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1. Our mission

Stichting Sunrise International (“Sunrise International” or “the Stichting”) was established in 2023 with a mission to protect the environment from the impacts of large-scale fossil fuel expansion and to hasten the transition to clean energy.

The objectives of Sunrise International are:

1. to protect, preserve and enhance the natural environment, more specifically protecting the natural environment from pollution and over exploitation;
2. to support and empower individuals, communities, governments and corporations to make changes required to prevent dangerous climate change and drive the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy;
3. to advance climate justice;
4. to organize and support a global network of Sunrise Project charities collaborating to forward these purposes; and
5. receiving and granting funds for the achievement of the above purposes.

2. Our program priorities

The Challenge

Climate change is an existential ecological, social and economic threat to life on Earth. The mining and burning of fossil fuels drive this crisis, enabled by a web of institutional support: governments that permit and subsidise it; financial institutions that fund it; insurers that underwrite it; and the industries and communities that are tied to consuming them. The power and inertia of this system mean technology and economics alone are not enough to shift it.

Protecting people and our way of life depends upon how fast and fairly we transition to renewable energy systems. The alternatives are already here—what’s needed is a rapid shift in how decision-makers across politics, finance and society act: reorienting support away from fossil fuels, disrupting entrenched interests, and scaling the clean solutions to replace them. This means changing public opinion and political norms, redirecting consumption and financial flows, and rewriting the rules that govern our economy.

Our Theory of Change

Essentially we see three intersecting opportunities for accelerating the energy transition:

- Renewable energy entering into a virtuous cycle of falling costs, better technology and genuine community benefits, backed by supportive policies and growing public and political support.
- Fossil fuels entering into a vicious cycle of rising costs, shrinking investment, removal of subsidies and increasing regulation, underpinned by declining social acceptance and political support.
- Movements building the civic infrastructure that shapes public legitimacy, market confidence, and political mandates. This enables policy shifts to accelerate renewable energy, and drive fossil fuel phase-out.

We're continually scanning for new opportunities to drive transformational change. Over the next three years, we will pursue five complementary priorities:

Scaling Clean Energy Solutions in Asia

OUR GOAL: Catalyse 150 million customer-owned solar systems in Asia by 2030= ~500GW.

Renewable energy is now the cheapest power in history, but it faces significant political headwinds. Our CORE strategy (Customer Owned Renewable Energy) focuses on the fastest, most resilient and equitable way to deploy clean energy: through distributed solar and batteries. Think households, commercial and industrial rooftops and electrified 2-3 wheelers. This approach navigates around the backlash and financial barriers to large-scale projects and distributes the benefits of clean energy in a way that builds public support over time. We target countries in the Asian region ready to scale, where rapid deployment of solar and batteries can undercut new gas and old coal power.

Building people power

OUR GOAL: Build powerful, resilient networks of organisations that have the capacities needed to win the transformative change we need.

Technology and economics are taking us in the right direction but we need to build public support, market confidence and political mandate for more ambitious action. To do that, we identify the constituencies that matter and grow and connect the organisations and networks required to influence them. That means investing in leaders and organisations, building their capacities, and fostering collaboration across a diverse ecosystem of actors to build the support and mandate required.

Transforming the global finance system

OUR GOAL: Scale clean energy finance, embed climate risk as a core fiduciary duty and phases out finance to accelerate coal and gas retirement.

Coal, oil, and gas are the main drivers of the climate crisis, and finance is the fuel that powers them. To change this requires shifting the context for financial decision makers. We look for points of leverage that focus on shifting the key financial enablers of the fossil fuel economy, where we can drive system-wide impact — like closing re-insurance markets to new coal and gas projects, new financial regulations to redirect financial flows or shifting the position of systemically critical financial institutions.

Decarbonising transport and industry

OUR GOAL: Accelerate the transition to green steel, aluminium, and sustainable battery supply chains, and drive the electrification of heavy trucking globally.

Heavy industry and transport are among the toughest sectors to decarbonise, but the concentration of economic power among a few large, global companies create critical leverage points for systemic change. A small number of automakers shape the steel, aluminium, and battery supply chains, while heavy-duty truck manufacturing is highly concentrated in just a few major players. These points of concentrated power create opportunities for targeted interventions with global impact.

