

Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

PO Box 6118 – Clifford Gardens, TOOWOOMBA QLD 435

(22 Vacy Street, Toowoomba QLD 4350)

Ph 07 4639 2135; Email: office@hopeaustralia.org.au

Website: www.hopeaustralia.org.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Householders.Options.to.Protect.the.Environment

ABN 48 036 173 161

HOPE E-news Bulletin 2026 #09.2 --- September 2026

The following items have been gathered from various e: newsletters received by HOPE in recent times; and/or prepared specifically by HOPE members and supporters. If you have any news to contribute, please forward to office@hopeaustralia.org.au . Deadline for articles is 15th day of the month.

Editorial

This September issue of our newsletter is a bumper edition! Take some time to read the articles and then re-read them to let the messages sink in!

The article on FOGO(you'll find out what that acronym means) follows on from previous newsletters' stories on waste diversion from landfill.

There are articles which focus on Australian groups and activities; as well as international ones – each one is interesting!

Kind regards,

Nina Stick, Newsletter Editor – HOPE Inc.

2026 Environmental Observances

September

7 <https://www.cleanairblueskies.org/>

7 [Threatened Species Day](#)

16 [International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer | United Nations](#)

16 [International Day of Science, Technology and Innovation for the South | United Nations](#)

20 [World Cleanup Day | United Nations](#)

24 [World Maritime Day | United Nations](#)

26 [International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons | United Nations](#)

October

6 [World Habitat Day | United Nations](#)

10 [World Migratory Bird Day](#)

16 [World Food Day | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations](#)

31 [World Cities Day | United Nations](#)

November

10 [World Science Day for Peace and Development](#)

More detailed information on 'environmental observances' may be found at:

- [International Days and Weeks | United Nations](#)
 - [International Years | United Nations](#)
 - [International Decades | United Nations](#)
-

Vale – Terry Ryan



On 30th July, Terry Ryan, a 25+ years member of HOPE passed away, in Toowoomba. He was 90 years of age. Terry was a keen supporter of HOPE's mission – as well as a personal friend and mentor to me.

A synopsis of Terry's interests and involvements is set out below:

In 1973 Terry was successfully elected as alderman of The Gap Ward in the Brisbane City Council elections. He was a founding member of the Brisbane National and Recreation Committee, a community group which released a study into the feasibility of establishing a park between Mount Coot-tha and Mount Nebo. He worked tirelessly to overcome some opposition within council and in 1977 saw the passing of an act of parliament which declared an area of 25,000 hectares of land as Brisbane Forest Park.

His love of and desire to protect the environment did not stop there, as in 1979 he, with Don Henry (later to become president of the Australian Conservation Foundation and professor at Melbourne University) formed the Moreton Island Protection Group to protect Moreton Island from sand mining. The group went on to be successful in its fight to have Moreton Island recognised as part of the national estate and listed with the Australian Heritage Commission.

When Terry relocated to Toowoomba with his wife Kay in 1996, they both joined the Darling Downs Natural Growers Group and Terry was active in the foundation of the Toowoomba Community Organic Gardens in 1996. He was active on the management committee and became president. He worked most days in the gardens, but also found himself as a community representative on the Toowoomba City Council (as it then was) Environment Committee. He became a member of HOPE (Householders' Options to Protect the Environment) and DDEC (Darling Downs Environmental Council), always working to protect the environment.

When Terry and Kay moved to Dalby for Kay's work in 2004, Terry sought out local environmental group The Friends of Myall Creek and became active in revegetating the creek. He became president of the group and regularly supervised "Work for the Dole" participants who helped clear the creek of rubbish and planted the native flora that you can see thriving today. He was also responsible for supervising workers who were required to perform community service work as part of a court order.

Terry and Kay had a number of moves due to Kay's work, but when they returned from Townsville in 2014, Terry returned to attending HOPE meetings and events and also joined the Toowoomba branch of Renew, a national, not-for-profit organisation that inspires, enables, and advocates for people to live sustainably in their homes and communities and served on its committee.

As was said of him – he wasn't just a greenie, he was a true environmentalist!

