



# THE GAP SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE INC.



## COMMUNITY NEWS: April 2023

Our April seminar featured guest speaker Clare Silcock, renewable energy engineer and energy strategist for the Queensland Conservation Council. Clare spoke on the topic of changing the energy production in Queensland from coal and gas-fired production to renewables. Clare started by providing a snapshot of the [United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report](#) which showed that [stopping land clearing](#) and increasing use of renewable energy production are two major activities that can reduce the carbon production of developed nations and are highly cost effective (see Figure 7 from the report on the next page). However, Clare also reported that this transition is not straightforward and complex decision need to be made. For example, while wind power has a low carbon footprint, the best positions for wind turbines are often in high ecological value rainforest areas and clearing those for wind energy is clearly not ideal. Clare mentioned lack of an adequate policy framework to properly assess such new projects. Several previous speakers also mentioned lack of adequate protective environmental policies as a major barrier to sustainable action. We will continue to raise this issue of improving energy and sustainability policy frameworks in Queensland with federal, state and local politicians whenever possible. One final point that Clare raised was the opportunity for community energy production as championed for example by [C4CE](#) to overcome the challenges of transporting electricity over large distances and Clare highlighted the benefit of reductions in energy use, which will also be the topic of our June seminar when we welcome Sam Mullen from the Brisbane Sustainability Agency as our guest speaker.

We thank The Gap High School for once again allowing us to use their library, which has a great set up with air-conditioning and presentation technology.

### NEXT EVENTS:

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of May we will hold our next working group meeting to discuss progress on our three projects: The Platypus; Energy Independence; and Enhancing Existing Capabilities.

### MEMBERSHIP:

Thank you very much or the many new members who sent their details thorough over the last month. Its very much appreciated and we warmly welcome all of those new members. If you are intersted, the membership fee is \$5 per financial year (increasing to \$20 next financial year) to cover costs such as insurance, website hosting fee, room hire and facilitated meetings. Please use our Bank Account Name: The Gap Sustainability BSB124001 Account No: 23277186 and send us your name, DOB, and address to [thegapsustainability@gmail.com](mailto:thegapsustainability@gmail.com) for the membership registry. We have now reached sufficient members to achieve tax deductible status.

**FUNDRAISING:** TGSi now is an official fundraising team with Containers for Change. Please consider donating your refund to our cause by using our Scheme ID: C10826699. We have been assigned the Keperra Bunnings Barbecue for the 1<sup>st</sup> July. Pls place a placeholder in your diary if you are willing to help for 3 hours either morning or afternoon shift.

**SOCIAL MEDIA:** Stay updated about our activities by visiting our website [www.thegapsustainability.org](http://www.thegapsustainability.org). We also have an active presence on [Facebook](#).

**Yours sincerely,** The Gap Sustainability Initiative Mgt Committee





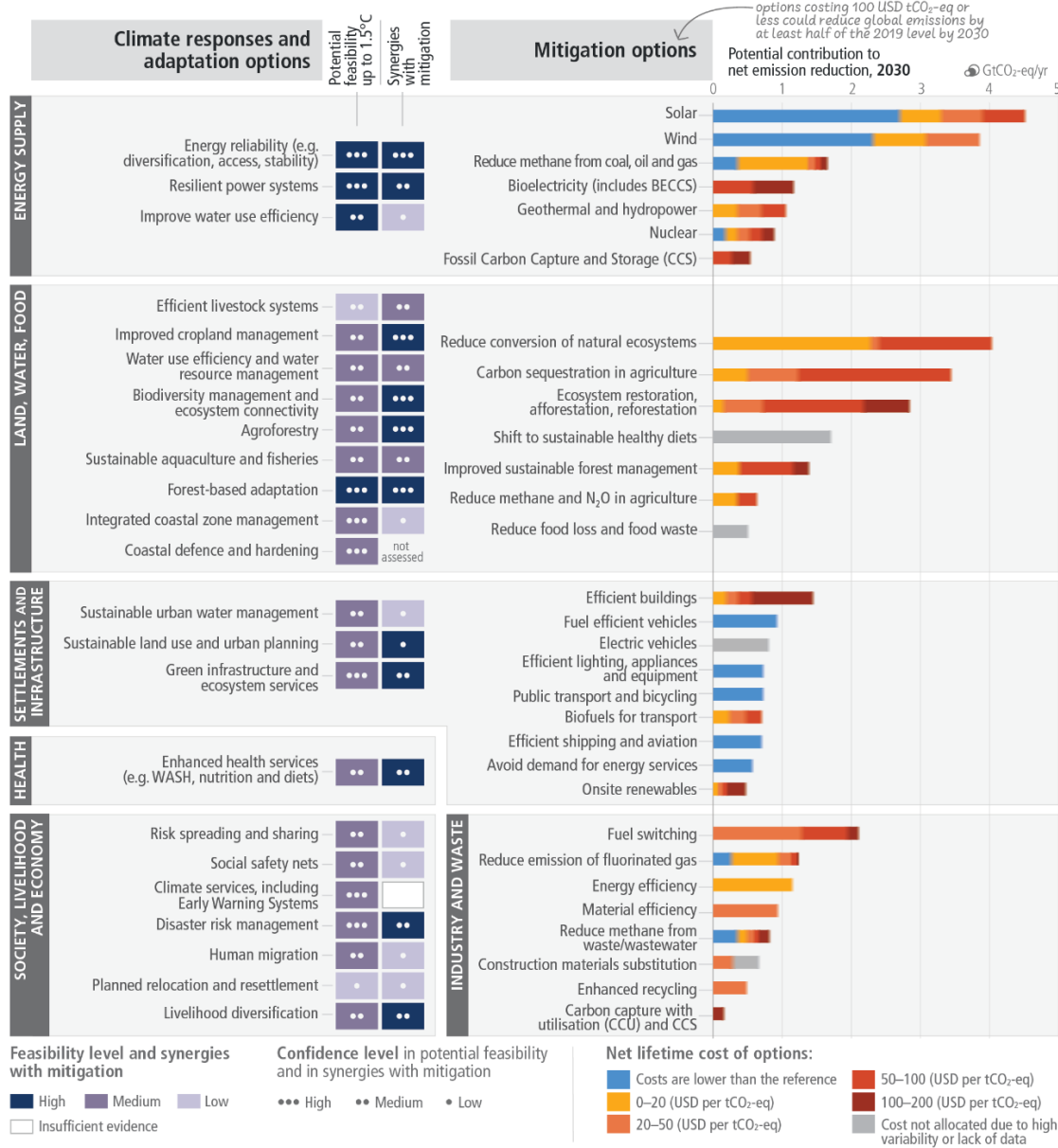
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Figure 7: IPCC report 2023

## There are multiple opportunities for scaling up climate action

### a) Feasibility of climate responses and adaptation, and potential of mitigation options in the near-term



### b) Potential of demand-side mitigation options by 2050

