

TURNING THE SYSTEM AROUND

Greenpeace transformative plan to recover from the devastating effects of COVID-19 and be better equipped to face the environmental crisis

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Greenpeace transformative plan to recover from the devastating effects of COVID-19 and be better equipped

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Photo Pedro Armestre

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Introduction

We've entered the Coronacene era¹, probably as the inevitable result of the "before" era, the Anthropocene, when we forgot about global human needs and focussed on economic profit. No race for financial gain has been so destructive in history or led to such an unprecedented planetary crisis.

The health crisis caused by a minuscule but devastating virus and the ensuing economic and job-related impacts now join **two of this century's great challenges: the environmental crisis and the growing social inequality**; these problems must not be forgotten or ignored. Science tells us it is crucial we take measures against the climate crisis in the next decade, we must devise a solution in the next four years if we don't want the impacts we are already experiencing to become irreversible.

This pandemic has shown how fragile we are; it has forced us to rethink every aspect of our existence, and adapt to an unthinkable situation. **Growing scientific data shows the close interrelation between the planet's health and our health**. Consequently, we must rethink our governing model. We must come out of this painful crisis stronger; we must turn the system around and rethink how we operate on this planet, especially at a financial level.

Our priorities are thus evident, **transform the economy to support the life and health of the planet**. Our current model, with markets dictating every policy, is not the answer. The transformation we are about to start cannot ignore the world or its people. **We must learn from the errors made coming out of the 2008 financial crisis²**. We must not repeat the following mistakes: cutting social and environmental policies, axing renewable energies, postponing the energy transition, unprotected the land, destroying biodiversity, poorly managing water resources, dilapidating transport infrastructure with no economic or social justification, marginalizing the rural world, bailing out financial entities with millions of euros while forgetting the people, and passing repressive laws in response to social protests.

To strengthen our resilience, we must rethink our ways and transform our system, energy, mobility, consumption, food, and economic models. **Greenpeace Green New Deal plan tackles all these problems; we propose in-depth reforms** to stabilize the economy, prevent massive job losses, increasing social inequalities and poverty, and promotes the fight against climate change and biodiversity loss. **We also touch on democratic quality**, as there are elements that are vital to coordinate our society. To this end, we must introduce solidarity, human rights, and multilateralism as no global solution is possible without them.

The document outlines **a set of lines of actions** needed to transform the system. We present **over a hundred precise and effective measures to address our main areas of work**: energy, transport, infrastructure, food, rural communities, ecosystem conservation and recovery, democratic quality, peace, and governance. The goal of the proposed measures is to achieve truly sustainable development that fortifies life and the planet.



TURNING THE SYSTEM AROUND —

1 Government bailouts and why it's important not to

make the same mistake twice

1 GOVERNMENT BAILOUTS AND WHY IT'S IMPORTANT NOT TO MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE TWICE

This moment is crucial to promote a system transformation. However, we must understand who will benefit from the public investments and bailouts that will bring us out of the economic and social crisis resulting from the current health emergency³.

Traditionally, bailouts serve to rescue corporations and not to ensure social welfare. This was evident in the 2008 financial crisis, and must not repeat in this situation. **Public money must be used for the common good**, to strengthen sustainable and local economies, and not to feed shareholders' pockets.

We must not repeat the same mistakes. **To avoid future crises, public investments must promote an ecological transition. Therefore, it is necessary to stop government funding for** activities that contribute the most to greenhouse gas emissions or to destroying natural resources, especially fossil fuels, nuclear energy, industrial agriculture, farming, or construction industries.

Government interventions must come with a business plan to ensure companies grow within the limits of the planetary resources and are climate neutral. Companies which did not do their homework on time, cannot use the **COVID-19 crisis as a pretext to violate** the well known **"game rules"** passed through democratic mechanisms. Climate ambition must increase, and **environment regulations must be respected and strengthened to deal with the environmental crisis.**

As we live in extremely complex times, with society struggling to get ahead, bailouts conditions must be more rigid. **Rescued companies must not be allowed to issue dividends, pass variable rate bonds, or declare profits in their income statement.**

Executives from intervened companies, must not again receive millions in bonds while the worst of the crisis impacts the most vulnerable population. Businesses and subsidiaries benefiting from rescue plans may not operate in tax havens, and must be subject to strict public regulations, which should remain in place beyond the rescue period. Only implementing a transparent system can we verify public money benefits the whole of society and not just rescued corporations.

It is time to say goodbye to austerity schemes that cut our public services. Governments must invest in developing capacities that favor the well-being of the whole population and in sectors that take care of life and communities. If this crisis taught us something, is that state interventions must serve to guarantee fundamental rights such as health, education, housing, food, and basic supplies (electricity, communications, adequate water for consumption, etc.), especially for more vulnerable groups.

One of the main goals of public bailouts must be safeguarding people, therefore guaranteeing employment and salary conditions are essential requirements. The ecological transition is an opportunity to create decent and sustainable jobs. The ILO estimates this transformation would bring Spain 550,000 new jobs a year during the next decade.

In short, this is not about choosing between our health or the economy. It is about choosing between an environment-centered economy that respects people or a speculative economy that benefits a minority.

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2 Greenpeace solution to the crisis. A transformati



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2 GREENPEACE SOLUTION TO THE CRISIS. A TRANSFORMATIVE GREEN NEW DEAL TO TURN THE SYSTEM AROUND

The above phrase is the cornerstone of our report.

The need to respond to the economic and social crisis caused by the COVID-19 emergency provides a unique opportunity to change the system and transform those sectors that are not working, like the energy, mobility, consumption, and food industries. With this in mind, Greenpeace designed a plan to face the crisis; a system transformation that includes significant reforms to stabilize the economy, prevent massive job losses, end social inequality and poverty, and fight the environmental crisis caused by climate change and biodiversity loss.

The health crisis has shown the medium-term impacts of an environmental emergency that is changing our world; it has also shown the deficiencies of the system in which we live. However, although we speak of an environmental crisis, nature is not in crisis, but the relation between humans and the environment is. This crisis is not the result of human nature, but the result of a production scheme imposed two centuries ago: capitalism and the subsequent consumption and mobility model. The significant impacts affecting our planet are part of a global systemic crisis, one that shows greedy capitalism has no respect for natural limits and increases inequality and poverty.

We know there are several sides to an environmental crisis, although all of them important, two are of particular concern. **The first being the biodiversity crisis**, the species extinction rate is between 100 to 1,000 times higher than what is considered natural. According to the latest IPBES report from the United Nations, over a million species are on the verge of extinction, an unprecedented number. Biodiversity protection is not compatible with increased resource consumption, changes in land use, and polluting emissions resulting from economic growth.

