

Preamble

Sustainable Energy Now (SEN) is a not-for-profit incorporated association advocating for sustainable energy sources in Western Australia.

SEN's membership consists of volunteers whose backgrounds include professionals in science, engineering, business, education and the environment. We are focused on transitioning WA's energy from fossil fuels to renewables for the good of humanity, the economy and the environment, as a way for WA to play its part in the global transition to a sustainable future.

Objects

The Objects of SEN in its Constitution are:

- to promote the widespread use of Sustainable Energy;
- to promote efficient energy use and the reduction of energy waste;
- to raise awareness of economic and environmental benefits of Sustainable Energy;
- to promote Sustainable Energy research & technology;
- to embrace a nuclear free future; and
- to promote a safe climate future by the reduction of the damaging impacts arising from generation, transportation and utilization of energy.

Purpose, Mission and Aspirations

SEN's **purpose** is to minimize the impact of energy generation on the global environment by encouraging the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy that minimise pollution and emissions of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere.

SEN's **mission** is to assist the phasing out of fossil fuel use for energy generation by modelling energy systems and demonstrating the efficacy of renewables and contributing to the development of an effective policy and regulatory environment to accelerate the transition.

SEN's **ultimate aspiration** is to phase out fossil fuels use in Western Australia.

SEN's **immediate goal**, supported by SEN's modelling, is the phasing out of fossil fuels in the production of electricity by supporting the development of the legislation, regulations, codes and market rules required to ensure power systems can operate effectively with high levels of renewable energy generation. SEN will achieve this goal by advocating for urgent government action in investment in renewable generation and associated infrastructure.

In the medium term, SEN will also promote energy efficiency initiatives, the transition of the transport sector and other industry sectors to renewable energy and the adoption of suitable negative emissions technologies and other approaches that extract and store excess atmospheric carbon.

Principles

In this Platform SEN sets out the principles that will govern the development of its policies, strategies and actions.

The Platform:

- will be provided to new members on their admission to membership;
- all members are expected to adhere to these principles when representing SEN; and
- will be updated from time to time as goals are achieved and priorities are reset.

Members of SEN are primarily motivated by the threat posed to humanity by global warming caused by the emission of greenhouse gases by human activity. SEN supports limiting global temperature rise to a maximum 1.5°C above pre-industrialisation levels.

The members of SEN agree that:

- Western Australia's energy systems are transitioning from fossil fuels to sustainable sources and this transition must result in an optimal energy system for the State;
- the transition must proceed as a high priority;
- SEN's technical knowledge and understanding of the issues involved is to be used to support the transition and hasten its pace;
- Western Australia must have a clean, affordable, reliable and secure electricity network and that the ultimate responsibility for the network lies with the State Government, through effective policies and regulatory frameworks;
- technological and commercial development has reached the point where sustainable alternatives to fossil fuel energy generation are now technically, economically, environmentally and socially advantageous; and
- planning is required to ensure that a just transition takes place quickly, smoothly and efficiently and creates an optimal long term effective and efficient energy system.

Actions

SEN's actions are to be consistent with the Objects, Purpose, Mission and Aspirations of the Association.

SEN's actions will include, but are not limited to:

- encouraging and assisting governments at all levels to develop policies and regulatory frameworks that support the utilisation of renewable energy;
- monitoring and analysing the decisions and actions of government relating to the provision of energy and publicising their impact on consumers;
- providing advice and support to institutions involved in the generation, distribution and use of electricity on the ways and means of eliminating fossil fuels;
- advocating publicly for the utilisation of sustainable energy and persuading the Western Australian public of the need to eliminate fossil fuels as energy sources and building public support for the policies that are necessary to facilitate the energy transition;
- promoting policies that will assist those disadvantaged by the energy transition;
- influencing government policy to assist and hasten the energy transition;

- working with government agencies tasked with amending legislation, regulations, codes and market rules that govern the electricity system to ensure the system is capable of operating effectively with increased electricity use and high levels of renewable energy generation;
- countering the advocacy of those opposed to the energy transition and those who advocate for other forms of energy generation that are not sustainable or that come with other unacceptable risks; and
- influencing the private sector to hasten the clean energy transition and to combat the resistance of incumbents who seek to impede the transition.

SEN will also identify other like-minded organisations within the community with aligned policies and work with them collaboratively to assist in the attainment of SEN's objectives and policies.

Acceptability of Energy Sources

SEN supports the use of:

- renewable generation sources such as solar, wind, tidal, wave and geothermal energy;
- hydropower to store and produce electricity, whilst acknowledging that the environmental effects of dams must be carefully considered;
- battery technology and other suitable storage devices that assist in transferring power from when it is generated to when it is needed;
- carbon neutral synthetic fuels in appropriate applications; and
- sustainable biofuels that emit carbon to the atmosphere when used to produce energy but absorb carbon in the process of growing the biomass from which the energy is derived, whilst acknowledging that the environmental impacts of large-scale agriculture must be carefully considered.

SEN does not support the nuclear fuel cycle and reactor technology on sustainability, economic, environmental, water use, waste management, health and safety and security grounds.

SEN does not support utilising carbon capture and storage technology due to the technology not being able to safely, efficiently and economically store CO₂ in a form that prevents its potential re-release into the atmosphere.

SEN opposes delaying the clean energy transition in the expectation that some future technology may become technically and economically viable at some point in the future thus maintaining business as usual.

Conclusion

SEN maintains:

- there will be a significant economic benefit to the people of Western Australia from the new jobs and opportunities arising from the transition to renewable energy;
- governments, business and society should grasp the innovation and economic development, as well as export industry opportunities such as green steel, green ammonia resulting from electricity generation and transport systems being delivered by sustainable sources; and

- communities affected by the transition to renewables should receive support from society to adapt to the changes through the implementation of policies aimed at providing support to new industries and re-training for the workforces experiencing the loss of jobs occurring in displaced or disrupted industries.

SEN asserts the economic, health and environmental benefits for humanity in general, including the capacity to lift many from poverty, far outweigh the negative effects on economies currently dependent on fossil fuel extraction.

Finally, SEN states that for the benefit of current and future generations the transition from fossil fuels to sustainable sources should take place as quickly as possible in order to both maximise the benefits and provide a planned, rather than a disorderly transition controlled by incumbent players and market forces.

This policy was endorsed by the committee on 4th September 2023 being unchanged from the policy platform accepted by the members at the AGM in October 2022.