

Consultation on setting New Zealand's post-2020 climate change target



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Contact information

Name Natalie Blasco

Organisation (if applicable)

Address [REDACTED]

Telephone [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

Objectives for the contribution

Do you agree with these objectives for our contribution? Yes

1b. What is most important to you? Our contribution must be ambitious above all, and fair.

What would be a fair contribution for New Zealand?

2. What do you think the nature of New Zealand's emissions and economy means for the level of target that we set?

Every country can claim different limitations. This can be reviewed by a global committee. But we're a creative lot and shouldn't claim unreasonable limitations. Can we reduce by 40%? Probably. We need to try and find ways to do so. We need to be ambitious because so much time has already passed just talking about whether or not there is an issue. The longer we wait, the greater the cost, both financially and environmentally. We can't afford to just put this in the "too hard" basket.

How will our contribution affect New Zealanders?

3. What level of cost is appropriate for New Zealand to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions? For example, what would be a reasonable reduction in annual household consumption?

There probably needs to be a baseline set for each property, business, government office, etc. Asking people to reduce to zero is obviously unreasonable, but there must be an amount set as a target, and a penalty for noncompliance. There also needs to be a way to have individual circumstances taken into consideration, such as for health issues.

Maybe a program to exchange old, inefficient light bulbs for new, efficient ones; promote installation of solar panels by subsidizing them; do more on home insulation subsidies; upgrade as needed in businesses that use inefficient equipment. What impact do fires have (chimney emissions, cutting and burning wood, etc.) vs. energy used by other types of heating? If fires are more problematic, people need to be encouraged to eliminate them or get penalized for their use.

4. Of the opportunities for New Zealand to reduce its emissions (as outlined on page 15 of the discussion document), which do you think are the most likely to occur, or be most important for New Zealand?

The use of electric and alternative fuel vehicles should be actively pursued and promoted. Perhaps the government could create incentives for people to choose them by discounting purchase prices and registration fees.

The use of forest sinks also is relatively easy to pursue. However, rather than concentrate only on harvestable forests that lose their benefit once cut, and are essentially monoculture crops, significant effort should be made to plant large areas with native trees and shrubs. This provides a much more sustainable solution that also benefits

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wildlife, provides some jobs at least in the short term, and adds to New Zealand's beauty, potentially attracting more tourists.

Also push for more public transport, especially in larger cities like Auckland, with incentives for people to participate (low cost, tax benefits, etc.).

Can create an online network for people to sign up to carpool, adjust work schedules to off-peak hours or work 4/40 (four 10-hour days on, three days off) in some large businesses or government offices, or utilize work-from-home schemes.

Remind people to make their travel efficient by completing multiple activities in one trip instead of making multiple trips; don't idle a car for more than 30 seconds and instead turn off the engine for longer periods of inactivity when appropriate.

Create more bikeways, shuttle services, train travel and incentives for their use.

Summary

5. How should New Zealand take into account the future uncertainties of technologies and costs when setting its target?

Everyone is equal in not knowing the future. The plan can take this into account and adjustments made when necessary. Presumably there will be a central body to review and revise plans over time, to help countries identify better solutions, etc. We need to work cooperatively. Easier said than done, sadly, but not impossible.

Other comments

6. Is there any further information you wish the Government to consider? Please explain.
I'm glad you're taking a serious look and not living in denial. Everyone in New Zealand will need to be part of the solution. The cost of not doing so will likely be far worse than the cost of our contributions.