President's Report

Welcome to the Spring edition of HOPE's e: newsletter! Over the last few months our office staff have been busy sending out correspondence in support of alliances and partners in promoting issues of significance. If you have a suggestion on organisations to partner with please send those in to Mr Frank Ondrus at office@hopeaustralia.org.au. Our current partners and alliances can be found [here](#).

HOPE is currently looking for volunteers for the following roles:

- *Researchers; Media Officers; Social Media; Office Admin; and State or Territory representatives*

If you or anyone you know are interested in any of these positions, please contact Mr Ondrus as per the email above.

Finally, I welcome all to join us at the September Ordinary Meeting on Saturday 12 September commencing at 10am -- [via Zoom](#).

Happy Spring everyone!

Warm regards,

Anna Kula-Kaczmariski, President - HOPE Inc. | admin@hopeaustralia.org.au

General

Environment isn't just another pillar—it's the Foundation

By Dr Vidhi Bharti, Atmospheric Scientist | ISO 14001 Lead Auditor | Climate Risk | Air Quality | Environment Management | Environmental Compliance | ESG | Remote Sensing, GIS (8 July 2026)



Credit: Eric Jones

Putting environmental, social, cultural, and economic assessments under one umbrella called **integrated assessment** is, in many ways, another sign that we still don't take environmental impacts as seriously as we should.

The environment isn't just another pillar alongside society and the economy—it **is the foundation holding everything else up**. Society depends on it. The economy depends on it. Culture depends on it. If the environment fails, everything else eventually fails too.

Unlike economic losses, many environmental impacts are irreversible. And even if recovery is possible, it can take minimum hundreds of years—if it happens at all.

So why do we continue to treat environmental assessments as just one part of an integrated assessment? The environment isn't simply another factor to balance against social and economic interests. It is the foundation that makes those interests possible in the first place. It deserves to be treated that way.

Your financial support is sought! – <https://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/donations/>

We invite members and supporters to consider making an annual financial contribution to help cover our operating costs of approximately \$20,500 p.a.

Currently, our income is derived from project grants, fund-raising, corporate sponsorship and donations, but falls well short of our requirements.

Your financial support, by way of an annual pledge or donation, will considerably help us to achieve better financial viability.

Of course, if you 'cash in your containers', why not donate those monies to **HOPE Inc** | Member number: C11107170.

Please help us to continue our efforts in advocating for responsible stewardship of the environment and supports adopting sustainable long-term solutions to the manifold environmental problems facing hurdles.

“Your Home, Uranium, and Lung Cancer”

Written by Zack Lee – HOPE volunteer (NSW)

Have you ever been near uranium? Most would say no, but that is likely not the case.

Trace amounts of uranium exist in the soil and in certain rocks, like granite, in the ground around you. Normally, in its inert solid state and with the little amount present, it wouldn't pose a threat.

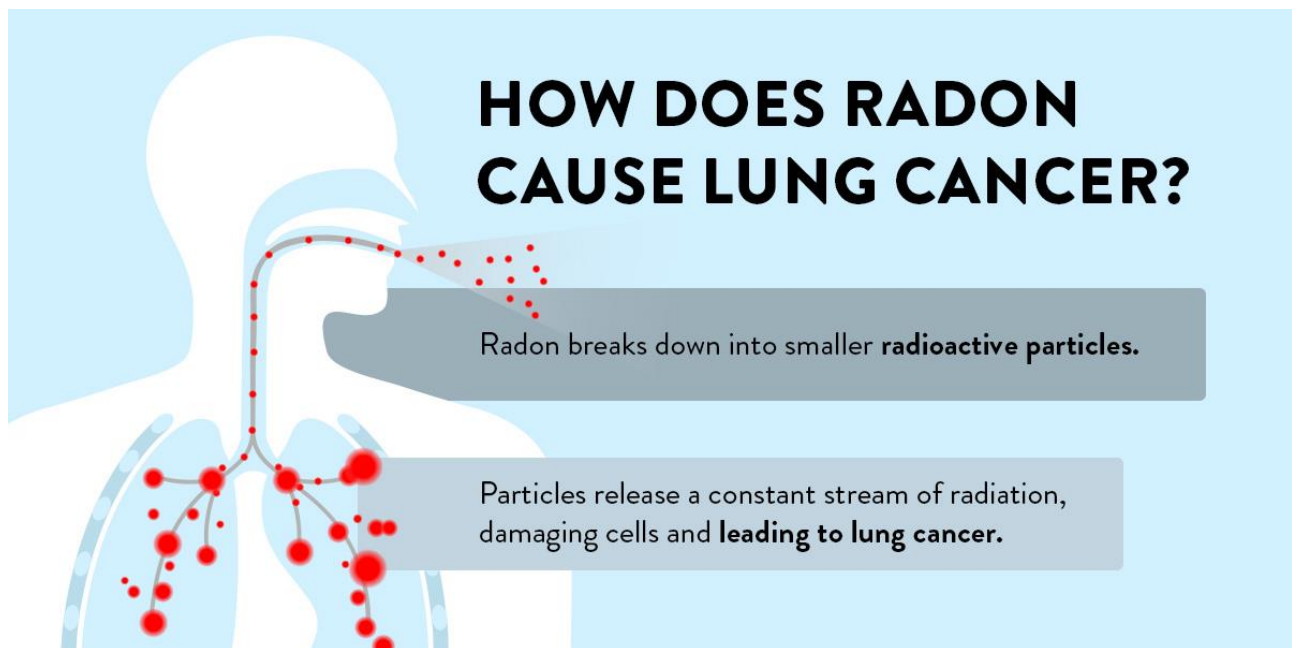
However, a double-combo of factors has led to this phenomenon being the second-highest cause of lung cancer in the United States behind only smoking itself. How?

