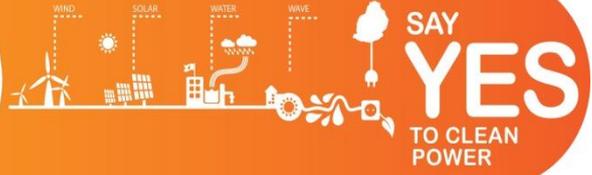




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Charter for a Power Shift

We, organisations and concerned citizens, call for a fundamental change in power production in Mauritius. We firmly believe that a sustainable energy transition and the democratization of power production is crucial for our country's future.

Like all the people living in small island states, who are amongst the most vulnerable to climate change, we have a responsibility to show the world that we are committed to an ecological ethic.

Energy is a social utility, without which life is impossible. Energy is also vital for the economic life of a society.

An energy transition is crucial in order to ensure our energy independence and security. We import 85% of our energy needs, which accounted to Rs 35 billion in 2013. In the last ten years, the cost of energy imports has increased by 400%, while the consumed quantity has only increased by 38%. The privatisation of electricity production in Mauritius has further exacerbated our dependency on fossil energy sources, especially coal. In parallel, power privatization has produced an unacceptable monopolization of power production, through giant coal-based Independent Power Producers (IPPs), to the detriment of citizens, consumers, employees of sugar companies and small planters.

A 'power shift' is therefore fundamental in this critical turning point of our history. This necessity has clearly been outlined by some of the visionary recommendations of the National Energy Commission (NEC).

Consequently, we are calling on the government, state institutions and political parties to:

1. **support** the initiative of the *Coalition of Peoples' Cooperative Renewable Energy* to set up **Peoples' Solar Cooperatives all around the country to produce renewable, cooperative & fair energy.**
2. adopt, in parallel, fundamental policy changes to encourage citizens and small planters participation in the renewable energy transition. In this context, we endorse the demands of the *Coalition of Peoples' Cooperative Renewable Energy* and the *Kolektif Lenerzi Renuvlab* to:
 - a. **introduce a Coal Tax on the profit of all existing coal-based IPPs in order to support citizens' & small planters' solar energy cooperatives and to phase out all coal based IPP's.**
 - b. **set up a Small Planters' Solar Electricity Production Scheme**
 - c. **introduce Green Energy Bonds where citizens can place their savings and through which the Central Electricity Board (CEB) can obtain funds to build and operate solar farms**
 - d. **initiate policy measures to transform the CEB into a new Central Sustainable Electricity Board (CSEB) so that the new CSEB can invest in renewable energy and energy efficiency management.**
 - e. **use the Rs 10 billion that citizens would have paid for the construction of CT Power to set up energy storage projects instead to make solar and wind energy become firm, reliable power.**

Name of Organisation/Representative of organization/Citizens		Signature
Contact details		

Initiators of the Charter and first endorsers: Centre for Alternative Research and Studies (CARES), Small Planters Association, General Workers Federation, Institute for Environmental & Legal Studies, Rodrigues Government Employees Association, Rezistans ek Alternativ, ecologists, engaged citizens & artists
in the Coalition for Peoples' Cooperative Renewable Energy & Kolektif Lenerzi Renuvlab