The Green New Deal, Labor and a Changing World

Concept of a Green New Deal (GND) has been around since the early 2000's, linking public investment in jobs (reminiscent of FDR’s New Deal) to moving the US economy off of non-renewable energy in order to halt the progress of global climate change. More recently, it is the name associated with a resolution (https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-resolution/109) sponsored by US Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Senator Ed Markey that adds rectifying the economic injustices faced by many poor and racialized communities to the other goals of renewable zero-emissions energy sources, state-sponsored manufacturing and infrastructure jobs, and support for displaced workers.

The resolution itself is being poked and prodded from all sides. Climate change scientists and environmental activists don’t think it sets sufficiently aggressive goals, and worry that the right mix of solutions (such as carbon offsets, carbon capture, biomass energy) are not included in the resolution. Others argue that it’s unrealistic. Then there are the arguments about the best way to pay for it: should the government or private sector pay? Should the funds come for carbon pricing or through tax incentives? Like everybody else, labor has had mixed responses to the Green New Deal proposal. Probably the biggest concern is about the impacts on members’ jobs: Can the Green New Deal really create good, unionized jobs and ensure that workers are not left behind when unionized industries are wiped out?

We have experience in the US about how to develop good jobs. In California, legislation has created a demand for solar energy, pushing utilities to build and operate solar energy plants. The plants were built under project labor agreements and organized under collectively bargained contracts, creating thousands of new jobs with family sustaining wages. In New York state, Climate Jobs NY has won prevailing wage guarantees on $1.5 billion in renewable energy projects. Research carried out by the Labor Leading on Climate project at Cornell University’s Worker Institute, has documented additional case studies of successful efforts to create good, family-sustaining green jobs (https://www.lri.cornell.edu/worker-institute/initiatives/labor-leading-on-climate).

We also have some experience enacting policies and programs that support workers when their industry is eliminated. In 2016 the Western NY Area Labor Federation partnered with the Clean Air Coalition and secured $30 million for a 5-year program to support regional alternative economic development plans after a local coal-fired power plant was shut down. Additional examples of programs and policies from around the world that ensure that no one is economically left behind when shifts are made in the energy sector show that just transitions are possible (https://iisd.org/blog/just-transition-examples).

As is so often the case, the stumbling block to accomplish the goals of the Green New Deal is not that we don’t know what to do or how to do it—the stumbling block is whether we have the political will to demand that it be done. Building collective political will from the bottom up is something else the labor movement knows how to do. Adding labor’s resources and resolve to the fight for all of our future can only help to ensure that we win a fair future for all.
Around THE STATE

Program Notes

Umass Amherst

The Green New Deal USL program continues to thrive welcoming fifteen new students this fall, including international students from Cuba and South Africa. Many of our students are supported through our internship program where students work directly with unions around the state. Labor in the Age of Trump, a collection of papers edited by Labor Center faculty, will be out in December 2019 with Cornell University Press. We are also continuing to prepare for our major conference in November, “Unions and the Worker Voices.” This project, in words of one of our grantors Mass Humanities, “aims to help local workers see their work lives as worthy of attention and part of a historical trajectory in which they are agents.” The project also includes a three-day digital storytelling workshop, a conference featuring documentaries and feature films along with newly-created digital stories about the lives of workers, and a website to showcase the videos.

Umass Boston

We are very excited this fall to welcome Nick Juravich to the ULC! Nick joins us as our Associate Director of the Labor Resource Center and Assistant Professor of History and Labor Studies. Nick’s passion is public history and workers. His soon to be published book, The Work of Education: Community-Based Educator in Schools, Freedom Struggles, and the labor Movement is the first historical study of black labor and teachers in the 1930s and 40s. Over the first two weeks of fall semester, he will lead our fall Green Labor Center Lab which brought together 100 labor activists, leaders and academics to discuss current labor activism and how to build workplace power.

Umass Dartmouth

In May, the program at Umass Lowell held a successful fundraiser to celebrate our retiring director, Susan Winsor, and our founding director, Charley Richardson. Susan is now enjoying retirement, while past Coordinator Elizabeth Pellermo has moved into the director position. Meanwhile, the program early in May opened its new location in the North Shore and Merrimack Valley, the Merrimack Valley Project, PHENOM, Lowell Education Justice Alliance (LEJA), Lynn Coalition, Breach and Rosas Heritage Committee. On campus, we are working on establishing consistent flexible time policy with the Voices of Working Women Project as well as a task force to create better policies and practice around sexual harassment. Our graduate research assistant has been developing a professional education tool about affordable housing in the Inland Empire. For more information, visit www.umassd.edu/labor/workwithstudents. We plan to offer this training to any union member, twice a year.

Academic Offerings

PARTICIPATE IN A RESEARCH PROJECT ABOUT YOUNG WORKERS!

The Labor Resource Center at Umass Boston is conducting an on-line survey of young workers between the ages of 18 and 39 to better understand their attitudes and experiences about work and unions. Please email Anneta Argyres (Anneta.argyres@umb.edu) for more information about the survey, or follow this link (https://umassboston.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0MKHQ96jJgFTGv3) to participate.

