

CURTIN'S PATHWAY TO NET ZERO – Highly Recommended

So far, this is the only published pathway to Net Zero for a federal electorate in Australia. It's well worth reading as it provides a detailed analysis of the challenges and achievable strategies for making a 'just transition to net zero'.

The report, published in February 2024, walks the talk of a 'just transition' by highlighting the **intergenerational justice** of taking effective action now. Psychologists have formally recognised 'eco-anxiety' as a condition impacting our mental health, particularly among younger generations. One of the recommended strategies for mitigating this condition is taking meaningful action.

The report highlights the economic and health imperatives of acting urgently. A recent report by Joeri Rogelj¹, lead author for the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, reminds us that "between 2000 and 2019, climate-related disasters claimed over half a million lives, caused over \$2 trillion in estimated damage and affected over 4 billion people worldwide,". That is with just 1.2C of global heating since the start of the industrial age. What will be the impact if we don't honour our Paris Agreement commitments to act now to limit global heating to 1.5C?

The other aspect of a 'just transition' relates to the disproportionate negative impact of the global climate emergency on less financially secure members of the population. Those living in poorly built or insulated homes, less able to afford solar panels, and located in flood prone areas will clearly be paying more for energy and insurance bills.

An outstanding feature of the Curtin report is the way it applies understanding of the Australian decision-making structure to specify actions needed by federal, state and local levels of government. And it doesn't stop there! Readily achievable actions by individual citizens are identified for each of the five major areas of action comprising the 'Pathway' – Electricity, Buildings, Transport, Urban Greening and Waste. This is not just about government, we all have a role to play.

Evidence sources used in the report are thoroughly referenced. The Kids of Curtin are responsible for the artwork reinforcing the intergenerational theme. The brilliantly conceived and conducted research process was carried out by nearly 50 citizen volunteers. We are proud that Sustainable Stirling members were part of that volunteer team.

The report may be accessed online at <https://www.katechaney.com.au/curtin-net-zero>. Alternately, pick up a copy at Kate Chaney's Office, corner of The Boulevard and Floreat Avenue, Floreat.

¹ Rogelj, J. 'The 1.5C target for global heating must prevail', 6 June 2024, Social Europe online.