The **second being the climate threat**; according to United Nations IPCC experts, if average temperatures rise 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, the consequences will be devastating. Climate change is a global problem with environmental, political, economic, and social implications; the worst predictions imply enormous economic and social losses. **Spain is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change** in the European continent. The **first economic and social impacts are already visible**, crop and food production losses, droughts, health risks, mega-fires, and extreme weather events such as cold drops, storms, or hurricanes.

The present situation has kindled the old debate as to which **is the best economic and political model to solve the environmental crisis** and subsequent COVID-19 crisis, which not only has become an international health emergency but brought the economy to a standstill.

Plans like the **Green New Deal** (GND) are part of this debate. The GND was written to provide solutions to the climate crisis and includes a set of policies to change the economy, prevent climate change, fight inequality, and save jobs. In short, it tries to end the eternal conflict between employment and carbon emissions. According to the GND, sensible economic growth cycles are possible with new green and sustainable models that generate employment and are emission neutral. It is the green version of President Roosevelt's New Deal to get through the Great Depression. The GND includes schemes that go from recycling to a greener capitalism to more transformative measures, including abandoning fossil fuels by changing power plants.

Greenpeace believes a transformative GND is the best option to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. A revolutionary Green New Deal with the needed features to combat the worst elements of the current economic system. A transition model which will allow society to undergo major and in-depth reforms in the coming years and move towards a society based on the environment, social equality, and democratic control.

To do so, we must accelerate the ecological transition towards a new production model where economic activity is democratic, mutual, eco-social, and has relocated. We must move from an economy that maximizes profits to make the rich, richer, and wealthier, to a [re]production and a material economy based on the economic, environmental, and cultural conditions needed for survival, aligned with social usefulness principles. Basics (health, housing, water, energy, or food) fundamental to meet the goals of an economy that puts the life center stage.

If Greenpeace's GND is to transform society, it has to address several key questions and provide transformative answers. To this end, our Green New Deal includes a series of long-term major lines of action that will help regenerate and recover industrial, agro-industrial, and essential sectors for life. These major lines of action will act as pillars to develop a resilient and diversified economy that allows for a transformation.

In short, a model based on a universal public system that guarantees the services needed to care for the people. Together with a relocated industry sector focused on a manufacturing industry that has a positive social and environmental impact; trade and logistic industries with joint infrastructure management, decent work and that confront platform capitalism, which are generating new monopolies thanks to technology; an agricultural sector redefining short cycles, agroecological production, and food sovereignty; a service sector re-dimensioned towards internal local development, as well as a construction sector that rethinks urban and territorial planning models to be more resilient and safer against climate and residential emergencies.

2.1. GREENPEACE GREEN NEW DEAL – LINES OF ACTION

The **lines of action, the basis of** this transformation model, are crucial. They provide **the theoretical framework** to develop measures in nine different areas; we will see them in detail later on. The lines of action and measures should guide Spain in transforming the system and focusing on people and the environment for a strong future.

Change the production structure or we will find ourselves in a crisis soon

To **move towards a society based on environmental rationale, social equality, and democratic control, Spain's production structure must change.** To do so, two types of changes must take place, one relating to the ownership of the means of production, the other to the development and conception of traditional economic sectors.

This reform must bring a new production structure, **a model in which the use, access, control, and distribution of the means of production is equally distributed and prevents concentrating the means of production in a few players.**

The production model must change and welcome new actors and forms of participation; private, collective and public parties that prevent oligopolies and their impacts, and stop power from concentrating in the hands of a few.

The current tax system does not work and must be changed. Who should pay the transition costs?

The world elite and polluting corporations must bear most of the costs of a just ecological transition. This revolution will demand a **significant injection of public** money which must be acquired through taxes.

Greenpeace's GND plan demands a fair, progressive tax reform that takes into account green taxes, cares for existing public assets, leads investments towards the public interest, and draws financing towards more sustainable activities. Therefore, **tax reform is twofold:**

- a. First, **increase tax rates** for the assets of those with the highest incomes and large corporate profits. Create new tax rates for financial transactions (Tobin tax), technological transactions ('Google tax'), and other money-making activities that are tax-exempt. Money from these taxes **would serve to implement public policies that will help redistribute wealth** (such as financing public services), and invest in new production activities and R&D&I.
- b. Second, a tax for big polluters, apply the "polluter pays principle" and create **new green taxes⁴ for emissions and fossil fuels, such as aviation. Also, create tax incentives for sustainable business models** that prioritize repairing, reusing, or exchanging, and for business models that support local and sustainable production.

The green tax must be regressive to prevent it from being too much for people with fewer resources. **Greenpeace's GND includes implementing allowances, either by providing a basic income or free basic services** (health, education, transportation, housing, electricity, etc.) or in the form of tax subsidies for essential eco-friendly manufactured goods. This is crucial for low-income individuals and social classes, and for vulnerable population groups that historically have suffered the brunt of pollution and climate impacts and must not bear the economic burden too.

We are in a new era. The time has come to reform the legal system with regards to the environment

To tackle this reform we must change completely our legal system, beginning with **protecting the environment in the Constitution**. In a rule of the law democratic State, it is evident and necessary to have a legal framework that prioritizes sustaining life.

By expressly recognizing in the Constitution the fundamental right to a suitable environment, citizens can demand their right to be enforced before a court of law. To this end, Article 53 EC must change significantly to provide economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights better and greater protection, and incorporate the non-regression principle. Thus, Spain can implement and develop an ambitious right to a healthy environment, which protects the ecosystem, people's health, and the rights of future generations while in pursuit of the public interest⁵.

Let's do it right. The energy system must transition towards an intelligent, efficient, 100% renewable model in the hands of the people

A crucial aspect of Greenpeace's GND plan is the transition from an energy system based on fossil fuels (which today represent 80% of our energy consumption) and nuclear energy to a 100% renewable energy system in 2040.

The energy model in our Green New Deal plan only uses renewables sources to meet the energy needs of every industry (transport, construction, manufacturing, etc.) and does it with less effort, quicker, and more sustainably and affordably thanks to energy efficiency and smart grids⁶. The secret to this model is rapid response mechanisms, intelligence, integration of all energy-consuming sectors, and electrification.

A crucial aspect of our GND plan is that it tries to **solve the eternal conflict between employment and carbon emissions**, to do so it puts forward the idea that sensible economic growth cycles are possible using new green and sustainable models that generate employment and are emission neutral. According to Greenpeace Spain's report "*La recuperación económica con renovables*"⁷, it is possible to create up to **three million new jobs** in fifteen years by transitioning from a current energy model to a 100% renewable one while **reducing CO₂ emissions**.

Renovating the Spanish housing stock to improve energy efficiency, energy savings, and demand-side management are essential lines that can **generate many jobs**.

