

Proposal to rename WG21 Physics and the Green Economy

To WG21 Working Group 21 Physics for Climate Change Action and Sustainable Development

I Gledhill, Secretary, WG21, 16 Sept. 2023

The WG members thank the Executive Committee for the opportunity to put forward a new name for WG21.

Firstly, physics is deeply embedded in climate science. Climate action implicitly includes climate physics because you cannot advance with actions to tackle anthropogenic climate change without knowing the physical bases of climate change. The term implies a proactive position to find and implement solutions to the problem. It includes, according to United Nations, mitigating climate change by helping to cut greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to the impact of climate change by building resilience to phenomena such as flooding, droughts and other extreme weather events, as well as contributing to the understanding of the causes of climate change.

Secondly, “sustainable development” covers the green economy, sustainable energy, ecology, and other fields of application. The name allows broad collaboration across the Commissions and Working Groups. The proposed title also makes a reasonably clear distinction with the name of C13, Physics for Development.

The proposed title is broad, but the aims and the objectives narrow down the viable actions under the umbrella title to viable actions.