

ACT GREENS

2012 ELECTION INITIATIVE

CLIMATE & ENERGY

TO CREATE A CLEANER, SMARTER
AND FAIRER ENERGY FUTURE FOR
ALL CANBERRANS,
THE ACT GREENS WILL...

- Deliver 90% of electricity in 2020 from renewables
- Provide a guaranteed payment for small-medium solar PV
- Set minimum energy efficiency standards for rental properties
- Provide \$27.4 million for public housing energy efficiency
- Offer greater opportunities for community participation in large-scale renewable energy projects

"Investing in the climate will provide long-lasting savings and a safe future for our kids."

–Shane Rattenbury MLA

CLIMATE AND ENERGY

By reducing the ACT's reliance on fossil fuels and cutting our greenhouse gas emissions, we can ensure that Canberrans have affordable bills, comfortable homes, equitable access to clean energy and a high quality public transport system. That's why the Greens have developed a climate and energy package that will deliver a **cleaner, smarter** and **fairer** future for all Canberrans.

A Cleaner Energy Future

*With renewable energy prices dropping and fossil fuel electricity prices rising, never has there been a better time to invest in developing our clean energy future. **The Greens renewable energy initiatives will deliver 70% of the ACT's 40% emissions reduction target in 2020.***

This is why the Greens will deliver:

- Up to 90% of electricity consumed in 2020 from renewable sources
- A guaranteed payment for households and businesses with solar PV
- Greater community participation in renewable energy solutions
- A decentralised energy roadmap
- All 210MW of the large-scale feed-in tariff released by 2020
- An ACT peak oil strategy
- Less red tape for solar PV
- A roadmap for growing Canberra's clean energy economy
- A ban on including coal seam gas in Government energy contracts
- Improvements to the GreenPower scheme nationally



Up to 90% of our electricity in 2020 from renewable sources

The Greens will pass legislation requiring all ACT electricity providers to source 90% of their electricity from renewable energy by 2020.¹ This will deliver up to 70% of the abatement needed to meet the ACT's 40% emissions reduction target in 2020. The Greens will work with our Federal colleagues to ensure that this abatement is recognised as additional voluntary action under the Clean Energy Future Package so that it does not free up permits for big polluters. Of the additional uptake, we'll require one fifth to come from locally-generated² sources, thereby helping to grow

¹ This will include energy generated by the Renewable Generator Guarantee and the ACT's Large-scale Feed-in-Tariff

² Within the Australian Capital Region

the local clean energy economy. When rising fossil fuel prices and energy efficiency measures are accounted for, this target will see households enjoy net bill savings.

A guaranteed payment for homes and businesses that install solar PV

While the costs of renewable energy are falling rapidly, Canberra homes and businesses installing PV have no access to a guaranteed payment for the electricity that they produce for the community. That's why the Greens will introduce the Renewable Generator Guarantee (RGG) - a 20 year guaranteed payment for all homes and businesses that install solar PV systems up to 200kW. At an average cost to households of \$4.46 per quarter³, the RGG is only marginally more expensive than the large-scale reverse auction and will require just a fraction of the land (as most will be installed on rooftops). The cost will be offset by the Greens package of energy efficiency measures. The RGG will:

- increase Canberra's existing small-scale solar capacity by up to 4-fold over the next 10 years⁴ and
- cut the equivalent of 2,660 cars' worth of emissions from Canberra's roads every year.⁵

In order to access the payment, generators will surrender their RECs to the ACT Government, who will count them towards achieving the 40% emissions reduction target. To avoid another "solar-coaster", the RGG payment will be automatically reduced each year and further reduced if installations exceed the expected annual uptake.

Greater community involvement in clean energy solutions

The long-term success of renewable energy depends upon community involvement. That's why the Greens will encourage all participants in the large-scale solar auction to provide a minimum level of community education and preferably also community investment opportunities. We'll also earmark 20MW (almost 10%) of the large-scale Feed-in-Tariff for community bidders with a minimum capacity of 30kW per project.



A decentralised energy roadmap

Transitioning to a low carbon future will require changes to our electricity grid. That's why the Greens will provide **\$170,000** for a roadmap to assist (a) network providers to plan for greater renewable energy uptake and (b) retailers to prompt more efficient energy use. Following completion of the roadmap, we'll work with ActewAGL to implement the recommendations.

³ Over the next 4 years

⁴ Assumes 2012 capacity of 35MW

⁵ Assuming 4T CO2 emitted per car/year (Assumes average mileage of 15,000km/year and 266g CO2/km); <http://rac.com.au/About-Us/Community/Environment/Impact-of-cars-on-the-environment.aspx>

All 210MW of the large-scale feed-in tariff released by 2020

To help realise Canberra's solar capital vision, we'll ensure that all 210MW of the large-scale reverse auction is released by 2020 and we'll look to increase the cap where feasible. This will assist us to meet our 90% renewable energy target whilst also boosting our local clean energy economy.