Another important element is the **control of the energy system, especially the electrical system**. Greenpeace's GND plan involves interrupting the electricity oligopoly by adequately regulating the electricity market, including the mandatory horizontal separation of processes (generation, distribution, and marketing).

When promoting **self-consumption and energy cooperatives** we must reflect on how they can compete with a highly delocalized and specialized production model (with consulting firms, engineering firms, etc.). It is essential to implement **legislative changes in public biddings to modify the criteria for awarding contracts and favor new cooperative or collective production models**. Spain must also do a full transposition of European regulations to promote citizen participation in the energy system.

The time has come for a slow circular economy. Spain's reindustrialization must put a stop to the thoughtless consumption of natural resources

If we want a real ecological transition, we must tackle every aspect that involves moving from a current linear economy based on fossil fuels to a slow circular economy, an economic system that limits the unceasing use of resources and materials, and eradicates waste production.

It is estimated that around 45% of global greenhouse gas emissions are related to the production of vehicles, clothing, food, and other daily-used products⁸.

The circular economy has the potential to improve resilience against the effects of climate change. However, our GND plan does not stop here; a circular economy must first aim to decrease the consumption of all types of goods, especially single-use products and packaging. Second, businesses must reuse materials to unlink their activity from the consumption of raw materials that are vulnerable to climate effects. As to the food system, regenerative agriculture improves soil health, for example, increases its capacity to absorb and retain water, and to adapt to heavy rains and drought.

It is necessary to extend the useful life of materials with measures beyond the circular economy: invests in R&D&I to develop technologies to reuse, reutilize, and as a last resort, recycle materials; develop an industry to recover and reuse materials and minerals, and exchange products. These activities will create new jobs, both in the R&D&I field (preventing Spanish scientific experts from leaving the country), and for workers in the reuse, recycling and recovery industry.

Say goodbye to fumes. The new mobility must be clean, intelligent and for the people

The transport sector must undergo a drastic revolution by banning the sale of fossil-fuel cars in 2028, and their use in 2040. Our GND plan advocates for a mobility model that prioritizes proximity and sustainable schemes. A system where only zero-emission vehicles are permitted and which must only be used if strictly necessary; shared use and ownership are encouraged.

Reorienting the **automobile industry to the electric vehicle** could create many jobs during the transition and many jobs in the sector could be saved by implementing education and training programs.

The **train** is an essential mechanism for economic and territorial structuring in Greenpeace GND plan, both for people and goods transportation and preferably for regional and suburban trains. This would make it easier to limit domestic flights which would only be allowed between the most distant cities with no other means of connection.

Less transit can also be the result of more telework, and of implementing policies to change citizen mentality and thus decrease their consumption levels and increase their **predisposition for local and seasonal products** that would be promoted.

Food will change our lives. Eat healthier, proximity, and more sustainable foods. The agroecological revolution is coming

This revolution will require a transformation from the agro-industrial model supported by the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) to an **agricultural model based on agroecology; this involves caring for our soil, water, and climate**, promoting local products, food sovereignty, resilience, agriculture diversity and biodiversity, and developing rural communities.

Greenpeace GND supports a respectful land use as the current agro-industrial model is rapidly destroying our lands, the adoption of a "**planetary health**" diet with less meat or animal products, a progressive elimination of industrial farms, and extensive farming based on agro-ecology.

This change in the agricultural model will create new jobs as it is a more advanced production system but less mechanize and requires more people (20% more jobs than conventional agriculture) and skills, which will favor establishing rural populations. Therefore it is an opportunity for those individuals whose professional sector is in decline and want to start a new life in the countryside. Besides, **more investment in science and research is required** to continue innovating and **to bring new sustainable and innovative solutions to traditional know-how.**

Greenpeace GND recommends considering the Primary Sector essential for society. It is fundamental for an economic model that combines job creation, territorial balance, wealth generation, and environmental protection **to acknowledge sustainable forestry, agriculture, farming, and fisheries are essential services for society.**

Why providing care is crucial to the development of society (and the economy)

Although global problems do not inherently differentiate social classes, their socio-economic consequences do, and their impact and the risks involved are not distributed equally among the human population. Society turns a blind eye to the fact that **the most disadvantaged and vulnerable sectors have borne the cost of cutting different basic services.**

Our **GND wants to give value to the job of providing care by giving it visibility** and calculating the number of unpaid work hours around which capital increases their profit. To do so, it is essential to give this type of work a decent salary, to balance the time each gender allocates to caring for others, and to create a significant number of jobs thanks to public investment in care work (health, education, seniors, nursery schools, dependency, etc.).

End destructive tourism. It is time for Spain's main economic industry to strive for quality and protect the environment

In the proposed GND scenario, **mass tourism, which exhausts natural resources and does not provide a steady unemployed, would be considered a sector at risk** in need of special support, both due to its negative environmental impact (needs lots of land, water, and energy, and generates tons of waste), and, for example, for the substantial decrease in passenger air traffic. Spain must develop a comprehensive and restrictive regulation for tourist apartments and establish a moratorium on new hotel beds in overcrowded areas.

Given the above, **we must commit to sustainable tourism**, which eats up fewer natural resources, and respects nature and the landscape. We must particularly promote rural and inland tourism, and prioritize restoration as opposed to construction. **Job losses** resulting from changing to a more sustainable tourism model should be **given the same status as those in other industries undergoing a reform, such as the energy and the automobile industries**: relocate workers to new jobs in line with the new respectful and sustainable tourism model.

Greenpeace's GND proposes transforming the tourism industry using four processes: implement measures to internalize social and environmental costs of tourism businesses, **develop ecotourism; sustainable and planned management for inland tourism, and slower means of transportation for international tourism.**

Yes, working fewer hours is better for people and business

Several studies show the environmental and human benefits of reducing working hours. Companies that implemented fewer working hours saw productivity increase and greenhouse gas emissions drop.

Gradually reducing working hours without any salary cut will create around **five million new jobs in Spain**.

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3 Protecting democratic values provides Spain the o



opportunity for growth



3 PROTECTING DEMOCRATIC VALUES PROVIDES SPAIN THE OPPORTUNITY FOR GROWTH

Now more than ever, democratic mechanisms are vital for the processes outlined in our GND to transform the system. In the past four decades, Spanish society has undergone an undeniable democratic evolution which has led the foundation for a prosperous coexistence to this day. However, the political and social progress attained during this period has deteriorated in a global context where national and international democratic mechanisms are progressively weakening.

Recovering from the 2008 crisis, the Great Recession, not only brought economic austerity and greater social inequalities, but it also meant curtailing rights and freedoms to shut criticism and protests against the measures implemented. A classic example is the Organic Law on the Protection of Citizens' Security of 2015, also known as the "Gag Law", the impact it had on democratic freedoms, such as the **right to assembly and demonstration**, was a cause for concern for different international organizations. Despite the promises in the last five years of most political parties to abolish this law, derogation is still pending and, ironically, it served as legal framework to implement a sanctioning regime during the state of alarm, with over a million sanction proposals.