Shifting Australia from laggard to leader

OUR GOAL: Drive Australian coal and gas exports into decline to transform Australia into a clean energy export powerhouse and driver of global climate ambition.

Australia is the second-largest fossil fuel exporter in the world (by emissions) and has been a climate wrecker for decades. Its coal and gas exports fuel Asian industry, making its energy choices a global climate issue. But Australia is also a major exporter of critical transition minerals like iron ore, lithium, and aluminium, and is home to world-class renewable energy resources. That combination gives it the power to become a global leader in the clean energy transition.

3. Our role

The Sunrise Project has developed a distinctive model of changemaking: identifying key leverage points, designing targeted interventions, and organising diverse networks of actors to deliver them. We move fast, operate with a high risk appetite, and have a track record of globally significant impact—working as part of a broader ecosystem to unlock change at scale.

How We Work

We start by analysing the systems we're trying to change and asking: what's required? What will it actually take to win? We look for points of maximum leverage where we can drive systemic change. We consider which actors, voices, or constituencies are needed to create the necessary conditions, then develop practical strategies to make it happen. We adapt our role based on what is needed to have the greatest impact. Sometimes we convene loose networks and operate through quiet diplomacy. Other times we build formal coalitions or public campaigns. We provide grants and build capacity where it's needed, and sometimes we develop new brands or organisations and execute campaigns ourselves. It's amazing what you can achieve if you don't need to claim credit for it.

Our core skills are:

- **Research & Analysis:** We analyse energy systems, map influence and power relationships, and identify opportunities for transformative interventions.
- **Strategy Development:** Building on our analysis, we design multi-partner strategies to win outcomes.
- **Convening Networks:** We bring together and organise diverse actors. Sometimes informally, sometimes publicly, but always with purpose.
- **Grantmaking and capacity building:** We provide funding to organisations and often provide coaching and other forms of advice and support.
- **Driving Innovation:** We're continually scanning the horizon for new opportunities, strategies, tactics and business models to drive impact towards our mission.

4. Activities Plan

Sunrise International's program and grantmaking strategy supports global efforts to accelerate the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy. Our approach focuses on our five broad program areas that reflect enduring leverage points in the global energy systems. These areas are intentionally broad to ensure maximum flexibility as the external landscape and strategies evolve.

In 2026, Sunrise International is prioritising two program areas: Scaling Clean Energy Solutions in Asia and Building People Power. In our other program areas — transforming the global finance system, decarbonising transport and industry, and shifting Australia from laggard to leader — we will work strategically alongside partners who are active in those spaces, ensuring that Sunrise International contributes to progress across all areas of our mission.

Sunrise International commenced its full program and grantmaking activities in 2026. In 2025, we made a number of strategic grants to initiate priority work, while the operational team was still being built out. The 2026 budget reflects this step-up: total income of €15.4 million, with €8.5 million directed to grants and €1.4 million to staff as the team grows to manage programs and partner relationships. Remaining funds are deployed over time to ensure continuity of impact — allowing Sunrise International to sustain its grantmaking through funding cycles that are increasingly unpredictable in the current global environment.

Any annual surplus is retained to fund future grantmaking in line with the organisation's mission

	Budget 2026 (€)
Income	
Income from other non-profit organisations	15,404,255
Sum of Total income	15,404,255
Expenses	
Grants awarded for projects	8,510,638
Staff costs	1,448,511
Consultancy and advertising expenses	1,489,362
General Expenses	473,191
Sum of Total expenses	11,921,702
Net result before financial income and expenses	3,482,553
Result on investment in money market funds	PM
Result	3,482,553

Sunrise International's full financial statements, including budget and accounting policies, are published on the website and available for public inspection.

5. Sources of Funds

Sunrise International's management board brings well established and deep trust-based relationships with philanthropic foundations globally. This will allow for funding of Sunrise International with minimal costs of fundraising. Funding will primarily be sought from large foundations. There are no plans at this stage to conduct grassroots or other public fundraising campaigns in the Netherlands or any other country.

6. Staff

Sunrise International employs a team to manage its program and grantmaking activities. The organisation is currently in a growth phase, expanding from a core team of three at the start of 2026 to approximately 10–12 staff by the end of 2026. New roles span both program and operations functions, reflecting the step-up in program and grantmaking activity, and the need to build the internal capacity to manage a growing portfolio of partners and funding relationships..

