

# NEWS

FROM THE OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER  
**PAUL KORETZ**  
FIFTH DISTRICT



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **World's First "Climate Emergency Mobilization Dept" Moves Forward As LA City Council Weighs in With Its Own Green New Deal**

### ***Councilmember Koretz/ Leap LA Coalition Provide Grassroots Solutions to Climate***

**March 19, 2019 – Los Angeles, CA** – In a hearing packed with community members, the five members of the City Council's Energy, Climate Change and Environmental Justice Committee (ECCEJ) unanimously agreed to carry forward a variety of proposals to create the world's first Climate Emergency Mobilization Department (CEMD), which will be powered by LA's version of Green New Deal policies. In a proposal he developed in partnership with the Leap LA Coalition, Councilmember Paul Koretz outlined what such a department could look like, with a mission "to protect all residents, especially the most vulnerable, from the health and economic impacts of the climate crisis by ensuring a rapid and equitable just transition... and the right to a healthy, egalitarian quality of life for future generations."

"While this work preceded the proposed federal Green New Deal, we have welcomed the inclusion and support of the Sunrise Movement and now the Youth Climate Strikers in our efforts," said Councilmember Paul Koretz. "We believe the CEMD can be the mechanism by which LA's version of a Green New Deal can quickly and effectively be developed, implemented and the vital regional mobilization on climate action launched."

Councilwoman Nury Martinez, ECCEJ Committee Chair and initiator of the City's Green New Deal legislation, presided over the hearing and directed city departments to report back on several fundamental implementations for the CEMD. Top priorities included coordination to establish a "Green New Deal" for the City of Los Angeles and budgetary and staffing requests necessary to implement the Department.

"The environmental movement started decades ago, but generations of Angelenos who live in frontline communities have for just as long, been left out of the discussion," said Councilwoman Martinez. "With today's hearing, I am glad to see that my colleagues have recognized the urgency of addressing climate change, and are committed to tackling the environmental and social burdens in the very same frontline communities that have been most impacted by climate change."

The proposed first steps of the CEMD include developing and executing a series of "Community Assemblies" planned in key frontline communities throughout LA to hear, engage and cultivate community involvement and to meaningfully integrate community knowledge into a city-wide mobilization effort and develop and execute a Climate Emergency Mobilization Action Plan (CEMAP), to accelerate the City's existing goals to meet the deadline of 12 years as set by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 1.5 C report from October 2018 and lead a mobilization of the entire region at a scale not seen since World War II.

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Koretz also said, “I’m pleased to say, since we introduced our CEMD motion in January 2018, over 400 councils from Australia to Canada to Europe, representing nearly 35 million people, have declared climate emergencies. Including Berkeley, Oakland, Richmond, and, in December, London, England. The tide is turning and the people of the planet are finally waking up to the true -- and staggering -- realities of the climate crisis and what we need to do about it.”

The Leap LA Coalition includes: Communities for a Better Environment, Physicians for Social Responsibility/Los Angeles, The Climate Mobilization, Esperanza Community Housing, 5 Gyres, Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education (SCOPE), The Leap, and a member of AIM, the American Indian Movement, National.

The Climate Emergency Mobilization Department legislation was introduced by Councilmembers Paul Koretz and Bob Blumenfield in January 2018.

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