Citizen participation, freedom of speech, transparency, and access to information are crucial to ensuring a quality democracy.

It is increasingly common for corporations to sue journalists, activists, or citizens for millions of dollars for writing articles, criticizing or campaigning against possible dishonest practices. These demands are intended to intimidate or desist people from their objectives or criticism, and are therefore a threat to **freedom of speech and citizen participation**.

Freedom of speech comprises freedom of opinion and freedom to obtain or communicate information and ideas, without the interference of public authorities or financial institutions. Transparency and the **right to access information** must be guaranteed. All obstacles, excessive or unjustifiable limitations to exercise this right must be eliminated.

A blatant case of how the lack of transparency and extreme limitations to the right to access information can undermine democratic quality is the **excessive secrecy surrounding arms trade; an issue that as a peace advocacy organization troubles Greenpeace**. Despite the systematic authorization of arms exports to countries involved in conflicts where international laws are seriously violated, there is no accountability on the part of the Spanish government, and neither Parliament nor society can exert any control over the government. The impunity this situation creates does not meet basic democratic standards.

Additionally, **disinformation grew substantially** during the pandemic, social networks and messaging applications were used to program and disseminate tactical false reports. The goal of creating confusion was to incite hatred and fear, and polarize Spanish society; this poses a serious threat to our democratic coexistence. Given the growing power of social networks to influence public opinion and social debate, it is urgent to develop a comprehensive plan against disinformation that emphasizes education on the use of social networks and encourages social dialogue, promotes independent verification mechanisms and collaboration between big digital communication platforms, and scrupulously respects the right to express opinions freely.



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4 Domestic change is not enough. An international a

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This is a global crisis, and as such, it needs a global response. All measures against the pandemic or the environmental crisis we face will fail if they are not implemented internationally. Therefore, we recommend implementing our GND beyond our borders.

We need the European Union to be responsible, to lead internationally, and to help raise the ambition in the fight against climate change and the social crisis. Not surprisingly, the COVID-19 crisis has shown us the fragility and interdependence of nature and humans.

To solve global challenges we must first address European challenges. Member States must not shy away from their international roles: international solidarity, protection of human rights, and proactivity as a global actor. The EU's foreign policy must uphold once more the values on which the European project was founded: freedom, justice, and democracy.

The Spanish government must defend the EU's leadership role and commit to renewing global governance mechanisms. We need a new and resilient multilateral system to solve the problems of the 21st century; a new Global and European Compact to ensure the well-being and resilience of our global community; a new intergenerational and intersectional compact with nature. We need a compact that prioritizes peace and the protection of planetary limits above and beyond the drivers of destruction, extractivism and profit maximization, and a distorted sense of security by securitizing our lives.

To protect and support freedom, justice, solidarity, and human rights, the EU must decisively protect freedom of speech, of assembly, of association, and protect human rights activists and whistleblowers, and other rights being violated in and out of the EU borders. The Old Continent must radically oppose the autocratic tendencies and actions of many countries.

The EU must guarantee a solution for the developing world. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, millions of people in some of the poorest countries will see their problems worsen, including financial, social, inequality, and health issues. The EU must ensure humanitarian aid, medical assistance, and debt relief, including the cancellation of all debt obligations of impoverished countries.

The world demands a rebalance and restructure of the rules of free trade.

The current global trade and investment scheme imposes high social and environmental costs on people and the planet. In many instances, governments favor trade over social and environmental norms and obviate the need to regulate laws that promote and protect public interests; binding rules for corporations and investors on corporate responsibility, accountability, and other obligations. We cannot ignore the urgent need to control, monitor, and establish due diligence to warrant companies' supply chains comply with human rights. Furthermore, Member States must act consistently and stop fueling militarization of third countries by transferring technology, weapons, or dual-use material.

Despite the globalization of our world trade system, we must shorten the distance between production and consumption, ensuring and guaranteeing the minimum basics for the population as a whole. The European trade system must modernize and relocate strategic manufacturing lines directly linked to basic services (food, health, water, and energy) and bring back many industries to ensure the sustainability of supply chains.

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5 Action plan to change the system





5 Action plan to change the system

The above lines of action serve as a framework for Greenpeace's Green New Deal. The measures are grouped in **nine different areas (including one on democratic quality and one on international agenda)** to promote in-depth changes, and move towards a society based on ecological rationale, social equality, and democratic power.

1 Construction and infrastructure industries

- **Extend the 2018-2021 Government Housing Plan**, provide additional aid for rent, to restore buildings, improve energy efficiency, and implement housing initiatives for the young and the elderly to reduce public services costs (water, electricity, etc.) and household carbon emissions. Fund equivalent regional programs and provide grants to community-based weatherization programs to multiply local efforts.
- **Establish a Government Environmental and Equitable Housing Fund** for municipalities willing to reduce emissions and help low-income individuals by investing in housing with cap prices.
- **Extend the prohibition of electricity, gas or water cuts**, and late payment charges established during the state of alarm. Extend this measure to people who were cut off from these services before the health crisis.
- **Suspend rent and mortgage payments for the most vulnerable population**, no commissions should be paid for this suspension; include the possibility of condoning payments. This is not a postponement or pay in installments; this will protect against some of the immediate effects of the recession and will indirectly support low-income communities and individuals whose basic living conditions (housing, water, energy, and food) must be guaranteed.
- **Extend funds and the beneficiaries of a new Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program to fight energy poverty**, while guaranteeing the right to basic energy supply.
- **The Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge should create a Climate Justice Resilience Fund** to guarantee the most vulnerable people/communities are protected from the inevitable impacts of climate change. The Spanish National Statistics Institute should conduct a national survey to identify extremely vulnerable areas to climate change impacts, public health challenges, environmental risks, and other socioeconomic factors.
- **Implement an Energy Restoration Plan for public housing and buildings** according to the energy efficiency standards established by the Spanish Institute for the Diversification and Saving of Energy¹⁰.