The uranium in the soil and rocks decays into radon. But this radon exists in a gaseous state.

This means that radon gas can seep into your home through cracks in the foundation, walls, floor, and pipes. Again, this would not normally be an issue due to how little radon gas is present at any given time.

But, because you will likely live in your home for years or decades on end, this effect is continuous so that you get exposed to low amounts of radiation over long periods of time. Worse, if you have a basement and poor ventilation, this radon gas may not dissipate and actually accumulate, compounding the effect of the radiation.

Eventually, this results in lung cancer.



So, what can Australian home-owners do to prevent or mitigate this? First, ensure you have properly sealed foundations, walls, and flooring; second, install proper ventilation systems to passively cycle air from within the home out, and set up a radiation detection system using charcoal canisters or alpha track detectors; and third, you can hire professional inspectors to scope out any potential remaining vulnerabilities.

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National items

Australian Ecosystems Foundation

Written by Sara Washer – HOPE researcher VIC



Australian Ecosystems Foundation (AEFI) is a not-for-profit environmental organisation committed to saving Australian wildlife by protecting habitats, restoring ecosystems and maintaining natural ecological processes.

The foundation is supported by a volunteer management committee with backgrounds in wildlife conservation, land management, veterinary science, community engagement and organisational leadership. This mix of skills guide the foundation's conservation programs and habitat restoration and contributes expertise to projects across Australia. They also work together with government agencies, universities, community groups and volunteers to share expertise and increase the effectiveness of conservation efforts.

AEFI undertakes research to inform management of many species, rehabilitates habitats and helps manage thousands of hectares of land for wildlife conservation. This has included establishing protected areas, restoring biodiversity to landscapes and supporting others in developing sustainable sanctuary models. Through partnerships with landholders of land that is home to high numbers of threatened species, AEFI has been able to provide safe habitats for several threatened species.

The foundation is also currently running several projects focused on specific species. For example, breeding the Eastern Quoll for species recovery, working with partner organisations to conserve the Mountain Pygmy-possum and managing a small population of Copper Wing Butterflies at Secret Creek Sanctuary. It is AEFI's hope that these programs will help return these species to stable numbers so they can be reintroduced into protected habitats.

AEFI's main partnership is with Secret Creek Sanctuary in Lithgow, NSW, where they have a Visitors Centre. The sanctuary also serves as the base for AEFI's conservation, education and community engagement work.

To support their work protecting wildlife, Australian Ecosystems Foundation has partnered with Wildlife Recover Australia to build a dedicated wildlife hospital at the Secret Creek Sanctuary. The Wildlife Hospital & Rehabilitation Centre will support species in the surrounding region, which includes six NSW national parks and is home to a variety of endangered species. The hospital has been constructed through government funding but additional funding is required to complete the clinical fit out of the hospital and AEFI are currently fundraising for this.

