

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



Copy of your submission

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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? Long term target

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? We have the ability to reduce our CO2 emissions to nearly zero

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?
We should be able to reduce our CO2 emissions to near zero with little or no cost in household consumption. However if resource is needed \$400/year would be good number

Methane reduction is more problematical - we should concentrate on CO2 and set methane targets after we have CO2 nailed

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 have read your document

I don't think you understand what is required

With our large hydro power percentage we are in an enviable position

IMHO we have two significant ways to help

(1)

Landfill

A modern capped landfill is basically a way of sequestering carbon - all other ways of disposal release the carbon to the atmosphere

We should be encouraging people to use (modern) landfills and not ideas like composting

(2)

Electricity

We have a lot of hydropower - this could have been designed to work with modern renewables like wind and solar
It's simple to increase the "power" output from hydro - but much much more difficult to increase the "total stored energy"

So we should be working to increase solar and wind and decrease the take from the hydro (when the solar/wind is producing)

We should be working to eliminate the fossil fuelled electricity generation

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This is actually almost free!

If solar panel owners could export their surplus power at the same rate that they buy power at then thousands (or tens of thousands) of Kiwis would fit solar panels, The rate of return would just be too good to miss
As a country we would reduce our imports of oil and our CO2 footprint in exchange for slightly lower profits for the power companies

Also if the power companies persist in trying to discourage solar power they will reach a point with home power storage (the Musk battery?) where people will simply install panels and batteries and snip the cable - which will drastically reduce their profits!!

Summary

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

The current cost of solar power is low enough that if the power companies were stopped from discouraging households we could rapidly move away from the use of any fossil fuel in power generation

At that stage we should be looking to reduce the cost of our pathetically expensive electricity in order that all home heating be done electrically

It would only need a 20% drop to make diesel and gas uneconomic

Coal and wood are cheaper - but both are a pain and neither is as cheap as people seem to believe

Electric cars are currently almost viable (I have a home made electric car) with the projected reduction in battery cost they will be a "no brainer" by 2020

Other comments

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

(1) Encourage the use of modern capped landfills that actually sequester the carbon for hundreds of years instead of techniques like composting that release the carbon back into the atmosphere

(2) Use the government ownership of the power companies to eliminate solar unfriendly policies

(3) Use power generation strategies to minimise carbon release NOT to maximise powerco profits

(Use the hydropower as effectively a "battery" reducing hydro output when solar and wind can contribute the most)