

ENERGY POLICY

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PREAMBLE

Access to clean energy for all is essential. The Climate Emergency demands a rapid reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, including from the energy and transport sectors, driven by targets from the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Additionally, there is a need to support regional policy that ensures all communities, especially the millions in the Asia Pacific region that are still without reliable electricity or clean cooking, are not left behind in a low-carbon future.

Green low-carbon transitions must focus on the increased use of renewable energy through new economic and job opportunities to create more sustainable and inclusive communities with increased resilience to environmental issues like climate change. Transitioning away from fossil fuels needs to take energy poverty, access, and security into consideration, and work to democratise renewable energy sources.

Additionally, work needs to be done to ensure a just transition that integrates capacity building, the transfer of technology, international provisions of climate finance and regional cross-border collaborations to ensure that no country is left behind. This process will only be successful with international and regional partnerships that help developing countries and least developed countries. The shape of the transition should be informed by principles of fairness, and the encouragement of stronger commitments and more credible pathways towards sustainable energy.

VISION

The Greens' vision is for national, state/regional, and local energy strategies based on the principles of ecological sustainability and social equity. This vision includes fair, affordable, and equal access to energy and the goods and services it provides. Conservation, efficiency, research, development, and renewable energy sources are essential to the Greens' energy policy. The Greens also work across our region to promote innovation, transparency, and inclusive governance to meet the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals, and to ensure that no countries in the Asia Pacific region are left behind while transforming how energy is produced, delivered and used.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of our energy policy is to decarbonise the energy system based on efficient use of electricity and heat from renewable sources, and replacing fossil fuels. We seek to decrease overall energy use to the minimum possible through improved efficiencies, changes in materials and reductions in overall consumption, while transforming the energy system to bring about significant health benefits, improved social well-being, environmental safeguards, and positive economic effects on employment and across all sectors of the economy. At a regional level, the Greens will support developing countries' efforts to 'leapfrog' to deeply decarbonised energy systems.

ACTION PLAN

Achieving a sustainable energy future needs the exclusive and efficient use of renewable resources, supported by strong incentives for transformation and firm disincentives against fossil fuel dependence. To ensure this transition is fair, households need access to affordable energy that meets essential needs; and all buildings and appliances should be designed to maximize efficiency and conservation. Factoring environmental costs into energy pricing is important for ensuring a fair and affordable shift towards sustainability. Decarbonising the

transport sector is essential regarding electrification, sustainable fuels and better public transport networks. We should ensure Governments lead the way for a net zero emissions in the energy sector and industry. Therefore, the Greens will –

Industry

- Develop and implement sector-specific energy industry efficiency policies, targets, and standards
- Encourage and incentivise the transformation of industrial processes to energy efficient, low carbon alternatives, including through energy recovery
 - Overhaul industrial use and reliance on fossil fuels to transition to clean energy with incentives and regulatory conditions that are adhered to.
 - Upgrade energy consuming equipment, such as industrial kilns and boilers, to improve energy efficiency.
 - Encourage circular economies of energy and materials to improve energy efficiency and promote sustainable utilization of resources.
 - Promote green finance opportunities for green industrialization.
 - Undertake public awareness campaigns targeting industry as well as households promoting the myriad benefits of energy efficiency and clean energy.

Transport

- Encourage people to lessen energy demand, by such as using public transport, by driving less, and using more fuel efficient cars, living closer to their work, and eating lower on the food chain, plus ensuring and ensure that urban planning facilitates and incentivises such decisions.
- Encourage the use of transport methods with greatest energy efficiency and using clean energy, such as rail, marine, and public transport, as well as active transport, such as cycling, including ebikes, and walking, as well as non-fossil based fuels.
- Promoting “shared rides” to encourage conservation and other and other health, social and economic benefits.

Energy Efficiency

- Implement energy and carbon performance standards in building construction and use.
- Carry out refurbishment programmes to increase the energy efficiency of existing buildings.
- Provide government-funded or subsidised home insulation programs to reduce energy costs and encourage energy efficient buildings and homes.
- Use smart technologies, metres, appliances, grids, and energy storage to reduce energy demand and financial strain on people with low incomes.

Electricity Generation

- Increase clean electricity generation substantially, based primarily on renewable, very low carbon sources, such as offshore wind, onshore wind, marine, tidal, solar photo-voltaic, biomass, and small scale hydro power.
- Phase out electricity generation from nuclear, coal, gas, and the incineration of waste.
- Work to ensure that increased renewable energy shares substitute fossil fuel, rather than just adding to the electricity mix.
- Provide incentives to community energy cooperatives.
- Facilitate low-cost government loans to households and for small-scale solar power generation.
- Allow homes with rooftop solar panels and/or wind power to sell excess energy to the grid.
- Retrofit government and public buildings, including schools, hospitals, sporting facilities with solar generation facilities.
- Call for national commitment to the mass-production of cheap, non-toxic solar photovoltaic technology to enable widespread deployment and economies of scale.