An ACT peak oil strategy

According to the latest Energy White Paper, Australia has limited remaining oil reserves. That's why we're calling for a plan to (a) outline what a post-oil future will mean for the ACT and (b) how Canberra can build resilience in the face of growing oil scarcity.

Less red tape for solar

Currently, feed-in-tariff payments can only be made to the electricity account holder of the property at which the PV system is installed. This prevents landlords who've paid for the panels or people who lack roof space from benefiting financially from rooftop PV. The Greens will allow greater flexibility in billing so that payments can be made to multiple account holders.

A roadmap for growing our clean energy economy

The ACT purchases almost all its energy from interstate, so it's no wonder that our clean energy sector is the second smallest nationally. To grow the sector, we'll provide **\$78,000 for an in-depth analysis** to identify the skills, training and funding needed.

A ban on including coal seam gas in Government energy contracts

Coal seam gas (CSG) mining is causing devastation to Australia's prime agricultural land, reserves and farming communities. It's also increasingly unclear that its emissions profile is significantly better than coal. That's why we'll introduce a ban on the inclusion of CSG in Government energy contracts.

Improvements to the GreenPower scheme

Currently, GreenPower customers are being unfairly charged the carbon price. In collaboration with our state and federal colleagues, we will work to reform the GreenPower accounting framework and the National Electricity Market to correct this flaw.

"The Greens' climate and energy package will deliver strong action to ensure that all Canberrans can enjoy a cleaner, smarter & fairer future."
–Shane Rattenbury MLA

A Smarter Energy Future

*In addition to sourcing cleaner forms of energy, we also need to use energy more intelligently. Energy efficiency is the fastest, simplest and most cost-effective way of helping the climate.⁶ Of all the mitigation strategies available, only energy efficiency generates almost immediate results using current technology whilst also generating strong financial returns.⁷ **The Greens energy smart built environment, transport and waste measures will deliver 30% of the ACT's 40% emissions reduction target in 2020.***

This is why the Greens will deliver:

- An energy smart built environment:
 - ✓ A minimum energy efficiency standard for all rental properties
 - ✓ A review of the Territory Plan to ensure it delivers on our 40% reduction target
 - ✓ Energy efficiency improvements for existing commercial buildings
 - ✓ A legislated phase-out of inefficient hot water systems in existing buildings
 - ✓ A retro-fitted open home scheme
 - ✓ Inclusion of insulation in the Energy Efficiency Retailers Scheme
- An energy smart government:
 - ✓ Energy efficiency targets for Government directorates
 - ✓ 90% of all electricity consumed by 2020 from renewables
 - ✓ A plan to achieve carbon neutral schools by 2017
- An energy smart transport system
- An energy smart waste management system



A minimum energy efficiency standard for all rental properties

The Greens will legislate for all ACT rental properties to meet a minimum energy efficiency standard of 3 stars by 2020. Given Canberra's homes are among the most energy intensive nationally, this commitment will create more habitable, affordable and healthy homes whilst also cutting emissions.

A review of the Territory Plan to ensure it delivers on our 40% reduction target

We will allocate **\$1 million for the review**, plus **\$366,000** for construction industry training. We anticipate that this will lead to the adoption of a zero carbon standard for all new development. Studies show that zero carbon buildings lower energy bills, increase property values and provide better thermal comfort to occupants.⁸

⁶ Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency. (2011). *Promoting Energy Efficiency*. Retrieved 2011 8-July from <http://www.climatechange.gov.au/en/government/reduce/energy-efficiency.aspx>

⁷ UN Foundation report 2007

⁸ This was previously announced in our *Planning for a Sustainable Future* package:

Energy efficiency improvements for existing commercial buildings

Commercial buildings account for 40% of our emissions. That's why we'll amend planning regulations so that they allow commercial buildings to be retro-fitted into energy efficient residential spaces.

An accelerated phase-out of inefficient hot water systems in existing buildings

Water heating accounts for up to 25% of a building's energy use. That's why we've introduced a bill to ensure that the phase-out of inefficient hot water systems encompasses existing as well as new buildings.

Inclusion of insulation in the Energy Efficiency Retailers Scheme

Insulation is the most cost-effective way to cut energy consumption and bills. That's why we'll ensure that households and businesses can access it through the ACT's retail energy efficiency scheme.



A retro-fitted open home scheme

Retro-fitting is a cost-effective way to cut household bills and emissions. That's why we'll provide **\$270,000 for a retro-fitted open home scheme**, through which you can visit and learn about a range of retro-fitted properties across Canberra. The scheme will be accompanied by a website providing tips and fact-sheets on practical retro-fitting techniques for the Canberra climate.

