Role of the Youth Movement in the Green New Deal

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What Exactly is the Green New Deal?

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We have known about climate change for about 50 years now, and have finally arrived to a point where the consequences of our actions can be seen. Severe weather events are increasing in both frequency and intensity. Summer temperatures are sometimes so hot that planes are grounded due to the heat.

Along with the heat comes a multitude of secondary effects  like increased migration, refugee crises, and violence; clean food and water shortage;  and economic strain (due to the increase of risk events).

Adults and the elderly don't feel the same sense of urgency to address climate as millennials and youth.

Support of the Green New Deal is strongly predicted by age (even when controlling for political ideology). The GND is widely supported by millennials, despite initial costs. That support dwindles in GenX, further decreases in the Baby Boomers, and hits a low in the Silent Generation who report over 50% opposition to the deal.

Why millennial support?

* Young people today will live through the increasingly extreme and eventually deadly effects of climate change.
* It’s the only reality they’ve ever know. Millennials grew up hearing about the scary future we face due to Global Warming.
* Millennials are now studying in college, entering the workforce, starting families, and thinking about our futures in the context of the climate crisis we face, ready to take action.
* Previous climate change bills have all failed — yielded no action,
* Potential for real change has recently manifested in the form of AOC drafting the Green New Deal bill.

**Who — Key Players**

 This brings us to the WHO, starting with The Sunrise Movement

* Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
	+ Drafted the bill
* The Sunrise Movement
	+ The Sunrise Movement is a youth led political movement that advocates political action on climate change.
	+ Mobilizes youth and provides education and training on how to confront lawmakers
* Greta Thunberg
	+ Swedish teenager (16)
	+ Leads global strikes protesting our collective refusal to act on the alarming information science has provided us with regarding the state of the planet
	+ Friday March 15, 2019 she led a worldwide strike as part of the Fridays for Future movement; 1.4 million young people from 123 countries skipped school to protest climate change. Thunberg, first known by her TedX talk, has now been nominated for a 2019 Nobel Peace Prize and was named one of Time’s 25 most influential teenagers

Sites

[Sunrise Movement](https://www.sunrisemovement.org/gnd/)

[Dozens of Youth Activists Arrested After Green New Deal Protest in Mitch McConnell’s Office](https://earther.gizmodo.com/dozens-of-youth-activists-arrested-after-green-new-deal-1832872331)

[Ocasio-Cortez’s Green New Deal Is a Product of Youth Uprising](https://truthout.org/articles/ocasio-cortezs-green-new-deal-is-a-product-of-youth-uprising/)

[Over 140 Arrested as Youth-Led Demonstrators Demand Green New Deal](https://truthout.org/articles/over-140-arrested-as-youth-led-demonstrators-demand-green-new-deal/)