

Collaborating on alternatives to coal in Asia and Australia

March 2015

Funds required - \$3,340

Goals

With groups in Sri Lanka, test and implement an approach to empowering stakeholders across Asia to act to bring about alternatives to coal as an energy source. This will :

- Contribute to the wave of change that is building across Asia
- Help to neutralise attempts by Australia to expand coal markets.
- Demonstrate the technical feasibility of alternative energy in Asia.
- Complement Quit Coal initiatives within Australia.

Why Sri Lanka?

- A small but rapidly growing economy seeking new pathways after civil war
- A relatively small population with key people in government and industry being in accessible English-speaking networks
- Project is readily implemented via ECO-V, a local environmental NGO with a track record for events and publicity
- At the crossroads in strategic rivalry between the USA, China and India
- Planning a power link to receive electricity from India
- One coal-fired power station is to expand, another to be built.

Outcome 1: Stakeholders in Sri Lanka empowered to act on renewable energy and zero emissions.

Send a leading technical expert from Australia to Sri Lanka for 7 to 10 days, in mid-2015. They will:

- Meet engineers, government officials, academics, NGOs, and industry leaders
- Link with enthusiastic environmentalists
- Participate in sustainability conferences in Colombo and 2-3 regional cities (Kandy, Galle, Anuradhapura)
- Receive extensive media coverage.

The expert will be

- an excellent communicator
- knowledgeable in economy-wide alternatives to coal (like BZE's stationary energy report)
- knowledgeable about community-based renewable energy.

Outcome 2: Proof of approach

Testing the approach in one small country will provide important lessons for further initiatives across the Asia Pacific, especially in Australia's major coal markets of China, Japan and Korea.

The aim is not to develop a rigid model, because each country has different institutions, culture language, access to elites and media, and NGO capacity.

Outcome 3: Influence political positions in Australia

Develop a promotional strategy in early 2015 to reach key organisations and media in Australia, about:

- our international obligations;
- export of renewable technology not coal.

This will complement Quit Coal initiatives.

Budget - \$3,340

- Australia – airfare \$1,500 est, other \$195
- Sri Lanka – accomm/food \$462, travel \$411, venues/catering \$923
- Contingency - \$200

Trip organisation

Kanchana Weerakoon, president of Eco-Friendly Volunteers (ECO-V) will organise all activities in Sri Lanka. She is also deputy chairperson of JCJ. She was responsible for two major Journeys funded by Journeys for Climate Justice, and several other projects.

Partners in Australia

Journeys for Climate Justice, Beyond Zero Emissions, 350.org and Friends of the Earth

Specific roles

ECO-V

- Welcome technical expert
- Organise meetings, accommodation and travel within Sri Lanka
- Arrange media publicity

JCI

- oversight the project
- manage budget

BZE

- Select technical expert
- Book flight to Sri Lanka

BZE and other organisations

- Offer in-principle support
- Join in promotion of the visit
- Assist with Outcome 3

About

ECO-V (Eco-friendly volunteers)

Formed in 2001 by ecologist Kanchana Weerakoon, ECO-V has led several large projects. ECO-V organised the 12 day Kelani River Journey in 2011, and the similar Paapedi bike Journey in 2013. They train, inspire and empower Sri Lankan Youth to be Environment Leaders. www.eco-v.org. Facebook - ECO-V Eco Friendly Volunteers.

Kanchana Weerakoon of ECO-V

As well as leading ECO-V, Kanchana is also involved in:

- the United Nations UNDP/GEF small grants program for Sri Lanka
- Consumer Voice of Sri Lanka in which she plays a leading role
- the committee that oversees environmental planning for the Kelani River

Journeys for Climate Justice. JCI supports projects that create a momentum for action on climate change in climate vulnerable communities in the Asia Pacific. It does this primarily by working with, and financing projects run by, local NGOs. JCI raises funds from ordinary people able to afford to travel and who are concerned about carbon emissions. www.jci.org.au

Beyond Zero Emissions designs plans for a zero emissions economy for Australia. Its goal is to transform Australia from a 19th century fossil fuel based, emissions intensive economy to a 21st-century renewable-energy-powered clean-tech economy. www.bze.org.au

350.org is building a global climate movement. Our online campaigns, grassroots organizing, and mass public actions are coordinated by a global network active in over 188 countries. www.350.org

Friends of the Earth Australia is a federation of autonomous local groups who are working towards an environmentally sustainable and socially equitable future. www.foe.org.au

Coal and power in Sri Lanka

Coal sources and uses – 2012 (IEA)

- Imports 962 kt
- Electricity plants 625kt
- Industry 99kt
- Stock changes – 239

Comparisons

- Bangladesh – imports 1,000kt, own production 835kt, industry 449kt
- Thailand – imports 19,965kt, 0 own production, electricity plants 6,430kt
- Vietnam – own production ~42,000kt, electricity plants 8,888kt

Electricity sources and output

- Hydro power once dominant, then oil from mid-90s.
- Growing coal use – 625kt for electricity in 2012 (IEA)
- Annual generation in 2012 - GW hours – thermal 8,339, hydro 3,292, other renewables 90.
- Norocholai (Lakvijaya) coal power station began 2011 at 300mw, plans to reach 900mw. (Chinese built). See also www.sourcewatch.org
- Sampur (Trincomalee) station in pipeline.
- All power projects listed at <http://powermin.gov.lk/> under 'other projects'
- Government "promise" – no more coal fired power stations after this
- Grid connection to India proposed. (Wikipedia Electricity in Sri Lanka)

Contact for this proposal

Jim Crosthwaite, chair JCI

0488 956 506, jimxwaite@pacific.net.au

Other contacts

Kanchana Weerakoon, president ECO-V

94 71 809 8847, kanchanawr@gmail.com

Stephen Bygrave, CEO BZE

9415 1301, bygravesteve@gmail.com

Charlie Wood, campaigns director 350.org

0427 485 233, charlie@350.org.au

Cam Walker, campaigns coordinator

0419 338 047, cam.walker@foe.org.au



Journeys for
Climate Justice