7. Governance

The Stichting Sunrise International has a two-tier governance, with a management board and a supervisory board. Whilst the management board is responsible for the day-to-day operations and is exclusively entitled to represent the foundation, the management board members may be dismissed and appointed by the Supervisory Board. The Supervisory Board also has important approval rights with a list of important decisions, including the amendment of this policy plan or major financial transactions. The members of the supervisory and management boards represent a wealth of international experience in climate change campaigning and movement building.

Management Board members

Marijke van Liemt - Chair

Before joining The Sunrise Project in May 2022, Marijks was Manager Operations and Partners at NLinBusiness, where she was responsible for setting up the operations. Marijke started her career at ABN AMRO Bank in the Netherlands, in corporate finance. After leaving ABN AMRO, she worked for 13 years internationally and after moving back to the Netherlands in 2016 she worked as manager operations at KidsRights, an NGO advocating children's rights Marijke is based in The Netherlands.

John Hepburn

John brings over twenty-five years' experience as a passionate and visionary change-maker with a deep commitment to driving large-scale systemic change to solve the climate crisis. He founded The Sunrise Project Australia in 2012 and in 2016 John became the inaugural awardee of the [Climate Breakthrough Project](#), developing and launching a high impact global finance program that has led The Sunrise Project to become the global network it is today..

Sam La Rocca

Sam La Rocca brings more than 30 years' experience working with diverse communities to build powerful networks and lead large-scale change initiatives globally. They bring a unique blend of community organising, pragmatic political strategy, social movement theory and

emotionally intelligent leadership. Sam has a strong track record of winning campaigns, and incubating and leading organisations and coalitions around the world.

Peter Bosshard

Peter has been an environmental and human rights campaigner for more than 40 years. Working at the Public Eye in Switzerland and International Rivers in California, he initiated and coordinated international campaigns to strengthen the environmental standards of banks and other types of financial institutions. From 2017 until 2024, Peter was a program director at the Sunrise Project, coordinating the Insure Our Future campaign and also overseeing the organization's East Asia program. Peter is now retired and lives in Switzerland. In addition to Sunrise International, he is a board member of Amnesty International Switzerland and Campax.

Supervisory Board members

Areeba Hamid - Chair

Areeba is the first woman and first person of colour to lead Greenpeace in the UK, which she has been doing since 2023. She worked with Greenpeace offices around the world from 2006-2020 leading campaigns and teams on issues such as marine conservation, coal expansion in India, rainforest destruction in Indonesia, and tar sands in Canada and North America. Between 2020-2023 she led The Sunrise Project's global finance program.

Claire Mallinson

Claire has a deep understanding of campaigning and the power of activism across international boundaries with over 30 years of senior leadership experience with environmental, human rights, disability and cancer research INGOs/NGO's in Australia and around the world. Claire was the National Director (CEO) of Amnesty International Australia (AIA) for twelve years and part of Amnesty International's Global Leadership Team for a decade.

Sudha Nandagopal

Sudha is a highly regarded organizer, facilitator, strategist, and movement builder focused on democratizing systems of power and shifting power outward to those most affected by injustice and oppression. Through this work and her leadership in social, environmental, and racial justice organizations Sudha has developed expertise in multi-sector stakeholder engagement, networks, collaborative problem solving, and building power with communities of color, immigrants, and refugees.

Amy Rose

Amy manages ClientEarth's Governance and Legal Services Department, overseeing ClientEarth's governance, risk and compliance, and managing its various related legal entities globally. Before joining ClientEarth, Amy was the Head of Litigation at Altisource Portfolio Solutions in Luxembourg, where she managed a large and diverse portfolio of multinational cases.

Remuneration policy

Sunrise International's remuneration policy follows a market-based remuneration policy for the executive functions. This means that it is in line with that of comparable non-profit

organisations. Management Board members and Supervisory Board members are as such only reimbursed for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses.

Accounting principles

The annual accounts are to be prepared in accordance with the Guidelines for Annual Reporting.

8. Contact Information

Stichting Sunrise International, RSIN number 865032944

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