



The Sustainable Engineering Society

...engineering in harmony with ecology

SENG-WA Newsletter – April 2022

In this edition of the SENG-WA newsletter, we present events and news relevant to sustainability in WA, including an Earth Day celebration, hydrogen as an energy carrier, and how to make WA thrive. Also included for the first time is a series of questions and answers derived from the 'Climate Change Challenges' series of webinars and forums in 2021, giving possible thought-provoking answers to pertinent climate-change related topics.

WA businesses are also invited to let us know how they are being Sustainability Champions in their industry. Please get in touch if sustainability is at the heart of your business, or a business you know.

We hope you enjoy!

EVENTS

**JOIN US TO CELEBRATE
EARTH DAY 2022**
at Perth City Farm

6pm - 8.30pm, April 21st

Three presenters from inspiring Perth-based sustainability and landcare projects

A chance to network with some of the great minds from the Perth sustainability, land care & environmental scene

Plant-based menu available & drinks for sale at the bar

EARTH DAY AT PERTH CITY FARM

Event by Perth City Farm

Date: Thu, 21 Apr 2022

Time: 6:00 - 8:30 PM AWST

Location: Perth City Farm, 1 City Farm Pl, East Perth WA 6004

On the eve of Earth Day 2022, Perth City Farm wants to celebrate some of the fantastic, inspiring environmental projects that are currently happening in Perth. They want to celebrate these projects and help visionary leaders connect with Perth residents who want to make a difference and work towards a sustainable future.

There will be 3 short presentations on the night, followed by an opportunity to network with some of the great minds in the Perth sustainability, land care and environmental scene. A bar will be open 6-8pm, and a plant-based menu will be available for the evening.

More information: <https://events.humanitix.com/earth-day-at-perth-city-farm>

AIE PERTH - DISCUSSION ON POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OF A RENEWABLE ENERGY HUB AT UAROO

Luncheon by the Australian Institute of Energy Perth

Date: Wed, 27 April 2022

Time: 12:00 – 2:00 PM AWST

Location: The Argyle Room - Parmelia Hilton Hotel - 14 Mill Street, Perth WA 6000

AIE will host Maia Schweizer, Director Australia – West, Fortescue Future Industries, for a discussion over lunch on the potential development of a renewable energy hub at Uaroo in Western Australia's Pilbara region.

Maia Schweizer is Director – Western States. She looks after FFI plans for Western Australia, South Australia, and the Northern Territory. She saw the light and moved to Western Australia after 2 years leading CleanCo Queensland, a low-emissions generator serving large industrial customers, and prior to that she held roles in gas development and electricity retail at Origin Energy. She trained as a geologist at Princeton, Caltech, and Oxford.

Registration: <https://www.aie.org.au/eventdetails/13533/aie-perth-luncheon-with-maia-schweizer>



SUSTAINABILITY AND FUTURE FUELS

Free event by CIBSE WA

Date: Thu, 28 April 2022

Time: 5:00 - 8:30 pm AWST

Location: Central Park, 158 Saint Georges Terrace #152, Perth, 6000

Join CIBSE WA for a discussion focussing on some current and future sustainable fuel sources to meet existing and future demands. Three speakers will discuss electric vehicle charging, the Peel Business Park solar array project, and an overview of hydrogen as an energy carrier.

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/cibse-wa-sustainability-and-future-fuels-tickets-303117531697>



WA 2050: HOW DO WE MAKE WA A THRIVING PLACE?

Free event by UWA Public Policy Institute

Date: Wed, 11 May 2022

Time: 5:30 – 7:00 PM AWST

Location: Auditorium, The University Club of Western Australia, Hackett Drive, Crawley, WA 6009

Western Australia in the past 30 years has enjoyed tremendous prosperity, coupled with safety from conflict and being shielded from infectious disease. How assured is the next 30 years?

WA is large, remote, resource-rich and a place of immense biodiversity, but its future can only be secured by addressing key challenges now. Areas needing reform centre around the growth of WA's future population and the infrastructure needing to accommodate over a million more people. Equally, we must develop a diverse economy and support for new businesses, ensure regional areas are connected through quality health infrastructure, and greater integration with our neighbouring countries in the Indian Ocean Region. Finally, to truly unite this enormous state, we should be connected to and encouraged to share our stories and histories through a thriving cultural and creative arts sector.

At this launch of the WA 2050: People, Place, Prosperity report, join a distinguished panel of experts to hear policy ideas and proposals that are best placed to deliver a vibrant future for WA.

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/wa-2050-how-do-we-make-wa-a-thriving-place-tickets-310328700497>

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

A 'Climate Change Challenges' series of webinars and forums was run in 2021 by the WA Division of Engineers Australia, in conjunction with the University of WA and Murdoch University.

During the series, over 100 questions or comments were submitted from around 1000 attendees. A 'Q&A' of the most pertinent, together with suggested answers, was put together by a group of senior EA members. The answers are NOT official EA answers; they are possible answers provided by the group as thought provokers.

