



Just Energy Transitions: more than decarbonisation

10th February 2026 - 9-12:30

This workshop is for those who see justice as a critical factor in any renewable energy transition.

Background: The renewable energy transition is commonly understood as a collection of existing and potential technologies capable of achieving absolute or relative emission reductions under different scenarios by 2050. However, a genuine transition also demands a shift in the way we understand communities, ownership, empowerment, equity and consumption. As the world stands on the precipice of changes brought about by climate change and AI, we need to start thinking about reinventing our relationship with energy.

Brief Description

This workshop will contribute to a greater shared understanding of the broader social, cultural and environmental dimensions that are key to ensuring that the focus of energy transitions goes beyond mere, albeit important emissions metrics. Whereas ensuring just future transitions requires a mindfulness that such transitions often incur invisible socio-cultural and ecological costs, which this workshop seeks to explicate.

Participants will hear a range of views on the complex challenges surrounding just energy transitions that could unsettle enthusiastic proponents of primarily technology-based green energy solutions. Presentations will be followed by an interactive discussion session, exploring some of the tensions inherent in identifying and achieving a just solution to our energy transition requirements.

The Workshop Structure

1. Coffee and Introduction
2. Presentations from a range of speakers
3. Morning Tea break
4. A chaired, semi-structured interactive panel session to explore some of the tensions in the Just Transition - featuring the speakers and an interactive discussion with participants
5. Summation of themes, outcomes and future directions

Workshop Organiser: Dr Charles Roche is a Sustainability Lecturer at Murdoch University and the Chief Investigator for the Murdoch University-Mineral Policy Institute Collaboration on *Just Transitions and Critical Minerals*. Charles' long-term focus has been working with communities to critically evaluate and improve development outcomes from the extractive sector. Dr Roche's work with Civil Society Organisations and his research has explored the impacts of the extractive sector on Indigenous and local peoples, tailings dam failures, deep sea mining, and issues of impact assessment, ethics and corporate responsibility.

Additional speakers will be confirmed closer to the event, interested attendees are invited to contact Charles (charles.roche@murdoch.edu.au) if they have issues that can contribute to the session.

Register now, free for WREC Attendees, Workshop only registration \$220 (incl. GST), some 50% attendance sponsorships for Community Representatives, apply now. Contact charles.roche@murdoch.edu.au