

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



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## Contact information

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## Objectives for the contribution

Do you agree with these objectives for our contribution? Yes

1b. What is most important to you?

New Zealand must play its part in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. We appear to be laggards. I don't see any vision or leadership and most of the discourse around the topic from parliament is dominated by economics. In the long run, these are false economics. If we don't play our part, our generation leaves behind a planet that will be a less benign environment for our children and grandchildren.

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?

As we are blessed with abundant resources for generating electricity -there is no reason that we can't accelerate the move to greater use of renewables and migrate this use into the transport sector through the faster rollout of electric vehicles (EV). This also reduces our dependence on imported oil. I support the aspiration of 350.org - to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions to support a global target of less than 350 ppm of CO2. As one of the wealthier nations, we need to be supporting others to achieve this.

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?

I can not quantify this, but this can be achieved by a combination of public education and regulation. Some older technologies such as incandescent bulbs can be regulated out of existence. Accelerating cycle ways and working with employers to incentivise cycling are ways that we can reduce consumption.

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?

I support the points made on page 15 of the document.

Another option is to sequester more carbon in the soil than as humus achieved through tillage methods, mulching, erosion management, soil fertility management, water management and farming systems management ([http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/solaw/files/thematic\\_reports/TR\\_04b\\_web.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/solaw/files/thematic_reports/TR_04b_web.pdf)).

New Zealand's over dependence on dairy is a problem. Accelerating the change to biological (organic) farming must be a priority and provides economic benefits.

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Ministry for the  
**Environment**  
*Manatū Mo Te Taiao*

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## Summary

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

An important pre-requisite for any of this is to focus on mindset. Our politicians need to decouple ideology from their decision-making and show us that they understand both the science and the opportunities in transitioning to a sustainable economy. They need to acknowledge the detriment that following short-term economic goals has for this nation. They could be so much more aspirational and show leadership. The emerging technologies are all there available now or in the pipeline - what appears to be lacking is understanding of the issues that confronts us and volition to follow it through.

## Other comments

6. Is there any further information you wish the Government to consider? Please explain.