- **Provide the necessary means to install renewable energy in homes, communities, and neighborhoods**, prioritize individual or collective self-consumption with renewable energy (depending on the resources in the area), and facilitate the installation of collective self-consumption utilities, even if this means reforming the Spanish Horizontal Property Law.
- **Revise the Technical Building Code to require buildings to be fitted with energy self-consumption** systems and charging points for electric cars as a measure for storage and demand management.
- **Launch a public procurement operation for sustainable construction materials and category A appliances** (in terms of energy efficiency and, where appropriate, water consumption) to restore and equip public buildings (public housing and government buildings). Offer autonomous communities, municipalities, and public companies great discounts in public procurements whenever possible.
- **Agree with the autonomous communities to finance the modernization of health and school centers** throughout Spain to improve their energy efficiency and habitability. This could be accomplished by replacing fossil fuel boilers with renewable energy systems, adding building insulation, or solarizing buildings. Eliminate all toxic and unhealthy materials, including lead and asbestos, and limit the use of single-use materials.
- **Develop a national environmental subsidy program for rented housing** to provide incentives for homeowners to invest in energy efficiency. The savings generated by improved energy efficiency could be used to offer people with fewer resources free utilities when renting a home.
- **Create a subsidy and loan scheme to encourage the residential and infrastructure sectors** to use low-impact construction materials with carbon-sequestering capacities, such as wood with certificate of origin and legal provenance.
- **Support the use of insulation and construction materials made from plants, natural cork, agricultural waste, or residual fibers**; materials such as hempcrete, compressed straw panels, wood fiber panels, etc. This would support the manufacturing, forestry, and agriculture sectors, boosting rural areas.

2 Transportation and mobility industries

- **Develop a "Repair First" National Program for transport infrastructures**, prioritize local industries to maintain and repair roads, instead of building new ones.
- **To end the dependence on diesel traction of various trains**, finish the electrification of the Spanish railway system, particularly those sections between freight terminals.
- **Support and improve public rail transport.** Speed up the execution of the four existing Commuter Action Plans (Madrid, Asturias, Cantabria, and Valencia) and promote similar plans in those cities/towns that have suburban trains but lack a plan.

- **Resume plans to migrate the railway system to an international standard width** to improve flexibility both in freight and passenger services and to reduce the current duplication of high-speed and conventional infrastructures.
- **Roads around metropolitan areas and accesses to metropolises should have traffic lanes for public transport** only use to increase the number of passengers/hour on these roads.
- **For a zero-emission car park by 2040**, end the commercialization of new cars with internal combustion engines in 2028 (including hybrids and gas). All incentives must be in line with the objective to decarbonize road transport. Investments must focus on zero-emission vehicles.
- **Finish the electric vehicle charging network by supporting projects** to create additional charging stations on main roads to ensure cars can be charged throughout Spain.
- **Contemplate converting some automobile factories** to health-care factories to manufacture the equipment needed to face potential health crises.
- **Consider allocating specific investments** to support the manufacture of electric buses.

3 Towards a just transition. Employment and industry incentives

- **Implement a universal basic income with guarantees** and scope to propel an ecological transition and protect against potential temporary and industry-based employment repercussions. Ensure the survival of jobs to take care of the environment which is essential to preserve our ecosystems and improve resilience against climate change impacts.
- **Provide the Just Transition Institute sufficient means (technical and financial)** to perform its functions and carry out the Just Transition Strategy and transition agreements. Ensure progress towards new sustainable production activities and recognize the major role female employment plays in the transformation of the system.
- **Create a government fund to support the creation of work cooperatives** aligned with rapid decarbonization objectives, which allow and support workers from fossil energy-based sectors to adapt to decarbonized sectors. Activities such as the installation, operation, and maintenance of the chain of goods and services relating to renewable energies (solar panels, wind energy, marine energy, biomass, geothermal, etc.), regenerative agriculture, urban community gardens and urban agriculture on a large scale.
- **Support reindustrialization by working together with regional innovation institutes** to implement a policy for eco-friendly goods with a long lifespan. This measure guarantees production and provides a boost because administrations directly buy large volumes of products that promote the system decarbonization.

- **Strengthen small productions in the textile sector that generate value.** Organize comprehensive business training and support programs for women in cleantech through the Small Business Administration.
 - **The Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism,** and the corresponding institutions in autonomous communities must implement new training programs for environmental entrepreneurs.
 - **Prioritize European funding provided it promotes quality local employment** and equal opportunities and incorporates women in new sustainable types of jobs.
 - **Allocate new funding to give low-income women the opportunity** to obtain advanced training, to create cooperative enterprises in the textile and manufacturing industries, and for new sustainable technologies.
 - **Support measures to reduce waste in the production chain,** and for product reutilization. Also, implement urban waste source-separation collection in municipalities.
 - **Support a decrease in single-use items consumption.** Prioritize and incentivize using reusable packaging in the market and implement a deposit-return system for all single-use items (packaging, cigarette butts, coffee capsules, etc.).
- #### 4 Energy system and electricity market
- **Have an intelligent, efficient, and 100% renewable electric power system** where citizens play an active role by 2030.
 - **Starting as early as 2020, auction renewable energy once a year** (per energy and pay-as-bid) to ensure the needed renewable power is installed to meet the objective.
 - **Speed electricity market restructuring to:**
 - a. Prevent the increasing investments in renewables to make it impossible to recover investment costs for these technologies and consequently block their development. This is what would happen with current regulations.
 - b. Inform of real-time slots prices to promote and incentivize demand management, and energy-saving and efficiency.
 - c. Facilitate participation of new independent comers in each of the deregulated activity areas (renewable generation, self-consumption, storage, intelligent network management, commercialization, demand management, etc.), and thus avoid creating monopolies.
 - d. Stop the same large corporations from carrying out regulated and deregulated activities.
 - e. Lower the base monthly charge of the electric bill for social justice and efficiency reasons and to prevent it from hindering the energy transition.
 - **Improve the stability of clean energy investment plans** by providing incentives to SMEs, municipalities, and cooperatives; extend credit to energy storage to allow renewable sources to guarantee stable and constant energy supply on a regular, flexible, clean and reliable basis.

- **Revise the access and connection regulatory framework;** establish a clear and transparent procedure to obtain permits, thus eliminating speculative conduct that is a barrier for smaller production entities.
- **Properly transpose citizen participation European directives** (energy communities) to ensure a shared and effective ecological transition.
- **Create and improve financing mechanisms for citizen and SME initiatives** in renewable energy, backed by savings guarantee or future energy production.
- **When present concessions expire, return hydroelectric infrastructures to the State** so they can be used to manage the system and not to speculate.
- **Completely ban fracking and oil/gas drilling whether offshore or land.** Ban new large facilities to storage or transform fossil fuels such as natural gas or for uranium mining.
- **Step up the nuclear decommissioning schedule,** this would create many jobs and boost the transition, it would also prevent companies from investing in extending their licenses.
- **The Institute for the Diversification and Saving of Energy** and the autonomous communities should offer interest/compensation-free grants and loans to every electricity cooperative needed for quick decarbonization, and to implement battery storage technology at distribution and end-user levels.
- **The Institute for the Diversification and Saving of Energy** should set a roadmap for biogas and the development of offshore wind energy and marine energy in Spain.

