

Energy

Reform



*Our Pathway to
Peace & Prosperity*

Energy Reform

Bermuda's energy policy has made excellent progress in recent years, with the release of a national energy plan that places us on track to be powered by renewable energy.

Progress on the ground, however, has been too slow. We continue to squander hundreds of millions of dollars from the local economy every year to import fossil fuels. By continuing to burn these fuels we are exposing our community to dangerous levels of pollution, which has a direct impact on the health of families and their quality of life. Energy costs in Bermuda are prohibitive and will remain high as long as we are trapped by our dependency on fossil fuels. We can and will do better. Therefore, our goal is to build a clean and affordable energy system that restores hope to our young people and brings pride to our community.

The FDM is committed to moving Bermuda towards a sustainable energy system. This means transitioning from classic power plants (centralised generation) to distributed generation, including renewable energy sources such as PV solar, off-shore wind turbines or wave energy.

Energy storage and conversion are critically important in a sustainable energy system. They can resolve discrepancies between energy supply and demand caused by the intermittent power output of renewable sources. Conventional power distribution grids are optimised for centralised generation, as opposed to distributed generation, therefore Bermuda's grid will need to be upgraded and redesigned to maximise its potential. A key component of the redesign is redundancy, to ensure that our energy system is equipped with the necessary safeguards to withstand component failures and hurricanes.

The FDM's vision is for a Bermuda that generates clean power from our abundant natural resources, managed by a state of the art grid that effectively facilitates an energy mix strategically distributed to provide our residents with reliable electricity at the most affordable rates.

Areas for consideration include:

- Bermuda's commitment to addressing sustainability, preserving our natural environment and the reduction of our carbon footprint, has yet to be clearly defined. This is fuelling anxiety in our young people who are concerned about their future and quality of life.
- Clear supporting policy and action are required to deliver the renewable energy targets outlined in the RA's Integrated Resource Plan.
- A policy on the decarbonisation of transportation is needed. By moving to electric vehicles, Bermuda can use our own clean power to fuel them instead of using imported fuels.
- Unnecessary energy waste will be reduced by importing more efficient products to Bermuda.
- Government progress on deploying solar technology and electric vehicles should be accelerated.
- Bermuda's energy laws and electricity rates were designed to support fossil fuels and discriminate against renewable energy. This needs to change.
- Bermuda's electricity grid needs to be upgraded and redesigned for redundancy and the capacity to interface with a distributed energy generation mix.

The FDM will:

- Introduce legal targets for a net-zero carbon Bermuda by 2040 and for up to 85% of the island's electricity to be generated by renewable energy by 2035. This will position Bermuda as a responsible member of the international community and restore hope for our young people.
- Overhaul energy legislation and electricity rate structures to ensure they encourage investment in renewable energy, rather than fossil fuels.
- Commence a feasibility study for an offshore wind farm for Bermuda within one year of being elected.
- Work with the energy sector to achieve a 20% reduction in the cost of rooftop solar systems by 2025. This will be achieved by rebooting government policy and streamlining permit processing.
- Install 10 MW of solar energy generation across government properties within our first term, reducing energy costs for the government and keeping money in the local economy.



- Reduce government energy consumption by 20% within our first term by introducing best practices in energy management throughout government operations.
- Transition toward powering our vehicles from clean local energy. This requires a commitment to shift the focus of our automobile industry from the importation of fossil fuel-powered vehicles to zero-emission vehicles by 2035.
- Commit to phasing out fossil fuel-powered vehicles by purchasing zero-emission vehicles for the government, where suitable alternatives exist.
- Begin phasing out Bermuda's ageing fossil-fuel buses with zero-emission electric buses that will replace the entire fleet by 2030.
- Conduct a feasibility study on electric ferries with the view of phasing out Bermuda's current fleet by 2030.
- Introduce efficiency standards to reduce energy waste through education and tax incentives for key products imported to the island.
- Introduce an education and awareness initiative on energy efficiency for residential, commercial and industrial buildings in an effort to eliminate energy waste.

Environment Policy

Natural systems are vital for everyone's future and yet the loss of nature during the past 50 years is unprecedented in human history. Nature provides us with food, water and clean air, and is one of humanity's strongest allies for ensuring our own health, happiness and prosperity. Nevertheless, there is a way to improve the living conditions of our people while preserving our natural resources for future generations.

We must promote technologies that pollute less and are more sparing of water and energy. This approach of sustainable development holds out the possibility of real progress for humanity. While it doesn't necessitate consuming less, it does require us to consume more wisely.

Changes and necessary and, most importantly, possible. Sustainable development, based on a system of economic growth that respects the needs of our people and the natural resources of our unique island, will allow us to improve the living conditions of our populace whilst safeguarding our future. This means that we must explore new ways of producing what we need and change our habits of consumption. This is a vision for every Bermudian resident to engage, collectively playing our part to ensure a peaceful and prosperous future for us all.

The FDM will:

- Introduce legislation by 2021 to eliminate styrofoam and single-use plastics.
 - Work with the private sector and environmental NGOs to
- install hydration stations in frequently used locations on our railway trails.
- Introduce a backyard farming and roadside tree-planting initiative to encourage sustainable living through cultivating
 - edible gardens, planting native/endemic species and growing more fruit trees.
- Improve Bermuda's recycling programme by increasing collection capacity and launching an island-wide awareness campaign.
- Improve island-wide residential trash collection and increase it to twice weekly.
- Conduct a full review of the island's waste and water management systems to ensure they are future proof and aligned with our overall vision.
- Change our building code to require all new construction to meet net-zero emission standards by 2030.

Overview

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