- Decentralise and secure electricity generation through new technologies such as small wind, combined heat and power retrofitting, water and air pumped storage, hydrogen cell storage, and less dependence on outside sources of energy and rooftop solar with battery and LED lighting.
- Encourage small-scale hydropower projects that do not require dam construction and are not environmentally damaging or require the relocation of communities.
- Discourage use of environmentally destructive alternative fuels produced from unsustainable or toxic sources such as mass biofuels
- Encourage technologies such as biomass generation from agricultural waste for local power generation.
- Support resilience in the electricity supply through supporting local communities to have stored electricity in solar panel batteries that are independent of the centralized electricity supply to enable continued community access to electricity during and following extreme weather events.
- Support public and private partnerships that look to enter the sustainable energy market.

Building a Renewable and Low-Carbon Energy System

- Implement a strong and effective carbon price to accelerate the shift from fossil fuels to renewables at the necessary speed and scale.
- Invest and make readily available energy storage solutions to stabilise the grid and meet peak demand.
- Establish binding annual emissions limits for all high-emitting sectors, informed by a comprehensive, independent, and well-funded emissions reduction plan with clear targets and transparent reporting.

Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels

- Work towards a net zero carbon economy by replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy across all sectors.
- Prohibit new fossil fuel exploration permits and discourage foreign investment in coal plants, mines, and other fossil fuel infrastructure.
- Increase the understanding that investment in fossil fuels comes at a risk of stranded assets down the track.
- Ensure policies supporting the energy transition are transparent, consistent, and based on long-term planning, overseen by a politically neutral body with a clear mandate.
- Encourage and support social movements and community activism that provide counter-narratives to fossil fuel lobbying and demonstrate the compatibility of emissions reduction with socio-economic development.
- Encourage regional and international cooperation to ensure the critical mineral supply chains needed to produce sustainable energy products are free from manipulation based on international strategic competition
- Regulate the critical mineral mining and sustainable energy industry sector to ensure the environment is protected
- Launch new green tax initiatives such as environmental protection taxes and adjusting tax on vehicles and vessels to reflect the encouragement of green energy sources

Research & Development

- Fund and support research into clean renewable energy technologies that do not create pollution in the course of generating electricity, such as wind, solar, marine, geothermal, and small-scale hydro power
- Make available substantial research, development, and deployment (R&DD) funding to promote cost-effective implementation of clean energy solutions, especially for renewable power generation, energy storage, and building energy performance improvements
- Promote R&DD of sustainable fuels that demonstrably reduce greenhouse gas emissions and do not threaten biodiversity or food security
- Promote the R&DD of carbon neutral technologies for manufacturing and industry, particularly replacing the direct use of fossil fuels in industrial processes.
- Promote greater collaboration between industry and research.
- Support a range of renewable energy generation, storage and conservation technologies.
- Focus research on leapfrogging opportunities (overtaking fossil fuels) and equity implications in the developing world.

Finance

- Support international public finance and the necessary regulatory backing to encourage private capital to invest in renewables and align with clean energy, equity and environmental goals.
- Support public and private partnerships that look to enter the sustainable energy market.
- Encourage partnership between energy users and producers to assist energy management at all levels.
- Encourage financial instruments and investments to assist energy efficiency measures.
- Support the emergence of green insurance and ethical investment schemes that incentivise eco-friendly energy sources and energy efficiency.
- Authorise tax-exempt bonds to finance public ownership of utilities and to allow publicly owned utilities to finance conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy projects.

International and Regional Cooperation

- Support regional cooperation, including the transfer of leading green energy technologies.
- Support regional investment in green technologies.
- Cooperate regionally in international agreements to support green transitions through international climate finance mechanisms.
- Encourage international development and finance institutions to support low emitting developing countries energy transition plans.
- Encourage regional energy transition and climate agreements that incorporate just transition principles and emphasize collaboration between developed and developing countries in the Asia Pacific region.

Accountability and Best Practice

- Discourage and avoid imports of products with high embodied energy/emissions.
- Remove public subsidies for nuclear power, coal and gas. Stop the construction of new nuclear power plants, ensure early retirement of existing nuclear power reactors, and phase out technologies that use or produce nuclear waste.
- Regulate the energy sector with a focus on environmental and social objectives, health and wellbeing, and transparency and accountability.
- Review and improve technical and vocational curricula to incorporate and promote best-practice energy efficiency practices, including in construction, transport, manufacturing and energy.

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