

**AFT Massachusetts 2021 Convention**  
**Resolution submitted from Boston Teachers Union -- Climate Change (1)**

**WHEREAS,** climate change is an urgent crisis confronting people all over the world: extreme weather, rising sea levels, and pollution are wreaking havoc on the planet, and

**WHEREAS,** the world's leading climate scientists with the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) have warned we have 10 years to keep global warming to a maximum rise of 1.5°C, beyond which even half a degree will significantly worsen the risks of life-altering drought, floods, extreme heat, disease, poverty, and displacement for hundreds of millions of people, and

**WHEREAS,** the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) agrees that to avert this catastrophe, we need “rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of our society” to reduce world carbon emissions to 50% of current levels by 2030 and to net-zero emissions by 2050, and

**WHEREAS,** the climate crisis exacerbates already-existing systemic injustices along racial, regional, social, and economic lines, having a disproportionate impact on “frontline communities” (including Indigenous communities, communities of color, migrant communities, deindustrialized communities, the poor, low-income workers, women, the elderly, the unhoused, people with disabilities, and youth), and

**WHEREAS,** AFT has recently worked, mobilized and advocated along with other unions, environmental organizations, and communities impacted for a science-based solution to the impacts of climate change, and

**WHEREAS,** millions of students have gone on strike to demand government action on climate change, and

**WHEREAS,** the Green New Deal Resolution, sponsored by Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Senator Ed Markey, was introduced February 6, 2019 in the U.S. Congress and has since been widely endorsed and

**WHEREAS,** the Green New Deal Resolution is an ambitious yet essential framework for a series of projects and policies to achieve the following goals, among others, by the year 2030:

- reduce carbon emissions to 50% of current levels by 2030 (net-zero by 2050); through a fair and just transition for frontline communities and workers;
- provide millions of good, high-wage jobs in sustainable fields and ensure prosperity and economic security for all;
- make investments in U.S. infrastructure, industry, education and society to sustainably meet the challenges of the 21st century; clean air and water, climate resiliency, sustainable livelihoods, and access to nature for all for generations to come;
- establish a jobs guarantee and healthcare guarantee for all;
- ensure justice and equity for frontline communities and communities of color

by repairing current and historic harms, and

**WHEREAS**, the Massachusetts Legislature has approved Senate Bill S. 9 An Act Creating a Next-Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy that:

- sets an aggressive target of decarbonizing the state's energy by 2030;
- has a goal of running the state completely on renewable energy by 2050 would create renewable energy jobs and boost the state's production of offshore wind by 2,400 megawatts for a total of 5,600 megawatts;
- proposes new municipal building code that promotes "net-zero" construction.

**RESOLVED:** that AFT MA endorses the Green New Deal Resolution introduced in the U.S. Congress and Massachusetts Senate Bill 9, An Act Creating a Next-Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy and urges Governor Baker to sign the legislation; and

**RESOLVED:** that AFT MA will explore ways to incorporate advocacy for climate justice, the Green New Deal and implementation of the Next Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy into its political action; and

**RESOLVED:** that the AFT MA will explore with other like-minded unions, community and environmental organizations the possibilities for a nationwide Green New Deal as well as support similar efforts in Massachusetts and New England; and

**RESOLVED:** that AFT MA will explore the implications of climate change on our pension system and the possibilities for divesting our pension fund from the fossil fuel industry; and

**RESOLVED:** that AFT MA will reach out to climate justice organizations to explore the possibilities for joint actions and demonstrations in solidarity with striking students and other upcoming climate actions; and

**RESOLVED:** that AFT MA and members will promote effective curricula to teach about the Climate Crisis and student climate strikes, including but not limited to The Pulitzer Center's global oriented curriculum, and Rethinking Schools. Further, the AFT MA will work to make education about the climate crisis a part of Massachusetts curricula at all levels.

REVISION OR COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

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ADOPTED \_\_\_\_\_

DEFEATED \_\_\_\_\_

TABLED \_\_\_\_\_