



The Big Switch Climate Change Solutions...

Making The Big Switch to combat climate change and protect our way of life is not as hard as you might think. Solutions are available right now, we just need to grab them with both hands.

Most importantly, we want support for The Big Switch's number-one climate change solution:

A new law to reduce greenhouse pollution by at least 30 per cent by 2020.

If politicians commit to one thing on climate change this election, we want it to be a legislated target to reduce greenhouse pollution by at least 30 per cent by 2020, based on 1990 levels.

Why is this our number-one climate change solution? We believe that by setting this legislated target we can drive the right policies and laws we need to really combat climate change. Laid out below are these additional policies and laws.

What else does The Big Switch stand for?

Here are the top five policy areas The Big Switch believes are essential to achieve at least a 30 per cent cut in our greenhouse pollution by 2020:

1. A Renewable energy target

We need to make The Big Switch to clean energy. A legislated renewable energy target of 25 per cent by 2020 would fast-track Australia's shift to a clean energy economy.

2. Smarter energy use

To address climate change, we must reduce our energy consumption. We can do this with a package of measures that includes the world's best energy-efficiency standards for appliances, buildings, vehicles and industrial equipment. We also believe Australia should set a legislated target to stabilise our total energy consumption (using the above measures) by 2010. This means 2010 will be the first year that our electricity use does not increase. We also want to see Australia achieve reductions of 1.5 per cent on our total electricity use every year to 2020.

3. Smarter transport

Transport is a major source of greenhouse pollution. This problem is made worse by the inefficiencies and tax incentives within Australia's transport system. The Big Switch supports abolishing the fringe benefit tax concessions for car use, and would also like to see \$1 billion of additional Federal funding annually for our public transport systems.

4. Smarter land use

An important contributor to climate change is our land use. The Big Switch supports ending broad-scale land clearing and logging of high conservation-value native forests by 2008, to address the greenhouse emissions from these practices.

5. Making polluters pay and shifting away from fossil fuels

Our economy has a lot to lose under climate change – but it can also play an important role in helping us to avoid dangerous climate change. The Big Switch supports putting a price on greenhouse pollution, either through a carbon tax or an emissions trading scheme.

Furthermore, Australia's biggest contributor to climate change is our use of the fossil fuel coal. We believe Australia should not build any new coal-fired power stations, and should responsibly phase out our involvement in the coal industry.

But it's not just our own backyard that we have to get in order. Australia has a key role to play on the global stage - it's our global responsibility.

1. Ratify Kyoto

Climate change is a global problem, and it needs a global solution. Australia should immediately ratify the Kyoto Protocol, and become a constructive part of this international process.

2. Smarter international aid

The world's poorest people will be the worst hit under climate change; its impacts on the developing world are expected to be far more devastating than for industrialised nations. Our biggest responsibility is to reduce our own emissions, but we can also assist our neighbours in other ways.

The Big Switch supports Australia integrating climate change risk factors into all relevant parts of our Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) program planning and evaluation. The majority of Australia's ODA energy sector spending should be on renewable energy, demand management and energy efficiency.

3. No to nuclear power

Nuclear power is a dangerous and ineffective response to climate change. We believe that Australia's involvement in the global nuclear cycle should be nil. The Big Switch opposes uranium mining, nuclear waste dumps, and nuclear power stations for our country.

If you would like further information, do not hesitate to contact the National Coordinator of The Big Switch: **Tricia Phelan**

03 9341 8112 or 0404 330 348 or Tricia.phelan@envict.org.au