5 Agriculture, farming, fishing and forest resources

- **Sustainable forestry, agriculture, farming, and fishing services** must be classified as essential services for society within a new economic model which combines job creation, territorial balance, wealth generation, and environmental protection. Allocate resources for Rural Development Plans so they can be executed.
- **Support organic agriculture to take up 30% of agricultural land** used by 2030 and 100% by 2050.
- **Subsidize agricultural and farming production** as well as inshore and small-scale coastal fishing given their environmental and social benefits, like attracting population to the territory and maintaining the equilibrium in ecosystem services.
- **Public procurements should prioritize buying products from farms** that are transitioning to organic farming and eliminate current bureaucratic barriers to facilitate new projects.
- **Guarantee jobs for young people, women and underprivileged individuals** in the agriculture industry, as well as fair access to land and sea resources.

- **To reduce greenhouse gas emissions**, and ammonia and nitrates emissions, introduce a moratorium for new intensive farming projects or the expansion of existing ones.
- **Guarantee those who work temporarily** or permanently in the land and their families have a right to medical care, food, and decent accommodations.
- **Create and improve logistics support centers for organic agriculture** and sustainable fishing to improve product distribution.
- **Expand the street markets network** (not permanent) for local and organic production.
- **Support the diversification of distribution channels** for local and organic production by training producers on how to sell on the Internet and by creating a governmental virtual platform to promote and publicize short distribution channels to breach the gap between producers and consumers.
- **Ensure all food sectors and their product specifications** follow the criteria established in the Healthy Eating Guide of the Spanish Society of Community Nutrition.
- **Ensure food purchases for public events and institutions encourages** the consumption of organic, local, and seasonal products and make them available to everyone, particularly the most vulnerable individuals.
- **Autonomous communities and cities should create** and distribute a basket with basic organic, local, and seasonal foods to vulnerable families (with guaranteed minimum income).
- **Guarantee a 50% minimum food waste reduction by 2024** in all stages of the food chain, but particularly in production.
- **End public support for the export and import of over-consumed products**, particularly industrial meat and dairy products.
- **Prioritize economic resources to create jobs and improve quality of life** (tax and Social Security rebates and government investments) to encourage people to settle in rural and coastal areas, especially young women as they are the backbone of demographic growth.
- **Promote employment in rural Spain devoted to recovering ecosystems**, including forests and wetlands, and maintaining ecosystem services following scientific criteria and the lessons learned by local development agents (personnel from local corporations or entities that depend on or have connections with a local government)
- **Encourage and prioritize eco-friendly forestry, agricultural, farming, and fishery products** in the private and public arenas.
- **Recover abandoned or underused lands and mountains** as a means to create value and opportunities with environmental criteria. Rewrite land use rights so the land can be transferred without owners losing ownership.

6 Land and territory

- **Whenever possible recover public land to be used for organic agriculture.** This will help preserve the land and improve biodiversity while avoiding using the land for speculative purposes or construction works.
- **Introduce measures to fight desertification and support actions** to prevent forest fires, ecosystems migration, biodiversity loss, and climate change impacts.
- **Provide economic alternatives and support jobs in the restoration** and conservation of green infrastructures that provide ecological services in rural communities.
- **Modernize Spain's port network to decrease air and sea pollution;** introduce renewable energy for self-consumption and to recharge ships, and adapt port infrastructures to withstand a rise in sea levels.
- **Fund the adaptation of energy infrastructures areas** (such as wind farms) for recreational use, for example improving roads for pedestrians and bicycles.
- **Improve/increase treatment and reuse of urban and industrial wastewaters.** This is not only good for the environment but would prevent hefty EU fines for not complying with wastewater treatment policies.
- **Prioritize water saving by implementing plans to reduce water demand** (especially in agriculture and farming).
- **Ensure aquifers, rivers, and wetlands ecological flows** as defined by science and determined by the Water Framework Directive to guarantee their function.
- **Create a Water Fund to encourage municipalities and autonomous communities** to invest in repairing or replacing sanitary or combined distribution systems and sewage systems, build alternative rainwater management systems (green infrastructure) and implement additional demand reduction measures (replace lead pipes and improve treatment facilities).
- **Protect vacant land against tourism.** Stop dependency on hotel monopoly; drastically reduce the number of new beds and improve the quality of existing facilities. Main tourist destinations should have recreational areas, sufficient healthcare, and sports facilities to make them safe; encourage access via public, shared, or electric transportation.
- **Support the reconstruction, transformation, and modification** of current tourist installations to make them more eco-friendly.
- **Ensure government-funded construction projects** take into account possible floods from a rise in sea levels and weather events. It is necessary to establish a flood risk management national standard and no new building should be constructed within three meters of the historical 100-year coastal flood elevation except for national security purposes.

- **Ensure government investments for coastal** and infrastructure protection take into account the effects of climate change and are used for protecting and restoring coastal ecosystems and not for constructing promenades or beach replenishment.
- **Urban planning and management should be** conditioned by possible risks such as fires; it should take into account additional bans on wildland-urban interface in restricted access areas. Urban planning and management must comply with specific regulations for prevention plans, local emergency plans, and protection plans against forest fires in restricted access areas.
- **Put an end to the tax collection deficit in five years** maximum by implementing an urgent action plan against fraud, tax evasion, and tax avoidance. The plan must be backed by all political parties and have a permanent Congress mechanism to control it, review it, and ensure transparency and accountability.
- **Develop a green tax system that applies the ‘polluter pays principle’**, encourages more sustainable behavior, is just, and provides funds for the transition with measures such as:
 - a. A carbon tax that penalizes the production of those products that emit the most CO2 emissions.
 - b. Set a price floor for carbon.
 - c. Tax aviation fuel and use of air transport.
 - d. A fee for single-use packaging.
 - e. VAT discount for basic necessities and eco-friendly products and digital services.
 - f. Establish new VAT brackets for equipment based on their energy label.

7 Taxes, innovation, and public investment

- **Carry out an in-depth and progressive tax reform** to redistribute wealth with measures such as:
 - a. Tax fortunes (movable, property or financial assets)
 - b. Increase corporate tax over real benefits to breach the gap between the effective rate and the nominal rate.
 - c. Increase the inheritance tax and the personal income tax for the high brackets.
 - d. Reinforce and implement taxes for financial transactions (buying and selling shares, bonds, and derivatives).
- **End all subsidies for fossil fuels and nuclear energy**, and redirect those funds to people and communities directly affected by the energy transition.

