEW DEAL

SUSTAINABILITY PLAN 2019

**“Climate change is a moral imperative, an environmental emergency,
and an economic opportunity.**

**Los Angeles is rising to the occasion with a plan that will lead the
world toward a low-carbon, green-energy future.”**

2019 Green New Deal

- **100% of waste water recycled by 2033**
- **100% renewable energy by 2045**
- **100% of waste diverted from landfill by 2050**
- **400,000 new green jobs by 2050**



2019 Green New Deal

- **Big goals far in the future**
- **“We can’t simply establish big ticket policy objectives. We need to implement them.”**
- **Array of immediate and intermediate targets and milestones**
- **“Transparency through regular progress reporting”**

2019 Green New Deal

13 Categories

- E.g. “Renewable Energy” and “Environmental Justice”

47 Long-Term Targets

- E.g. “LADWP will supply 55% renewable energy by 2025; 80% by 2036; and 100% by 2045”

97 Short-Term Milestones

- E.g. “Deploy air quality tracking in high scoring CalEnviroScreen neighborhoods by 2021”

2020–2022 Annual Reports

- **Mostly ignored long term targets**
- **Focused on short term milestones**
- **Graded itself on a curve**
 - 25% "Milestone exceeded"
 - 24% "Milestone achieved"
 - 9% "On track"
 - 42% "Making Progress"

Our Analysis

- **It was a promising start for climate action**
- **Unfortunately it has largely outlived its usefulness**

- **LA's Green New Deal Urgently Needs a Reboot**

Ten Takeaways

1. **Be Bold: Renewable Energy; More Housing, Fewer Cars; Emphasize Equity**

- Housing crisis is also a climate crisis
- We need collective action and systematic change

2. **Goals Must Contain Meaningful Metrics**

- Metrics must be publicly and transparently tracked

Ten Takeaways

- 3. All Goals and Milestones Aren't Created Equal, So Don't Treat Them Equally**
 - Don't focus on incremental progress at the expense of our long-term goals
- 4. Make the Biggest Goals Easy to Understand and Track**
 - Fewer, clearer targets give policymakers clearer questions to ask when making decisions

Ten Takeaways

5. EVs Are the Future of Cars, but Cars Cannot Be Our Future

- EVs are good, but they're not a panacea
- A sustainable LA must be built around people, not cars

6. Be Wary of Double Counting Carbon Gains

- Some policies have overlapping inputs and outputs. Remember to only take credit once

Ten Takeaways

7. Find Ways to Leverage LA's Assets and Power

- From the Port to LAX to LACERS, the city has immense resources that can extend our influence far beyond our borders

8. Find Ways to Make Reducing Carbon Emissions Easier

- Complicated compliance makes for rich consultants and ineffective policy

Ten Takeaways

9. Protect LA, Especially the Most Vulnerable Communities, From the Impacts of Climate Change

- The extremes of climate change (heat, fire, drought, floods) are likely to affect the most vulnerable communities first

10. LA Is a Global Model, So LA Must Lead

- LA was built on oil and cars. We have a moral obligation to show that systemic change is not just possible, but will make our city stronger

Promising efforts (Partial list)

- **Electric Vehicles: Street sweepers, DASH busses**
- **Building Efficiency: LADWP's CAMR and Zero by Design programs**
- **Local solar: Storage 2 Grid**
- **Climate Resilience: Cool LA, Heat Relief 4 LA, Green Meadows**
- **Federal Grants: \$1.2 billion hydrogen hub, \$48 million grid improvements**
- **Climate Action Plan, Heat Action Plan, Climate Vulnerability Assessment, Local Hazard Mitigation Plan**
- **And many more**

Strategic Approach to Climate Action

- **A “whole of government” commitment**
- **Measurable targets to ensure we’re making tangible progress**
- **Consistent, public, easily accessible and understandable tracking**
- **Clearly identifies who is doing the tracking on how they are doing it**
- **Recognition of the long-term structural shifts needed to both reduce GHG emissions and create a resilient city in a hotter, drier world**



Q&A