To keep up to date with Australian Ecosystems Foundation, you can follow them on Facebook. To learn more, get involved or offer support visit: <https://www.ausecosystems.org.au/>

If you'd like to contribute to the Wildlife Hospital & Rehabilitation Centre, more details about the fundraiser can be found here: <https://double-the-impact-wollemi-wildlife-hospital.raiselysite.com/>

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Evaluating the Success of FOGO

Written by Allan Fong – HOPE researcher NSW

FOGO (Food Organics Garden Organics) is a waste management program being rolled out across councils in Australia to divert organic waste away from landfill sites. FOGO combines food waste and garden waste into green lid kerbside bins so it can be recycled into high-grade compost and soil improvers instead of rotting with landfill where it produces harmful methane gas. By re-routing organic waste into a continuous closed loop, the FOGO program supports a circular economy:



What should go into a FOGO bin?

- Fruit and vegetable scraps
- Meat and dairy
- Bread
- Coffee grounds
- Eggshells
- Other food waste
- Grass clippings
- Leaves and weeds
- Small branches
- Prunings
- Other garden waste
- Compostable plastic kitchen caddy liners that comply with Australian Standard AS 4736-2006 (for commercial composting)
- Paper based kitchen caddy liners

What should NOT go into a FOGO bin?

- Pet poo and poo bags – pathogens in animal poo are not always killed at composting facilities
- Fibre based materials such as bamboo, timber, cardboard, paper towels and serviettes – these often contain additives making them unsuitable for composting
- General compostable or biodegradable plastic products or bags - Only kitchen caddy liners which comply with Australian Standard AS 4736-2006 should be used with FOGO bins as compost cannot be applied to land unless there is evidence the plastic breaks down at commercial composting facilities
- Vacuum cleaner dust, washing machine and dryer lint – these may contain chemicals from furniture and textiles or microplastics

([What can and can't go in your FOGO bin | EPA](#))

How effective has the FOGO program been to date?

An analysis commissioned by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) in 2023 involving 50 bin audits across local councils revealed:

- FOGO bins successfully diverted about 84% of all household organic waste away from general landfill
- Garden waste diversion averaged 98%
- Food waste diversion averaged 41%, but this climbed to about 60% when additional supportive measures were introduced (e.g. smaller general waste bins collected fortnightly alongside weekly FOGO collection)

(<https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-02/analysis-nsw-food-and-garden-bin-audit-2023.pdf>)

A recent study published by Flinders University and others analysing twenty years of council waste datasets across NSW and Victoria revealed:

- Compared with councils without FOGO, active FOGO services resulted in a 57% higher waste diversion rate and 68% higher recovery rate

- FOGO services resulted in a 33% overall reduction in waste going to landfill sites

([Household food organics services provision and landfill volumes and diversion rates: Empirical evidence from New South Wales and Victoria](#))

What are some of the ongoing challenges with FOGO?

Physical and chemical contamination remains a threat to FOGO operations. Plastics, glass, metals and paper-based food contact materials have been detected in FOGO collections, as well as chemical contamination (PFAS and pesticides) from food packaging and treated paper products. Compost and other soil improving products derived from FOGO collections may contain pathogens, so good hygiene practices are strongly recommended when handling these end products. ([Research on FOGO | EPA](#))

A report dating back to 2017 suggested some communities may not be interested in FOGO, and people may be unwilling to change their waste disposal processes, indicating a need for greater community engagement. The same report also suggested FOGO doesn't work very well for multi-unit dwellings due to logistical and social reasons. ([Laying out the FOGO benefits and challenges – MRA Consulting Group](#))

Organic material collected from FOGO bins need to be processed at appropriate composting facilities which require large land footprints and located away from suburban housing due to odour complaints. Locating these sites near metropolitan centres is next to impossible, and the rollout of council FOGO mandates is outpacing the current processing infrastructure.