A strategy to achieve carbon neutral schools

We will provide **\$78,000 for a review of ACT schools' progress towards their carbon neutrality target**. From this, we'll develop an action plan and commit funds towards ensuring that the carbon neutral target is achieved by 2017.

An energy smart government

Through energy efficiency measures and the 90% renewable energy target, we'll ensure that the government meets its carbon neutrality target by 2020:

- **Energy efficiency targets for Government directorates**
We'll require directorates to reduce their energy use by 10% in 2013-14 and 5% annually thereafter to 2020⁹. This will reduce energy consumption by approximately 30% in 2020 and **save up to \$12 million in energy bills** over the next 4 years.
- **90% of total electricity consumption from renewables in 2020**
We'll commit **\$10.3 million over the next 4 years**¹⁰ to assist the Government to increase its purchase of renewable energy from 37.5% in 2012-13 to 90% in 2020-21. This will initially be met through GreenPower purchase as the 90% renewable energy target is phased in across the ACT. The total cost will be more than offset by energy efficiency savings.

<http://act.greens.org.au/content/planning-sustainably-community>

⁹ Based on 2012-13 levels

¹⁰ Please note that this figure relates to multiple initiatives.

Smarter transport

Transport accounts for a quarter of the ACT's emissions. Nationally, we use cars the most and public transport the least. That's why the Greens have developed a strong package of initiatives to deliver smarter transport options for all Canberrans. This includes **\$200 million** for light rail¹¹, **\$30 million** in additional investment over the next 4 years to improve Canberra's bus system¹² and greater support for active transport¹³.

Smarter waste management

We can save money, cut energy use and reduce our emissions by wasting less and recycling more. That's why we're calling for **\$2 million** for household waste education, including free composting equipment for up to 21,000 households, garden waste trash pack subsidies for concession holders, over **\$1.8 million** for town centre recycling, over **\$400,000** for commercial organic waste recovery and avoidance, and 15 new drop-off points for compact fluorescents and batteries.¹⁴

A Fairer Energy Future

Reducing our reliance on fossil fuels is not only good for the environment – it's good for the hip pocket. As fossil fuel prices rise, it's time to invest in fair energy solutions that insulate our community against cost of living pressures.

This is why the Greens will deliver:

- An energy concession which better reflects the price of electricity
- Minimum energy efficiency standards for renters
- **\$27.4 million** for public housing energy efficiency



A more equitable energy concession for Canberra's most vulnerable

The current energy concession is indexed to CPI, however, over the past decade, electricity prices have increased by 63% compared with 37% for the CPI. That's why **the Greens will allocate an extra \$1.725 million** over the next 4 years so that the concession keeps pace with price rises.

Minimum energy efficiency standards for renters

Around one third of ACT properties are energy inefficient. These sub-standard properties end up with the highest running costs and ironically, tend to be occupied by those on the lowest incomes. That's why we'll legislate that all rental properties must meet a minimum energy efficiency standard of 3 stars by 2020.

¹¹ See announcement at: <http://act.greens.org.au/content/greens-launch-plan-deliver-light-rail-canberra>

¹² See announcement at: <http://act.greens.org.au/content/transport-bus-boost>

¹³ See package at: <http://act.greens.org.au/content/greens-launch-pedestrian-and-cycling-safety-package>

¹⁴ See waste package at: <http://act.greens.org.au/content/greens-waste-policy-delivers-tip-face>

Public housing energy efficiency upgrades

To increase the number of ACT public housing properties meeting the minimum 3 star standard, **we'll commit \$27.4 million over the next 4 years**. Upgrades within the 0 to 3 range can halve the average household bill, so this funding will save low income households millions of dollars in bills.

Financial Impacts Summary

		2013-14 (\$000)	2014-15 (\$000)	2015-16 (\$000)	2016-17 (\$000)	TOTAL OVER 4 YEARS (\$000)
90% Renewables	Recurrent Expenditure	40	77	150	292	559
GreenPower	Recurrent	2,800	2,430	2,020	1,490	8,740
Renewable Generator Guarantee	Recurrent Expenditure	115	216	305	383	1,019
Decentralised energy roadmap	Recurrent Expenditure	170	-	-	-	170
Clean energy economy roadmap	Recurrent Expenditure	78	-	-	-	78
Retro-fitted open-home scheme	Recurrent Expenditure	103	54	55	57	269
Carbon neutral schools action plan	Recurrent Expenditure	78	-	-	-	78
Energy concession increase	Recurrent Expenditure	158	330	517	720	1,725
Public housing energy efficiency upgrades	Recurrent Expenditure	675	1022	1366	1548	4,611
	Capital Expenditure	5696	5670	5670	5834	22,870
Government energy efficiency targets	Revenue	-1800	-2610	-3380	-4110	-11,900

Your Greens Representatives in the ACT Legislative Assembly



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