



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Controller Mejia Releases “This Is Not Fine: Hottest Summer on Record Calls for a Reboot of LA’s Climate Plan”, an Analysis of LA’s Green New Deal; Finds 2019 Climate Plan in Urgent Need of Reboot

Today, LA City Controller Kenneth Mejia released “This Is Not Fine: Hottest Summer on Record Calls for a Reboot of LA’s Climate Plan”, an analysis of LA’s Green New Deal and found that the 2019 climate plan is in urgent need of a reboot.

LA’s Green New Deal was a promising start for climate action, but today it has largely outlived its usefulness.

The Controller’s goal in analyzing the Green New Deal is not to second-guess LA’s work on climate action, but rather to work with the public, Mayor, Council, and City departments to build on the progress to date.

Read “This Is Not Fine: Hottest Summer on Record Calls for a Reboot of LA’s Climate Plan”:

bit.ly/Controller-GND

FINDINGS

10 Key Takeaways from our Green New Deal Analysis:

- 1. Be Bold: Renewable Energy; More Housing, Fewer Cars; Emphasize Equity**
- 2. Goals Must Contain Meaningful Metrics**
- 3. Not All Goals and Milestones Are Created Equal, So Don’t Treat Them Equally**
- 4. Make the Biggest Goals Easy to Understand and Track**
- 5. EVs Are the Future of Cars, but Cars Cannot be Our Future**
- 6. Be Wary of Double Counting Carbon Gains**
- 7. Find Ways to Leverage LA’s Assets and Power**
- 8. Find Ways to Make Reducing Carbon Emissions Easier**
- 9. Protect LA, Especially the Most Vulnerable Communities, from the Impacts of Climate Change**
- 10. LA Is a Global Model, So LA Must Lead**

Instead of meticulously tracking the big long-term goals, the Green New Deal Annual Reports instead focused on tracking the less impactful short-term goals. Some of these goals were too vague to measure, for others the bar was set too low.

Nearly 1/3 of the targets were just to start efforts, e.g., “Launch Green New Deal engagement program by 2020.” Starting initiatives is easiest to fulfill - so these rank high as “achieved” or “exceeded.”

The real test is whether the new effort makes a measurable impact. The City needs measurable targets to help ensure we are making tangible progress toward achieving goals on time. That’s transparency and accountability. We need both to tackle the most critical global issue of our time.

Scientific consensus points to 2030-2035 as the pivotal time for avoiding “catastrophic and irreversible” impacts. Any comprehensive approach to climate action must continually be a work in progress, tenacious about meeting ambitious goals and adaptable on how to achieve them.

The City needs an integrated “whole of government” approach to climate mitigation, adaptation and standardized metrics. There needs to be clarity about goals – and effective measurement of how well policies and programs are achieving them.

To be fair, most major cities’ climate action plans have many of the same shortcomings. LA’s Green New Deal pioneered what a plan might look like at the city level. We must now improve our plan to be much more than just good intentions.

This July was the hottest month in 120,000 years. Climate change is here. Now more than ever, LA needs a plan with measurable benchmarks to protect our environment. It’s time to embrace a new vision for Los Angeles: Renewable energy; more housing, fewer cars; & an emphasis on justice.

It’s time to reboot the Green New Deal to ensure LA leads the way on urgent climate action.