Introduction to Oral History: Documenting Local Stories for Social Change Tuesday, September 24th 6:00-8:00pm Location: Room 101 Cultural Center, UMass Dartmouth Campus, 280 Old Westport Road, Dartmouth, MA Oral history is a tool that can be used to ensure that the stories of those who are often ignored are recorded and shared. Join Oral History Scholar Rob Widell for a workshop about the methods and uses of Oral History. Find out about opportunities for student involvement in this program. 16 credit hours in this class is also available. 

劳工网络为可持续性：劳工网络为可持续性（LSNS）与工作和社区建立联系并进行包括性别和种族在内的多样性建设。我们的目标是促进劳动的实施，以便通过社会经济的重新定位来应对新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。它的工作集中在新兴劳动力市场中的挑战。
Spotlight on Labor Law

OSHA Protections Extended to Massachusetts Public Sector Employees

When Congress passed the federal Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) in 1970 creating worker protection standards for all private sector employees, Massachusetts did not adopt those OSHA standards for public sector employees. After many years of organizing, the Public Sector OSHA Coalition, which included MassCOSH and most of the public sector unions in the state, reached its goal of extending OSHA protections to public sector workers. In February 2019, the new law went into effect, which clarifies employee safety requirements in public sector workplaces, and is enforced by the Department of Labor Standards (DLS). The amended law does not replace OSHA, which continues to have jurisdiction for private sector employers.

Highlights of Updated Law M.G.L. c149 Section 6 ½

■ Definition of public sector workplace includes counties, municipalities, all state agencies, quasi-public independent entities, courts, bureaus, commissions, divisions or authorities of the commonwealth, political subdivisions, and public colleges and universities.

■ Public sector employers are required to:
  • Provide methods to reduce work-related injury and illness, and meet the minimum requirements provided under OSHA.
  • Train the worker to recognize, minimize, & prevent safety and health hazards in their workplaces
  • Provide medical examinations and training when required by OSHA standards
  • Provide access to employee medical and exposure records; Maintain records of injury, illness, etc.

■ Dept. of Labor Standards (DLS) conducts safety and health inspections of public sector workplaces, with following priorities:
  • Imminent Hazard: DLS inspectors stop at active trenches, aerial lift operations, and roofing to ensure safety equipment and procedures are used.
  • Accident Investigation: DLS inspects workplaces in response to a worker injury.
  • Voluntary: An employer can request a voluntary safety and health audit.
  • Complaint: DLS responds to complaints about workplace safety conditions.
  • Planned Programmed Inspection: DLS inspects a representative number of inspections in workplaces expected to contain machinery or other hazards

■ When to notify DLS about an injury - Contact DLS within 24 hours if an accident causes a death, amputation, loss of an eye, loss of consciousness, or inpatient hospitalization at 508-616-0461 or safepublicworkplace@state.ma.us.

■ Public sector employers may get fined. The enforcement approach used by DLS is to issue an order for corrective action to employers for a first offense. When corrective actions are completed within the timeframe specified, a fine is not issued.

For more detailed information:
Massachusetts Paid Family and Medical Leave

In 2018, with statewide organizing by the Raise up Massachusetts coalition and other supporters, Massachusetts signed into law a statute that provides paid family and medical leave (PFML) benefits to workers.

The initial measures will take effect on October 1, 2019, when employers will deduct payroll contributions from covered individuals’ wages or other earnings. For most larger employers, this payroll deduction will total 0.75% of each employee’s wages. Employers and unions may engage in negotiations over the employer contribution, but the law requires the employer to contribute about half of the total amount at a minimum.

What are the benefits?

Starting January 1, 2021, covered individuals may be entitled to:

• Up to 20 weeks of paid medical leave for a serious health condition that prevents them from working
• Up to 12 weeks of paid family leave for the birth, adoption, or foster care placement of a child; or a qualifying event related to a family member who is on active duty in the Armed forces
• Up to 26 weeks of paid family leave to care for a family member in the Armed Forces with a serious health condition

Starting July 1, 2021, covered individuals may be entitled to up to 12 weeks of paid family leave to care for a family member with a serious health condition.

This paid family and medical leave is job-protected leave. Accordingly, after returning from leave, employees must be restored to the same or equivalent positions.

Employers may opt out of the state program if they provide benefits through a private plan that matches or exceeds those provided by the state program. The private plan must be approved by the Department of Family and Medical Leave, a newly created department within the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development.

Who is Covered?

• Employees who work for an employer or a state or federal governmental agency in Massachusetts
• Independent contractor who contracts with an employer that issues 1099-MISC tax forms for more than 50% of its workforce
• Self-employed individuals can opt in to obtain coverage
• Employees of cities, towns, or other local governmental employers are covered only if the employer chooses to opt in

Additionally, there is an earnings eligibility requirement for any individual who wants to take paid leave under the law. You must have approximately 15 weeks or more of earnings and have earned at least $4,700 in the 12-month period before you apply for leave.

For more information: www.mass.gov/guides/a-guide-to-paid-family-and-medical-leave-for-massachusetts-workers