(<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/recycled-organics-in-australia-review-regulations-standards-final-report.pdf>)

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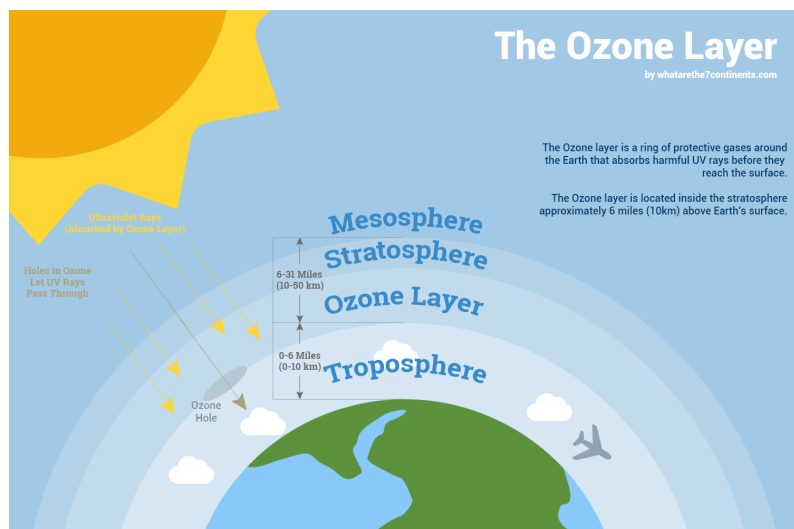
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Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) – Repairing the hole in the ozone layer

Written by Allan Fong – HOPE researcher NSW



What is the ozone layer?

Ozone (O₃) is a naturally occurring molecule consisting of three oxygen atoms. About 90% of the ozone in earth's atmosphere is found in a narrow band between 15 and 30 kilometres above the earth's surface within the stratosphere. This is known as the ozone layer, and it protects the planet by absorbing harmful ultraviolet (UV-B) radiation from the sun. Harmful effects from prolonged UV-B radiation exposure include skin cancer, cataracts, cell damage and reduced productivity in agriculture crops. ([The ozone layer - DCCEEW](#))

Damage to the ozone layer

Ozone depleting substances (ODSs) are chemicals which deplete ozone in the

stratosphere by releasing chlorine or bromine atoms which react to convert ozone (O₃) into oxygen (O₂), resulting in the so called "hole in the ozone layer". Many ozone depleting substances are also potent greenhouse gases and contribute to global warming. Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) are a group of substances which are responsible for the greatest depletion of ozone in the stratosphere. Historically CFCs were used as a refrigerant, aerosol spray propellant and in foam insulation. CFC usage in Australia peaked in the late 1980s and has subsequently declined by approximately 10% per year. Since 1978, Australia has accounted for less than 1% of total global CFC emissions, so its contribution to ozone depletion was relatively small on a global scale.

The Montreal Protocol

Adopted worldwide in 1987, The Montreal Protocol was a landmark multilateral environmental agreement to ban ozone depleting chemicals. It is one of the rare treaties which have achieved universal ratification. Australia effectively banned the manufacture and usage of CFCs by the end of 1995, putting the nation well ahead of international requirements for developed nations under the protocol. In addition, being potent greenhouse gases Australia's rapid reduction in CFC usage contributed significantly to climate change mitigation by cutting the nation's overall greenhouse gas footprint.

([About Montreal Protocol](#)) ([Australian chlorofluorocarbon \(CFC\) emissions: 1960–2017 | Environmental Chemistry | ConnectSci](#))

Repairing the ozone layer

Four yearly monitoring by the World Meteorological Organisation and the United Nations Environment Programme indicate ozone depleting substances in the atmosphere continue to decline and the ozone layer is expected to recover to pre-1980s levels over the mid-latitudes by 2050 and over the Antarctic by 2065. ([The ozone layer - DCCEEW](#))

International items

Climate Majority Project

Written by Sara Washer – HOPE researcher VIC



The Climate Majority Project is a UK-based organisation focused on accelerating effective climate action through a coalition of people from grassroots initiatives to high-level policy. The organisation originated from the idea that most people feel alone and powerless to deal with climate change but this could be overcome if the movement grew large enough to make a difference.

The Climate Majority Project therefore works to foster climate responsibility at all levels of society, working with and educating communities, schools and businesses to make sense of climate

change and what they can do about it now.

The Climate Majority frequently publish research and have just released a report called Mobilising Silent Majorities. The report discusses the differences and reasoning between people who are concerned about climate change but feel disempowered to act and the different strategies that can be used to change this. They have also published a collaborative anthology named after the organisation and featuring chapters from the organisation as well as change-makers and organisers of citizen climate action in the UK.