- **Incorporate environmental parameters to laws** regulating local taxation: provide tax rebates for local taxes on activities that are good for the environment: property tax (IBI by its Spanish acronym), building, installations and other work tax (ICIO by its Spanish acronym) and economic activities tax (IAE by its Spanish acronym).
- **Reform the Law on Rationalization and Sustainability for Local Administration** (LRSAL by its Spanish acronym) to increase municipalities' revenues and improve their spending capacity in energy sustainability and the revitalization of low-carbon local employment.
- **Bailouts or bridging loans for corporations**, such as airlines, cruise lines, and automobile companies, must include labor, social, and environmental conditions.
- **Financial institutions, especially those rescued** with public money in the past, must assume a greater percentage of the financial risks resulting from decarbonization and price fluctuations.
- **Reduce military spending** which already represents 0.9% of GDP (commitment to a 2% GDP by 2024). Start with the item for new weapon acquisition passed in 2018 under Weapons Special Programs (PEA by its Spanish acronym) which involves investing 13 billion euros.
- **By 2030 allocate between 3% and 5% of GDP** to science and R&D&I in sectors essential to transforming the country (sustainability, health, biodiversity and in general the energy transition), being mindful of putting people at the center; for example, the personnel of public research organizations (CSIC, research centers and universities), and making substantial investments in material resources and personnel.
- **Support R&D programs for developing** telemedicine tools to help strengthen primary care and monitor patients' health parameters remotely better. The driving effect of public health services and health systems in other countries might make this business sector develop faster, and attract talent and investments.
- **Lower financial risks resulting from** decarbonization and price fluctuations by instructing the CNMV to order credit rating agencies to impose process standards, such as climate due diligence, that take into account the physical and financial risks that climate change presents for securities and other financial assets, as well as for the companies issuing them.
- **Promote competitive dialogue procedures to** award public sector contracts for complex projects of public interest, like many local entities have been doing (energy efficiency for all street lighting or updating wastewater treatment plants).

- **Promote eco-friendly government purchases** that have some kind of arrangement with social or labor projects, or meet current salary requirements.
- **To better integrate equity and efficiency principles** in the public investment arena, evaluate discount rates used in all cost-benefit analyzes for public investments.
- **Offer temporary tax incentives and accelerated** facilities depreciation to businesses that install self-consumption, and a reduced VAT to private individuals.
- **Double the budget for the Institute for the** Diversification and Saving of Energy (IDAE) and for R&D&I funds fostered by organizations like Ciemat and CDTI. Especially for less mature renewable technologies in terms of technology or implementation and/or renewable technologies with great national resource potential such as offshore wind, wave power or solar thermal energy with storage system.
- **Create a legal form for Local Energy Community,** and implement public incentives and competitive dialogue to encourage and facilitate their creation so they can invest in low-carbon infrastructures.
- **Encourage contracts that benefit communities** to increase citizen participation and ensure communities can finance, manage, and benefit from renewable energy facilities, whether decentralized or centralized, while a community-own renewable industry develops.

8 Measures to improve democratic quality

- **Evaluate the emergency measures introduced** during the state of alarm that collide with fundamental rights such as freedom of movement and the right of assembly and demonstration. Evaluate the disproportionate application of coercive measures such as sanctions and arrests during such an exceptional situation in case abuses were committed that can be prevented in the future.
- **Abolish organic law on the protection of citizen** security, different international organizations are concerned about this law given its impact on democratic freedoms. Instead, implement legislation that protects citizens while guaranteeing the free exercise of people's fundamental rights and public liberties.
- **Guarantee digital technologies used to monitor** and control the spread of the virus comply with the highest standards of transparency, protection of the right to privacy, and protection of personal data.
- **Implement an action plan to counteract** misinformation and fake news that serves to polarize society and promote hatred and xenophobia. This strategy must be based on digital literacy, on bringing awareness and strengthening the digital community, on incorporating initiatives such as audits, on demanding accountability from large tech companies, and on creating independent verification mechanisms.

- **Support the creation of European legislation that** guarantees the right to public participation and stops strategic lawsuit against public participation (SLAPP) intended to intimidate journalists and civil society organizations and silence criticism.
- **Guarantee by law the transparency of public** institutions' actions and the right of access to information: pass a regulation of the Transparency Law to minimize limitations to access; reform the Official Secrets Act and urgently repeal the Agreement of council of ministers of 1987 by which key documents to control arms trade were classified.
- **Implement a comprehensive legislation to fight** corruption and protect whistleblowers, in line with the standards established in the proposal for a directive of the European Union.
- **Completely cancel the external debt of the Global South** countries and ensure the additional needed financing to meet their development needs does not generate new debt.
- **Revive and increase Official Development Assistance**, including green technology transfers, prioritize funds for low-income countries to adopt national roadmaps aimed at not exceeding 1.5°C global temperatures or withstand climate change extreme impacts.
- **Ensure trade agreements do not include abusive** practices for small producers; guarantee workers' protection; observe signed international treaties on environmental issues or the fight against global warming, as well as human rights and the obligation of preliminary consultation with interested parties¹¹.

9 International agenda measures

- **Promote a global architecture for resilience.** Support the restructuring and creation of several multifaceted institutions focused on a greener and more resilient world order. The global community must have the capacity to provide financial support and incentives for the fight against climate change (not to exceed 1.5°C average global warming) and sustainable development goals (SDGs) that guarantee world biodiversity protection and recovery.
- **Global governance must be guaranteed within** the framework of a renewed Global Assembly for a Resilient International System (GARIS).
- **Support local and sustainable agriculture systems** in Spain and around the world. Remove agriculture from the sphere of the World Trade Organization to ensure no one speculates with basic goods. Invest new resources in cooperatives and sustainable wood and forest management companies and create new industry markets for sustainable wood products.
- **Classify food supply security as a national security** problem and sanction trade policies that safeguard food security and sovereignty worldwide.

- **End all direct and indirect investment funds** on fossil fuels via multilateral and regional (EU) organizations, including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the ECB, the EIB, and the rest of regional banks (IDB, AfDB, BASCD, and EBRD).
- **Increase funding for the Green Climate Fund** to foster the green economy worldwide. At European level, make an EU contribution to the Green Climate Fund as recognition of the EU environmental debt and EU's responsibilities in climate change. Study the creation of a progressive European tax for polluters with the highest carbon emissions to finance this contribution.
- **Ensure policies are coherence so EU funds are** restricted to those Member States that set a date to phase-out fossil fuel, are committed to curbing biodiversity loss, and increasing the EU's climate targets in line with scientific recommendations to not exceed 1.5 °C global warming.
- **Promote a European climate change law** and greater ambition in line with scientific recommendations not to exceed 1.5°C global warming to reduce European CO2 emissions by 65% in 2030 and net zero in 2040. Reflect this at the national level by reducing total national emissions by 55% in 2030 compared to 1990 and net zero in 2040.
- **In line with the Paris Agreement, increase the goals** for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in 2020 (defined as Nationally Determined Contributions or NDCs) and press the EU to move in the same direction.
- **Promote a Security and Defense policy centered** on Human Security and not on the interests of the arms industry. A policy that invests in conflict resolution and not in fostering it. A policy that complies with Spanish Law 53/2007 on Arms Trade, the EU Common Position 2008/944/CFSP, and the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

