

Community Forum Guest Speaker Series

Session #1: Integrated Energy Plan – Wednesday 3 July 2024



Communication Link

41 people attended

24 members attended

17 project team members and observers

12 questions on: electric vehicles, gas transition and decommissioning the gas network, upskilling, green gas, wood heaters, zero emissions, vehicle to grid technology, green gas/hydrogen production, biofuels and combatting misinformation.

The first of our speaker series explored the ACT Government's recently released **Integrated Energy Plan (IEP)** which outlines the path to electrification.

Guest speakers Rachael de Hosson and Amarjot Rathore from the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) provided an update on Canberra's long-term pathway for the transformation of the ACT's energy system to achieve net zero emissions by 2045.

Principles for the transition

Community and stakeholder consultation identified the following guiding priorities for the transition.

- Clear and implementable pathway
- Enabling Canberrans to act
- Prioritising those most in need
- Secure and reliable energy systems
- Removing barriers to the energy transition

Key steps to the transition to electrification

1. Navigating the transition across key community areas

- Households
- Priority households
- Business and industry
- Transport
- Complex buildings



2. Enabling the transition – to ensure we have the right skills and energy infrastructure for our future energy needs

- Skills and workforce
- Ensuring 100% renewable electricity for the ACT
- Fit for purpose network
- Managing the gas network

Key issues and challenges

In the presentation and discussion the following challenges and issues were raised.

Costs and affordability of the transition

- The cost of electrifying appliances and homes
- High cost of electric vehicles and charging infrastructure

Equity and fairness

- Transition to net zero is fair and equitable for everyone
- Financial and logistical barriers for vulnerable groups

Transitioning apartments and complex buildings

- Technical feasibility and access limitations
- Challenges of transitioning apartments within buildings managed by strata committees
- High costs of transitioning complex buildings

Misinformation and awareness

- Concerns about misinformation and public misconceptions about incentives available as a part of the IEP
- Misinformation about the accuracy of smart meters
- Education is needed to build confidence in the transition

Safety and environmental concerns

- Safety of electric vehicle batteries and fire risk
- Health impacts of wood heaters

Key topics

- The ACT's commitment to reaching net zero emissions by 2045
- The IEP outlines the pathway and principles of the transition to electrification
- Addressing barriers to electrification
- Prioritising a fair and equitable transition
- Making a plan to decommission the gas network

"Session was awesome, learned a lot"

"Thank you!"

Additional information and links provided

IEP

Wood heater replacement program