The Climate Majority also features a large body of resources for schools and teachers on their website, including climate change short films. They are also currently running two campaigns: Regulate Us Better asks businesses to step up and lobby for more robust climate policy and regulation to deal with climate catastrophe; and SAFER or Strategic Adaptation for Emergency Resilience is a campaign targeting local communities, providing them with educational resources to prepare, and opportunities to be involved.

Finally, the Climate Majority has partnered with the Mindfulness Initiative and the Climate Psychology Alliance (CPA) to form the Inner Climate Response Alliance and support communities with the emotional impact of the climate crisis over the next five years.

To keep up to date with the Climate Majority Project you can follow them on Instagram, Facebook, X or Youtube or subscribe to their newsletter here: <https://climate-courage-campaign.kit.com/subscribe>.

To learn more, access resources and report or donate visit: <https://www.climatemajorityproject.com/>

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Living Green – David Suzuki Foundation

<https://david Suzuki.org/living-green/>

Written by J Herro - HOPE researcher Qld

Living more sustainably can feel like a list that never ends: use less plastic, waste less food, fix the garden, travel differently, check the labels and somehow keep up with the rest of life. The David Suzuki Foundation takes a more useful approach. Its Living Green hub gives people practical changes they can make at home, at work, in the garden and in their local community, while still pointing to the bigger systems that need to change.

The David Suzuki Foundation is a Canadian environmental non-profit incorporated in 1990. It works across climate solutions, thriving nature and sustainable communities. Its Living Green pages sit on the practical side of that work: food, home and garden, transport, waste, body care, culture and everyday habits. Therefore, the advice is not framed as perfection; it is framed as a starting point people can actually use.

Main aims

- Help people lower their climate impact through realistic everyday choices.
- Protect and restore nature, including pollinator habitat in neighbourhoods and public spaces.
- Support healthier homes and communities through practical environmental education.
- Link personal action with petitions, volunteering, donations and wider policy campaigns.

Major achievements

The Foundation began from a practical question that still matters: what can people actually do? After a CBC Radio series on environmental threats, more than 17,000 listeners wrote to David Suzuki asking how to help. That response led to the creation of the Foundation in 1990, and Living Green continues the same thread by turning broad environmental problems into actions people can try.

One strong example is the Butterflyway Project, launched in 2017. By 2025, the Foundation reported that the project had trained 1,850 Butterflyway Rangers, planted more than 132,000 native wildflowers and grasses, planted more than 3,600 trees and shrubs, established more than 7,600 habitat gardens and created 157 official Butterflyways. Those figures give the program weight because they show community action moving beyond advice on a webpage.



Stock photo: community garden. Image: Klest, Wikimedia Commons, public domain, as supplied in draft pack.

Current projects and campaigns

Living Green currently points readers toward practical actions such as walking or cycling more often, taking public transport, sealing home air leaks, reducing “phantom” energy use, repairing or recycling electronics, cutting food waste, using green cleaners, signing petitions and nudging banks, manufacturers and energy providers. For example, the Foundation notes that air leaks around walls, windows and doors can account for up to 40% of a home’s heat loss, which makes home sealing both a climate action and a cost-saving step.

Furthermore, the Living Green email list gives readers a monthly way to stay connected. Instead of relying on a single article, the subscription provides tips, resources and opportunities to act on environmental issues as they arise.



Stock photo: fresh vegetables.

Image: Hrushi3030, Wikimedia Commons, public domain, as supplied in draft pack.

Events

Living Green is mainly an online advice and email program, so the most reliable way to keep up is through the Living Green emails and the Foundation's wider campaign updates. The Foundation also promotes petitions, volunteer opportunities, local projects and public action through its website.

Why support them?

Living Green works because it gives people a clear next step without pretending that personal habits are the whole answer. It is useful for households, schools, workplaces and community groups that want practical changes they can begin now, then connect to wider environmental action through petitions, volunteering or donations.

