

TRANSITION IN WA

A Review of Data for Where We are Now

Associate Professor J. Andrew Hubbell

Susquehanna University

University of Western Australia

Edith Cowan University

Members By the Numbers

- **15 Transition Initiatives—12 Urban—11 Perth Metropolitan Region**
- **67% Female; 33% Male**
- **61% White Australian Origins; 20% UK Origins; 7% European Origins; 5% Asian Origins**
- **55% Undergraduate degree; 21% Graduate degree; 9% Trade; 14% HS**

Members By the Numbers

- **20% Teaching; 15% Public Servants; 12% Health Care; 13% Scientists; 11% Trades; 9% Farmers 7% Engineers; 6% Laborers; 4% Business; 2% Finance**
- **43% New Age or Other; 37% Agnostic / Atheist; 19% Christian; 2% Buddhist**
- **48% Retired-Unemployed; 28% Full-time; 11% Part-time; 9% Self-employed; 4% Caring Duties**
- **52% Green Party; 33% Independent (left-leaning?); 10% Labor 10%; 4% Liberal; 1% National**

We Are...

- A white Australian, urban, middle-class, highly-educated, left-leaning, non-religious female, who comes from teaching and service industries and are generally not full-time employed.
- Have strong environmental values, influenced by profound nature experiences and reading about threats to your idea of nature, which is the more-than-human web of life, to which you feel visceral connection and belonging.

What does this demographic portrait mean?

Demographic Comparison

International Norms

Western Australia Norms

Rural	Spirituality unknown
White	Full Time
Female	Green-Independent
Upper-middle or Middle class	Professions not known

Urban	Spiritual, not Religious
White	Retired, Part-Time
Female	Green or Independent
Middle Class	Professions in Teaching, Government, Science, Health Services

Transition in WA is...

- **Highest per capita concentration of urban TI in the world**
- **A white Australian, urban, middle-class, highly educated, leftist, non-religious, female-dominated social change movement that holds strong ecological values and seeks to relocalize basic economic, social, and political functioning, thereby bringing human society into harmony with the sustainable cycles of nature.**
- **Collaborating with local actors to regain control over the flows of matter in everyday life, making decisions based on long-term social and environmental justice.**
- **Changing values and perception to change behavior and actions to change social relations.**

The groups are...

- 4-5 years old—Guildford is the oldest at 8 years
- Vary widely in organizational structure, application of Transition principles and guidelines
- Five have Core Groups of >9; Two have Core Groups of 8-6; Four have Core Groups of <5
- Active in Social Media and writing eNewsletters—not keeping Website up to date
- Unlikely to have done a Mulling Phase, Official Training, or attended a National / Intl. Conf
- Connected with left-of-centre local council, single-focus activists, local businesses
- Supporting project sub-groups that focus on raising awareness, social connection, food, waste
- Struggling to recruit and retain volunteers, obtain external funding, devote time needed
- Lacking data to prove impact of actions