

Socialist Cuba a leader in sustainability

Cuba is the world's most sustainable economy. Socialist Cuba's planning has produced stunning results because it focuses on human needs, not profit.

The island nation has reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by 40% compared to 1990 levels. It not only uses less energy, but has decentralised its supply grid. Cuba has 0.2% of the world's population but now produces only 0.1 per cent of CO₂ emissions.

Cuba is on a par with the United States in literacy and life expectancy, but Cuba's per capita energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions are on average about one eighth of those of the U.S.

Cuba deals with its food and environment issues by encouraging the broadest participation by the mass of its people in driving and achieving these objectives themselves as community programs. Community organisations are active in mobilising the people in city, town and country.

This, along with other features of Cuban society, such as high quality, free and universal health and education systems, a vibrant culture and fulfilment of its role as a world citizen by providing doctors and teachers to other poor countries, shows the progressive and humane nature of socialist development even where it has had to withstand the

Come and join us in the struggle against Global Warming.

The Communist Party aims to combine work for

- **Peace and justice**
- **Workers rights**
- **Environmental sustainability.**

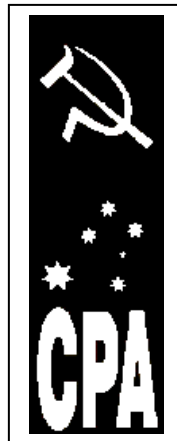
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embargoes and constant enmity of its neighbour, the world's mightiest empire.

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Good Planets Are Hard To Find

The climate nightmare is real and happening now.

The crisis has been largely created by the rapacious exploitation of the Earth's resources by capitalist corporations. Their drive for profits disregards environmental damage and aggravates the crisis. This is why capitalism is an unsustainable system.

Big business is indifferent to whether products are useful or harmful for individuals or society. They will be produced if a market exists or can be created for them and if they yield an adequate profit. The environmental damage their production may cause is equally a matter of indifference. The oil and coal companies are determined to rake in billions of dollars regardless of the consequences.

The response of governments of the most developed countries shows greater interest in safeguarding corporate profits than the environment. Emission trading schemes in capitalist societies are really a licence for corporations to pollute and a cop out for governments not prepared to tackle the issue of greenhouse gas reduction by promoting renewable production.

Climate change cannot be stopped by doing 5% or even 25% of what is necessary. If we trigger tipping points, the heating process will gather its own momentum and there will be nothing we can do to stop it. Doing too little to avoid those tipping points is the same as doing nothing.

To save our good planet, we have to fundamentally change society. We need a society where people's needs not profits are the decisive factor, where the political and economic power of the energy corporations has been broken, where there is understanding of people's place within nature. This can only be a socialist society.



Doing What Is Necessary

At Copenhagen, Australia should be taking the lead, fighting for:

- a 40% reduction in global emissions by 2020, with agreement on emission reduction commitments by developed nations for all the second Kyoto period starting in 2013.
- a commitment by developed countries to provide financial and technological assistance to developing countries so they can implement mitigation and adaptation measures, including exempting them from patents on climate-related technology.
- the retention in full of the Kyoto Protocol.

Other important policies include:

- make energy efficiency and conservation key determinants of urban planning and government economic and industry policy;
- oppose the further privatisation of Australia's electricity infrastructure;
- transfer subsidies from fossil and nuclear fuel to energy efficiency and renewable energy;
- introduce tax deductions for investment in sustainable energy technologies;
- legislate for all enterprises to adopt energy conservation and waste disposal measures;
- development of public transport, including freight and passenger rail lines;
- accept Australia's responsibility for environmental refugees.

Nothing Spoils the Planet Like War



The greatest threat to the environment is war, especially nuclear war. The arms race, nuclear and conventional, adds significantly to world wide pollution.

We need to divert the vast economic and human resources currently squandered on the arms race into solving the world's environmental and social problems.

Australia's current military budget of **\$70 million a day** should be cut by 10% immediately and the funds released spent instead on environmental and social needs projects.

Protect Workers' Rights

Conversion to a more sustainable economy will bring a healthier economy as well as a healthier environment. Changes necessary for more sustainable production would require more workers, not fewer.

The working class must be involved in the struggle to save the planet from environmental catastrophe. Workers must be confident that protecting the environment is in their interests and the interest of their children and future generations. No workers should be worse off as a result of environmental protection measures.

Jobs growth must be promoted in the sustainable energy sector and job creation must be equitable, targeting regions and economic sectors disadvantaged by the transition to a sustainable energy future.

The Australian Conservation Foundation and the Australian Council of Trade Unions 2008 report, 'Green Gold Rush', estimates that more than 800,000 new green jobs can be created in 15 years.

Workers whose jobs are at risk from measures to protect the environment must be guaranteed employment in environmentally friendly occupations and new green industries without loss of wages or conditions and with full involvement of workers and their unions.

The maximum participation of workers, unions and community is needed for this shift in industry and jobs to succeed. Decent work and job creation are central to sustainable development because workers and workplaces are at the centre of production and consumption in society and have a key place in transforming production at all levels.