How to get involved

- Sign up for Living Green emails at <https://davidsuzuki.org/sign-up-living-green/>.
- Choose one guide from the food, home and garden, zero waste or travel sections and try it for a month.
- Share a Living Green guide with a household, school, workplace or community group.
- Plant native pollinator plants, or follow the Butterflyway Project for habitat ideas.
- Donate to the David Suzuki Foundation or join its wider email community.

Source notes (APA style)

- Material for this article sourced from the David Suzuki Foundation website.
-



The End of Coal Is in Sight - Powering Past Coal Alliance (PPCA)

<https://poweringpastcoal.org>

Written by J Herro - HOPE researcher Qld

Coal power is being pushed out, but it is not disappearing on its own, as governments still must plan replacement power, protect workers, shift finance and avoid locking communities into old infrastructure. That is where the Powering Past Coal Alliance, or PPCA, has tried to make the coal exit less like a slogan and more like a timetable.

Launched by Canada and the United Kingdom at COP23 in 2017, the PPCA brings together governments, businesses, utilities, finance organisations and technical partners. Its declaration asks government members to phase out existing unabated coal power and place a moratorium on new coal power stations without operational carbon capture and storage. Furthermore, it asks non-government members to power their own operations without coal and restrict finance for unabated coal generation.

The deadlines are clear. Analysis cited in the PPCA Declaration says unabated coal power should end no later than 2030 in OECD and EU countries, and no later than 2040 in the rest of the world. Therefore, the question for members is not whether coal ends eventually, but whether governments can line up closure dates, replacement energy, finance and community support in time.

Main aims

- Stop new unabated coal power from being built.
- Set clear closure paths for existing coal-fired power stations.
- Move public and private finance away from unabated coal and into clean power.
- Support workers, communities and power-system operators through the transition.

Major achievements



Stock photo: coal-fired power station. Image: PlainVector, Wikimedia Commons, CC0/public domain style use as supplied in draft pack.

The PPCA has helped move coal phase-out into mainstream energy policy. Its current network lists 183 PPCA members and 23 utilities partners, including national governments, subnational governments, businesses, finance institutions and utilities. That mix matters because a coal exit cannot be delivered by one environment department alone. It requires power planners, banks, regulators, investors, workers and local communities to move in the same direction.

The Alliance also uses numbers to test political promises. In its 2024 G20 position paper, the PPCA reported that G20 countries accounted for 87% of planned new coal power and that more than four-fifths of existing G20 coal capacity still had no phase-out date. As a result, its message to the G20 was direct: end new unabated coal now, phase out existing coal on a 1.5°C aligned pathway, and scale finance for coal-to-clean transitions.

Another practical achievement is the PPCA's No New Coal work. At COP29, 26 countries and the European Union launched the No New Coal Call to Action, while the PPCA reported that the global coal power pipeline had declined by nearly 60% over the previous decade. Those figures show progress, but they also show why continued pressure is needed.

Current projects and campaigns

The PPCA now works through several practical streams. The No New Coal stream supports national climate plans that rule out new unabated coal power. The private finance workstream works with banks, insurers, asset

owners and managers so that coal transition policies move from broad net-zero language to actual investment decisions. In addition, the Alliance hosts the Coal Transition Commission, which focuses on finance, energy security and the early retirement of coal assets.

The Alliance also uses international forums to keep coal on the agenda. This includes UN climate summits, G20 discussions, London Climate Action Week and New York Climate Week, where coal policy sits beside finance, trade, energy security and regional transition planning.

Why support them?

Coal phase-out becomes real when dates, finance and replacement power line up. The PPCA is worth following because it keeps those pieces in the same conversation. It also asks governments and investors a hard question: if new unabated coal is not compatible with climate goals, why should public money, private capital or national energy plans keep making room for it?

How to get involved

- Read the PPCA Declaration and workstreams at <https://poweringpastcoal.org>.
- Check whether your state, city, bank, super fund or energy company has joined the Alliance or made a coal exit commitment.
- Subscribe through the PPCA website footer for updates on coal transition work and events.
- Share the No New Coal message with councils, universities, businesses or investment funds that still have coal exposure.

Source notes (APA style)

- Material for this article sourced from Powering Past Coal website
- Government of Canada. (2023, May 1). Powering Past Coal Alliance declaration. <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/canada-international-action/coal-phase-out/alliance-declaration.html>

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