



Sustainable Energy Now

MEDIA RELEASE

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State Government and political parties must do more to provide solutions - adopt sustainable energy initiatives

Current plans to build additional coal-fired power stations are a blow to better judgement, the environment, and society, when there is so much potential for carbon-neutral energy generation says community group, Sustainable Energy Now.

SEN spokesperson, Amanda Cowie, said that, “With the election drawing close, the need to present initiatives to avoid climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions poses a challenge for all parties. There is growing public perception that the government and political parties must do more to provide solutions: in particular, adopt sustainable energy initiatives.

“The recent gas crisis highlights the need to secure our energy supply by embracing diversified energy sources such as renewable energy in the form of solar thermal, geothermal, wave, and wind. Furthermore, the scientific consensus is that we must reduce our carbon emissions dramatically and urgently, and we are rapidly depleting our oil and gas supplies.

“Our current electricity generation contributes 50% of Australia’s greenhouse gas emissions¹. The Government should be directing funding to transitional programmes, shifting the working economy to renewable energy industry training and jobs. This is possible as demonstrated in countries leading the change to renewable energy such as Germany and China. Australia shouldn’t be left behind.

“The Greenpeace ‘Energy [R]evolution Scenario’ predicts a net gain of between 33,000 and 57,000 new jobs in the renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors² if we follow such a just transition path.

“Fortunately, we have abundant and non-polluting energy from the sun — which drives other renewable energies such as wind and waves — plus the natural heat of the earth in the form of geothermal. A combination of these energy sources could provide many times more electricity than Western Australia currently consumes, even without considering energy efficiencies that would reduce demand.

What would a possible energy mix look like to meet our current demand?

1,000 MW from Geothermal:	100 cubic km of granite at 200 deg C ³ at a depth of 3 – 6 km
1,300 MW from Wave:	150 km of coastline (subsurface), anywhere between Geraldton and Bremmer Bay ⁴
1,800 MW from Solar Thermal:	5 x 5 km ⁵ in the Wheatbelt and/or Pilbara <i>cont over..</i>

4,100 MW Total

The average maximum electrical load for the SWIS ⁶ (South West Interconnected System) is approximately **4000 MW**.

“The technology to achieve the above scenario is here now or is nearing commercial demonstration. This doesn’t even include the resource of existing and future wind energy. The exciting wave generation technology being developed in Fremantle has the added benefit of the ability to directly provide water desalination — an important element considering Western Australia’s reduction in rainfall due to climate change.

“The market for sustainable energy is already growing, with corporations such as Worley Parsons, AUSRA, Carnegie and Geodynamics announcing major solar thermal, wave and geothermal energy developments in Australia.

“The Government of Western Australia has a duty to create the frameworks needed to support and develop these important opportunities. The time for action is now.”

SEN (Sustainable Energy Now Inc.) is working to develop a computer simulation of locations for potential renewable-energy power plants and compare that to the energy consumed by the South West Interconnected System (SWIS). The simulation will show both the base-load and load-following capability. The project's modelling will give WA businesses and government important and reliable data.

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References

1 AGO Aust GHG by Sector 2005

2 www.greenpeace.org/australia/resources/reports/climate-change/energy-r-evolution-scenario; Sven Teske and Julien Vincent Date; June 16, 2008: page 7

3 www.greenrock.com.au

4 Carnegie Corporation

5 www.ausra.com/about/: AUSRA at a glance (180MW = 1 square mile)

6 www.westernpower.com.au/documents/investmentPlanning/apr2008.pdf: page 14