Climate Change Lessons from the Old New Deal

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An Economic Crisis

New York City Bank Run, 1933
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New York City Bread Line, 1932
New Deal Programs

Works Progress Administration
New Deal Programs

Works Progress Administration

Public Works Administration
New Deal Programs

Works Progress Administration

Public Works Administration

Federal Arts Project
A Second National Crisis

FDR, Fireside Chat, 1933
“We are killing two birds with one stone . . . We are clearly enhancing the value of our natural resources . . . And relieving an appreciable amount of actual distress.”

FDR, Fireside Chat, 1933
Soil Conservation Service
New Deal Conservation

Soil Conservation Service

Tennessee Valley Authority
New Deal Conservation

Soil Conservation Service

Tennessee Valley Authority

Civilian Conservation Corps
The Old New Deal
The Old New Deal
Was Already Green
Environmental Successes
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- Trees Planted – 2.3 Billion
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- Soil Conserved – 40 Million Acres
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Total Land Affected – Larger Than California
More than 3 million young, working-class men enrolled in the CCC

Economic Successes: Workers
Economic Successes: Local Communities

Impact on Local Communities
Economic Successes: Global Aid

New Deal Conservation’s Global Reach
Environmental Failures: Invasive Species

CCC Soil Erosion Project
Environmental Failures: Invasive Species

CCC Soil Erosion Project

The "Kudzu Problem"
Environmental Failures: Decreased Biodiversity

New Deal Reforestation Work
Environmental Failures: Decreased Biodiversity

New Deal Reforestation Work

CCC plot in Michigan’s Manistee National Forest
Environmental Failures:
Degraded Ecosystems

New Deal Mosquito Control Drainage Work, Delmarva Peninsula, 1935
Economic Failures: Gender Discrimination

Eleanor Roosevelt addresses Camp Tera, Bear Mt. State Park, 1933
Economic Failures: Racial Exclusion

Enrollees from segregated CCC camp in Cosby, Mississippi, 1935
Navajo Enrollees Working in Chaco Canyon National Monument, 1938
Use This Past
For a More Just Future