

# A Green New Deal

Climate change is an existential threat to our country, our way of life, and to the world we leave behind for our kids and grandkids. Donald Trump thinks climate change doesn't exist, and Cory Gardner has gone along with Trump at every turn as they've not only run away from our most serious problems, but continued to taking steps to make it worse. I'm running for Senate to run at the hard problems like climate change, that's why I'm proposing a Green New Deal that would eliminate the carbon pollution that causes climate change by 2040.

Colorado can lead the clean energy revolution that our nation and world demand. Doing so will create tens of thousands of jobs in Colorado alone, build the infrastructure and economy of the future, and protect our planet for the next generations. The moral and economic arguments could not be more clear. The opportunity to strengthen our economy and put fellow Americans to work building the future could not be more important.

I've fought this battle my entire career: I championed legislation that successfully increased our renewable portfolio standards

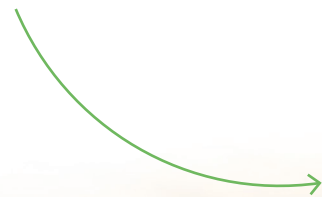
and made Colorado the first state in the country to capture dangerous methane gas. I'm ready to stand shoulder to shoulder with this rising generation to lead a Green New Deal.

Colorado has already led the way. In 2004, Colorado voters passed the first-ever renewable energy standard enacted by ballot initiative, which required the state's utilities to increase the amount of electricity they sourced from clean, renewable energy. Thanks to this and other forward-looking policies, Colorado is one of the nation's leaders in renewable energy. Colorado currently ranks 7th in the country in wind energy generation, with over \$6 billion invested to date. The clean energy industry already employs more than 62,000 Coloradans, including jobs in energy efficiency, renewables, electric vehicles, and more.

Today, wind and solar are the cheapest forms of new electricity generation in Colorado, and solar is one of the fastest growing industries in the state. Overall, renewable energy currently makes up 20% of Colorado's electricity. This is a great start, but not nearly enough. **That's why I am continuing my push for a clean energy economy by calling for a Green New Deal.**



**Mike** for Colorado  
**Johnston**



# Mike Johnston: A Green New Deal

**1. Create a 100% clean energy economy by 2040.** We can have a clean economy if we make strategic investments that accelerate the green revolution, carbon sequestration efforts, and key efforts to reduce total energy use. Everyone, including Colorado's oil and gas companies, power utilities, manufacturers, transportation companies, and individual citizens, must innovate and make thoughtful choices to achieve this goal. This is an all hands on deck effort. Our first step is to decarbonize the electric grid, and then we must transition our entire economy to this clean electric power.

**2. Build the infrastructure of the future.** The Green New Deal can only deliver its full potential if we develop the infrastructure to support this new economy. This will require a combination of new investments and accelerated retirements of existing dirty infrastructure. We need to create a national grid, expand community solar power, build the electric car charging infrastructure of the future, and direct our pursuit of machine learning and artificial intelligence toward the challenges of managing our infrastructure, from ports to highways.

This will also require investments to retrofit out existing homes and offices to make them more energy efficient. This program can create jobs and save consumers money. Tools like on-bill financing, which allows consumers to install energy efficiency improvements at no up front cost and pay them back from the savings on their monthly bills, can enable this progress. We need to align our policies to ensure that families can not only save, but earn money when they make the choices that are right for our state, country, and planet.

**3. Train and hire millions for the next generation of clean energy.** We need to provide the training and career pathways to ensure all Americans have access to the millions of new jobs this revolution will create. That's why I embrace this promise: anyone who is willing to serve their country can access a debt free higher education or job training. A Coloradan who wants to pursue higher education can attain it debt free by signing up for a civil service corps that protects our land, people, and water. This will enable millions of Americans to manage forests, repair trails, or tutor students while they earn the promise of debt-free training along the way. This will also allow any fossil fuel industry employee to find a just transition from a current industry to a new one.

**4. Increase investments in research, development, and deployment.** To finance the scale of investment needed to create a 100% clean energy economy, we'll need to catalyze both public and private investments to accelerate our rates of innovation in many areas, from battery storage to carbon capture to national grid development. Colorado is at the forefront of this effort; our state is home to more than 30 federally-funded research institutions, including the National Renewable Energy Lab, that together contribute over \$2 billion to our state's economy.

But Washington must do more to support these clean energy innovations. Nearly all energy technologies benefited from federal investment early in their development, but today energy R&D is woefully underfunded. Federal investments in energy R&D are 5x lower than our investments in health research and more than 10x lower than defense-related R&D -- an unfortunate fact considering that climate change is a public health and national security crisis. If we are serious about addressing the threat of climate change and creating a 100% clean energy economy, we must make investing in energy innovation a national priority. That's why I support tripling federal investment in energy R&D to ensure that the energy innovations that will power the economy of tomorrow are developed here in the United States.

We also need to increase support for the commercialization and deployment of advanced clean energy technologies that emerge from our energy innovation system. That's why I support the establishment of a national Clean Energy Innovation Bank that would provide financing to demonstrate and help commercialize breakthrough clean energy technologies and accelerate the deployment of today's technologies. This independent entity would provide a range of financial tools to support private sector investments in commercializing advanced clean energy technologies.

Colorado has already shown our clean energy potential with our world-class research institutions and countless clean energy startups. Scaling up our national investment in energy innovation can ensure that we build on this progress and create the advanced energy industries of tomorrow right here in Colorado.

**5. Lead the world in this global race.** America can and should be the best innovator in green technology; that's a race we must win. Doing so will reap benefits for generations to come. But we don't want to be the outlier in reducing pollution; in that effort we must join others and lead the rest of the world if we're going to prevent the most catastrophic effects of climate change. I will work with whoever replaces President Trump to bring us back into the Paris Agreement and push forward to the next generation global compact we require.

**“By taking these steps, we can build the clean economy our world demands. Our grandchildren will only ask what took us so long.” - Mike Johnston**