

HEALTH ACTION

for the Green New Deal Bill

[September-October 2021]



ACTION GUIDE

What's happening?



This Autumn, in the lead up to the COP 26 climate talks in Glasgow, the **Green New Deal bill** will be brought to Parliament for MPs to debate and eventually vote on. This bill is a big opportunity to bring about transformative changes such as government investment for good-quality green jobs and infrastructure, as well as decarbonising our energy supply and creating healthy food systems.

This bill, if passed, could have a positive impact on public health in the UK. Members of the health community therefore have a key role to play in building support for the bill and the wider changes it represents.

In September and October, health workers and students across the UK will be setting up local 'Climate Clinics'. The aims of these clinics are to engage the public on the health impacts of the climate crisis and build support for the Green New Deal bill.

On the following pages, you will find more information on the Green New Deal bill and a step-by-step guide of how to set up your own local Climate Clinic!



What is the Green New Deal bill?

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The term '**Green New Deal bill**' is the nickname for what is officially titled the '**Decarbonisation and Economic Strategy bill**'. The bill is a cross-party initiative supported by the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on the Green New Deal. It has two proposers: Caroline Lucas MP (Green) and Clive Lewis MP (Labour).

The main elements of the Green New Deal bill are set out below. **You can also read the full draft text of the bill here.**

Decarbonise the economy

The bill places a duty on the UK Government to eliminate both emissions produced in the UK and those resulting from supply chains. It also aims to create Regional Investment Banks to support and promote investment in decarbonisation. As well as energy, the bill contains measures to decarbonise transport, housing and agriculture, and immediately end plans for new fossil fuel extractive projects.

Tackle inequality

The bill sets out that decarbonisation must be achieved in a way that meets objectives that promote socio-economic equality. These objectives include full employment in well-paid secure work, the lifting of restrictions on asylum seekers and refugees to work, reducing income inequality, universal access to life's essentials through the provision of public services and a minimum income guarantee.

Promote public health

The bill includes in its objectives a year-on-year reduction in health inequalities. It seeks public investment to ensure universal access to high quality healthcare. It also proposes public health interventions such as the creation of a National Food Innovation fund and car-free city centres. The bill, if passed, will further mandate upgrading the energy efficiency of all buildings, helping to tackle fuel poverty.

Create well-paid, secure jobs

The bill aims to bring about a 'just transition' in which workers in carbon-intensive industries, such as oil and gas, are supported to retrain and seek work in the green economy. The measures in the bill also aim to actively include workers in defining and developing the training that they need. The bill also seeks investment in areas of the economy that could create secure, sustainable work, including in health, care and education.

Protect biodiversity and natural habitats

The bill proposes a number of measures to protect habitats and ecosystems. These relate to natural flood management methods, reducing water usage, reforestation and the planting of trees in urban areas, rewilding initiatives, tackling air pollution, improving and expanding green spaces, reducing the use of pesticides and the sustainable management of marine ecosystems.

Support global justice

The bill seeks to promote global justice by addressing the historic responsibility wealthy nations such as the UK have to decarbonise as rapidly as possible. It also aims to achieve global debt cancellation and open up investment to support nations to decarbonise in a way that is fair. The bill contains measures to support 'climate refugees' seeking sanctuary in the UK and elsewhere.

Setting up a Climate Clinic



Very simply, a Climate Clinic is a mock clinic set up in a public space. We are using the theme of a clinic in order to emphasise the **health** aspect of this action, making it clearer to the wider public what angle we're taking on the climate crisis.

As mentioned above, the aims of this action are to engage members of the public on the health impacts of the climate crisis and to encourage them to take action by signing a postcard to their MP urging them to support the Green New Deal bill.

Below, we go through the steps to follow to get your Climate Clinic set up! **For any questions, please do feel free to get in touch with us anytime via info@health4gnd.uk**

Step 1: Get your Climate Clinic team together



You don't necessarily need a big team to run your Climate Clinic, but an extra few pairs of hands will be needed! If you're involved in a local Medact or Students for Global Health group, it's worth reaching out to other members of the group to see if they want to get involved, including those who perhaps don't come to things as often.

Once you've assembled your team, you might want to set up a group chat on WhatsApp or another platform to plan and keep each other updated about the action – alternatively, you could use a pre-existing group chat.

If you're struggling to find people for your team, don't worry. Get in touch with us via info@health4gnd.uk and we'll try and help you locate some volunteers!

If you're struggling to find volunteers, it might also be a good idea to reach out to local non-health specific groups to ask for support - for example, most towns and cities have a Green New Deal UK hub that you can reach out to. [You can find a full list of Green New Deal UK hubs here.](#)

Step 2: Find out who your local MPs are



The easiest way to search your MP is to go to <https://members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP> and type in your home postcode.

You may also want to look up the MPs associated with other postcodes in your area so you have the information you need in case you meet people who live in those constituencies during your Climate Clinic.



Step 3: Set a time and a place for your Climate Clinic



Don't forget that the aim of this action is to engage members of the public! So, when planning your Climate Clinic it is important to think about what times and locations would be best to be seen by as many people as possible.

