Do We Need the Green New Deal?

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/03/opinion/climate-change-green-new-deal.html>

1. **Before you read this article**, what have you heard about Alexandria Ocasio Cortez’s Green New Deal (what it discusses, what it means, etc) and what is your opinion of it?
2. After reading the article, do you support the Green New Deal’s goals and reasoning? (I know the article doesn’t really go over what it says much, there is a video within the article to better explain it).
3. Critics bring up a fair point about how the US only contributes 15% of global emissions, so focusing on ourselves alone won’t save the planet. Do you think there is a possibility that by having the US follow through with actions recommended by the Green New Deal, other countries will observe and follow? If not, explain why.
4. There are many countries around the world that are moving towards becoming 100% reliant on renewable energy. Iceland and Paraguay have already achieved this, with a number of other countries following. The United States, though, currently gets around 11% of its energy from renewables (2018). What do you think is the main barrier stopping the US from switching from nonrenewables to renewables?
5. There are many arguments as to why the US shouldn’t move towards using renewable resources as its main energy source: “The devices needed to use renewables are too expensive right now'' and “Coal miners will lose their jobs”. On the flip side, supporters of renewables say, “In the long run, the investments put into renewables will be worth it” and “The renewables industry will create a higher number of jobs than the coal industry currently provides”.

Are you skeptical about moving towards the 100% renewables way of life or do you want to transition as quickly as possible? Explain.