

# CENTERING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (EJ)

*A Green New Deal demands that we tackle the climate crisis through processes and programs that dismantle our history of environmental racism and the disproportionate threat that fossil fuel use poses to low-income, elderly, and minority communities.*

Since our first GND presidential candidate scorecard, we have seen an increase in the prioritization of just process and policies, as with Elizabeth Warren’s robust [environmental justice plan](#), Bernie Sanders’s [program to promote global climate justice and hold polluters accountable](#), Tom Steyer’s [Framework for a Justice-Centered Climate Plan](#), Cory Booker’s [EJ Fund proposal](#), and Kamala Harris’s [“foundation for justice,”](#) which includes her Climate Equity Act.

In addition to our [48-component GND rubric](#), we have created a sub-rubric to dig deeper into Democratic candidates’ approach to environmental justice in their climate plans, including rectifying historic environmental damages, establishing democratic and inclusive governance processes, and enacting core climate justice measures. Among the eight contenders polling 2% or higher in our [recent Data for Progress/YouGov poll](#), half have made environmental justice a central pillar of their climate plans, each addressing at least 10 components on our EJ sub-rubric. **Bernie Sanders’s plan thoroughly addresses every component.** If we sum top preferences of Democratic voters, we find that the electorate favors candidates who center EJ issues, reflecting a growing public prioritization of climate policies designed with historic and future justice in mind.

EJ Sub-Rubric	Biden	Buttigieg	Booker	Harris	O’Rourke	Sanders	Warren	Yang
<b>Historic Injustice</b>								
Polluter Liability	•		•	•	•	•	•	
Toxic Waste Cleanup			•	•		•	•	
Clean Water Infrastructure	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Public Green Spaces	•		•	•		•	•	
Equitable & Fossil Fuel-Free International Finance	•	•	•	•	•	•		•
<b>Just Processes</b>								
EJ/Equity Principles	•	•	•	•		•	•	
Stakeholder Participation	•	•		•		•	•	
Prioritization of Women- & Minority-Owned Businesses		•	•			•	•	
Indigenous Rights		•		•		•	•	
<b>Just Policies</b>								
Green Affordable Housing	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Devoted EJ Fund			•	•		•	•	
Climate & Public Health		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Energy Justice			•	•		•	•	•
Frontline Resilience	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>Total (out of 14)</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3.5</b>