

Hi there,

As a youth who is 24 years old, I am very concerned about the condition of the world that I am about to inherit. In this vein of thinking, I would like to reflect some thoughts in response to the prompts provided on the NCCS website.

i) Energy Efficiency:

I believe that energy efficiency can and should be improved across all sectors. However, the burden of improving energy efficiency shouldn't fall on individual consumers. Industry and the government should be the key driving force in improving energy efficiency. Relying on individual action has a much lower impact than firms or the government changing its practices. For example, switching all the public light bulbs in HDB flats is much more effective than trying to persuade individual families in the blocks to change their own appliances. Additionally, households are only responsible for 6% of emissions and so the real onus of efficiency should fall onto industry.

Finally, improving energy efficiency will not solve the climate crisis. While it is a necessary aspect of national climate policy, it is not sufficient.

ii) Carbon Pricing:

There are no two ways about it – our carbon price is woefully insufficient and completely out of line with what the science dictates. We cannot say that we are a nation that listens to science when our carbon price is so far away from what science says we require. The World Bank has stated that our carbon price must go above S\$135 a ton if we are to respond adequately to the climate crisis. The fact that we are at less than half a percent of that is very disappointing, and challenges the technocratic and scientific foundations upon which this society and nation was built.

We pride ourselves on making the right choice, not the popular one, and raising the carbon tax falls right in that vein. Furthermore, the revenue from the tax can be returned as rebates to lower and middle income consumers, helping to address existing inequality. If we believe in the efficacy of market-based solutions (and history suggests that we do), then we must bring the science into the economic and policy-making realm. Also, we should continue to ensure that there are no exemptions and potentially examine how to expand coverage beyond just the largest emitters.

iii) Reducing Emissions and Alternative Energy:

The science dictates that we must hit carbon neutral by 2050. This means that we will have to invest heavily in carbon capture and storage technology and renewables. I don't want my future planet to be compromised, but I don't necessarily have the policy know how. That said, I believe that it is possible in Singapore, after all we made a secure water supply possible here.

Let's halve our emissions by 2030 and bring them to zero by 2050, as demanded by the climate rally. The combination of carbon capture and renewable energy used doesn't really matter, just please make it happen.

iv) Deploying emerging low carbon tech

- We should attempt to be a pioneer in hydrogen fuel usage
- We should attempt to electrify our transport system. This reduces non-point source pollution and also prepares us for a faster transition to a renewable energy-driven transport system. Buses are perfect for electrification (reliable routes, centralized dispatch points), let's make it happen.
- Integration of high efficiency solar panels into the city in creative ways.

v) Collective Action

We need institutional action and the government should work to foster this mindset amongst Singaporeans. Individuals bringing their own carrier bags and metal straws are not going to stop the climate crisis. People uniting to brainstorm creative ways to shrink the fossil fuel industry and grow our low carbon technology sector give us a much better shot. Capacity building for collective institutional action should be a governmental priority as it increases the odds that we will find creative and meaningful solutions to the crisis that may also give Singapore a competitive advantage in the global economy of the future.

vi) Green Growth

These opportunities exist, and we should leverage them more. CDL released the first green bond in Singapore, and these opportunities will only continue to grow in the near future. The national sovereign wealth fund should divest from fossil fuel industries and holdings and invest in green developments instead. As a financial hub, our investments matter. Having holdings in fossil fuel industries or supporting the development of fossil fuel plants overseas is irresponsible given that we have recognized the urgency of the climate crisis and also have numerous green growth investment opportunities available.

Additionally, the government should institute legislature that restricts the ability for businesses to fund fossil fuel developments or deforestation in other parts of the world. Singaporean bodies like Olam and DBS are still associated with deforestation and fossil fuel development. This runs contrary to a country that is responding to the climate crisis and looking to explore green growth opportunities.

vii) Other thoughts

- We need to commit to keeping warming below 1.5C and institute policy in line with the IPCC targets. We cannot say that we are doing our part when we are clearly not doing enough to meet the 1.5C IPCC targets.
- There will come a day when the world will no longer rely on fossil fuels. Recognizing this and shifting to future-ready industries makes us more resilient to future shocks and changes in the global economy
- Those who will lose jobs due to economic transition must be looked after. A green economy could generate 24 million jobs globally in a decade, and some of those jobs could be housed here.

- Climate science and education on the climate crisis must be significant part of the MOE curriculum. If we are teaching children coding to prepare them for the future workforce, we must also teach them about the future planet they are going to inherit.
- GDP is not a suitable measure for wellbeing anymore, particularly because it is closely tied to carbon emissions still. We should explore alternative metrics to measure growth in wellbeing.
- Our imported emissions should also be considered. We are responsible for more than just the 0.11% of emissions produced in Singapore and if we are going to be truly responsible and honest, we must use strong accounting principles to look at our embodied emissions.
- We should reduce demand for public transportation (coercively if necessary) and increase public transport access. Roads can be turned into cycling paths, and public transport networks and carsharing opportunities should be improved.
- The climate crisis must become a central aspect of national plans. This means that industries such as MTI and MOH should also have climate departments that consider how their policies are affected by and will affect the climate crisis. A whole of government approach on the climate crisis must continue to be taken, but this time with climate being the overriding concern. This is necessary to defeat the short-termism of populist democracies.