Notes

1 Term coined by Herbert Girardet, sustainable cities expert.

2 Greenpeace, 2020. De la gran recesión a la crisis del Covid-19 Lecciones aprendidas (only in Spanish) <https://es.greenpeace.org/es/sala-de-prensa/documentos/de-la-gran-recesion-a-la-crisis-del-covid-19-lecciones-aprendidas/>

3 Greenpeace, 2020. Covid-19. Decálogo para un rescate público (only in Spanish) <https://es.greenpeace.org/es/sala-de-prensa/documentos/covid-19-decalogo-para-un-rescate-publico>

4 Friends of the Earth, Ecologistas en Acción, Greenpeace, SEO-Bird life, WWF, 2019 Propuestas de fiscalidad ambiental: avanzando hacia un mundo más justo y sostenible <https://es.greenpeace.org/es/sala-de-prensa/informes/propuestas-de-fiscalidad-ambiental-avanzando-hacia-un-mundo-mas-justo-y-sostenible/>

5 Amnesty International, Greenpeace, Oxfam Intermón, 2015 Una reforma constitucional para blindar los derechos humanos <http://archivo-es.greenpeace.org/espana/Global/espana/2015/Report/general/Una%20reforma%20para%20blindar%20los%20derechos%20humanos%203.7.2015.pdf>

6 Greenpeace, 2011. Energía 3.0" Un sistema energético basado en inteligencia, eficiencia y renovables 100% <http://archivo-es.greenpeace.org/espana/es/Trabajamos-en/Frenar-el-cambio-climatico/Revolucion-Energetica/Energia-30-/index.html>

7 Greenpeace, 2014. La Recuperación económica con renovables. Creación de empleo y ahorro en los hogares españoles para un modelo sostenible. <http://archivo-es.greenpeace.org/espana/es/Informes-2014/Octubre/La-recuperacion-economica-con-renovables/>

8 Ellen Macarthur Foundation, 2019 Completing the Picture: How the Circular Economy Tackles Climate Change <https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/publications/completing-the-picture-climate-change>

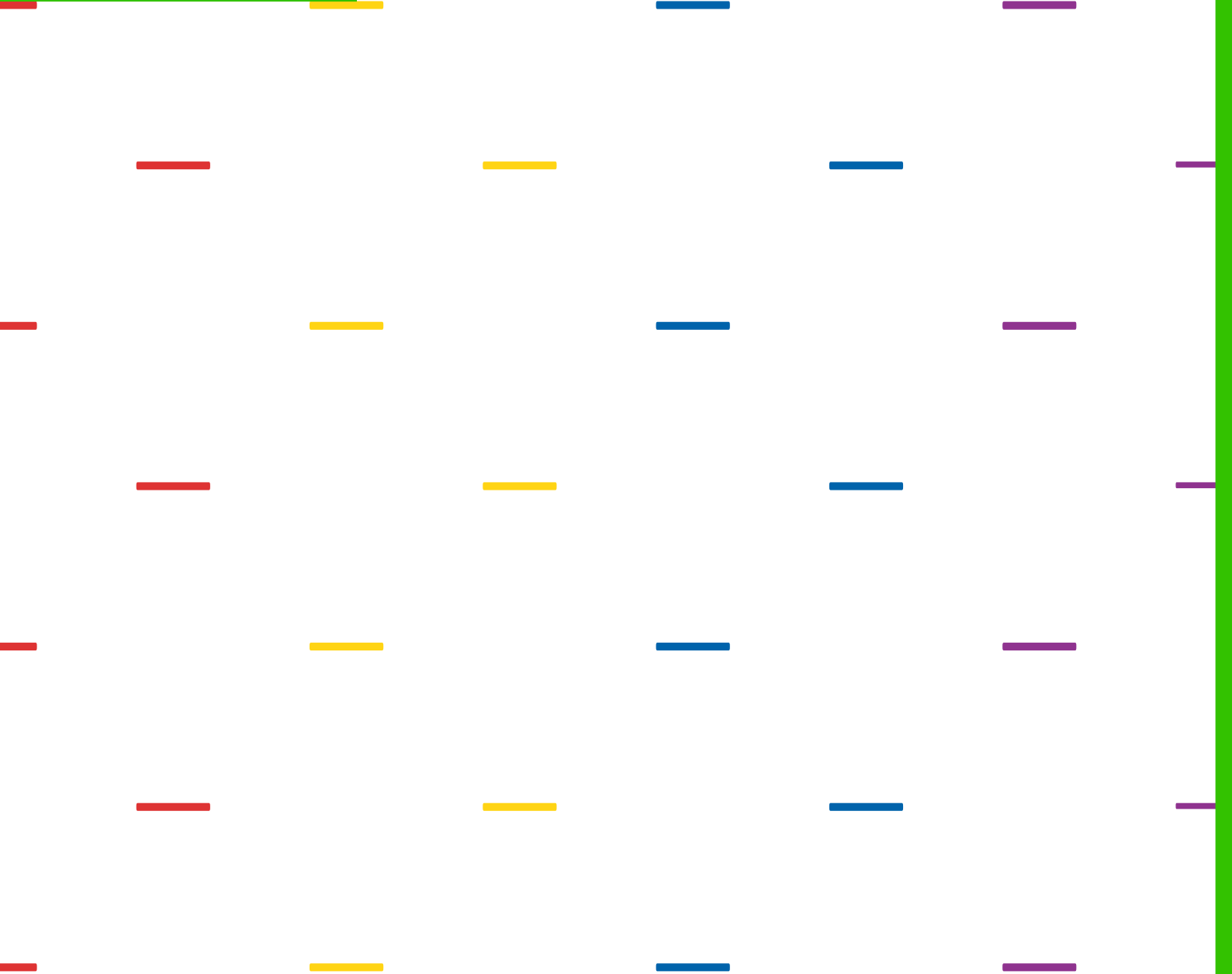
9 Ecologistas en Acción, 2020. Escenarios de trabajo en la transición ecosocial 2020-2030. <https://www.ecologistasenaccion.org/132893/informe-escenarios-de-trabajo-en-la-transicion-ecosocial-2020-2030/>

10 <https://www.idae.es/tecnologias/eficiencia-energetica/edificacion>

11 Greenpeace, 2017 10 principles for trade <https://www.greenpeace.de/sites/www.greenpeace.de/files/publications/20170502-greenpeace-prinzipien-handelsabkommen-englisch.pdf>

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