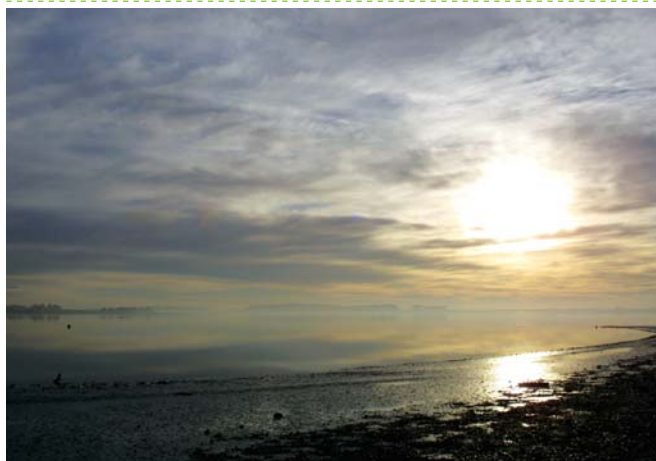


Opportunities

The government believes that the transformation to a more environmentally sustainable economy will open up opportunities for New Zealand businesses.

New Zealand is already a world leader in existing technology in important areas like agriculture, forestry, and biotechnology. There will be significant new economic opportunities for these sectors if they are at the forefront of the development of new carbon-friendly technologies.



The action we take to reduce emissions will also help to improve our environment. It will improve our air and water quality, land management (eg, in areas like erosion, flooding, indigenous forests, and biodiversity), domestic energy security (by reducing oil imports and developing domestic renewable energy sources), and conservation of valuable resources for use by future generations.

Conclusion

The need for the world to act to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is now clearer than ever. Greenhouse gas emissions created by humans are contributing to climate change. Doing nothing is not an option.

The international community is now taking the threat of climate change very seriously, and is working together on solutions.

The New Zealand government has already implemented a number of policies and measures to reduce our emissions and to prepare for climate change. These include improving the fuel efficiency of vehicles, increasing the standards for insulation in buildings, and encouraging renewable energy. There will, in many cases, be beneficial side effects in the resulting cleaner air, increased energy security, reduced fuels bills, better housing, and so on.

An emissions trading scheme will play an important role in our action to address climate change.

Where to go for more information

For more information on the government's climate change work, including 'The Framework for New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme' and a series of emissions trading factsheets, visit www.climatechange.govt.nz