In our Newsletter we will be publishing one Question and one possible Answer in each edition. We invite comments from our readers, a summary of which will be published in the following edition. Simple comments, such as agree/disagree are welcome, as are more detailed comments. These may be emailed to the [Q&A reply email](#)

This month, our first question and possible answer is:

Q

With COVID, we were able to act quickly. How can engineers assist a shift to preservation of our planet's life support systems?

A

By speaking out more publicly (both as individuals and as a professional body) about both the urgency of this problem, some solutions and warning about the limits of technology to solving the problems of the diminishing of Earth's life support systems. This is not just a climate change problem; it is also a plastic pollution and extinction of species problem. COVID was seen as a very large and immediate problem, hence the quick action. It is up to professionals such as engineers to join the scientists in explaining that climate change is a very large problem, and that action is required now to avoid it becoming not only a significantly larger problem than COVID, but also one for which there will be no technical fix (such as vaccination) if we do not act now.

SENG WA would love to hear from you about these questions and answers.

Contact us here: [Q&A reply email](#)

SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPIONS



WA SENG is giving companies a free opportunity to showcase their sustainable, innovative practices in our newsletter.

For a chance to be featured, please complete [this form](#).

NEWS

MORRISON GOVERNMENT'S CLIMATE RECORD DEEMED 'A CATASTROPHIC FAILURE': ONE IN FOUR AUSTRALIANS GIVE ZERO RATING

A new report by the Climate Council finds the Federal Liberal-National Government has overwhelmingly failed on climate action over its three terms of government.

The Lost Years: Counting the Costs of Climate Inaction in Australia report assesses the Federal Government on climate with the introduction of a scorecard, surmising its overall performance as 'a catastrophic failure'.

The report comes close on the heels of the 2022-2023 Federal Budget, which contains successive cuts for climate funding over the next four years, with total spending on climate initiatives reducing to just 0.2% of total expenditure.

New data from a national poll* of 1,299 Australians, conducted by SMS and commissioned by the Climate Council shows Australians – on average – rate the Morrison Government's performance on climate change and its response to worsening extreme weather events a 3 out of 10.

One in four (26%) surveyed rated the Morrison Government a 0 for 'not doing anything at all'.

Among 18 to 25-year-olds, the average score was 1.5. No segment of the 1,299 surveyed – by age, voting preference or location – rated the Government more than a 4.8 out of 10.

Full article: <https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/resources/morrison-governments-climate-record-deemed-a-catastrophic-failure/>

A SUPERCHARGED CLIMATE: RAIN BOMBS, FLASH FLOODING AND DESTRUCTION

Climate Council releases report on recent floods

The record-breaking and relentless deluge that has flooded towns and cities in Queensland and New South Wales is one of the most extreme disasters in Australian history, and the devastation is wide-ranging. It lasted days and flooded towns, causing tragic loss of life and submerging tens of thousands of homes and businesses.

The new Climate Council report 'A Supercharged Climate: Rain Bombs, Flash Flooding and Destruction' explains how climate change is intensifying extreme rainfall and how the frequency of these events is likely to almost double with each degree of further global warming.

More information: <https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/resources/supercharged-climate-rain-bombs-flash-flooding-destruction/>

PLANNING FOR BIG BATTERY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY HUB FOR COLLIE

Sunshot Energy to investigate renewable energy hub to kick-start downstream green industry opportunities in Collie

Regional Development Minister Alannah MacTiernan has welcomed another step towards developing downstream green industries, including green aluminium, to the Collie region as it transitions away from coal into a major renewable energy centre.

Up to \$1 million in funding has been approved for the first stage of a feasibility study into the Collie Battery and Hydrogen Industrial Hub Project.

A 600 to 800-megawatt hour battery would be a key feature of the hub, which would provide renewable energy to new and existing industrial projects in Collie. This is around four times the size of Tesla's big battery in South Australia.

Media statement: <https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2022/04/Planning-for-big-battery-and-renewable-energy-hub-for-Collie.aspx>

Media

DESIGN FOR THE FUTURE

A presentation about design strategies likely to be required to cope with conditions under climate change by end of century, well within the lifespan of major infrastructure. It is made for engineers and other professionals concerned for the future of their children.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fGMsm33YQhU>

HOW TO MAKE RADICAL CLIMATE ACTION THE NEW NORMAL

TED Talk by Al Gore

A net-zero future is possible, but first we need to flip a mental switch to truly understand that we can stop the climate crisis if we try, says Nobel laureate Al Gore. In this inspiring and essential talk, Gore shares examples of extreme climate events (think: fires, floods, and atmospheric tsunamis), identifies the man-made systems holding us back from progress and invites us all to join the movement for climate justice: "the biggest emergent social movement in all of history," as he puts it. An unmissable tour de force on the current state of the crisis -- and the transformations that will make it possible to find a way out of it.

https://www.ted.com/talks/al_gore_how_to_make_radical_climate_action_the_new_normal



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