If possible, we encourage you to run your Climate Clinic on either Saturday 25th September or Saturday 2nd October so we can get as many groups joining the action at the same time as possible!

If those dates do not work for your group, don't worry! Please feel free to run your Climate Clinic on a more suitable day.

When thinking about a location for your Climate Clinic, it might be worth considering where you may have seen groups setting up stalls in your local area before. Places such as high streets or pedestrianised areas with high foot-traffic are generally the best kinds of locations for this kind of action.

Step 4: Get the things you need for your Climate Clinic ready

Below are the basic items you need to set up your Climate Clinic. Items that can be provided by Medact (for free!) are indicated. Different options for how to set up your Climate Clinic – depending on how many people you have on your team – are set out on the next page.

Table & chairs



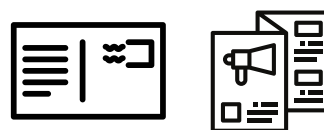
You may want to use a table and chairs or a mock examining couch. You may also want to have a sign that says something like 'Welcome to your local Climate Clinic'.

Banner



A banner with 'A Green New Deal for (*your town/city*)' written in the middle – with space around the text for members of the public to write their own messages about what a greener, healthier community could mean for them. This could be made with a simple bed sheet and some paint.

Postcards & flyers



Postcards and flyers for the action can be sent to you from Medact!

T-shirts/scrubs/other equipment!



You may want to wear scrubs and/or other health-related equipment – and masks for COVID-19 safety.

Medact also has Health for a Green New Deal t-shirts and lanyards that can be sent to you.

Option 1 (If you have a few people/resources)

Table/chairs - Banner - Postcards/pens - Flyers - Scrubs/other health paraphernalia - Health for a Green New Deal T-shirts & Lanyards - Climate Clinic sign

Option 2 (If you have a few more people/resources)

Table/chairs - Banner - Postcards/pens - Flyers - Scrubs/other health paraphernalia - Health for a Green New Deal T-shirts & Lanyards - Climate Clinic sign - Mock examining couch - Something to tie the banner up to

Option 3 (If you have a load of people/resources!)

Table/chairs - Banner - Postcards/pens - Flyers - Scrubs/other health paraphernalia - Health for a Green New Deal T-shirts & Lanyards - Climate Clinic sign - mock examining couch - Something to tie the banner up to - Partition screens (which could display Green New Deal posters or more health paraphernalia) - Games to play with kids - Gazebo!

Step 5: Practice having 'persuasive conversations'



With this action, we are trying to encourage members of the public to do **2 things**:

- **Engage with us in a conversation about the health impacts of climate change**
- **Take a practical action by sending a postcard to their MP to ask that they support the Green New Deal bill.**

By using 'persuasive conversation' techniques, we can better ensure that the conversations we initiate in our Climate Clinics are meaningful and everyone gets something out of it!

Persuasive conversations work by **being clear about who you are and why you're doing what you're doing**. Another key component is **active listening**, helping you to engage with the interests and motivations of the person that you're speaking with.

Some people might feel very comfortable initiating these kind of conversations, others might feel less so, so it may be a good idea to meet as a group before you run your Climate Clinic to practice. You could do this either online or offline.

To help you practice we've made a supplementary guide on persuasive conversations with some more tips and scenarios – [access the persuasive conversation guide here.](#)

Key elements of persuasive conversations:

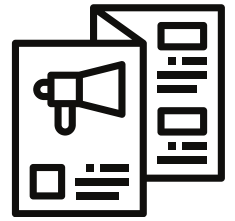
- Active listening
- Asking open questions
- Staying non-judgemental
- Offering further information
- Using open body language



Step 6: After the Climate Clinic

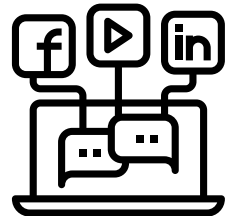
Postcards!

To ensure our MPs listen to our collective voices, we must make sure to share our messages! Be sure to post the filled postcards to your local MPs. You may also want to include a message from your group with the postcards.



Social Media

To get our message out nationally, take pictures and record videos from the Climate Clinic to share them on social media! We will share as many of these posts on the Health for a Green New Deal accounts @Health4GND. Remember to use the hashtag #ClimateClinics #H4GND. And remember to ask for consent before recording or photographing a member of the public!



Debrief

It is well worth holding a debrief session soon after your clinic, to evaluate how it went! Make sure to get a summary of the conversations, and the messages that members of the the public want to send to their MPs. Collating and summarising these messages is really important, not only to send to MPs, but also to learn from the public and strengthen our messaging!



You don't have to stop there!

There is more to do in the fight to win a Green New Deal. Here are a few ways you can keep up the campaigning momentum:

- If you don't already have a local group, [get in touch](#) with us to find out how to create a local Health for a Green New Deal Hub.
- Take more action. This is not the end of the road, you can set up more local actions – they could be similar to the climate clinics or they could be something brand new!
- Keep an eye out on our social media and email lists to hear about upcoming meetings and actions. [Sign up to our email list here](#).



Contact us

Don't forget, if you have any questions, want any support or simply want to have a chat, you can contact us at info@health4gnd.uk!

