

WCI Sustainable Coal Policy Statement

In 1987 the UN adopted the definition for sustainable development proposed by the Brundtland Commission that “Sustainable Development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.

In 2000 189 nations adopted the **Millennium Declaration** including the eight **Millennium Development Goals** (MDGs) to be achieved by 2015 to respond to the world's main development challenges.

Many countries and organisations have sustainability objectives for energy supply similar to those below (from the “Energy Policy for Europe”, adopted by the Council of the European Union):

1. Increase security of supply
2. Ensure economic competitiveness and the availability of affordable energy
3. Promote environmental sustainability and combat climate change

The International Panel for Climate Change has concluded that: anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions are a primary cause of observed global warming over the past century; significant emissions reductions are required to reduce and manage the future consequences of further warming; and that Clean Coal Technologies (CCT) and Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) can play a key role in the reducing anthropogenic emissions.

The world is not currently on course for a sustainable energy future.

Coal is, by far, the world’s largest non-renewable energy resource, with sufficient identified reserves to last 150 years at current rates of use. The **World Coal Institute, WCI**, is the global organisation of the coal industry with 18 producer members who collectively produce over 1 Bt pa of coal and represent the predominant share of internationally traded coal.

Coal already meets the first two definitions for sustainable energy supply. However coal is also the largest source of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions.

WCI and its member companies believe, in common with statements by the IEA, the EU, the G8, and many individual countries, that coal is an essential part of the future global energy mix to support continued and sustainable global economic development to 2020 and beyond by meeting international objectives for sustainable energy supply.

WCI and its member companies recognise that for coal to play this essential role in long term sustainable development it must be recognised widely as an environmentally sustainable energy source and raw material for industrial production, which can be used in a manner consistent with climate change goals.

To facilitate a sustainable future for global energy supply WCI and its member companies will demonstrate that, in addition to increasing security of energy supply and ensuring economic competitiveness and the availability of affordable energy, coal can be mined and used consistent with environmental sustainability and climate change goals.

To achieve this WCI and its members commit to support international actions to demonstrate that:

1. CCT and CCS can achieve substantial reductions in CO₂ emissions intensity from coal use to levels consistent with international climate change objectives at costs that are competitive with other large-scale low emissions energy generation technologies.
2. CCT can also meet all reasonable targets for conventional pollutants.
3. CCS is capable of wide-scale, safe, effective and affordable deployment in a range of geological conditions.

WCI and its member companies will engage continuously, constructively and openly with governments, the scientific community, multilateral organisations, non-governmental organisations, media, coal producers and users, and others on global issues, such as CO₂ emissions reduction and sustainable development, and on local issues including environmental and socioeconomic benefits and effects from coal mining and coal use.

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