

Good evening my name is Mike Harrington and I am the Assistant Director of the Tishman Environment and Design Center here at The New School. It's my pleasure to welcome you all to our campus to celebrate the centennial of the University.

The New School's mission is to prepare students to understand, contribute to, and succeed in a rapidly changing society. As a university where design and social research drive approaches to studying issues of our time, we seek to provide students with the tools needed to grapple with complex problems facing society and to pursue just and sustainable approaches to address these problems.

The Tishman Environment & Design Center is a university-wide center with about 70 affiliated faculty representing every school at The New School. We are dedicated to research and practice that fosters design, policy, and social justice approaches to environmental issues in order to advance just and sustainable outcomes in collaboration with communities.

We would like to thank our speakers for joining us to talk about a topic that has been the buzz of the country for most of this year: The Green New Deal. To be clear, the GND is not a policy or even something that is a novel idea. Many environmental justice groups have been advocating for these principles for decades; it is the same with the recent global climate march that attracted 7 million people worldwide; frontline communities have been talking about these issues and working towards them but it seems like we have reached a tipping point in our national and global consciousness about how dire climate change is and the fact that global leadership is doing little to slow it down.

That is why this conversation and ones like this are so important; we need to hear about how these policy platforms and actions can lead to an equitable and just transition that benefits those communities that have been historically ignored, marginalized and harmed at a higher rate by the effects of climate change.

It is my hope that our panel discussion on the GND and EJ is interesting, informative and most of all, a catalyst for you put your energy into slowing down the effects of climate change for everyone, no matter who they are.

I would like to welcome Dr. Ana Baptista, who is both the chair of the EPSM program and the Director of the Tishman center, who will moderate the panel. Once again, thank you all for coming and please welcome Ana and our panelists.